

DRAFT – Research Agenda

Proposed Collaborative Multi-Agency Initiatives of the CJPAC Research Workgroup

Revised: **March 6, 2009**

Short-Term

1. OPM – Recidivism: Supplemental Analysis or Fact Sheets on the 2004 Release Cohort

With this year's revised methodology; OPM, in collaboration with its CJPAC Research Workgroup partners, discussed the idea of supplemental reports or fact sheets to expand on the analysis presented in its 2009 Connecticut Recidivism Study. Given sufficient interest, a supplement could be developed each month. The two topics below have been proposed and suggestions are welcome. Please coordinate with your agency heads on breakouts for future topics of interest to them.

- a. Recidivism among Halfway House residents
- b. Recidivism and Mental Health Classification Scores

2. OPM/CSSD/DMHAS – Collaborative Data Requests for Research Purposes

Often we request data from Criminal Justice partners and the next day someone may request the same but slightly different request. By collaborating and sharing data requests we can potentially reduce the amount of staff time dedicated to repeatedly performing these tasks. Determine if OBTS or the CJIS Initiative can assist in the regular generation of (annual, quarterly, monthly) data extracts. Estimate cost savings to account for potential savings from this effort.

3. OPM/CRW – Criminal Justice System: Development of Training Materials

Continue evaluating components in the criminal justice system. As information is revised and available, develop training and educational materials about how the system works for Connecticut's Criminal Justice practitioners at all levels. Continually validate and co-develop materials with experts and practitioner feedback. Develop a section of the Research website for these resources.

4. OPM/CRW – Criminal Justice Research: Connecticut Outreach

Concerned about past criminal justice that was of little or no practical use to policy makers and practitioners, we hope to begin a discussion among partners about the steps that are needed to better define our public policy research agenda. A smaller group of interested partners might be convened to identify variety of research questions and prioritize them based on public policy need. This group could also assist researchers by providing advice and suggestions and provide peer review and assistance on criminal justice research.

5. CRW – Client Capacity Building: Empowerment, Participation and Recognition

Investigate ways to maximize wasted human capital and potential among inmates "clients". Identify creative ways that practitioners are or potential could be encouraging clients to participate in improving the criminal justice system and treatment programs. For example: are there programs where clients tutor or mentor other clients, earn degrees to teach classes, clients obtain credentials or certifications to further their career opportunities outside the system. Generate a list of these types of initiatives and share these with practitioners. Estimate the cost savings to give credit to the innovation of these efforts. Develop a public recognition program around these accomplishments.

Long-Term

1. DOC – Incarceration: Length of Stay (LOS) Calculation

Determine whether current DOC systems can be programmed to produce reliable length of stay (LOS) calculation. Define and clarify ideal possibilities and the value of each, e.g. Length of Stay, Length of Sentence, versus Time Served. What is possible now? If it is possible, work towards developing a solution. If a reliable length of stay calculation is unattainable we should factor that into future plans to develop prison population models. Do an analysis of how this has changed over the past several years and how this may relate or correlate to policies and practices, if any exist.

2. BOPP/DOC – Community Supervision: Information Sharing and Process Improvements

Assist BOPP and DOC to map their current information flows and processes in the parole and community supervision systems. Provide support and assistance in efforts to develop workarounds for current information sharing challenges and potential process improvements. Strive for low cost/no cost collaborative alternatives that partners deem appropriate.

3. CRW – Client Feedback: Survey?

Investigate ways to elicit feedback from inmates “clients” concerning conditions, reentry, programming, etc.