

RESOLUTION NO.: 167—2013-14

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MAJORITY

1 Evidence-based practice requires that offenders who are of higher risk be supervised and
2 managed at higher levels and offenders who are of lower risk be supervised and managed at
3 lowers levels. Research shows that to supervise low risk offenders too aggressively will
4 increase their risk of recidivism and to supervise high risk offenders too little will increase
5 their risk of reoffending. Often probation, parole, and community corrections agencies find
6 themselves in a situation where to provide additional services and oversight for high risk
7 offenders, they must systematically move lower risk offenders to administrative or minimum
8 supervision. Some jurisdictions have adopted a proxy instrument to act as a pre-screen for
9 the third generation instrument. The proxy is designed to get a first cut assessment of
10 offenders simply for the purpose of moving as many low risk offenders as possible to a
11 minimum supervision caseload. The proxy tool may be used to pre-screen offenders for risk
12 to reoffend. COMPAS is a statewide automated risk and needs assessment and unified case
13 planning system. This resolution supports the implementation of assessment tools in the
14 criminal justice system.

15
16 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Public Safety Committee recommend
17 adoption of the following resolution.

18 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does support the
19 implementation of assessment tools in the criminal justice system, and

20 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy
21 of this resolution to the Outagamie County Executive and Judges.

22 Dated this ____ day of March, 2014

23 Respectfully Submitted,
24 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

25
26
27
28
29 _____
James Duncan

Lee Hammen

30
31
32
33
34 _____
Katrin Patience

James Pleuss

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19

Tony Krueger

Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: _____

Signed: _____
Board Chairperson County Clerk

Approved: _____ Vetoed: _____

Signed: _____
County Executive

Using a Proxy Score to Pre-screen Offenders for Risk to Reoffend
February 1, 2006

Brad Bogue, William Woodward, Lore Joplin

Background: Evidence-based practice requires that offenders who are of higher risk be supervised and managed at higher levels and offenders who are of lower risk be supervised and managed at lower levels. We know from the research that to supervise low risk offenders too aggressively will increase their risk of recidivism and to supervise/treat high risk offenders too little will increase their risk of offending. Often probation, parole, and community corrections agencies find themselves in a situation where to provide additional services and oversight for high risk offenders, they must systematically move lower risk offenders to administrative or minimum supervision. In fact, why take the time and resources to conduct a third generation assessment instrument on low risk offenders who may end up in minimum supervision anyway? This leaves many jurisdictions with a conflict: if they don't assess using a third generation risk instrument, how will they know which offenders may be moved to minimum supervision and still remain at low risk to recidivate?

In an effort to resolve this conflict, some jurisdictions have adopted a *proxy* instrument, to act as a pre-screen for the third generation instrument. The *proxy* is designed to get a *first cut* assessment of offenders simply for the purpose of moving as many low risk offenders as possible to a minimum supervision caseload and avoid using the more resource intensive third generation risk tool.¹ The following is a discussion of one such proxy tool used in the state of Hawaii.

Overview: This proxy tool may be used to pre-screen offenders for risk to reoffend. Pre-screening allows community supervision agencies to triage offenders prior to conducting a full assessment with a third generation risk and needs assessment tool. The pre-screen process described here is a simple, three-question tool and scoring process that has been validated and is currently in use in Hawaii. The proxy score generated by the pre-screen provides a method of triaging offenders, separating higher-risk offenders who will move on to receive a full assessment from lower-risk offenders who may be placed in a case banking system, administrative caseload, or other non-invasive supervision.

Instructions: This pre-screen tool and its scores must be adjusted to match the characteristics of your jurisdiction's population. The following steps will take you through the process of developing a tool that is tailored to your offender population. A mock sample of offenders from *Agency X* is used only for illustration purposes.

¹ The NIC/NIJ *Implementing Effective Correctional Management of Offenders in the Community: Outcome and Process Measures* matrix recommends that jurisdictions committed to evidence-based practices collect certain data elements to build analytical models. The matrix measures fall into two basic categories: required and recommended, including approximately 20 required measures and at least as many recommended. The matrix's required measures include the three measures of the proxy screening tool described in this document. The matrix document can be found at <http://www.crjustice.org/cji/evalmeasures062205.pdf>

The predictive results of the proxy score are enhanced when systems norm and calibrate the scoring to their population. Actuarial risk norms can shift regionally or even across and within a single jurisdiction. Therefore, given this heterogeneity in how risk factors are distributed, deliberately and precisely norming and calibrating each version of the tool on a specific state or local jurisdiction population can help ensure enhanced predictive ability.

COMPAS Assessment Tool

The DOC uses COMPAS as its statewide automated risk and needs assessment and unified case planning system. This actuarial risk assessment system contains offender information specifically designed to determine their risk and needs and inform dynamic case plans that will guide the offender throughout his or her lifecycle in the criminal justice system. The lifecycle is a framework for how an offender moves through the Wisconsin criminal justice system and the decision points informed by COMPAS along the way. From the time of arrest through eventual discharge, DOC will use the lifecycle as a framework for establishing meaningful practices and interventions across jurisdictions.

Evidence Based Practices clearly state that having a sound assessment that accurately identifies an offender's risk to reoffend is the cornerstone of effective supervision. Without a proper assessment, appropriate interventions and services cannot be delivered. The limited dollars available for such services should be reserved for moderate to higher-risk offenders who are likely to reoffend if appropriate interventions are not taken. Research shows low risk offenders are less likely to commit new crimes and should be given minimal services and be excluded from intensive treatment and supervision.