

**Reentry Task Force
MINUTES**

April 11, 2023 / 9:30AM-12:00PM
Virtual Meeting

ATTENDEES

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Abigail Tucker, *Task Force Co-chair*, Psychologist/ Mental health services provider and consultant
Michael Tessean, *Task Force Co-chair*, Director/ Colorado State Board of Parole
Taj Ashaheed, Reentry Advocacy/ Second Chance Center
Meredith Davis, Health Care Policy & Financing
Janet Drake, Attorney General's Office
Joy Hart, Behavioral Health Representative
Rick Kornfeld, Defense Attorney
Brian Mason, District Attorney/ 17th JD
Greg Mauro, Denver Division of Community Corrections
Meridith McGrath, Parole Division
Katie Ruske, Office of Community Corrections/ DCJ
Todd Spanier, County Criminal Justice Services

STAFF

Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant
Jack Reed, Research Director, Division of Criminal Justice
Stephané Waisanen, CCJJ Staff, Division of Criminal Justice
Laurence Lucero, CCJJ Staff, Division of Criminal Justice
Kevin Ford, CCJJ Staff, Division of Criminal Justice
Courtney Leapley, CCJJ Staff, Division of Criminal Justice
Tania Gutierrez, CCJJ Staff, Division of Criminal Justice

ABSENT

Steve O'Doriso, County Commissioner/ Local government
Silvia Simms, Summit County Sheriff's Office
Andre Stancil, Executive Director/ Colorado Department of Corrections
Glenn Tapia, Probation Services/ Judicial Branch

<p>Issue/Topic Welcome & Review of Agenda <i>Abigail Tucker & Michael Tessean</i> <i>Task Force Co-chairs</i></p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p>This is the first meeting of the Reentry Task Force (RETF) of the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. Abigail Tucker, Task Force Co-chair welcomed and thanked everyone for participating. Participants proceeded to introduce themselves.</p>
<p>Issue/Topic Presentation: "CCJJ 101" Background & Introduction to CCJJ <i>Jack Reed</i> <i>Division of Criminal Justice</i></p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Jack Reed (Research Director, Office of Research and Statistics, Division of Criminal Justice and CCJJ Staff) presented a PowerPoint titled "CCJJ 101" outlining the Commission and Task Force processes, including membership roles, and responsibilities.</p> <p>The presentation can be found on the Commission/RETF webpage in the "Materials" tab at ccjj.colorado.gov/ccjj-retf2023.</p>
<p>Issue/Topic Background: Sentencing Reform Task Force <i>Rick Kornfeld, Co-chair</i> <i>Sentencing Reform Task Force</i></p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Rick Kornfeld (Co-chair, Sentencing Reform Task Force (SRTF)) provided a brief background regarding the SRTF creation and goals to address sentencing topics delineated in the 2020 and 2022 Biennial Letters from Governor Polis.</p> <p>One of the overarching goals of the Task Force was to create more transparency and certainty in sentencing structure and address high recidivism rates. The group reviewed other states' sentencing structures and federal sentencing guidelines. The SRTF created several Working Groups: Sentencing Alternatives/Decisions & Probation, Sentence Structure, Sentence Progression, and Parole.</p> <p>The Sentence Progression Working Group met during two stints over 14 nonconsecutive months: Nov. 3, 2020 to Jul. 6, 2021 and May 13, 2022 to Nov. 8, 2022. The group was created by the SRTF to examine: the use of options and incentives to promote positive progress through the sentence, the preparation of individuals throughout incarceration for release and re-entry, and the existing re-entry options and opportunities to redefine or expand such options.</p> <p>The group made headway in identifying and summarizing problem areas. However, given the scope of the identified issues, the group felt this work would require study by a larger and more representative group.</p> <p>As a result of the Commission decision to create a task force to address the reentry issues mentioned in the 2022 Biennial Letter, the Sentence Progression WG concluded and documents summarizing the work from that group will be transferred to this Reentry Task Force for review.</p>

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Mission of the Task Force Presentation: Overview: Paths to Reentry <i>Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant</i></p>	<p>Richard Stroker (CCJJ Consultant) offered a presentation titled, “<i>Overview: Paths to Reentry</i>,” which covers reentry concepts, current reentry paths, and basic data on transition from jail/prison to the community through parole, community corrections, specialized intensive supervision, and/or without supervision. The presentation can be found on the Commission/RETF webpage in the “Materials” tab at ccjj.colorado.gov/ccjj-retf2023.</p>

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Task Force Mission, 2022 Biennial Letter, and Sentence Progression Working Group Summary of Issues & Suggested Scope of Work <i>Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant</i></p>	<p>The Commission seated the Reentry Task Force pursuant to the <i>2022 Biennial Letter</i> by Gov. Jared Polis (pursuant to <i>House Bill 2018-1287</i>),¹ which is tasked to examine reentry services for individuals transitioning from jails or prison. Topics listed in the <i>Letter</i> for examination by the Task Force include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Operations and effectiveness of health/behavioral health services and re-entry services provided in the Department of Corrections (DOC) prior to release. • Services provided to recently released parolees. • Use of community corrections. • Use of other community supervision services and coordination of health/behavioral health services from DOC to community treatment providers. • Healthcare plans and advocacy groups. • How to improve re-entry programs utilized in county jails, including those that attend specifically to the health and behavioral health needs of individuals in jails.” <p>Richard Stroker presented a suggested scope of work and reentry options identified by members of the Sentence Progression Working Group for continued exploration by the Reentry Task Force:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Colorado Department of Corrections reentry services provided before release. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Can release options be integrated into a system that works with more harmony and transparency? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How might these options work together? ○ Suggestions for promoting an integrated/coordinated effort. • Develop a better coordinated and consistent system of release options. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing consistency in the application of transition options. ▪ How are individuals prepared for reentry while incarcerated? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What service/reentry preparation is available for transition into the community?

¹ The *2022 Biennial Letter* and related *H.B. 2022-1287* are available at CCJJ Mandates (ccjj.colorado.gov/ccjj-mandates).

<p>Issue/Topic Task Force Mission, 2022 Biennial Letter, and Sentence Progression Working Group Summary of Issues & Suggested Scope of Work <i>Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant</i> (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify methods to better match individuals with existing release options. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Are the options intended to address certain types of needs? ▪ Are the options available for everyone for all purposes or can they be tailored to meet individual needs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some individuals may not be well served by the available options (i.e., those with short sentences). ○ Individuals with special needs that are not addressed by existing options. • Individuals transitioning from jail to the community. • Are services available to address the complex needs of individuals during the transition into the community? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Are needs being adequately identified and addressed while the individual is in the community? ▪ Are health/behavioral health needs being met? <p>Due to the broad nature of the five areas, it was suggested to create Working Groups to review/examine reentry data and policies.</p>
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<p>Issue/Topic Discussion of Goals & Organization of Work <i>Richard Stroker, All</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Discussion</p> <p>Richard solicited suggestions/areas of concern for study and members offered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review needs for behavioral health services upon reentry. • Review roles of reentry with the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), Community Corrections, Department of Corrections, and Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). • What housing options are available upon reentry into the community? • Are individuals’ needs met upon reentry? • Determine if individuals are in the appropriate supervision and intensive supervision upon reentry. • What are the applicable, best evidence-based practices? • What services are available for the reentry of an older population? • What are the challenges of community mental health centers working with reentry individuals who are identified with serious mental health disorders? • Are there reentry partnerships among the criminal justice system (jails, prison, parole, COMCOR) and behavioral health providers, and other services providers to meet reentry needs? • Are services matched to reducing criminogenic needs? • Is there equity, diversity, and inclusion in reentry? • Address reentry and homelessness. • How to achieve stability and avoid recidivism? • Enrollment/re-enrollment for Medicaid before an individual is released. • Providing appropriate reentry options for individuals/best practices/programs to prepare an individual for reentry.
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<p>Issue/Topic Discussion of Goals & Organization of Work <i>Richard Stroker, All</i> (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training – case management skills and relationship-building with service partners. • Providing incentives for better behavior while incarcerated. • Understand the current system, operation, and approaches. • Understanding best practices around the country in accomplishing reentry objectives. • Review reentry data by state and nationally.
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<p>Issue/Topic Public Comment <i>Abigail Tucker & Michael Tessean</i> <i>Task Force Co-chairs</i></p>	<p>Public Comment Abigail asked whether there was any public comment, and seeing none, moved to the conclusion of the meeting.</p>
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<p>Issue/Topic Next Steps & Adjourn <i>Abigail Tucker & Michael Tessean</i> <i>Task Force Co-chairs</i></p>	<p>Conclusion Abigail reminded members that the next two Task Force meetings are Tuesday, May 9 at 9:30 am and Tuesday, June 6 at 9:30.</p> <p>The next meeting will focus on education/background on reentry and identifying and exploring data from various transition perspectives, such as parole, community corrections and Jail Based Behavioral Health Services. In subsequent meetings, the group will review state and national data.</p> <p>Abigail asked members whether there were any questions and, with none, she thanked members for their contributions and adjourned the meeting.</p>
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Next Meeting

Next Meeting, Tuesday, May 9, 2023 / 9:30-11:30am

Details of the next meeting will be forwarded to the group and posted on the CCJJ web and calendar (ccjj.colorado.gov/ccjj-meetings & ccjj.colorado.gov/ccjj-calendar).