

TEXAN JUSTICE



TARLETON
STATE UNIVERSITY
Member of The Texas A&M University System

School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies

SUMMER 2016

The Intersection of Mental Health and the Justice System Reporting on the Tarrant County Jail Use Study



Dr. Meghan Hollis

The Institute for Predictive and Analytical Police Science has been engaged in the Tarrant County Jail Use Study since October 2015. This study takes on a series of critical issues in the county criminal justice system in an effort to

provide an action plan for the county to consider. The first component of the study is complete, and four components remain. The first part of the study involved a focus on examining the jail and justice system experiences of those with mental illness. The remaining sections focus on the pretrial release process, high recidivism rates and reentry concerns, substance use and co-occurring substance abuse and mental health concerns, and an overall evaluation of whether or not there are disparities in treatment for ethnic and racial minorities and those of lower socioeconomic status. Here we will focus on the completed portion of the study: the report on mental health concerns in the county jail.

The research team (Drs. Hollis, Lacefield, and Hankhouse) have been working with local stakeholders to examine the serious concerns that emerge when those with mental health diagnoses are held in the county jail. The study focused on better understanding the incidence and prevalence of mental illness in the criminal justice system, perceptions of mental illness in the criminal justice system, and the availability and use of resources to respond to mental illness in the criminal justice system.

The intersection of mental illness and the criminal justice system has been receiving increased attention as one of the nation's top criminal justice concerns. Dr. Nancy Rodriguez,

Director of the National Institute of Justice, commented on this growing concern with the impact of correctional treatment on those with mental illness at the 2015 American Society of Criminology meeting. This has led to increased funding for research in this area as well as increased attention to the need for reform. For example, Senator Cornyn (R-Texas) has sponsored a bill in the Federal legislature aimed at addressing some of these concerns.

This emphasis is seen increasingly in the nightly national news with a focus on law enforcement actions and other criminal justice system involvement with individuals. Of course, this focus is not limited to mentally ill individuals, but the national stage has become a venue for the dramatic cases in locations like Ferguson, Missouri; Chicago, Illinois, and Baltimore, Maryland. These cases highlight the need to balance critical (and at times life-or-death) decisions that police officers and other criminal justice personnel must make each day with the potentially devastating consequences on the lives of citizens that they are sworn to protect and serve. The Tarrant County research study is an effort to bring attention to critical needs in this area and assist criminal justice practitioners and policymakers in having a more positive impact on the lives of those that they interact with.

The results of the initial mental health study indicate that professionals in criminal justice and other related government sectors in the county do recognize the limitations of the present system and the barriers that could hinder any efforts to overcome those limitations. One of the more interesting findings of the study was that the majority of respondents to the stakeholder survey indicated that jails have become de facto repositories for those suffering from mental illness. Deinstitutionalization led to the closing of state mental health care facilities in the past half century,

and this led to challenges for the justice system as they created additional public value in filling the need to respond to mental illness. As one police officer indicated to me previously, "Police departments are the one place that you can call and they have to answer the phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year." In those instances where we have no other place to turn, the justice system is increasingly expected to fill the void. Police officers, judges, and jail personnel are filling this role out of necessity. Unfortunately, they are often doing so with little or no training. This can create concerns for officer and public safety.

The majority of survey respondents indicated that identification of and response to mental illness should be a high priority for the criminal justice system. This implies a need for increased training and education (as was reflected in responses to other survey items). While Tarrant County is positioned to be on the cutting edge of mental health response in the context of the criminal justice system, much more work remains. The continuing collaborations between the county, MHMR of Tarrant County, Cornerstone Assistance Network, and others (including Tarleton State University researchers) are essential in advancing the response to mental illness and enhancing public safety. This only highlights the importance and use of researcher-practitioner partnerships where research influences policy and practice, and the needs of society and practitioners drive research agendas.

In summary, it is clear that criminal justice system decision makers and stakeholders are committed to responding to concerns with the identification of and response to mental illness in the criminal justice system. This focus is apparent in the local context as seen in the collaboration with Tarrant County, however it is also seen at the state level with the interim charges related to corrections, criminal justice, and mental health, and the federal level with Senator Cornyn's proposed legislation. Further research is warranted to better understand the interplay of these complex dynamics as well as the availability and use of resources to respond to mental health concerns in the criminal justice system, however the research efforts of the Tarleton State University team are a solid step in the right direction.

ROTC CADETS HONORED



CADET KELBY WILEY

(Criminal Justice major) was selected in February to attend the United States Military Academy Mission Command Conference. He competed against 5,500 Cadets and was one of only

88 selected to represent Cadet Command. The USMA Mission Command Conference is held at the United States Military Academy in West Point, NY. The conference serves as the USMA Cadets' capstone experience, facilitating their development of a professional self-concept of officership.

CADET KODY CISSNA

represented Tarleton State University's Texan Battalion at the 2016 George C. Marshall Leadership (GCM) and Award Seminar held in February. The GCM recognizes the top cadet from each of the 275 ROTC programs and United States Military Academy's top Cadets from each of its battalions. Cadets are exposed to senior Army leadership and participate in roundtable discussions on current national security topics. This year's seminar was held at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas in partnership with the Combined Arms Center and the Center of Army Leadership.



TARLETON'S CADET TEAM won the 5th Brigade Recruiting and Marketing Strategies Competition and made their marketing presentation at Cadet Command's competition on May 15. The competition involves designing a recruiting and marketing strategy using emerging technology solutions for attracting prospects to Tarleton's ROTC program. The members of the Tarleton ROTC Cadet team are (left to right): Johnhenry Brownstead, Dalton Vondra, Griffin Kury, and Ty Madison.

CADET APOLONIO NARVAIZ (Criminal Justice major) has received a 2.5 ROTC scholarship totaling \$37,900.

Classroom Guest Speakers



The McLennan County Bomb Squad visited Dr. Shannon Hankhouse's Homeland Security class in Waco and demonstrated their bomb robot.

Students in a Death Penalty class were able to attend a presentation by former warden Jim Willet and visit with him afterward.

Pictured from left to right: Mweni Ekpo (Instructor); Arlynda Pratt, Mayela Reyes, Helen Allison; not pictured – Tracie Green, photographer.

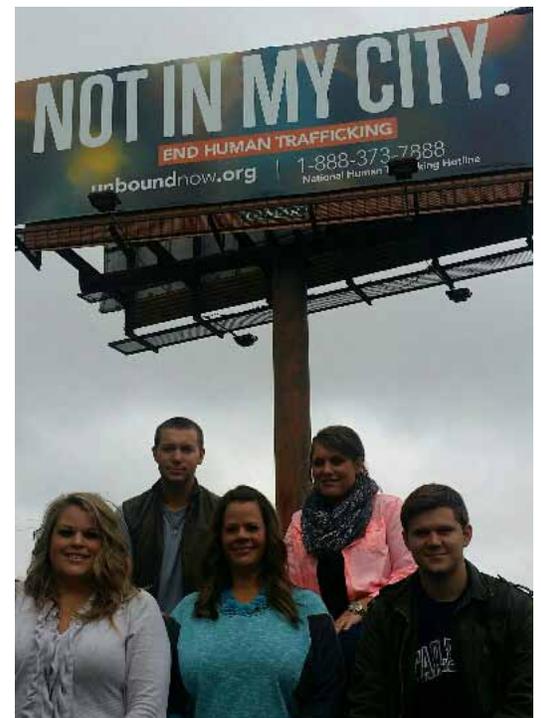


Student Success



Students in Dr. Shannon Hankhouse's Sex Crimes class on the Waco campus created the Facebook page, Student's Against Human Trafficking to help educate people about human trafficking and provide information on changes in the law and prosecutions. The lead student for the class project was Nellie Navarro. The students also set up in different places on campus to hand out brochures and show students an impact board with a mirror that reflects back one's own reflection in an effort to show that human trafficking does not discriminate.

A Stephenville High School senior, Chenille Oliver, has taken a stand against human trafficking and sexual abuse through her work at a foster home. She plans to attend Tarleton as a Criminal Justice major and join Tarleton's Criminal Justice Association. Oliver received a nice write-up in the local Stephenville paper, Stephenville Empire Tribune.



New Training Program for Law Enforcement

Dr. GM Cox and Dr. Gary Lacefield have developed a four-hour “De-escalation” training program for law enforcement. The program combines Dr. Cox’s 44 years in law enforcement, 35 years as a chief of police with Dr. Lacefield’s 36 years in the alternative dispute resolution field. This training is meant to augment and add to the already impressive “tool box” of skills that officers can utilize to bring an interaction to a successful close without the use of physical force. Drs. Cox and Lacefield have developed the program to help ensure that law enforcement officers maintain their control and thus help to protect officers in situations where officers have choices. The training is hands-on and involves scenarios that the officer will be able to role-play. The training does not conflict with ‘use of force’ training that officers received at the academy. The de-escalation is beneficial to officers at all levels of experience and rank. Officers will be exposed to techniques of de-escalation that might create both a more positive resolution as well as building trust between citizens and officers. The program will be offered at training venues.

The School of Criminology Creates Four Institutes and Three Certificates

The School is proud to announce the creation of the Institute for Homeland Security and International Criminal Justice Studies, the Institute for Predictive and Analytical Policing Science, the Institute of Mediation, Arbitration, Legal Studies and Forensics, and The Institute for the Study of Violence Against Women and Human Trafficking.

THE INSTITUTE FOR HOMELAND SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDIES will be under the direction of Professor Chris Copeland. The Institute will focus on topics related to homeland security, terrorism, national intelligence, and foreign relations. A new Cybercrime Field Response Certificate program of 12 graduate hours includes CRIJ courses in Digital Forensics Analysis, Cellular Forensics, Introduction to Digital Forensics, and Cybercrime.

THE INSTITUTE FOR PREDICTIVE AND ANALYTICAL POLICING SCIENCE, directed by Dr. Meghan E. Hollis will specifically focus on the study and analysis of crime patterns with the intent of providing policing professionals with the ability of predicting crime. The implications for municipalities are both practical and economic in nature. The Institute also offers a 12 hour Strategic Studies Certificate. The 12 graduate hour program includes CRIJ courses, including Organizational Communications in Criminal Justice and Crime Mapping, Analysis, and Predictive Modeling as required courses with the selection of two additional classes chosen from a list of electives.

THE INSTITUTE OF MEDIATION, ARBITRATION, LEGAL STUDIES AND FORENSICS will be headed by Dr. Gary Lacefield. The purpose and intent of the Institute is to develop research, scholarship, leadership, and training programs in the principles and methods of mediation and other dispute resolution methodologies. The focus of the Institute is on the field of criminology and criminal justice, and restorative justice methods. The forensics component will provide for example a “hands on” approach to death investigations among other topics. The Institute offers a 12 graduate hour certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution. With completion of the certificate program students will be qualified to perform court-ordered mediations in 42 states, and Texas. Courses in the program (ADRI prefix) include Mediation-Methods of Dispute Resolution, Advanced Mediation strategies, Effective Communication Skills for ADR Specialists, and one additional elective class.

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING, will be under the direction of Dr. Sharece Downey. The Institute is in the process of being developed, but as its title implies, it will focus primarily on contemporary women’s issues.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS

Hosted by the School of Criminology,
Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies

The Institute for Predictive and Analytical Policing Science under the leadership of Dr. Meghan Hollis launched its first Colloquium Series program in September 2015, on the Fort Worth campus. Featured speaker, Dr. Marcus Felson, informed the audience of several dozen faculty and students on his premise of linking crime patterns with theory. Dr. Felson is the founder of Routine Activity Theory, which correlates the motivated offender and place/location with the potential for victimization. Dr. Felson’s theory of crime patterns has been a mainstay in the field of criminology for over 40 years. He noted that “theories should be useful,” which by encouraging potential victims to be more conscious and aware of their surroundings can reduce the odds of becoming a victim. His theory focuses on situational crime prevention. Using predictive policing can better inform of where is most probable as well as the type of crime.

Two special events were hosted on April 20, 2016 on the Fort Worth campus. The School provided the venue for a Special Joint meeting of the North Texas Crime Commission’s Legislative and CyberCrime Committees. Over two-dozen committee members attended this special joint meeting, including Tarrant County DA, Sharen Wilson. Dr. Gary Lacefield and Professor Chris Copeland served as hosts and organized the program. This was the first time in the history of the North Texas Crime Commission that these meetings have been held outside of Dallas. Speakers included Greg Shugart with Tarrant County discussing innovations in Case-Flow Management/Felony courts and Dashboard/Felony processing; Andrew DeBarbieris with Voice products discussing Body-Cam and On Demand Digital Recording; and North Richland Hills PD Neal Maranto (Tarleton adjunct faculty) discussing innovations regarding HGN/SFST/DWI issues.

The second event was a half-day seminar on fraud in Tarrant County. The School hosted the new Fort Worth Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. The meeting was sponsored by Dr. Gary Lacefield’s Mediation, Arbitration and Forensics Institute. The seminar featured experts in cybercrime, including Jim McConnell from Verizon Corporate Security, Attorney Shawn Tuma from the firm of Scheef & Stone, and special guest speaker, Nathan Mueller – a renowned convicted “fraudster” who embezzled \$8.5 million from ING. The 51 attendees enjoyed the hospitality of Tarleton State University and the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS



DR. ALEX DEL CARMEN, Executive Director and Professor, School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies attended Harvard University's Institute of Higher Education and Leadership Program over two weeks in July. The Harvard program is very selective so it was an honor to attend.

DRS. DEL CARMEN and **RHONDA DOBBS**, Associate Professor, presented "Arlington Police Department Business and Citizen Safety Survey" at the annual European Society of Criminology conference hosted by The University of Porto, in Porto, Portugal, in September 2015. Professor **CHRIS COPELAND** and **DR. RANDY BUTLER**, Program Coordinator, also presented "Cybercrime Field Response Certification" at the conference.

DR. RHONDA DOBBS was awarded tenure in the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies this spring, 2016



DR. KATHERINE BROWN, Assistant Professor, has been selected to represent the College of Liberal and Fine Arts in the Engaged Scholars Cohort program. She will be working to incorporate service learning components in the classroom.

DR. RANDY BUTLER, DR. ALEX DEL CARMEN, and **DR. STEVE JONES**

(Southwestern Adventist University) are under contract with publisher Wiley Hunt to produce a biography of Cesare Lombroso, often called the "Father of Criminology."



DR. GM COX, Assistant Professor, has been named the 1st Vice President position in the Police Futurist International.



DR. GEORGE EICHENBERG, Professor, authored "George Patton and the Cavalry" in *The Cavalry Journal: the Journal of the United States Cavalry Association*, Vol. XXXXI (1), 2016. Dr. Eichenberg was a 2016 Service Award recipient for his 15 years with the University.

DR. MEGHAN HOLLIS, Assistant Professor, presented "Why they Can't Leave Detroit: Population Change, Disadvantage, and Homicide" for the College of Liberal and Fine Arts' Faculty Research Forum in October, 2015. In addition she published two articles:

- "Police Staffing Levels: disaggregating the Variation" in *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management*, Vol. 38 (4), 2015
- "Social Demographics of Crime in a Military Community in the United States" in *Crime Prevention and Community Safety*, Vol. 18 (2), 2016



DR. GARY LACEFIELD, Assistant Professor, has joined radio personality Scott Murray for Sunday broadcasts of "The Scott and Doc Show" on KLIF 570 AM. The one hour program focuses on what Dr. Lacefield calls "life issues."

DR. ALEX DEL CARMEN, DR. KATHARINE BROWN, MR. CHRIS COPELAND, DR. GM COX, DR. RHONDA DOBBS, and **DR. MEGHAN HOLLIS**

have provided over 2,000 radio and TV interviews during the course of the first four months of 2016. Over 50 million people have heard from Tarleton State University professors. Topics have ranged from phone encryption, police use of force, ISIS, "futures thinking," immigration and police body cameras to the Oregon wildlife reserve headquarters stand-off and fair housing disputes. Broadcasts were both regional and national in scope.

DR. BRITTANY RODRIGUIZ, Assistant Professor, completed a nine-month project comparing student exam grades in her fall 2015 and 2016 Juvenile Delinquency course for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL Cohort II) initiative in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts. She presented her findings in a January College of Liberal and Fine Arts forum.



MR. MILE WAGUSPACK, Adjunct Professor, is a retired FBI Special Agent who teaches a Homeland Security course at Tarleton. He has been recognized by NBC Learn Higher Ed Subscriber Spotlight for his innovative use of video in his course. He is featured on NBC on Facebook.

MASTER OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE "OUTSTANDING GRADUATE"

Burleson Police Officer Jay Davis was named the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies outstanding graduate student for Spring 2016. In the photo he is pictured with the Burleson Mayor Ken Shetter to his right and with other members of the City Council. The award was presented by Gary Lacefield, Assistant Professor in the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies. Dr. Lacefield is to Officer Davis's left in the photo.



MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies is proud to announce the Master of Public Administration under the direction of Dr. GM Cox. The MPA program is designed to develop the student's leadership, decision making, and critical thinking abilities while exposing the student to public administration theory and practices (including policy development and implementation), focusing on governance across the public administration landscape to include government, non-profit and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide public services.

The program already has over 70 students in its inaugural year. The program is offered in two formats, online and in class on the Fort Worth campus. For more information, contact Dr. GM Cox at gmcox@tarleton.edu or by phone: (817) 484-4395.



TEXAN CORPS OF CADETS FOR FALL 2016

Tarleton is reintroducing the Texan Corps of Cadets for fall 2016. The Corps is a living-learning community designed to provide Cadets access to a unique leadership-focused program, including a minor in Leadership Studies and four years of applied learning experience. Students may join the Corps without a military obligation or they can pursue a commission the U.S. Army through participation in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) with an option for commission to second lieutenant. The Corps of Cadets has two tracks, civilian and military. The two options allow students to pursue career goals without sacrificing the benefits of the leadership experience as a member of the Corps. The Military Science class for freshmen and sophomores is reimbursed 100 percent and internships and scholarships are available. Cadets live in an original living-learning community, which dates back the Corps' founding in 1917.

TEXAN CORPS OF CADETS NEW HIRE



Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Ronald E. Henry Jr. has been hired by the Texan Corps of Cadets to serve as the Assistant Commandant for Recruitment, Communication, and Scholarships. Lt. Col. Henry grew up in Alvarado, Texas and received his Bachelors in Political Science from Stephen

F. Austin State University. He retired from the Army in October 2015 after 24 years of service. He held numerous leadership and staff positions during his career in multiple infantry units and organizations in the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. Lt. Col. Henry served in Iraq. He earned a Masters in Administration from Central Michigan University and is a graduate of the U.S. Army command and General Staff College. Some of his awards and decorations include being Ranger, Airborne qualified and a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal. He was Professor of Military Science at Tarleton from 2010-2012. His two daughters attend Tarleton along with his son who is also in the Corps.



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