

Summer 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	Honorable Robert Downer, Charlottesville GD Court	Denise Lunsford, Commonwealth's Attorney
Sheriff James Brown, Charlottesville Sheriff	Wendy Goodman, Chief Probation Officer D9, Chair	Col. Ronald Matthews, ACRJ
Dave Chapman, Commonwealth's Attorney	Sheriff Chip Harding, Albemarle Sheriff	Susan Painter, Albemarle Victim Witness
Michael Costanzo, Director Mohr Center	Jim Hingeley, Public Defender	Pat Smith, Executive Director OAR
Maggie Cullinan, Charlottesville Victim Witness	Chief Tim Longo, Charlottesville PD	Col. Steve Sellers, Albemarle PD

EBDM Pretrial Legal Forum in Aurora, CO

In early August Dave Chapman, Jim Hingeley, and Pat Smith attended a Pretrial Legal Forum sponsored by NIC for the seven EBDM sites. The day and a half long meeting addressed several pretrial and system topic areas including the opening called "A Demand for Rational Decision Making" and followed by Pretrial Legal & Evidence-Based Decision Making, Pretrial and Diversion, Collaborating with Law Enforcement, and Recognizance Release or Detention. Throughout the meeting there were opportunities for discussion and focus groups on the disciplines. The final presentation focused on Communication Strategies based on public opinion research and best practices for communicating vision and mission of EBDM to peers and the public.

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 MOU for the initiative has been written and the Steering Committee is

currently working on collecting all the signatures. The Steering Committee is also waiting to hear from OJP to determine what additional resources for training can be supported by the Diagnostic Center.

Next Steps: The OJP Diagnostic Center is working on securing a judicial training and system assessment assistance for the initiative. The local Blueprint Workgroups will begin meeting, in early fall, to review each stakeholder's policy

and practice.

Accomplishments: The Steering Committee has met with all of the stakeholders, including the Emergency Call Center and the Shelter to update them on the project and to ask for their support as this initiative moves forward. For the Blueprint for Safety to be as successful as possible support and buy in from the entire criminal justice and service provider community is critical.

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 technical side of the data system is being addressed. District 9 and DAR are working to determine how best to: host the data system, fund the maintenance, build in the second competent of the system—incentives, and determine

the necessary security protocols.

Next Steps: Once the software/hardware situation is determined the data system will be transferred over and cleaned of the trial data. This will make the system ready for use.

Accomplishments: During National Pretrial, Probation and Parole week, in mid July, all District 9 and DAR Local Probation staff attended an informational session on the Administrative Response Matrix data system.

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: Since the July presentation service providers are entering their program(s) information into the data tool.

Next Steps: In early September, on-site observations will be conducted of various treatment programs. This will provide the researchers with a stronger under-

standing on how the programs function.

Accomplishments: In early July the GMU Consultants presented the online data collection tool, with our jurisdiction's population information. This helped to better explain the purpose and intent of this project to the service providers.

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 is being collected until April 2014.

Next Steps: The first quarter of data collection has 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 staff continue to have regular meetings 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: Currently, the jail is working on a risk assessment to better determine the needs and risk levels of the population. Applying the COMPAS to the jail population will allow for a stronger matching of resources to the population.

Next Steps: Based on the results of the risk population analysis the jail will decide if investing in a CORR (Center of Risk Reduction/Day Reporting Center) will be an appropriate option for a pre-determined population. If developing a CORR is deemed a viable option then the jail will need to get the support of the city and county. The next JRI meeting is scheduled for mid-fall.

Accomplishments: The jail has received assistance from Applied Research Services, Inc. to take an in-depth look at the jail population. In doing this the jail has been able to house the different populations more appropriately, modify programs being offered to inmates, and better assist inmates as they prepare for reentry into the community.

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: During the summer OAR, ACRJ, UVA received a grant from the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) to assist with this project. A timeline and training

schedule is being finalized to support the demands of the grant and the students' academic schedule. The grant goes through February 2014.

Next Steps: When the new team of students is assigned, in early September, training will be conducted on the national standards for data integration and sharing. A graduate student will also be helping with this grant. The students will conduct research to determine the

best type of software and hardware to purchase to support and sustain this project.

Accomplishments: The work done by previous UVA Capstone Teams allowed for the NCJA grant application to be quickly put together. The extremely technical prototype explanation and diagrams played key roles in the application. Receiving the grant is a huge step in continuing this project.

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 is serving as the consulting organization. Currently, they are reviewing their notes and reports received during their on-site visit.

Next Steps: The consultants may return to the area in the fall to complete another round of observations and to talk with the Court Clerks and Judges' Secretaries.

Accomplishments: The consultants visited for their first round of observations and interviews of both Charlottesville and Albemarle Circuit and General District Courts and the corresponding judges, Commonwealth Attorneys, and Public Defenders.

"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 10/2 @ 11:30
- Wednesday 11/6 @ 11:30
- Wednesday 12/4 @ 1:30

Community Criminal Justice Board

- 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 Monday Sept. 9

Blueprint for Safety Workgroup

- First meeting early October