

## Forecast/Research Workgroup Meeting

CT State Library  
231 Capitol Ave, Hartford  
August 13, 2008  
10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

**Chair:** Linda DeConti, Research Unit Manager (OPM)

**Present:** Ivan Kuzyk, Research Unit Assistant Manager, Kyle Chaffee, Intern, Kelly Sinko, Intern, Cody Hyman, Intern (OPM); Aileen Keays, Research Specialist, Rachel Tirnady, Research Assistant (CCSU); Brian Hill, Manager (CSSD); Fred Levesque, Director, Cheryl Cepelak, Director, Mary Lansing, Associate Research Analyst, Michelle Altomare, Associate Research Analyst (DOC); John Lahda, Executive Director, Rich Sparaco, Parole/Community Services Manager, Jerry Stowell, Consultant (BOPP); Lois Desmarais, Planning Specialist (DPS), Chris Reinhart, Senior Attorney (Legislative Research).

**Excused:** John Forbes, Assistant Division Director (OPM); Steve Cox, CT SAC Director, Lyndsay Ruffolo, Research Specialist (CCSU); Judy Lee, Caseflow Management Specialist (Court Operations); Susan Glass, Program Manager (CSSD); Jody Barry, Associate Research Analyst (DOC); Al Bidorini, Director of Planning (DMHAS); Gary Lopez, Planning Specialist, Tom Myers, IT Analyst 2 (DPS).

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
<b>Acceptance of Minutes:</b>	The Minutes from the July meeting were accepted as written.		
<b>Monthly Indicators Report:</b>	<p>Kyle and Ivan reported on the new, streamlined format of the monthly report, which has been reduced from 14 to 4 pages. They expect this new document to be more readable, but do not expect to convert to the format for a while as there are still some aspects to be worked out. The new document recognizes that agencies do not read the whole document, but rather focus on only what they need.</p> <p>They expect the new format to enhance efficiency as it will provide the basic information and other reports can focus on more specialized requests as needed.</p> <p>Ivan is also working to create a readership list to determine the audience of the publication.</p>		
<b>Prison Forecasting Model:</b>	<p>Ivan, Kelly, and Cody are working to create a matrix detailing the forecasting methods used in other states.</p> <p>OPM is also looking at input-output methods for the new monthly report's forecasting.</p> <p>Kelly and Cody explained the data presented in the matrix and how they intend to use the matrix.</p>	Linda asked other agencies to create a flow model of how their agency works to share with OPM. This will help track and explain how each system works.	

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<p><b>Annual Recidivism Study:</b></p>	<p>Ivan discussed the two data sets OPM is working with: the inmate cohorts for 1997 and 2004.</p> <p>He plans to use the 1997 data to format a report so that when the 2004 data comes in, the report will be easier to create.</p> <p>Ivan also explained the meetings with CJPAC members as a means of gaining an understanding of what is helpful from the recidivism reports.</p> <p>By November, they would like to get preliminary findings to get impressions and opinions of the document's format.</p> <p>They are trying to make the report easily and quickly produced. There are still some outstanding questions such as the best tool to analyze the data (access or spss) and the syntax file problems that Steve is currently fixing.</p> <p>They hope that the new report will allow for more complex analyses of recidivism. The specific details will be produced in separate documents so they can be catered only to the interested groups.</p> <p>There was concern expressed about breaking release mechanisms into separate categories as the process is complicated and inmates often use many of the community supervision mechanisms. OPM will be cautious while creating the document not to oversimplify the system.</p> <p>There will be separate outcome studies on halfway houses, and the difference between special parole and the split sentence probation. OPM invited the other agencies to send specific requests concerning these two studies. Ivan also assured CSSD that they will be careful to control for variables such as risk in the study comparing special parole with split sentence probation.</p> <p>OPM is also going to look at the release types used by other states.</p> <p>Ivan briefly discussed violence codes and how different agencies define violence differently. There will be future discussion of these issues.</p>		

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<p><b>Agency Updates:</b></p>	<p><b>BOPP:</b></p> <p>Rich noted that main difference in the July Hearing Schedule was the loss of the administrative review process that was eliminated by the 08-01 criminal justice reform act. This was the first month without the administrative review process and all cases were presented with the inmates in person or via video conference to panels of the board. Subsequently, there was a lower rate for parole hearings.</p> <p>BOPP is still tackling three main areas concerns associated with changes from the special session: new full time/part time Board, staffing, and time. The new Board became effective 7/1/08 and there are still 4 vacant part time board members positions who need to be trained when appointed. There was also a concern over whether the part time service would be measured as 960 hours or 120 days; it was finally settled that the time would be measured as a function of hours rather than days.</p> <p>BOPP averaged 29 hearings in JULY with average of 7 cases per hearing. There is an increased backlog of about 1,600 cases (up from 1,500) as the result of the elimination of the administrative reviews, training the new board members, and the increased length of the hearings. To tackle the backlog, BOPP will be using grant money awarded from OPM to hire 5 120s and 4 clerical staff to address 100 backlog cases each. They expect these new employees to take 30 days to train. BOPP is hoping to hear around 500 cases by December 31 and expect about 400 releases.</p> <p>Other concerns of BOPP are the working hours of the representatives from the Office of Victims' Services, the downsides of video conferencing, and the data transfer from CSSD and DMHAS.</p> <p>BOPP had a question concerning OPM's monthly indicator report. There is no clarification of the revoke/reparole population in the monthly. For instance, there are 144 paroles cases, but an additional 74 cases were revoked and reparoled. BOPP will send updated numbers to Kelly and she will account for these numbers as well as the overlapping populations in the monthly reports.</p>		

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<p><b>Agency Updates Continued:</b></p>	<p><b>CSSD:</b>  Representatives from CSSD met with OPM to discuss their reports. CSSD is currently conducting internal reports and highlighting programs and research..</p> <p>They are working on a year 1 progress report with CCSU.</p> <p>Brian also commented on the effects of the raise the age legislation. They are researching to evaluate the projected effects on capacity and resources. CSSD is working with DOC to estimate the new population of the juvenile system because adding 17 and 18 year olds as juveniles might double the juvenile incarcerated population. They are also working to evaluate the risk levels assigned to these individuals; in the adult system their risk level might be low, whereas it could be significantly higher in the juvenile system. They look at the population risk so they can determine how to best distribute staff. They have about 1.5 years to conduct this research before the raise the age law goes into effect.</p>		
	<p><b>DPS:</b>  Lois reported on the success of the FBI training from July 21<sup>st</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>. She indicated that 150 attended the NIBRS training and 50 attended the UCR training. Both programs received good feedback. DPS is currently responding to specific questions put forward by individual towns. DPS is waiting for the PowerPoint presentations from the FBI trainer, and will request assistance in putting the documents on the DPS website.</p> <p>The DPS website has been updated to include the three 2006 Family Violence (FV) reports, the 2002-2006 Hate Crime reports, and scanned versions of the <i>Crime in CT</i> (CIC) publications dating back to 1992. DPS is aiming to have the 2005 CIC report completed by September 30<sup>th</sup>. New Haven just submitted their October 2006 data, so the 2006 CIC report is expected to be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>. The current projection for completion of the 2007 CIC report is March 31, 2009. The 2007 Hate Crime report is completed and is being reviewed. The 2007 Family Violence reports cannot be generated until problems with the new FV database are resolved.</p>		

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<p><b>Agency Updates Continued:</b></p>	<p><b>DOC:</b>  Fred reported that there were no significant changes in the numbers. The incarcerated population is 19,921 (the sentenced male population increased by 150 – 180 and the pretrial male population increased by 150). The numbers from Hartford and New Haven are having the most increases. DOC is working with CSSD on re-entry programs.</p> <p>Housing the level 3 + 4 populations as become a problem, but there are excess beds available for level 2 inmates. However, the levels cannot be mixed for security purposes.</p> <p>Transitional Supervision numbers have gone down 22 from July and 27 from the first of the month.</p> <p>The population is down 320 from the all time high.</p> <p>DOC has created a workgroup for a state-wide reentry strategy. They are planning to use the Results Based Accountability methodology as a framework for the strategy – OFA has been using RBA with a number of state agencies. Commissioner Lantz will bring a draft to the next PJOC meeting to get input from others and will bring a copy to CJPAC in November or December in preparation for the OPM presentation in February.</p>		
	<p><b>Legislative:</b>  Chris reported that there is not much happening on the criminal justice front in the legislative sector.</p>		
<p><b>Discussion /Demonstration of the Research Compendium:</b></p>	<p>Rachel gave a brief overview of the project. She has scanned paper documents so that the library can load them online. The library has updated the website to search by agency and topic.</p> <p>She is still checking that all the documents are available.</p> <p>Rachel also presented an overview of the guidelines for submitting agency produced documents.</p> <p>Julie and Nancy with the library handed out documents and gave an electronic tour of how to use the compendium and also a tour of the stacks in the library. They also issued library cards.</p>		

<b>Meeting Schedule:</b>	<b>August 13, 2008</b> – State Library  September 10, 2008 – CVH, Page Hall, Rm. 217 Middletown  October 8, 2008 – CSSD, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Wethersfield  November 12, 2008 – CSSD, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Wethersfield  December 10, 2008 – CSSD, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Wethersfield		
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