

*Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice*

**Drug Offense Task Force  
Minutes**

August 13, 2020 1:30PM-4:00PM  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**ATTENDEES:**

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

Tom Raynes, TF Co-Chair, Colorado District Attorneys' Council  
Megan Ring, TF Co-Chair, Office of the State Public Defender  
Chris Andrist, Colorado Bureau of Investigation  
Janet Drake, Attorney General's Office  
Terri Hurst, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition  
Andrew Matson, Colorado CURE  
David Quirova, State Court Administrator's Office  
Glenn Tapia, Division of Probation Services  
Abigail Tucker, Community Reach Mental Health Center  
Audrey Weiss, District Attorneys' Office, 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District  
Adam Zarrin, Governor's Office

**STAFF**

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

**ABSENT**

Maureen Cain, Office of the Colorado State Public Defender  
Jack Regenbogen, Colorado Center for Law & Policy  
Joe Thome, Division of Criminal Justice

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Welcome &amp; Introductions Megan Ring &amp; Tom Raynes</p>	<p>Co-chair Tom Raynes called the meeting to order, and asked Task Force members to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Tom asked if there were any additions or corrections to the July minutes, with none the minutes were unanimously approved.</p> <p>Tom stated that the goal of the meeting was to review and vote on the final Diversion Working Group recommendation FY20-DR#02.</p>

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Diversion Working Group Adam Zarrin &amp; Abigail Tucker</p>	<p><b>FY20- DR#02 – Support a Public Health Model of Deflection [Policy]</b></p> <p>Fund public health interventions that strengthen the community resources and expand alternatives to filing criminal charges against adults and youth with substance use issues who are at risk of justice involvement. By aspiring to a public health approach – which redirects individuals with substance abuse issues engaging in behaviors that can lead to incurring criminal charges from the justice system entirely-this recommendation shifts priorities in funding upstream, supporting the still inadequate system for care coordination and treatment. Recognizing that funding diversion programs that are post-arrest continues to inadvertently reinforce the justice system as the point of intervention for many individuals with substance use disorder treatment needs not withstanding potential for co-occurring mental health needs, true alternatives are still needed to avoid the justice system operating as a healthcare system of intervention and care.</p> <p>To facilitate this approach, implement the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority #1: Provide funding and improve access to coordinated treatment provider and care coordination systems so that individuals and families can access services, interventions, supports, and treatment modalities within their community, leading to a decrease in call volume for first responders and reliance on justice system as a point of intervention, and improved community wellness.</li> <li>• Priority #2: Continue to improve training and to enhance service provider collaboration with law enforcement including but not limited to expanding co-responder and law enforcement diversion programs and deflection models that also include the critical component of care coordination, treatment when and where necessary and community engagement. Without community supported and appropriately funded alternative case management and treatment options, first responders will continue to be left without options that match the complexity of needed care.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Issue/Topic</b>                  Diversion Working Group                  Adam Zarrin &amp; Abigail Tucker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority #3: Continue to increase post-arrest diversion opportunities to create multiple off-ramps from criminal justice system entanglement and prioritize programs using a harm-reduction approach to address the underlying needs of the individuals, community, and victims.</li> </ul> <p>Adam Zarrin presented the recommendation and stated the Diversion Working Group met after the last Drug Offense Task Force meeting and there was consensus to move forward in addressing racial and ethnic equality and the COVID19 pandemic in the recommendation. The group also added a preface that addresses priorities for future consideration by the legislature.</p> <p>Abigail Tucker noted that in the recommendation the abandoned work that is attached referenced the initial acknowledgment of the importance of the public health model. The funding intervention would not only support diversion, but also include a full redirection and reflection mentality of diverting substance abuse and mental health needs from the justice system. She stated that the Working Group prioritized the public health capacity that led to the creation of three priorities. She reviewed the three priorities and stated this allowed individuals to avoid the justice system entanglement, while improving health and safety outcomes for individuals and communities.</p> <p>Tom mentioned that he wanted the group to understand that the programs of improved training and enhanced provider collaboration could not exist without the District Attorney’s delegating and collaborating in these efforts.</p> <p>Adam Zarrin noted that after the recommendation deadline passed, the group put their efforts in creating a revised set of policies that would not include a bill or budget, but would address future priorities without addressing specifics.</p> <p>Abigail concurred that the recommendation is more to fulfil the obligation that was originally asked of the Task Force, but also gives the opportunity of possible future work if the opportunity arises and the resources become available.</p> <p>The group reviewed the language of the recommendation, and with some minor editing of the terms regarding behavioral and substance abuse, the group quickly agreed on the minor revisions and on the organization of the content. No revisions required extensive discussion or represented substantive additions or deletions of the context of the recommendation.</p> <p><b>VOTE</b>  <b>The approval of Recommendation FY20- DR#02</b> was moved and seconded. With no further discussion, a vote was conducted with no members opposed to the motion. <b>The recommendation was approved</b> for preliminary presentation at the August 14, 2020 Commission meeting, Adam Zarrin will provide that presentation. A final vote will occur at the Commission meeting in September.</p>
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<b>Issue/Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<p data-bbox="196 212 451 241">Next Steps &amp; Adjourn</p> <p data-bbox="277 283 370 312"><b>ACTION</b></p> <p data-bbox="115 319 532 384">Abigail Tucker to revise language in the recommendation</p>	<p data-bbox="565 247 1409 312">Abigail will revise language in the recommendation to reflect what was discussed and voted on.</p> <p data-bbox="565 352 1511 455">Tom and Megan thanked the Diversion Working Group and the Drug Offense Task Force for all their efforts and stated that this will conclude the work of the Task Force.</p>