

DEVELOPING A PRETRIAL RISK ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT
Working Draft

Partial summary of information derived from presentation by Dr. Zachary Hamilton

2000 (approx.) questionnaires of defendants collected by Whatcom Public Defender
ZH reviewed questionnaires and concluded they are adequate in number and specific
Information to serve as initial basis to compile PRAI

Basic development steps:

- Contract for proprietary software and for data entry of questionnaire information into it
[ZH: *interlocal/intergovernmental agreement avoids RFP, allows single-source contracting and saves considerable time*]
[ZH: *WSU Washington State Institute on Criminal Justice could be contracted entity, as it already is for Spokane and King County PRAI development projects*]
- Data entry of questionnaire information
- Validate; confirm predictive value for Whatcom County population (re likelihood of FTA and/or re-offending)
[ZH: *very rough estimated costs of \$20,000, up to \$30,000, for data entry/validation and \$180,000 for software acquisition, licensing, training, maintenance*]
- One or more courts define scope of use, adopt, and utilize for initial time period
Train court staff
Agree on levels of monitoring and approve activities/protocols within each level
Coordinate implementation and use, as needed, among multiple courts
- Establish/fund staff/capability for monitoring pretrial releasees
[BVG: *possible within Dist. Court Probation with very rough estimate of 3 FTEs*]
- Re-validate data from utilization period for predictive value, make necessary or desired adjustments