

Spring 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 D9, Chair
Sheriff Chip Harding, Albemarle Sheriff
Jim Hingeley, Public Defender
Chief Tim Longo, Charlottesville PD

Denise Lunsford, Commonwealth's Attorney
Col. Ronald Matthews, ACRJ
Susan Painter, Albemarle Victim Witness
Pat Smith, Executive Director OAR
Col. Steve Sellers, Albemarle PD

Our EBDM Roadmap for 2013

Mark Carey, our EBDM consultant, conducted the rescheduled March policy meeting. At this meeting the group highlighted everything that the jurisdiction has accomplished since starting EBDM: Probation Violations work; Stakeholders are still invested and interested; Looking at data more strategically; EBDM training being done for the Bench; Intimate Partner Violence; General collaboration; Identifying jail populations to reduce jail bed days; and Inmate workforce. The Policy Team discussed the current projects and all that they entail. The meeting then introduced a new project: Business Assessment of Court Process. This will be the only new project added to the EBDM list this year. Since the start of the EBDM initiative there has also been a "culture change" in the area. Stakeholders are trying to align their work and practice with the EBDM principles. EBDM has become the driving force behind the decision making. The EBDM work being done locally has created a common language that individuals at the state level are starting to implement.

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: In April the Policy Team and additional key stakeholders met with Praxis

International, a prosecutor, and chief of police from St. Paul, MN who are implementing Blueprint for Safety. The EBDM team learned more about this initiative to determine if it should be done locally. Blueprint for Safety better connects the criminal justice community to create a coherent domestic violence intervention.

Next Steps: The EBDM team will review its resources and determine its readiness for the undertaking of Blueprint for Safety. At the April

meeting the Policy Team voted to implement Blueprint for Safety. Next, the stakeholders will sign a MOU truly setting the initiative in motion. OJP will be providing outlines for all disciplines.

Accomplishments: The Blueprint for Safety overview meeting had strong attendance and created significant interest by the stakeholders. Two of the Policy Team members recently attended a Community Assessment Training.

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: Since January the committee has been on calls, almost weekly, with the database developer to try and address any questions or technical concerns regarding the matrix and data system development.

Next Steps: Once the database has been completed it will be piloted by the committee and then all of the District 9 and OAR staff will be trained on the new tool and response matrix. A presentation is planned to be conducted at a Policy meeting in the late summer.

Accomplishments: Currently the programming is well underway with the completion expected to be mid-summer. There is the potential for the data system, once completed, to be shared and implemented in other communities.

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: District 9 and OAR are working to complete the jurisdictional information about the services used. This will provide a more accurate baseline regarding the services needed by the offenders.

Next Steps: The researchers from GMU ACE are planning on present-

ing at the July EBDM Policy meeting. At this time they will address the service providers and policy members about the updates made to the tool and why it is important for the information to be collected and how it will be used.

Accomplishments: After a short hiatus from the project, we have refocused and are working with the updated tool by GMU.

**This is something
the community
can't not do.**

**- In reference to
the Blueprint for
Safety**

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 started on April 1. Data will be collected until April 2014 and monthly reports will be provided.

Next Steps: There will be quarterly meetings with the consultant in person and monthly phone calls throughout the pilot implementation process to address any issues that arise. The first in-person meeting was April 10.

Accomplishments: Prior to the start of recommendation guidelines a series of trainings were conducted. The stakeholders met with the researchers and consultants in early March for a training on the purpose and changes they can expect to see during the pretrial hearing. The following week the pretrial staff attended a two day training on Praxis and STEPS. The statewide data system was updated for various fields to be included necessary for the study.

Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI)

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

Ongoing Tasks: The working group that concentrated on the misdemeanor population has been re-researching a Center of Risk Reduction (CORR). All individuals admitted to the jail will be assessed. Those who meet the requirement and have nonviolent charges will be released to the CORR. The offender will have to report to the CORR

daily but could return to his/her home at night.

Next Steps: The concept of developing the CORR is still in its infancy but has been welcomed by the stakeholders. The next part of this process is getting the approval and support of all of the stakeholders and city and county councils. A building location will have to be selected and staff will need to be hired and trained for this new function.

Accomplishments: Individuals from Chesterfield came and spoke to the Community Criminal Justice Board about their CORR and the success they have had. This meeting served as the introduction to the idea of a CORR to the Charlottesville-Albemarle and outlying county stakeholders. Individuals taking the lead on this project are working on developing the appropriate assessment tools and guidelines.

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 completed their project for the academic year. They made contacts with key stakeholders to help Charlottesville-Albemarle develop a useful integrated data system.

Next Steps: The hope is to have the SID and IBR number added at the Magistrate level to ensure matching from the start of the data collection process.

Accomplishments: This year's team discovered that a 2D barcode is generated at the Magistrate's office. The barcode contains pertinent information that is currently being entered manually at every phase of the criminal justice process. It was also determined that by using SID,

QTN, and IBR identifiers that individuals, offenses, and incidents can successfully be tracked throughout the system. The team's recommendation is to have the current legacy systems scan the barcode to reduce the chance of human error and duplication of information. The legacy systems should then push the information to the integrated data system which will allow for a much higher level of and faster analysis.

EBDM now feels like it is our "driving force" and our decisions are being shaped by this.

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: This project is in its infancy. Technical assistance will be

provided by the Justice Management Institute (JMI). JMI is currently collecting initial information to best prepare for a site visit.

Next Steps: A site visit will be conducted that will include interviews and observations with judges, attorneys, and court staff. This visit will create the baseline of the current court process and allow for a case process analysis to be done.

"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 6/5 @ 11:30
- Wednesday 7/3 @ 11:30
- Wednesday 8/7 @ 11:30
- Wednesday 9/4 @ 11:30

Community Criminal Justice Board

- Monday 7/8 5:30-7:00pm
- Monday 9/30 5:30-7:00pm
- Monday 12/2 5:30-7:00pm

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

- On-site visits anticipated for early fall

Business Plan Court Case Processing

- First on-site meeting with consultant anticipated for mid summer