



# West Virginia Office of Research and Strategic Planning

WV JCEBP/SAC Newsletter

March 2016

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## DR. HAAS ACCEPTS NEW POSITION

Effective December 11, 2015, Dr. Stephen M. Haas resigned from his position as Director of the Office of Research and Strategic Planning at the Division of Justice and Community Services. Dr. Haas accepted a position as the Chief of the Community Services Division at the National Institute of Corrections. The Community Services Division coordinates technical assistance, specialized training, and other programs related to probation, parole, and other forms of community-based corrections.

## 2016 TRAINING SCHEDULE

<b>April 18-20</b>	CBI-SA
<b>April 25-27</b>	CBI-SA
<b>May 16-19</b>	Thinking for a Change
<b>June 6-8</b>	Motivational Interviewing
<b>June 15-17</b>	Motivational Interviewing
<b>September 26-28</b>	EPICS
<b>October 24-26</b>	CBI-SA
<b>November 14-17</b>	Thinking for a Change
<b>December 5-7</b>	Motivational Interviewing

For more information on trainings, please contact Maria Orsini at [Maria.M.Orsini@wv.gov](mailto:Maria.M.Orsini@wv.gov).

Note: Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (CBI-SA), Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS)

## DR. DOUGLAS SPENCE NAMED ORSP ACTING DIRECTOR

Dr. Douglas H. Spence has been appointed as acting director of the Office of Research and Strategic Planning (ORSP) in the Division of Justice and Community Services (DJCS). Prior to his appointment Dr. Spence served as a research analyst within the ORSP, where his work dealt with topics such as the predictors of successful program completion and recidivism by day report center clients, the predictive validity of offender risk and needs assessments, and future trends in the growth of the state's prison population. Dr. Spence's research has received awards from the Justice Research and Statistics Association and has been published in the *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, the *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, and *The International Journal of Human Rights*.

Dr. Spence can be reached at (304) 558-8814 ext. 53317 and [Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov](mailto:Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov).

## NEW PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION

A research article by Stephen M. Haas and Douglas H. Spence has been accepted for publication in the April issue of the *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*. The study, which is titled "Use of Core Correctional Practice and Inmate Preparedness for Release," uses an original survey-based measurement tool to assess inmate perceptions of the extent to which correctional staff adhere to core correctional practices (CCP), a set of evidence-based standards for service delivery in correctional settings. The results presented in the article demonstrate that the tool provides an effective measure of the level of adherence to CCP by staff within correctional facilities, and show that inmates were better prepared for release when adherence to CCP was greater. These results also provide additional support for other ongoing efforts by ORSP researchers to measure the quality of correctional service delivery using offender surveys, as they provide peer-reviewed evidence that offender surveys can be used to provide an accurate measure of the level of staff adherence to evidence-based practices. The *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* is a leading multi-disciplinary journal which publishes research related to the theory and practice of offender rehabilitation. The journal serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, criminologists, therapists, forensic psychologists and psychiatrists, counselors, and others working with offender populations around the world.

## FORECAST PROJECTIONS AND COST SAVINGS ESTIMATES FOR 2014-2024

The ORSP has recently released its biannual state prison population forecast. This report models the future growth of the WV correctional population, and presents descriptive statistics, population projections, and cost estimates for the years 2014-2024. It reports that the correctional population is projected to grow at an annual rate of 1.8% over the next 10 years, a significant reduction from the annual growth rate of 4.1% that was predicted by the previous biannual forecast. In addition, ongoing assessments of the forecast model's performance indicate that its monthly population projections remain highly accurate, with projections falling within about 1.1% of the actual population totals on average.

For more information about this project, please contact Dr. Douglas Spence at [Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov](mailto:Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov).

## DAY REPORT CENTER RECIDIVISM STUDY RELEASED

Day report centers (DRCs) are community corrections facilities that play a significant role in efforts to reduce recidivism by providing offenders with supervision and rehabilitative services. In prior research, the ORSP examined factors that influence the likelihood that offenders who are sentenced to participate in DRC programs in West Virginia complete their sentences successfully. The present study builds on that research by investigating the impact of successful program completion on recidivism. It tracks 1,495 DRC clients for two years after release from the program and examines the factors that predict whether these clients experience new arrests, jail bookings, or incarcerations. The results of bivariate and multivariate analyses show that successful clients are much less likely to recidivate, and that successful program completion and clients' Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) risk scores are the strongest predictors of recidivism. In addition, analysis of LS/CMI subcomponent scores reveals important areas of criminogenic need for West Virginia's DRC population, and suggests means for further improving the quality of service delivery in these facilities.

For more information about this project, please contact Dr. Douglas Spence at [Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov](mailto:Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov).

## COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE HOLDS FIRST MEETING

The Community of Practice was created to provide a forum for corrections practitioners working in different facilities and agencies around WV to come together, along with research staff from the ORSP, to discuss issues related to the implementation of evidence-based practices. In December, ORSP researchers working within the Justice Center for Evidence-Based Practice (JCEBP) met with participants from the WV Division of Corrections, the Department of Health and Human Resources, the Division of Juvenile Services, and day report centers to discuss a variety of topics related to the facilitation of upcoming trainings, recent modifications to certification policies for the LS/CMI, and ideas for improving quality monitoring by the JCEBP, among others. It is anticipated that the next Community of Practice meeting will be held in May of 2016.

For more information regarding the Community of Practice, please contact Dr. Douglas Spence at [Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov](mailto:Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov).

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## JUSTICE REINVESTMENT PERFORMANCE MONITORING

ORSP staff are currently engaged in efforts to monitor the implementation and performance of West Virginia's Adult and Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Initiatives (JRI). These efforts entail several different data collection and research projects. As part of the monitoring activities associated with Adult JRI, ORSP researchers and other DJCS staff assist in the preparation of monthly statistical reports that track the implementation of JRI-related reforms and the provision of training on evidence-based practices to correctional staff. Work is also underway on the development of a set of state-level performance indicators such as correctional population trends and offender recidivism rates, which can be used to track the long-term impact of Adult JRI over time. The ORSP plans to publish the first in a series of research briefs on JRI performance measurement within the next few months.

For more information about performance monitoring for Adult JRI please contact Kelsi Boyd at [Kelsi.J.Boyd@wv.gov](mailto:Kelsi.J.Boyd@wv.gov).

ORSP staff are also assisting several state agencies with meeting data reporting requirements associated with Juvenile JRI. Thus far, these efforts have focused on the development of new data-sharing agreements and security procedures which will facilitate the acquisition of data from the different databases maintained by agencies that deal with juvenile offenders. Once this process is complete, the ORSP will begin merging and analyzing data in order to assist in Juvenile JRI performance monitoring.

For more information about performance monitoring for Juvenile JRI please contact Thomas Arnold at [Thomas.K.Arnold@wv.gov](mailto:Thomas.K.Arnold@wv.gov).

