

# Juvenile Justice Task Force

September 21, 2010 1:30-4:30PM  
710 Kipling, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room

## **ATTENDEES:**

### **CHAIR**

Regina Huerter, Denver Crime Prev. & Control Comm.

### **TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

Don Quick, District Att. 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
Alaurice Tafoya-Modi, Private Defense Attorney  
Susan Colling, State Court Administrators Office  
John Gomez, Director of NYC  
Debbie Zwirn, Logan County Commissioner  
Meg Williams, Division of Criminal Justice  
Don Moseley, Ralston House  
Bill Kilpatrick, Golden Police Chief  
Inta Morris, Department of Higher Education  
Kirk Henwood, Montrose County School District  
Debbie Rose representing Jan Dempsey Simkins, Juvenile Parole Board  
Beth McCann, Representative  
Stan T. Paprocki, Division of Behavioral Health  
Jeff McDonald, Jeffco Juvenile Assessment Center  
Regis Groff, Retired State Senator

### **STAFF**

Paul Herman, Consultant  
Christine Adams, Division of Criminal Justice  
Kerry Cataldo, Division of Criminal Justice  
Peg Flick, Division of Criminal Justice

### **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES**

Kim Dvorchak  
Shawn Cohn  
Katie Wells  
Maureen Cain  
Lindy Frolich  
Dorian Wilson

### **ABSENT:**

Karen Beye, Department of Human Services  
Karen Ashby, Juvenile Court Presiding Judge  
Linda Newell, Senator  
Joe Higgins, Mesa County Partners  
Norene Simpson, Defense Attorney

<p><b>Issue/Topic:</b></p> <p>Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>Paul Herman and Regina Huerter welcomed the group. Task force members introduced themselves and discussed what attribute they bring to the table.</p>
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<p><b>Issue/Topic:</b></p> <p>Mini-group discussion</p>	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>Over the summer a group of individuals met twice to discuss issues concerning the juvenile justice system. The list of issues they came up with were:</p> <p><b>Vision/Mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No clear vision/mission among stakeholders.</li> <li>• Various systems do not always communicate with one another.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic alignment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic alignment across systems does not exist.</li> <li>• No vehicle to develop and maintain such alignment exists.</li> <li>• Systems work in silos resulting in an ineffective use of resources.</li> <li>• Multiple agencies are often responsible for, provide funding for and work with the same child and family.</li> <li>• The juvenile justice system is largely a modification of the adult criminal justice system.</li> <li>• Lack of clearly defined roles and expertise amongst juvenile justice stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p><b>Children’s Code</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s code needs to be reviewed and revised.</li> <li>• Statutes and practices in the children’s code are not necessarily aligned with any common vision.</li> </ul> <p><b>Information sharing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of effective mechanism to share necessary information and an understanding of what can be shared.</li> </ul> <p><b>Statewide inconsistencies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of best and evidence based practices.</li> <li>• Lack of evaluation of these best practices.</li> <li>• Unequal access to these practices across the state.</li> </ul> <p><b>Disproportionate minority contact (DMC)</b></p> <p><b>Truancy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current funding formula for PPOR allocation impedes school’s incentives for ongoing attendance efforts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Training and education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trained and educated in silos.</li> <li>• Current training does not necessarily reflect system roles, responsibilities and expertise.</li> <li>• Access to training is not uniform.</li> <li>• Training is not always comprehensive and does not always include prevention, best practices, or youth development.</li> </ul>
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- Not all training is evidence-based.
- Lack of training on specific issues such as substance abuse, mental health and working with families.
- Lack of training to create effective case management plans based on assessment.

**Funding**

- Best practices are not always used.
- Federal funding and state mandates often provide disincentives for reducing costs.
- Different funding streams prevent dealing with issues holistically and inhibits cross-agency efforts.
- Agencies that are efficient are sometimes penalized.
- Citizens and decision makers should be educated on the value of investing (over time) in prevention and intervention as a means of increasing public safety and future cost savings.

**Prevention/Intervention**

- Lack of understanding of the benefits of investing in early childhood issues, parental issues, mental health, trauma, family support, and education.
- Prevention/intervention should be based on early and on-going assessment.
- Commitment is often the default when there is nowhere else for the child to go.

Based on this list of juvenile issues, the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice decided to create this task force that would focus on these issues and more over the next three years.

<b>Issue/Topic:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>
<p>Other agencies and major groups working on juvenile issues in Colorado</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <p>Create a one page summary of each of these groups including mission and membership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently there is no overarching vision and mission for juveniles among all the various stakeholders.</li> <li>• There are several other agencies and groups working on juvenile issues in Colorado. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Council</li> <li>○ SB94 Advisory Board (22 counties)</li> <li>○ HB1451-Colaborative Management (24 counties)</li> <li>○ Task Force for the Continuing Examination of the Treatment of Persons with Mental Illness who are involved in the Justice System (MIJS); JJ/MH subcommittee</li> <li>○ Models for Change</li> <li>○ McArthur Foundation Core Team</li> <li>○ Prevention Leadership Council</li> <li>○ Metro Denver Gang Coalition</li> <li>○ DYC Provider Council</li> <li>○ Child Care (CAFCA)</li> <li>○ Children and Youth Info Sharing (CYIS)</li> <li>○ Interagency Advisory Committee (IAC) on Adult and Juvenile Correctional Treatment</li> <li>○ SOMB (mix)</li> <li>○ Adolescent Providers Group</li> <li>○ Data sharing and utilization group</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- LINKS (for mental health and co-occurring disorders)
- Violence Prevention Advisory (VPAC)
- Colorado School Safety Resource Center
- The Collaborative Management Program
- Restorative Justice (RJ) Council
- This task force does not want to duplicate any of these agencies work, so this task force will be supportive or lend support to these groups.

<b>Issue/Topic:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>
<p data-bbox="120 531 509 596">Draft of the Juvenile Justice Task Force Charter</p> <p data-bbox="267 638 358 667"><b>Action:</b></p> <p data-bbox="94 709 496 810">This charter will be a working document that will be updated as developments are made.</p>	<p data-bbox="558 531 1500 560">A draft of the Juvenile Justice Task Force charter was distributed and reviewed.</p> <p data-bbox="558 602 670 632"><b>MISSION</b></p> <p data-bbox="558 638 1511 987">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.</p> <p data-bbox="558 1029 740 1058"><b>BACKGROUND</b></p> <p data-bbox="558 1064 1511 1203">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.</p> <p data-bbox="558 1245 1495 1488">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.</p> <p data-bbox="558 1530 1528 1774">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.</p> <p data-bbox="558 1816 1528 1955">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</p>

## 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:
  - Are consistent with and support the Commission's Purpose
  - Enhance the goal of public safety;
  - 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;
  - Are rational and consistent and create a strategic alignment across systems;
  - Create a children's code that includes statutes and practices that are aligned with a common **vision**;
  - Create an effective mechanism to share necessary information and an understanding of what can be shared;
  - Reduce disparity
  - Provide incentives for ongoing attendance directed towards schools
  - Provide accessible, comprehensive, evidence-based training that reflects system roles, responsibilities and expertise;
  - Provide training to create effective case management plans based on assessment;
  - Provide incentives for using best practices and being efficient;
  - Prevent future crimes by providing early and on-going assessments that are based on both risk and protective youth resiliency factors
  - Create options other than commitment when dealing with severe cases

<b>Issue/Topic:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>
Lack of representation on the task force	It was brought to the attention of the task force members that there is no representation from a treatment organization and parents/family members. However, many of the task force members are parents. It was felt that a parent's input needs to be added to the task force or be a part of the subgroups.

<b>Issue/Topic:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>
<p data-bbox="74 426 548 514">Juvenile sex offenders</p> <p data-bbox="74 514 548 667"><b>Action</b> Staff will meet to get updates on what the sex offender task force is doing.</p>	<p data-bbox="548 426 1549 514">The area of juvenile sex offenders will be handled by the sex offender task force.</p> <p data-bbox="548 514 1549 667">There may need to be a combined meeting (forum in December) with the sex offender task force to make sure both task forces are on the same page.</p> <ul data-bbox="548 598 1549 667" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This may be covered during the monthly chair meetings.</li> </ul>

<b>Issue/Topic:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>
<p data-bbox="74 745 548 833">Juvenile drug offenders</p> <p data-bbox="74 833 548 1029"><b>Action</b> Christine Adams will provide updates on what the drugs task force is doing.</p>	<p data-bbox="548 745 1549 833">The area of juvenile drug offenders will be handled by the drug task force.</p> <p data-bbox="548 833 1549 1029">There may need to be a combined meeting (forum in December) with the drug task force groups to make sure both task forces are on the same page.</p> <ul data-bbox="548 917 1549 1029" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This may be covered during the monthly chair meetings.</li> </ul>

<b>Issue/Topic:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>
Ground Rules	<p data-bbox="548 1106 1549 1194">The ground rules that were adopted by this task force are...</p> <ol data-bbox="548 1194 1549 1986" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="548 1194 1549 1241">1. Public safety should always be paramount in our thoughts.</li> <li data-bbox="548 1241 1549 1367">2. It is important that we are inclusive of all represented perspectives and areas of expertise, and that we commit to non-partisanship.</li> <li data-bbox="548 1367 1549 1455">3. We agree to question our assumptions, maintain respect for differences and work towards common goals that meet the Commission's mandate.</li> <li data-bbox="548 1455 1549 1581">4. We should seek outside help for areas where we are lacking in knowledge.</li> <li data-bbox="548 1581 1549 1707">5. Because our decisions impact all of Colorado, they should be carefully considered from both perspectives of the various regions and diverse populations of offenders and victims across the state.</li> <li data-bbox="548 1707 1549 1833">6. To the best of our ability, our decisions should be straight forward and timely.</li> <li data-bbox="548 1833 1549 1986">7. Decisions are guided by data and should be aimed at crime prevention, reducing recidivism, achieving public safety through the most cost effective means and achieving justice.</li> </ol>

	8. We should be mindful that a need for treatment is not an adequate reason to incarcerate someone (other options should be available).
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<b>Issue/Topic:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>
Decision making process/voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When it comes to the decision making process, only members of the task force will vote. Task force members have name tags. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No proxy votes can occur.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If it is planned that voting will take place at a meeting, it will be noted on the meeting agenda.</li> <li>• A quorum will need to be established in order for voting to take place. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A quorum will consist of 12 members.</li> <li>– 51% passes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>


<b>Issue/Topic:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>
Legislative/Non-legislative Recommendation Process	See below for a copy of the CCJJ legislative/non-legislative process.

<b>Issue/Topic:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>
Benchmarks	See below for a list of the desired benchmarks.

**Future Meeting Dates:**

Date	Location	Time
October –TBD	TBD	TBD
November 18, 2010	710 Kipling, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor conference room	9AM-12PM
December 16, 2010	700 Kipling, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor conference room	9AM-12PM

## Benchmarks

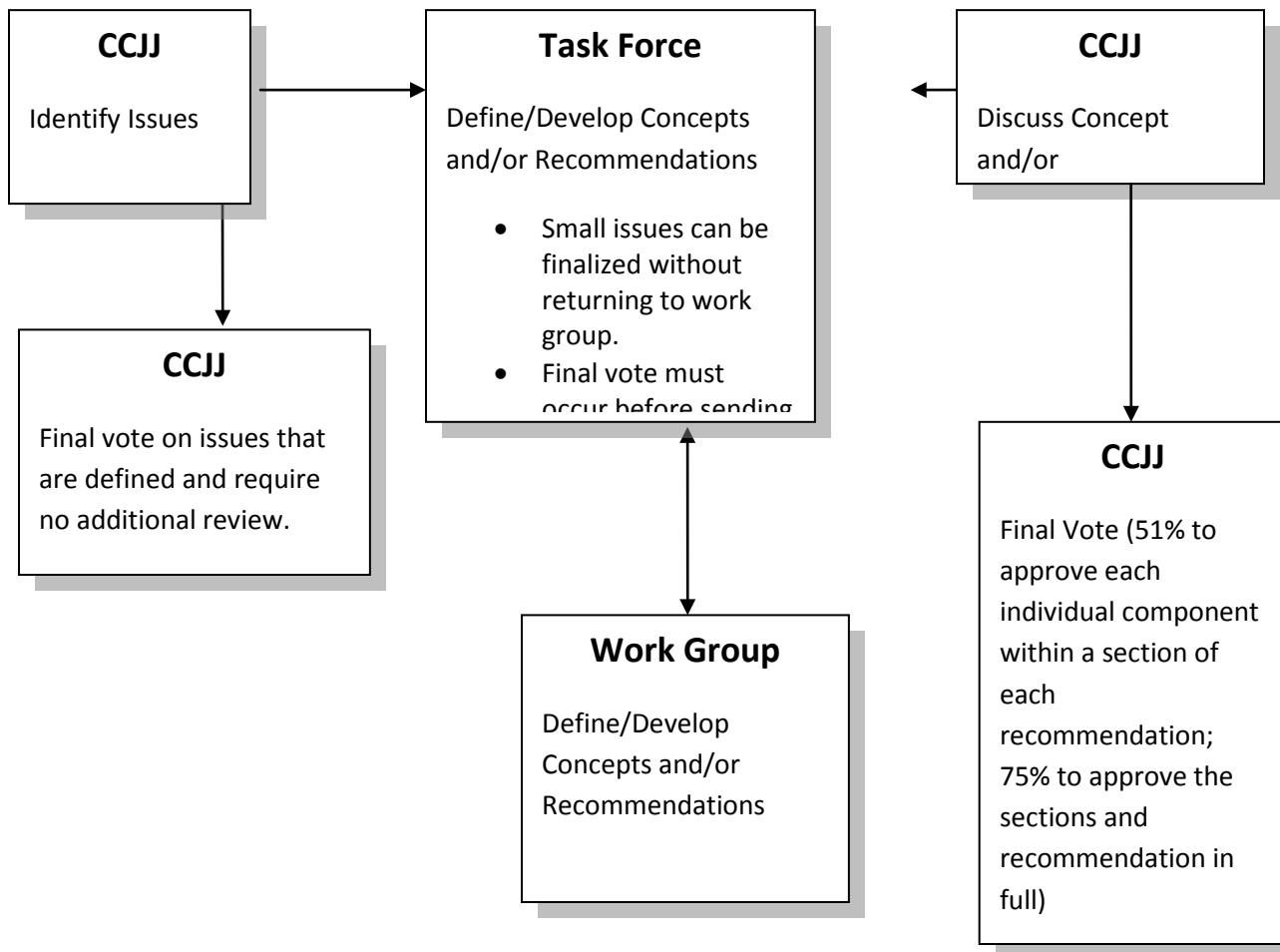
- | <u>9/2010</u>   | <u>1/2011</u>  | <u>6/2011</u>   | <u>10/2011</u>  | <u>1/2012</u> | <u>6/2012</u> | <u>10/2012</u> | <u>1/2013</u> | <u>6/2013</u> |
|---|--|---|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Education</li><li>• Create mission/vision</li><li>• Identify new issues</li><li>• Interaction with other task forces</li><li>• Data (who are these kids)</li><li>• Forum (December)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify quick wins</li><li>• Impact on other systems</li><li>• Risk/protective factors</li><li>• Identify duplication</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify and prioritize legislative matters</li></ul> |  |               |               |                |               |               |

### ***Actions between now and October meeting:***

- Regi, Meg, John, and Susan will come up with some educational components for the October meeting.
- Meg will provide Christine with a copy of Colorado's Three-Year Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Plan (2009-2011).
- Regi and Don will provide Christine with copies of the juvenile justice flowchart.
- Need to create a working glossary .
- Kerry and Christine will pull some juvenile numbers together from their Crime and Justice in Colorado report.
- Provide a copy of Title 19 (Children's Code) for the October meeting.



## Non-Legislative Recommendation Process



# Legislative Recommendation Process

