

Fall 2013

*A Collaboration Among
Charlottesville-Albemarle
County Criminal Justice
Organizations*

EBDM Newsletter



"Evidence-based decision making" (EBDM) is the practice of using research findings to inform or guide decisions across the justice system.

An initiative of the National Institute of Corrections: A collaborative project among the Center for Effective Public Policy, the Pretrial Justice Institute, the Justice Management Institute, and the Carey Group.

LOCAL EBDM TEAM

Chief Magistrate Faith Baskerville, ACRJ
Sheriff James Brown, Charlottesville Sheriff
Dave Chapman, Commonwealth's Attorney
Michael Costanzo, Director Mohr Center
Maggie Cullinan, Charlottesville Victim Witness

Honorable Robert Downer, Charlottesville GD Court
Wendy Goodman, Chief Probation Officer DS, Chair
Sheriff Chip Harding, Albemarle Sheriff
Jim Hingeley, Public Defender
Lt. Col. Martin Kumer, ACRJ

Chief Tim Longo, Charlottesville PD
Denise Lunsford, Commonwealth's Attorney
Susan Painter, Albemarle Victim Witness
Pat Smith, Executive Director OAR
Col. Steve Sellers, Albemarle PD

EBDM Message Development and Communication Planning

The Communication Committee of the policy team was involved in a day long message development and communication planning workshop in early December. This workshop was done by Potomac Communications Group, Inc (PCGpr). The focus of this day long effort was to develop a concise and consistent message regarding the work with EBDM that can be used when: talking within agencies, talking to new agencies and partners, presenting to county and city boards, presenting at associations, and when talking with the media. Potomac Communications Group, Inc. guided the local participants in developing a message tailored to how the work with EBDM has been done locally. With PCGpr's assistance the group was able to reflect back on the tag line of EBDM at the national level *"One Less"* and at the local level *"Working together for a safer community, one person at a time"* as it relates to the local efforts. Potomac Communications Group, Inc. is finalizing the deliverables to include talking and data points for each portion of the developed message. The January EBDM meeting will be addressing the message and next steps.

Intimate Partner Violence

Purpose: The purpose of this initiative is to evaluate Charlottesville-Albemarle's policies and practices in response to intimate partner violence across all criminal justice agencies to ensure we are evidence-based in our approach to handling these cases. Assistance is being provided by the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Diagnostic Center.

Ongoing Tasks: The Diagnostic Center has been working with UVA to develop a statement of

work for data collection.

Next Steps: The workgroup will begin mapping out policies and practices with Blueprint for Safety. This will be done by conducting text reviews and interviews with stakeholders. The workgroup will also be creating "site books" which will be a collection of all the forms, policies, and resources available for each discipline. Process measures will also be developed with assistance from UVA.

Accomplishments: The workgroup has met twice and began to outline current practices and resources available for domestic and intimate partner violence situations. Pat Smith participated in a panel discussion at the American Criminology Society conference in Atlanta, GA about developing a relationship with the Diagnostic Center and addressing domestic and intimate partner violence.

Administrative Response Matrix (Probation Violations)

Purpose: This initiative will promote behavioral changes by empowering probation officers to implement consistent, swift, and responsive practice when addressing violations while individuals are under supervision.

Ongoing Tasks: Currently the data system is being transferred from the server it was built on to the local server where it will be permanently housed.

Next Steps: District 9 and DAR are securing the fund-

ing to maintain the data system and allow for the maintenance to be done on the system as needed.

Accomplishments: The data system has been completed and basic testing has been done. District 9 and DAR staff have been trained on the system and the stakeholders have been informed on the change in practice.

George Mason University—Community Services' Response to Risk/Needs

Purpose: The intent of this project is to better assess an individual's criminogenic needs and appropriately match him/her with programs within the community. We also want to ensure the programming we offer in the community is evidence-based in their approach to working with offenders. This project is led by George Mason University's Center for Advancing

Correctional Excellence (GMU ACE).

Ongoing Tasks: In September the consultant from George Mason University conducted onsite observations of various treatment programs. A report and recommendations are being written.

Next Steps: Upon receipt of the report the EBDM policy team will need to determine how to proceed

with the recommendations to best address the population's needs.

Accomplishments: The on site observations helped the consultant better understand the practice locally and it also rejuvenated the treatment programs participation in this project as a direct connection could be made.

Virginia on the National Stage for Pretrial Study

Purpose: The Department of Criminal Justice Services was awarded a grant to conduct a project by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The project will do research on the Best Practices in the pretrial field. This study will help to develop an understanding of the effectiveness of additional tools to inform pretrial decision making and strategies to supervise defendants.

Ongoing Tasks: The recommendation guidelines and data collection for the project stated on April 1, 2013. Data is being collected until April 2014.

Next Steps: The first two quarters of data collection have been completed. The data will help address the following questions: (1) how often DAR staff agree with the Praxis; (2) how the courts are following the Praxis recommendations; and, (3) if the courts are not following the Praxis are they agreeing with the staff recommendations.

Accomplishments: The pretrial staff continue to have regular meeting and observations done by the researchers.

Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI)

Purpose: This initiative is intended to reduce the reliance on the jail without having an increase in crime.

Ongoing Tasks: Data is still being collected and analyzed to determine the best target population for the Center of Risk Reduction (CORR) and to make it most effective in regards to resources and population.

Next Steps: With the guidance of the consultants and assistance of

a neighboring agency a short summary of how the CORR is envisioned here is being developed. This document will include the eligibility requirements for individuals to enter and complete the CORR. A letter of interest will be submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance regarding moving this work forward under the Justice Reinvestment Initiative.

Accomplishments: In early December a meeting was held with the

consultants and key local decision making stakeholders. This meeting allowed for various requirements and concerns to be understood and worked out. The data simulation model also helped provide a more clear picture of the number of individuals the CORR would need to further validate the work of the jail reinvestment.

UVA—Data Integration and Analysis for Albemarle-Charlottesville Criminal Justice System

Purpose: The overall focus is to work towards an integrated data and analysis system for the ACRJ and criminal justice parties. The integrated database will consolidate and organize data from each level of the criminal justice system.

Ongoing Tasks: The UVA Capstone Team is working on mapping out the data information exchange system and the desired tables for analysis. They are also working

with the local stakeholders to ensure that the information shared is secured in a usable manner.

Next Steps: Before the end of 2013 the necessary software and hardware will be submitted for purchase under the NCJA grant. The materials will then need to be properly configured. A MOU regarding the data information exchange has been developed and signatures will be collected.

Accomplishments: A grant from the National Criminal Justice Association was awarded in early fall. The UVA Capstone team has met with several of the local stakeholders to learn about the specifics of each legacy system. Under the grant the UVA Team has also reviewed the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) to make sure the system being built supports the national standards.

Business Case Processing

Purpose: The court system in Charlottesville-Albemarle is hampered by the volume of court hearings thereby suppressing the ability of the courts and attorneys to participate in the complete EBDM process. The business analysis of court processing will help to streamline court functioning and therefore allowing more stakeholders to engage in evidence-based processes.

Ongoing Tasks: The Justice Management Institute (JMI) is collecting contact information of similarly sized jurisdictions to setup peer-to-peer discussions on court function.

Next Steps: As a locality we will begin to take a closer look at current practice regarding pretrial diversion, sending a case to trial, and having defense representation earlier on in the process.

Accomplishments: JMI completed its report on the Albemarle and Charlottesville Court System. This report was based off of data from the courts, observations, and interviews with key stakeholders. The report has been distributed to the entire EBDM policy team for review.

"Working together for a safer community, one person at a time."

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Charlottesville/Albemarle EBDM Policy Team's Vision Statement

www.ebdmoneless.org

Meetings and Important Dates

EBDM Policy Meetings

- Wednesday 1/8 @ 11:30
- Wednesday 2/5 @ 8:30-12:30* Measures Meeting
- Wednesday 3/5 @ 11:30
- Wednesday 4/2 @ 11:30

Community Criminal Justice Board

- Monday 2/3/14—5:30-7:00pm
- Monday 5/5/14—5:30-7:00pm
- Monday 8/18/14—5:30-7:00pm
- Monday 11/17/14—5:30-7:00pm