

Pretrial Tool Rapid Response Group Meeting
7/18/2017

Commissioners Present: Jahna Lindemuth, Quinlan Steiner, Trevor Stephens, Greg Razo, Joel Bolger, Dean Williams

Attendees: Barbara Dunham, Geri Fox, Robert Henderson, John Skidmore, Dunnington Babb, Natasha McClanahan, Melissa Threadgill, Kristen Bechtel, Nancy Meade, and Susanne DiPietro

Discussion Notes:

1. Since we have to choose one scale for purposes of qualifying for mandatory OR, should we choose the scale with the higher scores, or should we choose the NCA scale?
 - a. Dr. Bechtel recommended choosing the NCA scale because it is more predictive than the FTA scale, choosing one scale is more consistent which is probably better in terms of future validation, and NCA is the most fair on race and gender.
 - b. Choosing the higher of the two scales makes more sense from a policy perspective to most of us, and we believe it would be easier to justify as a regulation.

2. Assuming we will be using the NCA scale either some or all of the time for purposes of qualifying for mandatory OR, how should we collapse the 5 risk categories into the three statutory categories?
 - a. Option 1: Moderate-high goes with moderate (Version A on page 3 of Barbara's 7-6-17 memo)
 - This approach has the advantage of ensuring that more people are in the moderate than the high risk group, which is desirable from the perspective of tool development.
 - b. Option 2: Moderate-high goes with high (Version B on page 3 of Barbara's 7-6-17 memo).
 - This approach has the disadvantage of labeling more people high without a commensurate gain in terms of NCA rates.

3. How should risk assessment scores (from both scales) be reported to the court and the parties by the pretrial services officers?

- a. Words, numbers, or both?
 - b. Melissa is consulting with a behavioral research group to determine whether there is any data about the effects on decision makers of words versus numbers. She will get back to us if she learns anything useful.
4. Continued discussion on the above three items will be during our next meeting, Friday, August 4 at 1:30pm

Susanne