Idaho Prison Compstat

7th Annual ICRN/NCRP meeting
Idaho Department of Correction
Janeena White
Overview

- Agency Overview
- Evaluation and Compliance mission
- Justice Reinvestment and focus on Evidence Based Practices
- Outcomes
- Creating and maintaining a research agenda for your agency
Agency Overview

IDOC has approximately:

- 2,200 staff
- 9,200 inmates (5.4 per 1,000)
- 17,000 felony probationers/parolees (9.6 per 1,000)

- 9 State Prisons
  - Total capacity = 7,262
  - 2 are female, plus one combined male/female facility
  - 650 in out of state prison
  - 1 maximum security, 2 medium, 2 combined custody

- One in-state private prison
  - Capacity = 432

- 4 Community Reentry Centers
  - 1 is female

- 7 P&P district offices plus multiple satellite offices

- Have received funding for additional CRCs and have requested funding for day reporting centers.

Idaho population 1.7 million
Evaluation and Compliance

• Created in 2015 (previously was research and analysis unit)
  – Emphasis is now more on quality control for organization as well as research

• Mission is provide actionable information to decisionmakers to evaluate current practices to ensure the delivery of high quality, evidence-based programming.

• Prison forecast
  • Track admission and release trends

• Compstat for prisons, P&P and agency
  – Population trends, recidivism, # of inmate/inmate and inmate/staff assaults, grievances filed, etc.

• Information for legislative reports
  – Justice Reinvestment

• Adhoc information requests and research
  – Probation and parole officer time study
Justice Reinvestment in Idaho  enacted 2014

• In 2013, the Council for State Governments found Idaho:
  – Had one of the highest incarceration rates in the nation, 10th in nation in 2014 – with 3rd lowest violent crime rate.
  – Supervision and diversion programs were not reducing recidivism
  – Prison population primarily composed of community supervised population who revoked, sentenced to rider.
  – State lacked ability to track outcomes, measure quality and assure the reliability of recidivism reduction strategies.
Justice Reinvestment in Idaho Strategies

• Enhance supervision practices and programs
  – Changed all programs only include evidence based curriculum, and assess with CPC and CPC-GA audit tools every two years.
    • Evidence based programs in community
  – Respond with swiftness and certainty to violations using behavior response matrix.
    • Keep ratio of 4 to 1 rewards versus sanctions
  – Training on Motivational Interviewing
  – Keep caseloads less than 50 mod/high risk
Reserve Prison Beds for High Risk

- Tailor confinement responses for probation and parole violations
- Provide judges with recidivism outcome data for various sentencing options
- Use risk-assessment to inform the parole decision-making process
  - Tailoring parole sanctions and parole decision making
    - Discretionary jail time and parole diversions
- Improve management of victim restitution
Tracking Recidivism Reduction

• Establish an oversight committee to measure and assess policy impacts

• Require that risk and needs assessments be routinely reviewed for quality

• Increase the capacity of state agencies to collect and analyze data in order to reduce inefficiencies and cut costs

• Evaluate the quality of programs and use results to improve outcomes
- Current 6% annual growth

- Drivers of population continue to be probation and parole violations for new crimes involving drug possession.
New felony probation sentences have increased faster than term or rider sentences.

Rider = court retained jurisdiction incarceration, released to probation if successful completion of programming at 180 days.

Term = imposed sentence of incarceration.

*2019 estimate
Community Population

- Population has increased by 7.4% for probation and 2.0% for parole in past year.
- Have increased number of P&P officers by 25 but staffing remains an issue as well as workload.
- Use of supervision by risk allows to keep less than 50 mod/high risk per caseload.
Justice Reinvestment Outcomes

• Continued population growth
  – Probation and parole violations continue filling prison beds (30% of term admissions and half of rider admissions started on probation).
    • 38% of term admissions in FY19 were on parole and only 24% were from new commitments.
  – Have some savings from early decrease in population (comparison with projection), however, could reach projection of 9,400 for end of FY2019.

• Increased spending on treatment on the community and increased emphasis on use of emphasis based treatment.
  – CPC and CPC GA assessments indicate most programs are effective to highly effective.

• Intent to use prison beds for more violent offenders
  – Even greater number of individuals are incarcerated for drug crimes now than in the past (41.5% of admissions in 2018 compared to 31.0% in 2010).
  – Use of assessments that don’t measure “violence” per se, but rather risk to recidivate has led to more individuals incarcerated who are higher “risk” with a higher LSI-R score.

• Increase in absconding and increase in new drug crimes.

• Increased attention to data and evidence based practices.
Lessons learned creating a research agenda

• JRI started policymakers and leadership asking the right questions

• How to get them to keep asking…
  – Produce results
  – Simplify- less is more
    • Data visualization
    • Highlight just the key points
  – Keep in touch with front line staff to help explain what the data means
  – Provide both qualitative and quantitative information
  – Follow up with leadership and staff with information, is it helpful/useful?

• The right data is not always available, especially when there is little difference between groups.
  – Explain differences and keep digging for data

• Work with external evaluators
  – Beta.gov, recidivis, university researchers
Why isn’t population decreasing?

- Qualitative findings:
  - Survey of absconders
    - Need to improve reentry process and access to/relationship with PPO
  - Surveys of staff
    - Overwhelmed with expectations of the job
    - Don’t like responsibilities such as COS collection
    - Hate data entry
      - Since JRI this became a primary task of the job, recording all sanctions and rewards, information about all contacts made, etc.
      - If you ask, try and do something about it
  - Client satisfaction surveys
  - Reentry surveys
    - How apprehensive were they prior to release and how satisfied with services received while in prison?
Most common reasons for absconding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did not like PO</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn't know about parole process</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distrust/Fear of PO</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of going back to prison</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Choice/Did not care</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too many restrictions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How prepared did you feel after being released from prison?

• “Felt ready, but apprehensive”
• “I didn’t have a stable place to go so it was bad from the start”
• “Fairly prepared, had good support system, did good for 3 years”
• “Gave up a little because I had no finances”
• “I thought I had a plan, but it didn’t work out the way I wanted”
• “Overwhelmed in the beginning”
• “Not good, the transitional house had drugs so I used soon after being out”
What were reasons for absconding?

• “My support network collapsed, and I didn’t care about checking in or anything”
• “I’m not from Idaho, and I didn’t know what the rules were”
• “Scared to ask for help. Worried PO would send me back to prison”
• “I’m an addict, and I knew the consequences of absconding. I didn’t care”
• “I didn’t trust the PO to help me”
• “Scared to go back to prison because I used. I was afraid of the PO”
• “I needed to go somewhere where I had medical support, and I didn’t have it here”
What can IDOC do differently to keep you from absconding?

• “I needed more personal structure that would’ve prevented me from using”
• “I should be sent back home to do parole”
• “I don’t think anything can be done since it was a personal choice to abscond”
• “Make it easier for SOs to get housing, and more transitional funding”
• “Allow us to have our driver’s license especially for getting a job”
• “Too much waiting around with programming, but needed treatment immediately”
Principle of Normality

• IDOC prisons are trying to incorporate more ways to make offenders ready for release.

• E&C is providing and/or helping with pre/post testing for projects
  – Community mentors
  – Reentry specialists
  – Enhanced environment
    • Couches, plants, silverware, murals
  – Incentive tiers
  – Inmate mentors
  – PPO specialists
Explaining what the data means

• Sometimes the data doesn’t show significant change when improvements are made
  – Can always dig deeper to offer qualitative information from staff and population to find out more

• Incentive tiers-
  – Decreases most related to areas with gaming consoles, ability to paint cells
  – No change in areas with weight equipment, couches, library, etc.
    • Some areas were already fairly low so difficult to note change through disciplinary actions alone.
  – Decreases in other areas of the institution (maybe to be placed on incentive tier?)

• Ask inmates and staff what they think about the changes…
Conclusion

• Data driven, evidence based practices are the new norm

• To get leadership and policymakers to continue asking the right questions:
  – Simplify
  – Provide information that is visually appealing
  – Provide quantitative and qualitative information
    • Always dig deeper in the data to understand the full story
  – Access to a variety of information can help explain the bigger picture
    • Data from HR (staffing, satisfaction, etc.), in addition to prison- disciplinary actions, grievances filed, programming and education, etc.
    • Data on community employment, programming, education, needs of population, etc.
  – If something isn’t working, dig deeper to find out why.
Thank you!

• Questions or comments:
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