DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY &
PRETRIAL SERVICES AGENCY
RESEARCH REVIEW COMMITTEE

EXPEDITED REVIEW RECOMMENDATION STATEMENT

DATE: May 12, 2010

I. RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Principal Researcher: Calvin C. Johnson, CSOSA Director of the Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE) and Kathleen Mantila, Program Analyst (ORE). Other ORE staff include Olubusayo Akanbi (Statistical Analyst), and Marianne Staroscik (Social Science Analyst).

Title: Assessing the Impact of Pre-Release Planning on Supervision Outcomes: A Pilot Pre-Release Program for Women Released from the Bureau of Prisons

Institutions: CSOSA, ORE, and Our Place DC (OPDC), Washington, DC

Description: The primary objectives of this research exercise are to:

1. Assess the utility of enhanced pre-release service delivery for women returning from the BOP; and
2. Assess the impact of a community-based organization-led program enhancement on its current pre-release planning efforts for women

To conduct this study, CSOSA seeks to partner with OPDC to examine whether such an enhancement can be implemented and assessed under grant funding received by OPDC. Specifically, OPDC has grant funding to provide pre-release service delivery to incarcerated women who are at least four months from release to the community. CSOSA/ORE, in collaboration with OPDC, will identify OPDC pre-release enhancement participants and a comparison group of women who transition under the normal pre-release planning scheme. CSOSA/ORE will use the newly validated risk and needs screening scores to identify women with comparable risk profiles on all four outcome measures – violent rearrest, non-traffic rearrest, AVR for serious incident, and persistent drug use.

Through this analysis, CSOSA potentially will gain a service delivery partner capable of quality service delivery to women offenders. Additionally, CSOSA will be in a position to

conduct ongoing analyses that will become an integral component supporting program enhancements, service delivery prioritization, and budget justifications.

This study applies to CSOSA only.

Type of Data and Analysis: Aggregate-level data.

Subjects: OPDC is planning to provide services to 40 CSOSA female offenders. ORE will use a series of propensity scores to identify a comparison group of 40 women not targeted by OPDC for the pre-release enhancement.

II. QUALIFICATION FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW

This is a request for aggregate-level data which poses no risk to individual offenders, does not require Agency resources in excess of those already allocated toward ORE staffing, and does not require participation by community supervision officers.

III. RECOMMENDATION

The RRC recommendation for this study:

■ **Support**   ☐ Support with Conditions   ☐ Do Not Support

The RRC recommends support of this request as described in the researchers' proposal.

IV. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Regulatory:

- The proposed research shows no evidence of non-compliance with Agency policies pertaining to research.

- Authority to conduct Agency research using offenders is provided under CFR Part 26, Section 101(5).

Benefits to Agency:

The proposed research is consistent with Agency priorities and/or interests as follows:

- Research findings are anticipated to highlight areas of opportunity to employ evidence-based approaches to providing pre-release service delivery for women returning from the BOP;
- CSOSA will experience a higher rate of successful supervision completion

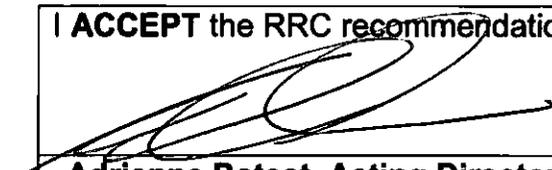among treatment participants *(CSF: Treatment and Support Services)*.
- Such an approach will ensure that CSOSA is utilizing resources that most effectively prepare women offenders for their return to the community *(CSF: Risk and Needs Assessment)*;
- CSOSA will potentially gain a service delivery partner capable of delivery quality service delivery to women offenders *(CSF: Partnerships)*;
- CSOSA will be in position to provide ongoing process and outcome evaluations of its treatment programs; and
- These evaluations will likely become an integral component supporting program enhancements, service delivery prioritization, and budget justifications.

Related Issues or Concerns:

- None

I **ACCEPT** the RRC recommendation	I **DO NOT ACCEPT** the RRC recommendation
Adrienne Poteat, Acting Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency	
Comments:	

(1)   Name(s) and current Agency and Agency component of the employee(s) conducting the research;

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(2)   Title of the study

Assessing the Impact of Pre-Release Planning on Supervision Outcomes: A Pilot Pre-Release Program for Women Released from the Bureau of Prisons (Contract/MOU # pending)

(3)   Purpose of the project

Currently, more than 200 women are released from the BOP with a post-release community supervision obligation per month. Before entering supervision with CSOSA or shortly thereafter, these women are administered a risk and needs screening to determine not only their supervision classification but to develop a prescriptive supervision plan that outlines a strategy for addressing behavioral health, employment, housing, and other supportive reintegration services. To assess the utility of enhanced front-loading service delivery linkages for women returning from the BOP, CSOSA is seeking to partner with Our Place DC (OPDC) to assess whether such an enhancement can be implemented and assessed under grant funding received by OPDC. Specifically, OPDC has grant funding to provide pre-release service delivery to incarcerated women who are at least four months from release to the community. CSOSA ORE, in collaboration with OPDC, will identify OPDC pre-release enhancement participants and a comparison group of women who transition under the normal pre-release planning scheme. CSOSA ORE will use the newly validated risk and needs screening scores to identify women with comparable risk profiles on all four outcome measures – violent rearrest, non-traffic rearrest, AVR for serious incident, and persistent drug use.

By assessing the utility of a community-based organization led program enhancement to its current pre-release planning efforts for women, CSOSA will potentially gain a service delivery partner capable of delivering quality service to women offenders. Additionally, CSOSA will be in a position to conduct ongoing analyses that will become an integral component supporting program enhancements, service delivery prioritization, and budget justifications.

(4)   Location of the project

The project will be conducted at 601 Indiana Avenue NW with potential site visits to OPDC and each of the 6 satellite offices.

(5)   Research methods to be employed

The Office of Research and Evaluation will focus primarily on quantitative data collection methods include sampling of offender cohorts, and pre-post data extraction from SMART focusing on offender compliance (e.g., office visits, drug testing, program participation, arrests, etc.). When appropriate, the data will be analyzed using descriptive and/or multivariate statistics. After collecting data, we will analyze data and present findings in easy to read evaluation updates.

(6)   Anticipated results

We anticipate that research findings will highlight areas of opportunity to further enhance pre-release planning activities for women.

(7)   Duration of the study

This research effort will run through September 2010.

(8)   Sample size required and/or time frame for sample collection

Our Place DC is planning to provide services to 40 CSOSA female offenders. The Office of Research and Evaluation will use a series of propensity scores to identify a comparison group of 40 women not targeted by OPDC for the pre-release enhancement.

All data will be analyzed using an identification code that protects the identity of all respondents and associated data. The identification code is a linkable value that requires a level of access not offered to staff outside OIT/ORE.

*Only aggregate-level data will be shared with OPDC for performance monitoring/tracking purposes.

(9)   Number of agency staff needed to support the study and description of the support needs

    1.   Kathleen Mantila (Project Lead) will direct the implementation of study methods and analytical approach.

2. Marianne Staroscik (Social Science Analyst) will lead data analysis efforts

3. Olubusayo Akanbi (Statistical Analyst) will conduct initial data extraction and cleaning activities.

(10) Specific resources required from the Agency

Most of the Agency resources required to implement this project are already in place. Specifically, we will need to have ongoing connectivity to the ORE server that contains monthly instances of SMART (backup copies) as well as nightly SMART backups. Whenever we experience database-related problems, we will need to coordinate corrective actions with Database Administrator in CSOSA OIT. Finally, we will need CSOSA OIT staff to ensure that statistical and statistical support applications are accessible and available for use between normal business hours.

(11) Description of any anticipated effects of the research project on Agency programs and operations

As mentioned above, we anticipate producing findings that will help guide decision-making with respect to enhancing pre-release planning for female offenders. Specifically, the objective is to begin describing the patterns of supervision compliance between two groups of females released from the BOP – those participating in OPDC enhanced pre-release service delivery protocol and those receiving the standard CSOSA pre-release planning efforts. We expect that female offenders participating in OPDC will experience greater compliance on supervision

(12) List of deliverables

1. Project Plan
2. Evaluation Updates (throughout the period of performance)
3. Summary Findings for FY Congressional Budget Justification (Performance Budget Sections)
4. Final Report