CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONNECTIONS

November/December 2015
Volume 23 Issue 2

Agency News

An employee publication of the
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

CJAD improves strategic planning for CSCDs

TDCJ's Community Justice Assistance Division is currently implementing a new strategic planning process with improved community corrections data management, which will allow community supervision and corrections departments to better utilize their limited resources to support their offender population.

For two years, a multidisciplinary group of CJAD and CSCD staff worked to implement strategic planning, first with an initial pilot group consisting of Bexar, Caldwell, Hidalgo, Jasper and Taylor County CSCDs, then expanding to include Bowie, Brazoria, Dallas, Jefferson, Lubbock, Matagorda, Milam and Williamson County CSCDs. This pilot group worked with CJAD to identify the components needed to create a strategic plan, and to develop an effective training curriculum for the CSCD staff who will write these plans. CJAD and the pilot group also incorporated current budget information, offender data, and programs and services information as strategic plan components.

In 2015 the 84th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 1930, eliminating community justice planning requirements and replacing them with the new strategic planning process. The new process establishes a baseline to help CSCDs plan up to four years in advance and includes improved internal auditing and fiscal monitoring so CSCDs can better track expenditures.

The recently implemented Texas Risk Assessment System helps connect offenders with programs and services that address the individual's criminogenic needs and reduce their risk to reoffend. Current community justice plans do not make use of this information, but CJAD has been working with CSCDs to include TRAS information in the planning process in order to improve the data submitted to the Community Supervision Tracking System.

CJAD plans to introduce the new strategic planning process to the remaining CSCDs throughout the state by the end of January. CSCDs are required to submit their first strategic plan by March 1.●