

Forecast/Research Workgroup Meeting
 CCSU – Student Center, 1415 Stanley Street, New Britain.
 December 12, 2007
 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon

Co-Chairs: Linda DeConti, Research Unit Manager, (OPM) & Steve Cox, SAC Director (CCSU).

Present: John Forbes, Assistant Division Director and Alyse Chin, Research Unit Assistant Manager, CJPPD, OPM; Jody Barry, Research Analyst in the MIS/Research Unit (DOC); Jerry Stowell, Consultant (BOPP & DOC); Lois Desmarais, Planning Specialist, Crime Analysis Unit, (DPS); Lyndsay Ruffolo, Program Administrator and Aileen Keays, Research Specialist, Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice (CCSU); Brian Hill, Manager and Susan C. Glass, Program Manager, Center for Research, Program Analysis and Quality Improvement, CSSD; and Richard Sparaco, Parole & CS Manager (BOPP).

Excused: Al Bidorini, Director of Planning, (DMHAS); Gary Lopez Planning Specialist, Crime Analysis Unit; Judith P. Lee, Esq., Case Flow Mgmt. Specialist, Court Operations; Fred Levesque, Director of Offender Classification & Population Management and Tom Myers, IT Analyst 2, (DPS);

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
Introductions and Welcome:	<p>Jody Barry reported that Cheryl Cepelak, the new DOC Director of Organizational Development and Strategic Planning had an unexpected schedule conflict and was unable to attend this month. Cheryl hopes to join us for the January meeting.</p> <p>We were joined by Aileen Keays, the newly hired Research Specialist at CCSU.</p>	None at this time.	
Acceptance of Minutes:	The Minutes from the November meeting were accepted as written.	Alyse will post November Minutes to the web site at: www.ct.gov/opm/CriminalJustice/ForecastingWorkgroup	Done.
Agency Updates:	<p>DOC: Fred Levesque sent a written report that was read by Jody Barry as follows:</p> <p>There have not been any significant changes in the DOC population in the month of November 2007. There was a slight decrease in the pretrial males of about 30 and a decrease of approximately 70 in the community. Transitional supervision numbers and halfway house placements remained unchanged. Discretionary Parole releases were down an additional 70. DOC has yet to experience the historical seasonal population reduction that generally begins the week before the Thanksgiving holiday. There are approximately 600 additional sentenced male offenders incarcerated from November of 2006.</p> <p>Director Randy Braren of the Parole and Community Services Division reported a reduction in the number of Technical Violations returning from the Community.</p>	Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.	Monthly.

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Agency Updates Continued:	<p>BOPP: Rich Sparaco reported that BOPP is still in the process of reviewing files and requesting additional documentation for these reviews. Of approximately 1,200 cases if inmates in "voted to parole" status, mostly all have been reviewed by Board staff. Of those records, 379 have been approved for release with 234 able to be released from DOC facilities as of 12/14/07. However, only 112 have been released to the community.</p> <p>Factors delaying these approved released can be attributed to sponsors' issues, as well as and setting up electronic monitoring devices, which have to be on place before a parolee can be released.</p> <p>The ban restricting inmates who are defined by statute as violent is still in effect and there have not been any hearings held for anyone serving 85%of their sentence for October or November. By the end of December, the Board will have continued approximately 325 "violent" offender cases from approximately 21 hearing dates. These events will have a more substantial impact the DOC incarcerated population in early 2008 by adding to the total facility census.</p> <p>Currently the O.B.T.S. is helpful only for docket information, and is not being used for criminal history. Parole officers rely instead on source system(s) for criminal history.</p>	Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.	Monthly.
	<p>DPS: Lois Desmarais indicated that DPS sent letters to the chiefs of police in the towns with high crime data error rates, requesting that they check with their records area to confirm correction of the errors. The towns must be given a reasonable amount of time to correct their errors. Normally that would be a minimum of two weeks, but with the Holidays it may be a month. In an attempt to better monitor the error rates, DPS is considering reinstating the law enforcement agency certification process, but cannot do so until new staff has been hired and trained to monitor the process. This could be a long time, particularly if there is no approval to replace the Associate Research Analyst position that will become vacant effective January 2, 2008. DPS has also been working with their IT area to generate a trial run of the 2005 Crime in CT annual report in order to eliminate/reduce the problems when the actual report is run.</p> <p>Lois asked the WG for recommendations regarding sources of money for the towns (like New Haven) that are struggling with their NIBRS reporting. It was suggested that interns from the Univ. of New Haven Dept. of Criminology may be able to assist the New Haven PD with their data entry.</p>	Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.	Monthly.

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<p>Agency Updates Continued:</p>	<p>CSSD: Brian Hill reported on the following CSSD Research and Evaluation initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recidivism file for the DOC inmate sample for the OPM 2008 Annual Recidivism Study was completed on Monday and sent to Dr. Steve Cox. It contained over 600, 000 records. • The probation recidivism file should be complete by Friday, December 14th. • Formal evaluation studies conducted by CCSU are ongoing in Adult Services and include a longitudinal study of the PTP and TVU programs, Mental Health Case Management and Intensive Pretrial Supervision Track • CSSD is receiving technical assistance from CCSU on the development of a protocol to guide Bail Commissioners in setting bond amounts. CCSU is in the data collection and analysis phase of the project. • Formal evaluation studies in Juvenile Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluation of the Family With Service Needs (FWSN) service network (Justice Research Center, Florida State University) ○ Evaluation of the New Pilot program for 16/17 year olds on probation (CCSU) 	<p>Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.</p>	<p>Each meeting.</p>
<p>Governor's Request regarding Violent Crime in CT Analysis:</p>	<p>Linda DeConti circulated copies of the two new OPM crime publications based on UCR data from the FBI website.</p> <p>These publications are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comparative Analysis of Crime Rates: Connecticut, United States and Adjacent Northeast States 1960-2006" 2. Ranking of 50 States by Selected Crime Rates 2004 - 2006. <p>Special thanks to Lois Desmarais for her help and all the information she provided to assist with the completion of these reports.</p>	<p>Copies of both publications are available at the OPM website.</p>	<p>Done.</p>

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UCR vs. NIBRS Crime Reporting	<p>Lois Desmarais gave a presentation on understanding the difference between UCR and NIBRS reporting. She distributed several handouts including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports vs. National Incident Based Reporting: Comparison of Definitions • Definition of Part II Offenses • Understanding NIBRS • Group A & B Offenses (NIBRS) • NIBRS Codes for Incident Report • Samples of the ten forms that make up the UCR Monthly Report. 	It was suggested that OPM highlight the fact that most of the largest cities in Connecticut report crimes using the older reporting system i.e. UCR not NIBRS. Since NIBRS is incident based it is also richer in details regarding any one crime.	
OPM Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report:	Copies of the Draft December Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report were distributed.	Please send any feedback to Alyse. The December Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report will be available at: www.ct.gov/opm/criminaljustice/research no later than by the end of business on December 17 th .	Done.
BOPP Monthly Report:	Jerry Stowell distributed copies and walked the workgroup through the data and charts in the BOPP Monthly Report for October 2007. The report is filled with important information about many aspects of Parole, including Parole eligibility; Hearings and granting rates; Parole Supervision Caseloads; Parole Admissions, Discharges and Violations; and Violation Rates as a percentage of program population.	Alyse and Jerry are working to consolidate all the various spreadsheets into one unified electronic report with page numbers, an executive summary and appendix with glossary and counting rules. The retooled report will be made available on-line. In the meantime, Jerry will make copies of BOPP Report available at our monthly meetings.	On-going.
2008 Annual Recidivism Study:	The Recidivism Study work group has been meeting on Thursdays from 12:15 – 2 pm at CCSU. As reported by Brian Hill, CSSD found a positive match on 16,000 of the 16,500 inmates released in 2004. We will be getting the criminal history file from CSSD, and will start the analyses next week.	<p>Steve will do a presentation of the methodology/ model used, and how numbers are derived for the Recidivism Study at the next meeting.</p> <p>The 2008 Annual Recidivism Study Report is due to the Governor and Legislature on February 15, 2008.</p>	January 9, 2008
2008 Annual Prison Population Projection Report:	<p>The Prison Population Study work group will meet on Friday morning (12/14) at CCSU to run the projections. Steve Cox reported that this year “all bets are off” especially since the current prison population (about 19,600) already exceeds the five year projections due to the impact of recent events and might be impacted even more due to possible future legislative changes.</p> <p>Steve reported that we still plan on doing the Colorado model but with contributing factors that apply to Connecticut. Some additional data might be required from DOC and/or Judicial – Court Operations and Steve will do the request as needed.</p>	Steve's will do a presentation of the methodology/ model used, and how numbers are derived for the Projection Study at the next meeting as well.	January 9, 2008

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Annual Offender Re-Entry Strategy Plan:	We will work together to do an inventory of other committees that are working on re-entry issues, including program evaluation and outcomes.	2008 Offender Re-entry Plan is due to the Governor and Legislature on February 15, 2008.	On-going.
Meeting Schedule:	<p>January 9, 2008 10:00am – 12:00 pm – CCSU, Student Center, Sprague Room, New Britain.</p> <p>February 13, 2008 10:00am – 12:00 pm - CVH, Merritt Hall, Finkelstein Room, Middletown.</p> <p>March 12, 2008 10:00am – 12:00 pm – DPS, Crime Analysis Unit, 1111 Country Club Road, Room 252.</p>	Lois agreed to host the March meeting at DPS, Crime Analysis Unit on Country Club Road, Middletown, and will call as soon as she reserves the meeting space.	Done.