

Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice: Juvenile Justice Task Force

Charter

MISSION

The mission of the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ), Juvenile Task Force is to conduct a comprehensive and thorough analysis and assessment of the Juvenile Justice system in Colorado. This task force will address the following issues: the children's code, information/data sharing, statewide inconsistencies in the use of evidence-based practices, disproportionate minority contact, truancy and other status offenses, comprehensive evidence-based training and education of key players in the system, funding issues, and prevention/intervention. The task force will develop recommendations for juvenile reforms and submit those recommendations to the Colorado Commission on Criminal Justice.

BACKGROUND

In April of 2009, the CCJJ heard a presentation on the issues surrounding the juvenile justice system in Colorado. The Commission was unable to immediately address these issues. Instead, the CCJJ created the Sentencing Policy Task Force and the Drug Policy Task Force.

The mission of the Drug Policy Task Force was to examine laws and sentencing specifically related to drug statutes. The Sentencing Policy Task Force was charged with undertaking a more comprehensive review of the overall sentencing scheme in Colorado. Both task forces created a variety of recommendations that eventually became proposed legislation and were ultimately signed into law. However, neither task force looked into juvenile specific issues.

During the summer of 2010, the Commission decided to re-evaluate its direction and future focus. In August 2010 commission members agreed on four areas of study. The CCJJ directed the Drug Policy Task Force to continue its work, the Commission then created two new task forces: one to study Juveniles and one to study Sex Offenders/Offenses. In addition, the Commission agreed to revamp the Sentencing Policy Task Force and convert it into the Comprehensive Sentencing Task Force.

The Juvenile Task Force is to conduct a comprehensive and thorough analysis and assessment of the juvenile justice system in Colorado. This will begin by establishing the mission and vision of the group and the group should come to an agreement on the strategic alignment of the system.

STRUCTURE

- The Task Force will make recommendations directly to the Commission.
- The Task Force shall comprise a representative sampling of the stakeholders and the community.
- The Task Force chair will be a Commission member.
- The Task Force shall consist of no more than twenty-one (21) formal members identified by the CCJJ chair and vice-chair.
- Non Task Force participants will be encouraged to provide input as directed by the Task Force chair.
- The Commission consultant will chair the Task Force when the Chair is unavailable.
- The meetings will be held in the Denver Metro area. Conference calls will be used when possible to include stakeholders statewide.
- The team will implement “ground rules” to facilitate effective interaction.
- Research staff from the DCJ Office of Research and Statistics will
 - Work with the chair to organize meetings and prepare the meeting agenda.
 - Facilitate meetings to free the chair to lead the discussions.
 - At the request of the Task Force will,
 - Provide information on existing knowledge and research.
 - Identify local data sources.
 - Analyze local data sources when feasible.
 - Work with researchers from other agencies to obtain relevant information.

DESIRED OUTCOME

- The task force will develop reform recommendations for the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice that:
 1. Are consistent with and support the Commission’s Purpose;
 2. Enhance the goal of public safety;
 3. Provide public education on the value of investing (over time) in prevention and intervention as a means of increasing public safety and future cost savings;
 4. Are rational and consistent and create a strategic alignment across systems;
 5. Create a children’s code that includes statutes and practices that are aligned with a common vision;
 6. Create an effective mechanism to share necessary information and an understanding of what can be shared;
 7. Reduce disparity;
 8. Provide incentives for ongoing attendance efforts;
 9. Provide accessible, comprehensive, evidence-based training that that reflects system roles, responsibilities and expertise;
 10. Provide training to create effective case management plans based on assessment;
 11. Provide incentives for using best practices where appropriate and being efficient;
 12. Prevent future crimes by providing early and on-going assessments that identify protective and risk factors; and
 13. Create options other than commitment when dealing with severe cases.

ESTIMATED TIME FRAMES – *revise after first meeting*

- Short-term → TBD
- Long-term → TBD

MEETING FREQUENCY & DURATION (through 2010, *revise after first meeting*)

Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2010

Time: 1:30pm – 4:30pm

Location: 710 Kipling, 3rd Floor

Date: Friday, October 22, 2010

Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Location: 700 Kipling, 1st Floor Conference Room

Date: Thursday, November 18, 2010

Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Location: 710 Kipling, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Date: Thursday, December 16, 2010

Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Location: 700 Kipling, 1st Floor Conference Room

MEMBERS

	Affiliation	Representative
1	Chair/CCJJ	Regina Huerter, Denver Crime Prev. & Control Comm.
2	Prosecution	Don Quick, District Att. 17 th Judicial District
3	Defense	Alaurice Tafoya-Modi, Private Defense Attorney
4	Juvenile Probation	Susan Colling, State Court Administrators Office
5	DYC	John Gomez, Director of DYC
6	CDHS	Karen Beye, Department of Human Services
7	Social Services – County	Debbie Zwirn, Logan County Commissioner
8	Judge	Karen Ashby, Juvenile Court Presiding Judge
9	CDPS/OAJJA	Meg Williams, Division of Criminal Justice
10	Victim Advocate	Don Moseley, Ralston House
11	Law Enforcement	Bill Kilpatrick, Golden Police Chief
12	Education	Inta Morris, Department of Higher Education
13	Local Education	Kirk Henwood, Montrose County School District
14	Juvenile Parole Board	Jan Dempsey Simkins, Juvenile Parole Board
15	Legislative Rep. – House	Beth McCann, Representative
16	Legislative Rep. – Senate	Linda Newell, Senator
17	Service Provider Org. Rep.	Joe Higgins, Mesa County Partners
18	Prevention Council Rep.	Stan T. Paprocki, Division of Behavioral Health
19	JAC Representative	Jeff McDonald, Jeffco Juvenile Assessment Center
20	Community at Large	Norene Simpson, Defense Attorney
21	Community at Large	Regis Groff, Retired State Senator

TASK FORCE CHAIRPERSON: Regina Huerter

COMMISSION CONSULTANT: Paul Herman

CCJJ STAFF: Christine Adams - Christine.Adams@cdps.state.co.us; 303-239-4496

LEGAL COUNSEL: To be determined if and when needed