

**Age of Delinquency Task Force  
Minutes**

September 11, 2019 / 1:30PM-4:00PM  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor Meeting Room, 710 Kipling, Lakewood, CO

**ATTENDEES:**

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

Jessica Jones, Task Force Co-chair, Private Defense Attorney  
Molli Barker, Juvenile Assessment Center, 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
David Bergman, Youthful Offender System  
Audra Bishop, Department of Public Health & Environment  
Jim Bullock, District Attorney's Office, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
Maureen Cain, Office of the State Public Defender  
Shawn Cohn, Denver Juvenile Probation  
Beverly Funaro, Victim Representative  
Priscilla Gartner, Office of the State Public Defender  
Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, Representative, House District 4  
Arnold Hanuman, Colorado District Attorneys' Council  
Angie Paccione, Department of Higher Education  
Gretchen Russo, Department of Human Services

**STAFF**

Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant  
Kim English, Division of Criminal Justice  
Stephané Waisanen, Division of Criminal Justice  
Damien Angel, Division of Criminal Justice

**ABSENT**

Joe Thome, Task Force Co-chair, Division of Criminal Justice  
Kelly Friesen, Grand County Juvenile Justice Services  
Melanie Gilbert, At Large  
Anders Jacobson, Division of Youth Services  
Dan Makelky, Child Welfare, Local Agency  
Dafna Michaelson Jenet, Representative, House District 30  
Tariq Sheikh, District Attorney's Office, 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Welcome &amp; Introductions: Jessica Jones</p>	<p>Co-chair Jessica (Jes) Jones welcomed the group and asked Task Force members to introduce themselves.</p>

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Review of August Meeting: Richard Stroker</p>	<p>At the August meeting, the group discussed HB19-1149, sponsored by Representative Gonzales-Gutierrez, that asked this Task Force to analyze the placement of individuals between the ages of 18-24. If the age of delinquency was extended, what would the implications be to the Division of Youth Services (DYS) and the Youthful Offender System (YOS)? What services would be provided and how would they be tailored for this age group? What would be the costs associated with implementing a community-based system for this population?</p> <p>The group identified five areas of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving assessment information</li> <li>• Augmenting probation supervision</li> <li>• Expanding diversion</li> <li>• Exploring specialty courts</li> <li>• Expanding YOS eligibility/capacity</li> </ul> <p>The Division of Criminal Justice staff distributed binders to group members that contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defendants ages 18-24 – Broken out by age, offense, placement, and gender.</li> <li>• Overview of the Colorado Correctional Population Report - DYS, YOS, Probation, and Community Corrections.</li> <li>• The number of juvenile probationers.</li> <li>• Specialty courts/age of people that are served.</li> <li>• Recidivism of DYS and YOS releases.</li> <li>• Congressional bill – allowing federal judges to deviate from minimum mandatory sentences for juveniles.</li> <li>• Information about initiatives in Massachusetts and Vermont.</li> </ul>

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Related Activities in Other States</p>	<p>Maureen stated that Vermont is the only state that passed legislation to expand the juvenile jurisdiction to include 18 and 19 year-olds in the juvenile/family court system. The Massachusetts bill is still pending, but they will implement a staggered approach: The first year includes 18-year-olds; the second year includes 19-year-olds.</p>

<b>Issue/Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<p>Continuing Discussion of Task Force Efforts Richard Stroker &amp; All</p>	<p>The group discussed supervision of this population, and the need to think about additional opportunities to expand educational and vocational development to help individuals further their prosocial goals.</p> <p>Audra stated that the group might also consider the impact of trauma on brain development, including adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), and how this contributes to problem behaviors. Trauma stunts and delays development and, consequently, impacts behavior. In regard to housing environments: Are they conducive to growth and positive development? We need to create living environments that promote growth and learning. Science shows early adolescents can differentiate right from wrong, but they lack the ability to consistently stop and consider consequences.</p> <p>Arnold mentioned his concern that school attendance is no longer a mandatory condition of juvenile probation. Shawn explained that conditions will be driven by information gained from assessments and will no longer be “cookie cutter.” Shawn stated that accountability and rehabilitation are essential for this age group, and that legislation can help change the work culture. An example of impactful legislation can be found in regard to crossover youth. Reflecting a recent training effort offered by Georgetown University, legislation (S.B. 18-249) was passed to require a crossover plan from each judicial district (<i>Note: CCJJ recommendations FY17-JCC #01 &amp; #02 precipitated this legislation.</i>).</p> <p>Richard identified the following broad areas of consensus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is important to respect the differences/unique circumstances of young adults.</li> <li>• We would like to influence the perspectives of decision makers (culture shift).</li> <li>• To make good decisions, it is critical to have good case information.</li> <li>• Match community supervision with the needs of the individuals.</li> <li>• Expand alternative sentencing options – for example, specialty courts, expanding diversion, eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for certain crimes committed by those in this age group.</li> </ul>

<b>Issue/Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<p>Next Steps: Richard Stroker</p>	<p>Richard asked the group to review the information in the binders and consider approaches to address the issues discussed. Each of these points may be an integral part of a recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific assessments provided to the emerging adult population</li> <li>• How to impact decision makers with data and information?</li> <li>• How to improve community supervision/provide supervision approaches that focus on individual needs?</li> </ul>

<p><b>Issue/Topic</b> Next Steps: (continued)</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> DCJ to provide breakout of drug-related misdemeanors/felonies of other misdemeanors/felonies</p> <p>Angie will provide information from Higher Education professionals working with this population</p> <p>Create the YOS &amp; the Supervision Working Groups</p>	<p>Jes mentioned that it might be helpful to identify ideas to improve community supervision and methods to match services to the needs of the individual.</p> <p>Audra mentioned that the group might review the statewide agency training for those who work with youth to leverage existing resources. Also, can we review updated information on the following items?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kim will provide additional information on misdemeanors, drug-related misdemeanors, felonies, and drug-related felonies.</li> <li>• Angie will obtain additional information from professionals in higher education who work with this population.</li> </ul> <p>The Task Force established two Working Groups and identified specific topics for study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YOS Working Group – YOS eligibility, capacity and regulations. David, Maureen, Serena, and Jim expressed interest in participating. It would be beneficial to bring in a stakeholder from Community Corrections.</li> <li>• Supervision Working Group – Identify current practices and identify gaps and cultural barriers. Shawn, Gretchen, Priscilla, and Arnold expressed interest in participating.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Issue/Topic:</b> Adjourn:</p>	<p><b>Discussion:</b> Jes thanked the members for their contributions to the Task Force discussions and adjourned the meeting.</p>
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**NEXT MEETING**  
 Wednesday, October 9, 2019  
**NEW TIME: 1:30PM – 4:00PM**  
 710 Kipling, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Meeting Room