



West Virginia Office of Research and Strategic Planning

WV JCEBP/SAC Newsletter

November 2015

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UPCOMING TRAININGS

- **Spring 2016**
LS/CMI+Y Workshop
Registration to be announced
- **Spring 2016**
Motivational Interviewing
Workshop
Registration to be announced
- **Spring 2016**
CBI-SA User Training
Registration to be announced
- **Summer 2016**
LS/CMI+Y Workshop
Registration to be announced

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT TRAINING EFFORTS

West Virginia's Justice Reinvestment policy framework includes the objectives of strengthening community supervision and ensuring effective substance abuse treatment for offenders with high needs. As part of ongoing efforts to reduce recidivism and ensure effective implementation of evidence-based practices, ORSP/JCEBP staff are organizing and participating in a series of evidence-based trainings. These include Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (CBI-SA), Thinking for a Change (T4C), Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), and Motivational Interviewing (MI). These trainings emphasize cognitive-behavioral strategies and adherence to "what works" in offender treatment. CBI-SA teaches offenders cognitive-behavioral strategies for avoiding substance abuse, and incorporates an individualized success plan. EPICS provides a structure for meeting with offenders that emphasizes the targeting of criminogenic needs and the reinforcement of cognitive-behavioral strategies. Thinking for a Change (T4C) is an integrated cognitive-behavioral program designed to teach offenders social skills, cognitive self-change, and problem solving skills. Finally, Motivational Interviewing is a collaborative, person-centered form of guiding to elicit and strengthen motivation for change.

The implementation of a train-the-trainer model is in progress in the state whereby suitable staff members will be identified as trainers. ORSP/JCEBP staff will also become trainers in these curricula and will subsequently expand training opportunities to correctional professionals throughout the state.

The following trainings are forthcoming:

- Spring 2016: EPICS User Training
- Spring 2016: CBI-SA User Training
- Spring 2016: Thinking for a Change (T4C) User Training
- Spring 2016: Motivational Interviewing User Training
- Summer 2016: Motivational Interviewing User Training

For registration and additional information, please contact Maria Orsini at Maria.M.Orsini@wv.gov.

THE ORSP WELCOMES FOUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Maria M. Orsini M.A., Research Specialist

Ms. Orsini holds a B.A. in Criminal Justice and an M.A. in Sociology from Marshall University. She has previously worked in corrections and as a research assistant in the areas of sociology, anthropology, and social work. As part of the Justice Center for Evidence Based Practice, Maria coordinates and participates in the statewide trainings under the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. She is a certified LS/CMI and YLS/CMI trainer as well as a lead trainer in CBI-SA. Maria recently completed a study assessing the predictive validity of the LS/CMI for offenders under the supervision of the WV Division of Corrections. You may reach Maria at Maria.M.Orsini@wv.gov.

Thomas K. Arnold M.S., Research Specialist

Tom Arnold has a B.S. in Physics and a M.S. in Criminal Justice from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. His Master's thesis involved examination of repeated risk assessments with the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R). Tom began pursuing a doctoral degree in criminal justice and criminology in 2010 at the University of Cincinnati. He completed his coursework and exams in 2014 and is now working to write a doctoral dissertation that will involve exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis of LSI-R scores with male and female offenders. Tom is currently working to collect and analyze data on adult and juvenile offenders in West Virginia, and also working to help implement overdose reduction projects in West Virginia day report centers. You may reach Tom at Tom.K.Arnold@wv.gov.

Leah R. Fisher M.S., Research Specialist

Leah Fisher holds a B.A. in Psychology from Saint Martin's University in Lacey, WA and a M.S. in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. Ms. Fisher has completed survey research on sex offenders and sex offender policies. Her past experience also includes working for the EPICS project through the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute. Ms. Fisher's work with the SAC is largely involved with evidence-based practices in supervision and treatment. You can reach Ms. Fisher at Leah.R.Fisher@wv.gov

Kelsi J. Boyd M.A., Research Specialist

Kelsi Boyd double majored in Psychology and Sociology at Ohio University and now holds an M.A. in Sociology from Ohio University. Within the ORSP, she is continuing research on sexual assault and victimization, as well as contributing to the JCEBP's role in JRI. You may reach Kelsi at Kelsi.J.Boyd@wv.gov

EVIDENCE-BASED OFFENDER ASSESSMENT: A COMPARITIVE ANALYSIS OF WEST VIRGINIA AND U.S. RISK SCORES

[Evidence-Based Offender Assessment: A Comparative Analysis of West Virginia and U.S. Risk Scores](#)

The Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) is an actuarial risk and needs assessment tool utilized by all justice agencies in an effort to provide effective treatment services for West Virginia's offender population. This study examines West Virginia normative data and U.S. offender population norms derived from assessment data gathered from nine states across the country. LS/CMI assessment data is calculated by adding the scores on each of the eight domains and captures an individual's criminogenic factors, which have been shown to influence the likelihood of recidivism. In this study, the Companion domain was the only area where West Virginia offenders consistently scored higher than the U.S. population. Results further indicate West Virginia has a lower risk offender population compared to other states—this is true regardless of correctional setting (i.e., community or institutional confinement). Consideration of LS/CMI risk scores may enhance the state's efforts to manage its correctional population, protect the public, and save resources.

If you have any questions regarding the attached report, please contact Leighann Davidson at Leighann.J.Davidson@wv.gov or Dr. Douglas Spence at Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov

THE NALOXONE PROJECT

The ORSP is currently working with several partners to pilot a Naloxone distribution project in three WV day report centers. Naloxone is a drug that can potentially be used to save lives by reversing the effects of overdoses of opioid drugs such as heroin, morphine and OxyContin. Drug offenders who have recently been released from incarceration or residential drug treatment centers are at an especially high risk of fatal opioid overdoses because they often lose their tolerance for opioids during the periods when they are unable to use. Since day report centers are frequently used to supervise recently released drug offenders, they are an attractive site for distribution of naloxone. This pilot project examines the feasibility of using day report centers to distribute naloxone to at-risk offenders and provide education about the use of this potentially life-saving medication. Partners in the project include Western Regional Day Report Center, Berkeley-Jefferson Day Report Center, Marion County Day Report Center, Project Lazarus, First Choice Health Services, and the Injury Control Research Center at West Virginia State University. For more information about this project please contact Tom Arnold at Thomas.K.Arnold@wv.gov.

VALIDATION OF THE LS/CMI

[Predicting Recidivism of Offenders Released from the West Virginia Division of Corrections: Validation of the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory](#)

As part of ongoing efforts to monitor the statewide implementation of the LS/CMI risk assessment tool, the ORSP has conducted a study which assesses the ability of the LS/CMI to predict recidivism of offenders released from WV DOC custody. Findings indicate that LS/CMI total risk scores are strong predictors of recidivism (as measured by both reincarceration and regional jail bookings) for the DOC population. Offenders who were identified by the LS/CMI as having a higher risk level were significantly more likely to recidivate. The report also shows that the LS/CMI is an effective predictor of recidivism for a subsample of violent offenders.

If you have any questions regarding the attached report, please contact Maria Orsini at Maria.M.Orsini@wv.gov or Dr. Douglas Spence at Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov.

CORRECTIONAL PROGRAM CHECKLIST (CPC)

Several ORSP staff recently completed training provided by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute in the use of the Correctional Program Checklist (CPC), an evidence-based correctional program assessment tool. The CPC is designed to evaluate the extent to which correctional treatment programs adhere to the principles of effective intervention. Each assessment results in a report which provides program directors and staff with a description of how well their program adheres to evidence-based practices as well as detailed recommendations for improving their program's effectiveness. Research shows that the scores produced by CPC assessments are strongly correlated with programs' recidivism rates, and that programs which improve their CPC scores tend to achieve better outcomes. As part of their training, ORSP staff conducted assessments of several correctional facilities in WV: The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) unit at Lakin Correctional Center, Western Regional Day Report Center: Cabell County and the Putnam County Day Report Center. The ORSP plans to conduct CPC assessments of five additional correctional facilities within the year. For more information about this project, please contact Dr. Douglas Spence at Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov, Maria Orsini at Maria.M.Orsini@wv.gov, or Dr. Stephen Haas at Stephen.M.Haas@wv.gov.

DRC CLIENT SURVEY

In an effort to determine how effectively staff members at local day report centers (DRCs) are using Core Correctional Practices (CCP) when working with their clients, the ORSP is creating a survey to administer to DRC clients throughout the state of West Virginia. CCP comprise 5 dimensions: appropriate use of authority, anti-criminal modeling and reinforcement, effective use of community resources, problem solving, and quality of interpersonal relationships. Research has shown that when implemented correctly, these CCP positively influence the effectiveness of offender treatment. In addition, adherence to these principles has been shown to lead to a reduction in recidivism. For more information on this project please contact Leah Fisher at Leah.R.Fisher@wv.gov.

CORRECTIONAL POPULATION FORECAST

In order to assist in state planning efforts and facilitate the implementation of policies to reduce prison overcrowding, the ORSP produces a biannual prison population forecast. The next forecast report, which will be released in November of 2015, examines the current trends in WV prison population growth and presents prison population projections based on several different scenarios. These scenarios simulate the impact of potential policy changes on future prison populations, and are supplemented with cost analyses that illustrate the fiscal impact of changing prison populations on the state over time. The results show that the rate of prison population growth has slowed significantly compared to the projections made by the previous forecast in 2012, but that it is likely possible to bring about further reductions in prison population growth.

RESULTS FIRST

The ORSP has been working with staff from the WV Division of Corrections, the WV Office of Legislative Services, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and others, to implement the Results First Initiative in West Virginia. Results First provides state policymakers with an innovative cost-benefit analysis model that integrates the results of national research on program effectiveness with recidivism and costs data specific to West Virginia in order to identify criminal justice programs that provide the best outcomes for constituents. The Results First team recently completed an inventory of the residential and community-based treatment programs currently provided to offenders in the state, and compiled the results of national research on the effectiveness of these programs using the Results First Clearinghouse Database. State-specific recidivism and costs analyses for these programs are currently underway.

For more information about this project please contact Thomas Arnold at Thomas.K.Arnold@wv.gov or Dr. Douglas Spence at Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov

ORSP PRESENTATIONS

National Forum on Criminal Justice 2015

[Ensuring Fidelity of Offender Risk Assessment in Large-Scale Correctional Settings: The Quality Assurance-Treatment Intervention Programs and Supervision Initiative \(QA-TIPS\)](#)

-Dr. Stephen M. Haas and Leighann J. Davidson

[Justice Reinvestment in West Virginia: Population Drivers, Implementation, and Performance Measurement](#)

-Maria M. Orsini

[Drug Market Intervention: Research to Inform Community Engagement and Revitalization Strategies](#)

-Dr. Stephen Haas & Erica Turley

Association of State Uniform Crime Reporting Programs 2015

[Improving State Reporting of Crime Trends: The Development and Testing of the NIBRS Data Quality and Imputation Package \(NIBRS DQIP\)](#)

-Dr. Stephen M. Haas

CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS AUDIT

The Statistical Analysis Center recently was awarded funding under the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) 2015 State Justice Statistics (SJS) program to conduct two important studies for the state. During the next year, the SAC will conduct a data quality audit of the state's criminal history records (CHR) system. This project will replicate the methodology used in the 2005 CHR audit conducted by the SAC and adhere to federal recommendations by assessing records for completeness, accuracy, and timeliness in terms of submissions. By allowing for comparisons to the 2005 audit, the project will provide for an assessment of the state's performance in its efforts to improve the quality records in the system under the NCHIP program.

In addition, the SAC has assembled a team of national experts in the area of victimization research to conduct the first state level crime victimization survey. This project will take place over the next three years in partnership with the West Virginia University Research Center on Violence and consultants from the University of Denver and American University. WVU will provide the call center and resources to conduct this statewide random digit dialing telephone survey. In support of BJS's mission, the survey will utilize core questions from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) in addition to focused measures of specific concern in WV.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION

A research article by Douglas Spence and Stephen M. Haas has been published in the *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*. The article, which is entitled "Predicting Client Success in Day Report Centers: The Importance of Risk and Needs Assessment", is based on recent community corrections research conducted by the ORSP and investigates the factors that predict the successful completion of treatment programs by day report center clients. The *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation* is a multi-disciplinary, peer-reviewed journal which presents empirical research and critical analyses of criminal justice program policies, practices, and services. The journal serves as a professional resource for practitioners, educators and researchers who work with individuals involved in the criminal justice system.

CORRECTIONAL PROGRAM QUALITY INDEX

Extant methods for assessing correctional program quality rely heavily on information gathered from site visits and direct observation by researchers. Obtaining this information typically requires significant investments from research staff in terms of time, training and resources. This makes it difficult to assess large numbers of facilities or to conduct frequent reassessments. Consequently, the ORSP has developed a set of indicators which utilize commonly available administrative data to assess the extent to which correctional service delivery adheres to evidence-based practices. These indicators have been combined to create a composite program quality index score which can be used to measure the level of service quality for a large numbers of facilities across entire correctional systems. In addition, since the data systems which provide the information for the index are updated continuously, research staff can use this approach to conduct reassessments whenever necessary without significant new investments in time or resources. Preliminary analysis of data from WV day report centers indicates that programs which score higher on the program quality index tend to experience better outcomes, including lower rates of recidivism. Future work will assess the extent to which the index scores correlate with other measures of program quality gathered from site visits as well as surveys of offenders and corrections staff. For more information about this project, please contact Dr. Douglas Spence at Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov.

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WEST VIRGINIA SAC WINS THREE NATIONAL AWARDS

2014 Douglas Yearwood National Publication Award in Research/Policy Analysis: *Predictors of Client Success in Day Report Centers: Successful Program Completion and its relationship to Recidivism*. Douglas Spence and Stephen M. Haas.

2014 Douglas Yearwood National Publication Award in Statistical/Management: *Testing the Validity of Demonstrated Imputation Methods on Longitudinal NIBRS Data*. Christina R. LaValle, Stephen M. Haas, and James Nolan.

2014 SAC Innovation Award: *Improving the Accuracy of Crime Statistics: NIBRS Data Quality Tool for the States*. Christina R. LaValle, Stephen M. Haas, Erica Turley and James Nolan.

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