

Winter 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:

Honorable Robert Downer
Chief Magistrate Faith Baskerville
Sheriff James Brown
Dave Chapman, Commonwealth's Attorney
Michael Costanzo, Director Mohr Center

Maggie Cullinan, Victim Witness
Wendy Goodman, Chief Probation Officer
Sheriff Chip Harding
Jim Hingeley, Public Defender
Chief Tim Longo, Charlottesville PD

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

Information Sharing Becomes Key

A survey was conducted in October 2012 of the Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB) members to garner an appreciation of their expectations for the CCJB. It was learned that stronger communication and information sharing was one of their top priorities and concerns.

As Charlottesville-Albemarle continues to march forward with the EBDM initiative, it is ever more important to ensure all the stakeholders are kept up-to-date with the ongoing projects. This newsletter is intended to accomplish that goal.

In this first edition, an overview of seven EBDM initiatives will be highlighted including: the project's purpose, ongoing tasks, next steps, and accomplishments to date.

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: A meeting was held in early November 2012 with the technical assistance

providers and the committee to review the initial data collected. How the data was collected, the data shortfalls, and the lack of an overseeing authority figure to disseminate information were all discussed. It was also noted that information should be collected from victims who do not enter through the criminal justice system.

Next Steps: Currently, the technical assistance providers are continuing to clean the data and

develop a list of action items for the policy team to review. The action items will address how to fix the gaps in the system regarding data collection, resources available, and information exchange.

Accomplishments: This initiative was started in June 2012. The data collection and understanding was pivotal to this initiative.

Administrative Responses to 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: A database is being developed with assistance from Applied Research Services and the Center for Effective Public Policy to allow for tracking of the violations and the responses generated by the matrix.

Next Steps: Upon the completion of the database staff will be trained on all aspects of the project. The training will be

conducted in-house by staff who have been involved in this initiative from the start. A regular court docket will be established in the Charlottesville Circuit Court for hearing these cases.

Accomplishments: The matrix of violation responses was developed in collaboration with the Center for Effective Public Policy, staff from District 9 Probation and OAR staff. A policy manual, frequently asked questions document, and training curriculum have all been developed. The goal is to have the database completed in early February with training done in March and implementation to begin in April 2013.

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.

Ongoing Tasks: George Mason University sent out surveys to community programs to learn what services are offered. The surveys are currently being reviewed and scored for initial analysis.

Next Steps: The researchers from George Mason University will conduct in-person on-site visits with the local program providers to gain a better understanding of what ser-

vices are provided and how the programs work. The visits are intended to take place in March.

Accomplishments: To begin this project, a list of all of the community programs was needed. To date, responses have been collected from a handful of community service programs and there is continued outreach to unresponsive programs.

The goal of offender supervision is to promote public safety by preparing offenders to be successful in the community.

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.

Virginia has been on the leading edge of research in the pretrial field across the nation. Virginia's 29 pretrial programs have been divided into four study groups ((1) control group/no change; (2) Praxis; (3) STEPS; (4) Praxis and STEPS). The Praxis is a recommendation based on risk assessment and STEPS provides supervision strategies. Charlottesville/Albemarle was randomly placed in Group 4.

Ongoing Tasks & Next Steps: There are extensive trainings for all the stakeholders and line staff scheduled for the first quarter of 2013. The study will last for 30 months.

Accomplishments: This project has been introduced to all the stakeholders and line staff.

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 jail has created a team to work with the chronic offenders. There are roughly 30 individuals that make up approximately 5% of the jail population. Staff are working to ensure that these individuals do not slip through the cracks and receive the necessary services and sup-

port.

Next Steps: Two work groups were created to address the (1) DUI and other misdemeanants and (2) chronic and intoxicated populations. The work groups will develop plans and suggestions to address the needs of these populations.

Accomplishments: During the first phase of this project, jail population drivers were identified and discussion commenced as to how to best address these drivers.

The ACRJ applied for and received a Justice Reinvestment Initiative Grant through the EBDM work. An initial analysis was done and a draft report was developed to help assure the goals can be measured recommendations.

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 associated stakeholders. The integrated database will consolidate and organize data from each level of the criminal justice system.

Ongoing Tasks: There is a new UVA Capstone team each academic year. The current team has worked to educate themselves on the criminal justice system and are

continuously setting up meetings with IT individuals at each stakeholder's office. The team is working to develop a concise understanding of how data is inputted into each system.

Next Steps: Data has been received from previous teams' which needs further cleaning. A data dictionary will be developed to assure all fields are appropriately aligned and that there is more cohesion between the outgoing and incoming

UVA teams.

Accomplishments: The team has developed flowcharts of all the main data systems in use indicating how the information is inputted, who inputs the data, and where the data goes. An offense tracking number (OTN) has also been inputted at the Circuit Court level. The goal is to have the OTN entered in each data system which will allow for more comprehensive tracking.

Thirty individuals over the last four years have made up 5% of the jail population.

Reentry in the Jail

Purpose: This initiative uses evidence-based practices to assist the jail in classifying and adequately assisting the detained population to successfully re-integrate in the community upon release.

Ongoing Tasks: The jail is triaging individuals during booking by using the Hawaii System. The HI System is an evidence-based assessment. This eliminates contact between the low risk and medium/high risk populations.

Next Steps: COMPAS is a validated assessment system that would allow staff to

better address risks and needs of individuals. The assessment takes approximately one hour to complete. Currently ACRJ is determining which individuals would receive this assessment. It has been determined that medium and high risk individuals, along with the re-entry population will be assessed.

Accomplishments: ACRJ has developed several substance abuse and mental health programs within the jail. These programs vary in length and audience orientation. Reentry is receiving evidence-based services such as Thinking for Change.

750 Harris St. Suite 207
Charlottesville, VA 22903
Phone: 434-296-2441 x117
Fax: 434-979-4038
E-mail: sgarbo@oar-jacc.org

www.ebdmoneless.org

The goal of the this initiative is to build a system wide framework (arrest through final disposition and discharge) that will result in more collaborative evidence-based decision making and practices in local criminal justice systems.

“The Framework does not attempt to proscribe implementation in precisely the same way in every community. In this way it is not “a model.” It is, instead, intended to frame a purpose, articulate principles, and propose a process for decision making that can be applied to the system as a whole—to all those entering the system, regardless of their justice system status; to all types of cases, regardless of their severity; and to all stakeholders, regardless of their role.”

- Morris Thigpen, NIC Director

Anticipated Meetings and Important Dates

EBDM Policy Meetings

- Wednesday 2/6 11:30-1:30
- Wednesday 3/6 11:30-1:30
- Wednesday 4/3 11:30-1:30

George Mason University— Community Services’ Response to Needs

- On-site visits anticipated for March

Community Criminal Justice Board

- Monday 3/25 5:30-7:00pm
- Monday 7/8 5:30-7:00pm
- Monday 9/30 5:30-7:00pm
- Monday 12/2 5:30-7:00pm

The Intimate Partner Violence project will be reviewed at the EBDM Policy Meeting on 2/6.