

*Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice*

***Drug Offense Task Force***

**Diversion Working Group**

**Minutes**

October 10, 2019 12:00PM-3:00PM  
2nd floor Meeting Room, 700 Kipling, Lakewood

**ATTENDEES:**

**WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:**

Joe Thome, Division of Criminal Justice, Co-leader

Adam Zarrin, Governor's Office, Co-leader

Bob Booth, Attorney General's Office

Bruce Brown, District Attorney's Office, 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

Mike Butler, Longmont Department of Public Safety

Terri Hurst, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition

Matt Karzen, District Attorney's Office, 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

Benita Martin, District Attorney's Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District

Emily Richardson, Office of Behavioral Health

Megan Ring, State Public Defender

Elaina Shively, District Attorney's Office, 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

Abigail Tucker, Community Reach Mental Health Center

**STAFF**

Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant

Kim English, Division of Criminal Justice

Stephané Waisanen, Division of Criminal Justice

Damien Angel, Division of Criminal Justice

**ABSENT**

Andrew Matson, Colorado CURE

Andrés Guerrero, Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

Issue/Topic	Discussion
Welcome and Introductions	Joe Thome welcomed everyone and asked those present to introduce themselves. Joe described the working group structure and process. No agendas were provided but it was agreed that the agenda for the next meeting would be set at the end of the day’s meeting.

Issue/Topic	Discussion
Defining “Drug-Related Offense”	The group discussed the definition of “drug-related offense” – a term used in the legislative mandate from Senate Bill 19-008. Although the discussion highlighted the complexity of the issue, the group was unable to reach consensus on a definition for “drug-related offense.” Are these individuals who have been arrested for a drug charge, or is this broader, such as when a crime is committed that was fueled by a drug problem? What about when the individual is involved in some form of distribution? Joe suggested that the group return to this conversation at the next meeting and move forward today with a discussion about diversion.

Issue/Topic	Discussion
Diversion Programming	The group discussed eligibility requirements for diversion programming. The involvement of a victim and criminogenic factors were considered. Group members suggested various criteria that could be used for to evaluate individuals for eligibility as well as the methods by which the evaluations could be administered. The group also considered factors that affect an individual’s willingness to participate in treatment programming, such as the need for basic survival requirements such as food and housing. The need for incentives for participation was also mentioned.

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p data-bbox="261 1398 391 1493">Next Steps and Adjourn</p> <p data-bbox="277 1682 375 1703"><b>ACTION</b></p> <p data-bbox="131 1713 521 1808">Mike Butler will invite a panel to present the Longmont community-focused model</p>	<p data-bbox="565 1430 1414 1493">The group identified four topics that they should focus on as they move forward:</p> <ol data-bbox="565 1503 1479 1640" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Diversion Eligibility Criteria (Elaina lead, with Megan, Matt and Terri);</li> <li>2) Process of Referral (Emily lead);</li> <li>3) Diversion Suitability Evaluation (Bruce lead, with Joe, Emily, and Bob); and</li> <li>4) Service Delivery and Screening Tools (Abigail lead, with Benita, and Emily).</li> </ol> <p data-bbox="565 1682 1503 1776">The group decided to break into study groups that will further explore the four topics. Mike Butler offered to put together a panel to present on the community-focused model used in Longmont.</p> <p data-bbox="565 1860 1162 1881">Joe thanked everyone and concluded the meeting.</p>