Risks, Assets, and Needs Assessment Task Force Meeting
June 1, 2010 Meeting Minutes
Approved, July 7, 2010

Members in attendance (Chicago):
o Mike Bacula (for Jesse Reyes), Stephen Baker, Grace Hong Duffin, Bob McEllin (for Patricia Hayden), Jorge Montes, Mark Myrent, Mike Prosperi, Richard Schwind, Brian Sexton, Michael Tardy
Members in attendance (Springfield):
o Michael Randle, Mike Torchia; Steve Karr (call-in)
Members absent:
o Gino DiVito, Patricia Hayden, Al Lolie, Michael Pelletier, Jesus Reyes
Non-members in attendance (Chicago)
o Lindsay Bostwick, Jordan Boulger, Lisa Braude, Jack Cutrone, Cory Foster, Patricia O'Brien, David Olson, Maggie Peck, Jennifer Rozhon, Alison Shames (call-in), Laurie Scott, Sara Sullivan, Paula Wolff

Welcome and Introductions
Meeting Chair Grace Hong Duffin, Chief of Staff, Illinois Department of Human Services called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. In lieu of introductions Ms. Hong Duffin conducted roll call and reviewed the meeting purposes to:
1. discuss the scope of the RANA Task Force's charge, including an Advisory Group
2. hear from local experts on the implementation of the LSI-R in Illinois
3. learn about national practices in offender assessment
4. discuss the criteria for selecting an assessment tool in Illinois

Approval of Minutes from May 4, 2010 Meeting
The draft meeting minutes for May 4, 2010 were corrected to reflect Mike Torchia's attendance. Upon a motion by Brian Sexton, seconded by Richard Schwind, the minutes for the May 4th meeting were approved as corrected.

Discussion
Purpose and Scope of the Task Force: Maggie Peck led the review of the May 27, 2010 memo from the Vera Institute of Justice distributed with the meeting materials articulating the Purpose and Scope of the Task Force. (The memo is also available on www.idoc.state.il.us/subsections/RANA.) Stephen Baker reinforced that the selection of a common validated tool to be used by IDOC was to standardize the language among departments and did not preclude the use of other additional instruments. Upon a motion by Jorge Montes motion, seconded by Mike Torchia, the Purpose and the Scope of the Task Force were approved as presented.

Proposal for an Advisory Group: Paula Wolff reviewed and requested comment on the draft proposal for the RANA Advisory Group developed by Sara Sullivan, Mark Myrent, Cory Foster and herself based on the memo from the previous meeting.
Comments/recommendations/discussion focused on:
o possible representative from a victims' group
o ensuring that the group have a broad, diverse and inclusive membership that represents the state geographically

o the proposed membership list is intended as starting point and that the advisory group would be allowed to grow
o member groups will be strongly encouraged to send the same representative each time
o an underscore that one chair, selected by the group, is to speak for its members.
o the need to establish a designate timed slot on the meeting agenda for the chair to present questions and comments from the group

Upon a motion by Jorge Montes motion, seconded by Brian Sexton, the Proposal for the Advisory Group was approved. With the goal of the Advisory Group joining the July 7th meeting, recommendations for groups and individuals should be sent to Paula Wolff. In addition, Chicago Metropolis will reach out to the proposed membership list and request participation. Paula and Cory Foster will work together to schedule a pre-meeting with the Advisory Group.

Members were reminded that, according to the Open Meetings' Act requirements the meeting agendas, materials etc. are available on the IDOC website and will be posted there during the RANA Task Force's tenure.

Presentations: AOIC Experience with LSI-R and National Inventory of Offender Assessments:

Michael Tardy, Executive Assistant to the Director, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts gave a power point overview (available at www.idoc.state.il.us/subsections/RANA) of the AOIC's Experience with the LSI-R Offender Assessment Tool including the evolution of Adult Probation Risk Assessment in Illinois and the criteria used to select the LSI-R tool. With the goal of developing an effective and consistent overarching system, the tool was piloted in 14 sites statewide. Bob McEllin (DuPage County) and Mike Torchia (Sangamon County) reported on their experiences as two of the pilot sites. Both emphasized the need to develop organizational readiness and a culture of change, staff buy-in, and training as keys to successful implementation of the LSI-R tool that results targeting of resources (both staff and service providers) so to increase the effectiveness of case management. During the presentation the following issues were raised:

o Consistency of tool.
o Adaptability of instrument for example, from urban to rural; small to larger districts.
o Potential inaccuracy for assessing female population.
o If and how resource availability should factor into choice of tool.
o Ability to track and analyze outcomes.
o Compatibility with other tools for purposes of information sharing, analysis, etc.
o Cost.

Maggie Peck, Senior Program Associate, Vera Institute of Justice presented a power point overview (available at www.idoc.state.il.us/subsections/RANA) of the four generations of assessment instruments and the results of the VERA survey to indentify common tools and other implementations trends. Ms Peck noted that the advance meeting materials included a Memo titled the "National Information on Offender Assessment, Part II" (also available on the IDOC's RANA web page) which provides an expanded version of her presentation

Discussion: Selection Criteria for Assessment System in Illinois

Ms. Peck facilitated a group discussion to gather comments for the draft selection criteria for the Illinois Risk, Assets, and Needs Instrument and Implementation Process which was distributed with the meeting materials. Due to a shortened meeting time, items one and two (see below) were reviewed and discussion of the remaining criteria was deferred to the July 7 meeting.

1) *Inclusiveness*: Does the tool include risk, need and protective factors into its assessment? What is the purpose of risk factors/needs/strengths at any decision point? Is parenting (male and female) assessed? Does the measurement scale give us enough rage?

2) *Validity*: Is it sensitive to sub-groups—male vs. female; ethnic question; Inter-rater reliability; Sensitive to age? (interaction among variables); What is the predictive accuracy?

Wrap-Up
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 7, 2010 from 1:00 – 4:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.