

Community Corrections Subcommittee

Date: May 29, 2009, 9am-11:30am

700 Kipling St., 4th floor

Attendees:

Paul Herman
Dianne Tramutola-Lawson
Harriet Hall
Cecelia Mascarenas
Jeff Mannix
Carl Blesch
Kevin Duckworth
Brian Gomez
Tom Giacinti

Germaine Miera
Christine Adams
Shelby McKenzie

Absent:

Kim English
Jeaneene Miller
Paul Isenstadt
Charles Garcia

Issue/Topic:

Introduction

Issue/Topic:

Review and update of CCJJ
recommendation BP-45 (Offender
release assessment & services)

Discussion:

Welcome and call to order by Paul Herman/Introductions

The group reviews the agenda, the Primary purpose of today is to walk out of here with some sense of the future of Community Corrections in Colorado. What are the elements of Community Corrections and what would we like to see in today's world in regards to Community Corrections?

Discussion:

Per Carl Blesch there is a new community corrections allocation system starting July 1st (with the consent of OSPB). This will be an open allocation system rather than assigning a number of beds to each judicial district.

- The first 6 months of the year community corrections boards who have a qualified client and a place to put them can go ahead and accept them.
- The goal of this is to get away from the artificial allocation system of the past which in some cases kept programs from accepting clients in the hopes of getting better clients.
- How this affects community corrections—
 - With open allocation and DOC's new computer system it will be interesting to see if this helps move more clients in.
- PSIR's are frequently no longer ordered by the court
- If a Diversion bed fills a community corrections bed.. that also may free up a DOC bed.
- Boards all operate very differently when it comes to acceptance decisions (e.g., Pueblo's screening committee is very efficient).
- If boards don't understand concepts like evidence based practice then it's hard for us to expect them to operate with those principles in mind. The Wisconsin model is good to look at.
- The new allocation system and new DOC computer system are two significant changes that will hopefully result in good outcomes.

Issue/Topic:

Review and update of CCJJ
recommendation BP-45 (cont.)

Action:

Carl Blesch to options regarding
the Office of Community
Corrections providing education to
the community corrections boards.

Discussion:**Community Corrections boards need more education**

- Community Corrections boards need more education. What kind of education training might assist moving this process down the road? Is it a blanket across the state? Or target individual boards?
- A lot of time is spent by boards trying to find the PSIR in DOC documents .Comm. Corr. pays a 4% administrative fee to boards for them to be able to access CourtLink and check to see if there's a PSIR. They can then call the court to have it delivered. There is nothing keeping boards from calling up and getting the information. Some boards request police reports on their own and get them. Other districts do not. Some boards push back about having to track down their own info.
- All boards have access to LexisNexis which should indicate whether or not there is a PSIR. Although you cannot obtain the PSIR through LexisNexis boards are able to obtain it through the court. Court administrators should be given notice that Comm. Corr. Boards may contact them for information.

Boards should focus on whether the offender is ready for community corrections now and what they've done in prison to address their individual areas of risk and need. The board should focus on whether the offender fits the criteria for acceptance in the community corrections program. The board should focus less on the details of the crime and more on where the individual in their current circumstance. Are they ready and do they meet the criteria.

What are the next steps?

Carl Blesch says it is the responsibility of the Office of Community Corrections to provide education to the boards. Carl offers to take on this task and explore options.

Issue/Topic:

Review and update of CCJJ recommendation BP-45 (cont.)

Action:

DOC (Brian Gomez) to explore possible training for case managers regarding what referral information is needed by community corrections boards.

Issue/Topic:

Review and update of CCJJ GP-26 Community Corrections instead of homeless parole plans

Action:

40 beds reserved in the new Denver jail facility starting next year

Discussion:

Along with educating community correction's boards the group encourages DOC case managers to provide institutional performance.

Sometimes offenders are deferred or simply denied if there isn't enough info from DOC.

Brian Gomez says he can work with DOC to train case managers in a specific pool on what's needed for community corrections boards in regards to referral information. Instead of making a systems change maybe we could work on a pilot somewhere?

Brian Gomez to report back at next meeting.

Discussion:GP-26 Community Corrections instead of homeless parole plans

Carl Blesch reports that Denver has tentatively reserved as many as 40 beds in the new Denver jail facility starting next year to launch a program aimed at homeless mandatory parolees.

- The real focus will be getting them a place to live, try and get them employable and hooked up with local resources.
- The idea is to keep them out of hotels on Colfax and out of the homeless shelters.
- This population will be identified by DOC case managers and new discharge planners. The discharge planners will work with both DOC & DCJ to identify the appropriate folks for these 40 beds. This process is still being worked through.

The Denver program is specifically for mandatory releases. The intent is to try to relieve some of the legal and safety burdens.

The jail hopes to have capacity for -

- ID's
- Human Services
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse help (although no specific treatment plan aside from assessment)

This is being rolled out as a pilot, if successful, maybe Colorado Springs next and then other areas (regionalization plan).

Issue/Topic:

Review and update of CCJJ GP-27, GP-28 and GP-29

Action:**Issue/Topic:**

Community Corrections in the Future – Where are we in the year 2013

Action:**Discussion:**

These were all support recommendations by the Commission.

GP-27 Community Corrections Initiatives

All three of these issues have been addressed by the Office of Community Corrections except for GP-29. Because providers have fewer resources to provide care in terms of treatment and offenders are under-employed and less able to pay for their own treatment, we may have a developing crisis. There is not enough subsistence payments to the provider and offenders can't afford treatment either. Recidivism numbers may actually increase soon because employment numbers are way down.

It seems a little futile to assess offender needs when there is no money to provide them treatment. And often they can't get a job to pay for their own treatment. We need to address both the short and the long term problems associated with lack of treatment options.

Some juvenile per diems are around \$150/day and adult comm. corr. is often \$37/day. In many cases JV is way ahead of the game on what is needed monetarily for treatment.

GP-28 Community Corrections Grace Period Study

The money to support this pilot is slim at this point. Carl says we may need to try to tap other resources rather than state resources to get this done.

We could possibly randomize 20-40 slots in each program to provide a 2-4 week grace period and compare outcomes against those who don't have a grace period. You might have to isolate that population however and there could be legal ramifications for providing assistance to one group and not another.

GP-29 Community Corrections Diversion Study

RFP will come out around the middle of the month in June. There are 40 beds, all non-violent, employed, similar LSI scores, community support of some sort. Try to put them into non-residential with enhanced services earlier and see how they do.

Discussion:**What elements would be in place ideally in 4 years?**

- More facilities, more beds, more residential
- Denver City Ordinance, capping beds, onerous zoning
- Treatment continuum, DOC or jail- CC- continuity
- It is 'our' problem, no finger pointing when it comes to failure
- Begin the continuum with juvenile system through adult
- Funding for REAL employment and job training skills programs
- Fewer clients fail due to financial pressures
- Adoption of a philosophy **statewide** that public safety is the purpose of community corrections, not retribution.

Issue/Topic:

Community Corrections in the Future – Where are we in the year 2013 (cont.)

Action:

Paul is to summarize the information and bring it back to the group

Discussion:**What elements would be in place ideally in 4 years (cont.)?**

- Driving should be allowed or at least considered for the offender
- Evidence that appropriate programming (funding) increases success
- Per Diem should be adjusted with need. A safety net for economic factors, individual factors, etc.
- Recidivism Reduction by 75%, 50%, 25%
- Quality and standardized training for Community Corrections staff
- Community Corrections as a real career path rather than a stopping off point on someone's way to be a PO
- Permanent relationship between human services (social services) and community corrections
- Community understanding
- Community wants people returning to their jurisdiction to go through Community Corrections. Community 'gets' it.
- Treatment for every offender in accordance with an appropriate assessment and treatment plan
- Collaboration and coordination of services (MH, diversion, churches, everything that affects the community)
- Planning should be institutionalized
- Good leadership
- Medical and nutritional (and healthcare) needs addressed for all

Paul is going to summarize the above information and bring it back to the group. Carl reminds us to send the returned info to the Governor's Advisory Council as well, and then the Commission.

Carl will talk with group about good time for next meeting.

Adjourn.