Current Issues in Corrections

Prepared for 2010 SEARCH Annual Meeting

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How can we do a better job of helping released inmates endure as productive citizens?

- Recidivism rates in my state are in the 40% range… we’re not atypical
- During the economic downturn, jobs for released inmates are scarce
- If you can’t find work, you probably will end up back in prison
- How can we do a better job of preparation: education, job skills, maintaining family and community ties?
- How can we help support that offender in the community after our legal authority to supervise him ends?
How can we be smarter about how we supervise probationers?

• Caseloads are heavy and increasing
• Cost of incarceration driving more interest in supervising offenders in the community
• Evidence-based practice tells us we ought to assess real risk as well as needs and tailor supervision accordingly
• But assessment knowledge base still evolving
• And when offender commits a new crime, public expectation returns to core metrics: how often did we contact, how many times did we drug test
How can we create a continuity of health care for offenders?

- Aging prison populations mean we spend increasingly more on health care
- Drug use means that even younger offenders come to us with health issues
- Most offenders will eventually be released and their health needs will be met by the public health system
- Unfortunately, many offenders will return to prison and be released multiple times
- We see a need for an electronic health record that can follow the offender across those boundaries
What data elsewhere in the criminal justice community would help Corrections?

• The public thinks that we know everything about the offender
• When a probationer goes missing, but courts or law enforcement have had a more recent contact, the public expects us to be aware of that
• When a probationer commits a new crime, the public expectation is that we know instantly and act with dispatch
• Correction agencies are increasingly interested in getting current court, jail and arrest data, and folding that into their case management systems
• The public expectation is that the entire criminal justice community leverages every contact with an offender and shares that contact information
What data does Corrections have that would be useful to others?

- Corrections data represents an untapped resource
- We have information on who visited an inmate and when
- We have information on who shared a cell and when
- We know who gave the inmate money, how much, and when
- We know who the inmate sent money to, how much, and when
- We can share information on phone calls: who they called, when, and the context of the call
- We have gang information
- We have information on their infractions in prison
- Increasingly, this data is automated
How Do We Begin

• Corrections needs to build data-sharing capacity – SOA / Web Services
• Identify Data Share Priorities
• Classify Data Elements for Sharing
• Identify Data-Share Protocols
• Practical Models in NY State
  – NYPD Real Time Crime Center
  – Upstate NY CAC’s
Current / Future Initiatives

• NYS Criminal Justice Portal
• One-Stop Shopping for CRJ Data Needs
• Single Platform
• Agreed-To Architectural Principals
• Role-Based Access Control
• Case Management System Capability
• Case De-confliction Capability