

Incarceration Task Force Attendance
June 18, 2008
150 E. 10th Ave, Denver, CO

Present:

Grayson Robinson (Chair)
Michelle Sykes (TFL)
Norm Mueller, Defense Attorney
Pam Clifton, CCJRC
Glenn Tapia, DCJ
Shelby McKinzy, CU graduate student
Christine Adams, Facilitator
Germaine Miera, staff
Bill Lovingier, Denver jail
Gary Golder, DOC
Martin Stuart, CCDB
Debbie Zwirn, Logan County Commissioner
Kevin Ford, staff
Regi Huerter

Absent:

Rhonda Johnson, Victim advocate
Kim English, DCJ
John Suthers, Attorney General
Tony Carochi, Deputy Director of Prisons

Issue/Topic:

Post Jail and Prison Placement Options (Bond Issues)-

There are too many people in jail who can't pay their bond, they end up sitting in jail until their case is heard and in the meantime lose their jobs and any sort of stability they had

Consistency in bonding schedules statewide

Discussion:

Should bonding for profit be eliminated?

The group discussed Larimer County's bond to the court system

The group discussed possibly proposing changes in our current bonding system that would give courts the statutory authority to create a 'bond to court' option. Instead of funds going to a private bondsman the money could help fund pre-trial services (which would in turn help pay offender fines and fees).

Bond reform would have to take into consideration the fact that certain components could create a negative impact as well. Bond reform would also meet strong objection from the bondsman's lobby.

Even if the group does not take on the issue of total bond reform, could we look at establishing a more organized and consistent statutory system of bonding statewide. The bonding schedules now for the 22 judicial districts are vastly different. A defendant charged in one district could face a bond that is drastically different than that in another judicial district.

Statute 16-5-207 is not being followed. Should we advocate this?

Action:

Christie Donner has requested data from the state court administrator's office

Issue/Topic:

How does bond reform affect re-entry?

Discussion:

(cont.) this statute be followed and strengthened in regards to the use of summons. Would this get a lot of the low end guys out of jail without increasing crime?

Should we advocate-
A wider use of PR bonds
Standardized bond schedule
Adding other bail alternatives to the current legislation

What % of people in jail are pre-sentence vs. post-sentence?
Denver pre-trial population is 59%
Arapahoe pre-trial is 45%

Bond reform would funnel less people into the system to begin with. That would mean:
Fewer people in jail on Presentence
Less financial burden on the client
More money into the system to help pay fees/costs

The other connection to recidivism reduction is that when the offender is in jail 3-4 days they can lose their job and place to live, you can completely de-stabilize a person in 3 days, and de-stabilize a whole family as well.

Action:

Let's look at a before and after snapshot of the Larimer County program. What were they doing before? What were their numbers before the new program?

Christie Donner will try and tease out "what were the outcomes for each change

Possible TF recommendations

1. Enforce all involved to follow the bonding statute that is in place
2. Propose statewide standard bonding rather than district-to-district
3. Explore the possibility of a bonding commission
4. Explore a bonding to the court option

Bill L. will caucus his judges and DA's to get their feedback on these ideas

Issue/Topic:

Assessment and Re-assessment of inmate risk/need conducted in jails and prisons

PSIR

LSI & LSI-R

Programming and Treatment consistent with inmate needs

Discussion:

The assessment tools are present in the system but the fidelity to those tools is poor and the transfer of information is poor and under-utilized

There is no consistency in the system as a PSIR is not always ordered for every defendant.

The PSIR doesn't always follow the inmate to DOC or subsequently to their post-release destination

Probation and other agencies can't always or won't always share the PSIR info with other agencies

The Federal PSIR system is solid. The info follows the offender completely through the Bureau of prisons system

There needs to be more standardization among administrators of the LSI. More fidelity to the instrument

DOC says there are only a finite number of resources available to provide treatment. According to DOC this is a resource issue more than anything else.

There is also concern surrounding the transferability and continuity of services through the system (i.e. jail to prison, etc.)

Action:

Possible recommendation

1. PSIR needs to be done
2. Needs to be done correctly
3. Needs to follow inmate

Possible recommendation

1. Can we sentence offenders to 'accomplishments' rather than 'length of time served' (i.e., you can leave jail once you finish your GED)

Issue/Topic:

Motion for reconsideration of sentence

Mental Health

Discussion:

Should we make a recommendation that would extend the time frame for a 'motion for reconsideration' of sentence date out more than 120 days?

Should there be a procedural change that would require the facility to file the motion? In essence, DOC or the jail would ask the court for reconsideration based on the offender reaching certain benchmarks and performance standards?

Move the date out from 120 days to 1 year, 120 days doesn't give you time to establish and real change.

This way, an inmate knows that if he follows the program DOC will recommend a change in sentence.

Should the task force make a recommendation 'outside the box' proposing that the state go back to some previous funding levels that were available for mental health.

Bring Mental Health funding levels back to the forefront across the state, in community mental health facilities as well as incarceration facilities.

Mental health funding disappeared in the 70's and that is a lot of the cause of the current over-crowding in jails and prisons

Action:

Issue/Topic:

Mental Health (cont.)

Education

Next meeting

Discussion:

There are four areas to look at when talking about MH

1. There is an 8 item screen (a common assessment tool) that helps check for further MH issues
2. A modified version of CIT could be implemented in jails and prisons
3. Trauma needs to be addressed. There are good treatment options in the community but not necessarily in facilities
4. Meds are stabilized while in the facility, aka sure med stabilization is continued upon release.

Facilities need to be more focused on math, this is hugely important when it comes to trades

Action:

Conduct SWOT on

1. Bond issues
2. Mental Health/funding
3. Programming and Treatment
4. Education