

**Drug Offense Task Force  
Minutes**

November 7, 2019 / 3:00PM-4:00PM  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room, 700 Kipling, Lakewood, CO

**ATTENDEES:**

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

Megan Ring, TF Co-chair, State Public Defender  
Tom Raynes, TF Co-chair, Colorado District Attorneys' Council  
Chris Andrist, Colorado Bureau of Investigation  
Maureen Cain, Office of the State Public Defender  
Janet Drake, Attorney General's Office  
Terri Hurst, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition  
Andrew Matson, Colorado CURE  
David Quirova, State Court Administrator's Office  
Jack Regenbogen, Colorado Center for Law & Policy  
Glenn Tapia, Division of Probation Services, Judicial Branch  
Joe Thome, Division of Criminal Justice  
Abigail Tucker, Community Reach Mental Health Center  
Audrey Weiss, District Attorney's Office, 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District

**STAFF**

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

**ABSENT**

Adam Zarrin, Governor's Office

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p>	<p>Co- chairs Megan Ring and Tom Raynes welcomed the group and asked Task Force members to introduce themselves.</p>
<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p>	<p>Megan asked the group for approval of the previous meeting minutes. With no objections, the minutes were unanimously approved.</p>
<p><b>Recap of October Meeting</b> Megan Ring and Tom Raynes</p>	<p>Megan reviewed October’s meeting and the timeline for developing recommendations to CCJJ. She stated that there were also updates from the Sealing and the Diversion Working Groups.</p>

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p><b>Working Group Updates</b></p>	
<p><b>Sealing Working Group</b> Audrey Weiss, Lead</p>	<p>Audrey, Lead of the Sealing Working Group, reported on a telephone conversation with the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) and the Community Legal Services of Pennsylvania about their automated sealing process, known as Clean Slate that was implemented in June 2019. The system allows the sealing of records, which does not require an individual to file a court petition. It allows individuals who have been a part of the criminal justice system to get a second chance.</p> <p>She mentioned AOPC gave an overview of the process, philosophies, and implementation challenges of their automated system.</p> <p>Audrey had talked with the state of Utah about their process of automatic sealing that will be implemented in the spring of 2020. There was a discussion whether a similar system would be viable for Colorado and the challenges to upgrade to such a system.</p> <p>Jack Regenbogen described three challenges identified by the Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The municipal courts are not on the same record system as the statewide Judicial system, and, with no access to the record, and it could disqualify someone. How do we make sure that does not happen?</li> <li>• A sealing order is a lengthy two-hour process to make sure the record is properly sealed. What technology can we use to automate this process?</li> <li>• What notification system can be created to alert an individual that their record has been automatically sealed?</li> </ul> <p>Maureen Cain mentioned there were three low-level offense categories that are eligible for record sealing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary offenses</li> <li>• Certain misdemeanor offenses – no felony offenses</li> <li>• Non-conviction, acquittals</li> </ul>

<p><b>Issue/Topic</b>  <b>Working Group Updates</b></p> <p><b>Sealing Working Group</b>                  Audrey Weiss, Lead                  (continued)</p> <p><b>Diversion Working Group</b>                  Joe Thome, Lead</p>	<p>Audrey mentioned that David Quirova will discuss automatic sealing options with the Information Technology staff at Judicial and how Denver county and municipal courts might be included in the statewide system.</p> <p>Chris Andrist will gather information from the Pennsylvania State Police on their process of automatic sealing.</p> <p>Audrey will research other states and how they are implementing automated sealing.</p> <p>Joe Thome, Co-Lead of the Diversion Working Group, stated that Glenn Tapia presented proposed case management typologies as an alternative to those currently being used in the probation system. These new typologies would utilize risk and needs information to assign appropriate treatment and interventions, rather than depending on the crime type alone to make those decisions. For example, one should not assume that all those convicted of a drug offense should be assigned to substance abuse treatment. Based on existing assessment information, an important finding from a probation analysis was that one-third of individuals on probation for a drug offense had a substance abuse problem while two-thirds of individuals did not.</p> <p>Joe described how Working Group member Emily Richardson (Office of Behavioral Health, CDHS) provided information on the Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC; ptaccollaborative.org) of Chicago. This initiative promotes best practices for pre-arrest diversion and deflection. She suggested the group contact Mr. Jac Charlier, a PTACC founder who could present information on national efforts in the field of diversion/deflection to the Diversion Working Group and/or CCJJ.</p> <p>Mike Butler, Chief of Longmont Police, provided an overview of Longmont’s transition to diversion. Longmont has three main goals: community safety, reducing recidivism, and healing victims. He mentioned that it is crucial to redefine justice as a community-wide endeavor to enable criminal justice programs to achieve their goals. The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program focuses on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows police officers the discretion to divert individuals.</li> <li>• Diversion is available to any individual whose crime is related to addiction, including shoplifting, public disturbance, and drug possession.</li> <li>• Co-responder units, which include officers, clinicians, and paramedics, provide follow-ups to individuals.</li> </ul> <p>There are four pillars that guide the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officer discretion</li> <li>• Harm reduction</li> <li>• Intensive community outreach</li> <li>• Building relationships</li> </ul>
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<b>Issue/Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<p><b>Study Group Updates</b></p> <p><b>Services Study Group</b> Abigail Tucker, Lead</p>	<p>Abigail Tucker, Lead of the Services Study Group, provided an update on their efforts to identify frequently untapped behavioral health services statewide and to identify services that are working well in communities across Colorado. The Services Study Group has three objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and clarify current substance use service networks statewide, including non-traditional options such as harm reduction.</li> <li>• Identify current resources to address social determinants that present barriers to recovery.</li> <li>• Best practice recommendations regarding resources and services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Criteria Study Group</b> Terri Hurst, Member</p>	<p>Terri Hurst provided the Task Force with an update of objectives from the Criteria Study Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insuring that control of diversion programming is maintained at the local level.</li> <li>• Building up mental health services outside the criminal justice system, rather than the criminal justice system serving as a primary provider.</li> <li>• Diversion programs aimed at drug related crime, many individuals will be dealing with co-occurring disorders.</li> <li>• Diversion services that focus on the comprehensive needs of an individual that are critical to success, such as housing.</li> <li>• Recommend launching pilot sites in judicial districts for diversion programs.</li> <li>• An incentive structure to promote positive, successful outcomes.</li> </ul>

<b>Issue/Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<p><b>Next Steps &amp; Adjourn</b> Megan Ring and Tom Raynes</p>	<p>Co-chairs Megan and Tom thanked members for their contributions and adjourned the meeting.</p>

**Next Meeting**

Thursday, December 12, 2019 / 3:00PM – 4:00PM  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room  
 710 Kipling, Lakewood, CO