

## **Data, Metrics, and Information Sharing Committee**

### **2021 Update & Recommendations**

The Data, Metrics, and Information Sharing (DMI) committee began 2020 attempting to identify an appropriate definition of recidivism for the Pennsylvania Reentry Council to adopt. After discussion amongst committee members, and the larger Council, it was decided that our committee's current focus should be on the data collection and management strategies of PARC member counties. This happened for three main reasons.

1. There are inherent benefits and drawbacks of a formal adoption of a recidivism definition.
  - a. This can limit our scope of understanding in relation to PARC's impact on recidivism and reentry throughout the commonwealth.
2. Counties can calculate recidivism based on any definition they choose if the appropriate data is being collected.
  - a. Strong data allows for increased opportunities to evaluate and improve (if necessary) existing county reentry processes.
3. We see the role of PARC as contributing to the desistance of criminal activity.
  - a. Focusing on desistance from crime is an important step in supporting reentrants and in reforming reentry processes.

Therefore, the DMI subcommittee developed a memorandum that was sent to Criminal Justice Advisory Boards & Reentry Coalitions in May 2020. The memorandum "*County Data Collection and Management Strategies*" first detailed the need for increased data collection and data sharing at the county level. We also outlined how counties can move toward more evidence-based data practices by understanding the importance of using data to evaluate, and potentially improve, county reentry processes. This was a first step in helping counties identify the need for ongoing data collection and analysis.

#### **Concerns Moving Forward**

- No mandated county collection of data
  - o Long-term - Use one provider
  - o No central repository of data collection
    - JNET & PCCD are building systems
- Some counties:
  - o Do not collect data
  - o Do so by hand – no data base
  - o Do not have the courts speaking with corrections and then probation and parole
- What is the data we want to collect?
  - o Sex
  - o Race
  - o Age

- Offense of conviction (and whether a misdemeanor or felony)
- Prior commitments to county prison
- Education level
- Employment prior to incarceration
- Housing prior to incarceration
- Medical needs
- Veteran Status
- Type of Release (Max Out, Probation, Parole, etc...)
- Length of sentence
- List of recommended services while incarcerated or upon release.
- Number of people arrested – incarcerated for criminal violations
- Number of people rearrested for new criminal violations
- Number of people arrested/ incarcerated for technical violations
- Racial makeup of all people arrested and incarcerated whether for criminal violations and technical violations
- Number of people arrested/ incarcerated and suffering from substance abuse (drug and alcohol)
- Number of people arrested/ incarcerated and suffering from mental illness & intellectual disabilities
- What reentry services - drug alcohol services -are provided by each prison?
- What reentry services – mental health services -are provided by each prison?
- How many counties are collecting data appropriately?
- Cost of incarceration vs probation/ parole
- Identify how CJABs view reentry

### **Goals & Recommendations for 2021**

- Continue to educate counties on the necessity of data collection and analysis.
- Find ways to help counties establish, troubleshoot, and improve their data processes.
- Develop profiles of counties based on population size (*See <https://www.pacounties.org/PAsCounties/Pages/Counties-by-Class.aspx>*) that can be used as reference guides for similarly sized counties.
- Participate in county CJAB and Reentry coalition meetings when appropriate.
- Help establish avenues for increased data collection and analysis funding for counties.
- Continue to collaborate with JNET and PCCD as they develop their data management systems/strategies.
- Outreach to CCAP:
  - Need to understand the issues concerning focus on reentry and data collection/ how they can spend money to save money.
  - Commissioners will sit on prison boards and they will decide whether to follow a recommendation from the County Commissioners.
- Funding:
  - To train counties to assemble data
  - Create systems to collect data

- Manpower to do both above
- This could help save money in the long run

### Response to COVID

The large scale release of individuals from county facilities due to the ongoing pandemic requires an even closer examination of the data. Our hope is that counties have been able to keep track of the number of individuals being released, and their experiences as they reenter society. Additional data tracking could include the types of individuals released, to what level of supervision they were released, if they were released with or without reentry services related to (employment, insurance, treatment, independent living, education etc...). Unfortunately, we also recognize the reality of the current situation has made it more difficult for counties to collect data of any sort. This speaks to the necessity of providing dedicated funding streams that can support county data collection and management processes.