Here is Jared’s feedback. Do you want to discuss this? I left you voice mail that Jared and I are available to talk.

Silvia R. Jackson, Ph.D.
Reentry Director
Office of the Secretary
Department of Corrections
3099 E Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53707
Tel: 608-240-5015

From: Hoy, Jared M - DOC
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2016 3:07 PM
To: Jackson, Silvia R - DOC
Subject: RE: Journalist inquiry re: Compas risk assessments

This person has reached out before and we have some history with her, as she mentions. See answers below.

Jared can you advise on each of these statements and then we need to talk with Winn. Thanks. I am in now.

Silvia R. Jackson, Ph.D.
Reentry Director
Office of the Secretary
Department of Corrections
3099 E Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53707
Tel: 608-240-5015

From: DOC Public Information Office
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2016 11:11 AM
To: Jackson, Silvia R - DOC; Collins, Winn S - DOC
Cc: Hughes, Patrick W - DOC
Subject: FW: Journalist inquiry re: Compas risk assessments

Silvia/Winn,

Could we please discuss the below inquiry over the next few days?
Could we please discuss the below inquiry over the next few days?

Please advise.

Tristan

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From: Julia Angwin [mailto:Julia.Angwin@propublica.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2016 11:08 AM
To: DOC Public Information Office
Subject: Journalist inquiry re: Compas risk assessments

Hello —

I’m reaching out to let you know about an article that I am writing about the Compas risk assessment tool that is used in Wisconsin Corrections Department.

Previously, in my contact with Joy Staab, she declined to comment for my article. But now that I am nearing publication, I want to fact-check with you the information about the use of Compas in Wisconsin and share with you the findings about Compas that will be in my article.

1. My understanding is that Wisconsin Department of Corrections launched the use of Compas software throughout the state in 2012. Is that correct? It was actually February of 2011.
2. In a 2012 presentation from the Wisconsin Unified Corrections Coalitions about Compas, Jared Hoy said that the goal was to create a unified system that allowed correctional officers to track an offender from the moment they entered the system until they left. Is that correct? For the most part yes, but I wouldn’t have said Correctional Officers, rather case managers (agents, SWs, etc.).
3. In that presentation, Hoy described the system as a “giant pinball machine” where correctional officers could use Compas scores for every “decision point” for adults and juveniles. Is that accurate? No, COMPAS is not the “giant pinball machine.” This analogy pertains to the Offender Lifecycle, which can be crudely likened to a pinball machine. The metaphor goes something like this: Think of the each ball being cued up as an offender’s journey through the CJ system. It may be a short journey or a long one. They may bounce around a lot or a little. They may bounce between different entities (probation, prison, local jail, ES, etc.). This entire process is call the Offender Lifecycle. COMPAS helps us make decisions at each one of these points.
4. My understanding is that not all Wisconsin counties use Compas at arrest, and pretrial. But once a defendant is convicted anywhere in the state Wisconsin DOC attaches a Compas score the Presentencing investigation report. Is that correct? Generally speaking. Only if a PSI is ordered...and of course currently we are not attaching results due to State v. Loomis.
5. Judges are trained to use Compas primarily to determine which defendants are eligible for probation or treatment programs, rather than using it to determine the length of the sentence. Is that correct? Yes!
6. While the Supreme Court is considering Loomis v. Wisconsin, the Wisconsin DOC has temporarily stopped including Compas scores in pre-sentencing reports. Is that correct?
7. Wisconsin has not yet completed a statistical validation study of the Compas tool and has not said when one might be released. Is that correct? The first part is correct. We are currently in discussions with R&P to complete one. The tentative timeline is to have validation results by mid-summer.
8. We conducted a statistical analysis of Compas in a pretrial setting in Broward County, Florida. Our analysis found that the algorithm makes mistakes with white and blacks at roughly the same rate, but in very different ways. Black defendants were nearly twice as likely to be misclassified as high risk, while
white defendants were nearly twice as likely to be misclassified as low risk. Would you like to comment on our finding? No.

My deadline is Wednesday of next week.

Best
Julia

Julia Angwin
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