

Re-Entry Oversight Subcommittee/ June 13, 2008

Attendance

David Kaplan, Substitute chair

Kim English

Paul Herman

Tom Quinn

Grayson Robinson

Jeanne Smith

Regis Groff

Sarah Stein

Shelby McKinzey

Judith Greene, Justice Strategies (guest)

Nestor Rios, The New School for Management and Urban Policy (guest)

Christine Adams

Germaine Miera

Louise Boris

Jeaneene Miller

Mike Riede

Christie Donner

Regi Huerter

Absent

Judge Martinez

Topic- **Over representation of minorities**, how do we address the issue as a whole?

Kim-Staff to generate a report on behalf of the task forces and commission so there is some consistency. Take this item off the plates of the task force and discuss the issues in a single document.

Look at what other states are doing in this area

We don't want to take the issue entirely off the Task Force's plates, just want to be clear we know what we're looking at.

Kim will put together base info and we can incorporate it into individual task forces.

We are going to use existing data.

Topic -**Task Force Data request form**, how do we ask for information?

If questions come up that have a data request component we will need a written request.

The idea is to make sure that we're not getting a ton of different requests. The request goes to the oversight committee first to make sure that there is a sense of prioritizing requests.

It's a more formal way to make sure that everyone gets heard. Some requests for data may be more complex than others. Good to document your request for data.

Full support from the Re-Entry committee. This removes the question of 'why' when we get requests for data.

Topic – Individual Task Force updates

Incarceration

The group is engaged, very diverse. We started out by expanding the charter dramatically. We expanded quickly. We got ourselves very focused in the last meeting.

We got five major topics of concern on the table in the last meeting (and two others as well). Next week we are going to try to tackle two of our five issues. We are keeping Aug. 20th in the back of our minds.

1. We are interested in bond reform
2. We want to talk about assessment and re-assessment of offenders
3. We want to talk about programs at county levels and DOC. But this again boils down to dollars in sense. Programs are out there but are they truly accessible?
4. We also want to try to tackle good time and earned time. Trustee status, etc. Good and earned time how does this affect LOS. Lawsuit in Denver over LOS? Complied w/ statute across the state of Colo. Increased the LOS. We want to take a hard look at good time calculations. A family's child was victimized.. defendant was to be released sooner than they had wanted.
5. We also have identified what appears to be a lack of significant release planning. We want to try to focus attention on creating a culture of focus on reentry while they're being booked instead of two days before release.
6. We want to look at education and will focus on PEW and their findings. We feel compelled to talk and try to address to some degree the huge amount of mental issues facing all prisons and jails.
7. Highest percentage of inmates suffering with mental health issues (26%). We also want to explore accreditation standards.

Probation

Cooperative collaborative active, verbal group. We have a priority to get a DA on our group. Big focus for next group to get a DA on board.

We have boiled down some topics of interest we want to look at.

1. Driver's license retention especially on drug cases, PO's lose their license for a year and then lose their employment and everything else.
2. The need to find and keep good employment.
3. A need to implement collections investigators, get PO out of the role of money collector.
4. Job training while under supervision. We need job training resources. One in Jeffco. Employee X used to do a good job but not around anymore.
5. Treatment (not cookie cutter, needs some regulation) – Domestic violence, drunk driving provider and drug provider. Who is delivering the best treatment services in our community?
6. Length of sentence, statute and judge, ongoing judge training.
7. Number of rules/regs placed on offenders is too much, fees are too much. Setting up people to fail. A lot of probation rules are mandated by legislature but the legislature is passing laws on something they haven't done any research on.
8. Technical violations, are we doing the right sanctions, have we been proactive? Are we doing everything we can.
9. We're trying to work more on motivational interviewing.

We're ratcheting down to pick some great areas. We want to focus a lot on the PO's relationship with offenders and a lot of the EBP stuff.

Transition

Again, wide range of members and great group. Great to have a parolee on board. We're looking at what happens prerelease and post release. What happens with an inmate once they get out. We spent the first meeting just placing issues on the table, we then narrowed down based on what our charge was.

Paul joined us a couple meetings ago and we've divided our areas of interest into two. Survival and support needs.

Survival needs are our focus

1. Transportation, how does one get around once released?
2. ID's
3. Lack of housing, homeless inmates
4. Clothing
5. Release money no change to reflect inflation
6. Access to medication, meds for physical needs and mental health issues
7. Lack of employment
8. Fees and surcharges, etc.. How do you find ways to pay restitution.

Also looking at pro-social issues. Family support, issues with significant others, unresolved gang involvement, constructive leisure activities. What are inmates pro-social skills, verbal skills, etc.. and inconsistencies in parole officers.

Post Incarceration Supervision

Our task force similar to others, good energetic source of people.

We are dividing our focus areas into two categories; Structure and Case management. We're also looking at escape and we will focus on this in one way or another.

1. Parole Structure. We are trying to get our heads around the structure of parole to address possible reform. Christie will report back to the task force so we can look at some significant and systemic changes. A big undertaking but something we all want to look at. This is a fairly large project but we also want to look at some things we could propose that would be more modest (date certain parole for defendant and community). Other reforms that won't take on the entire system of parole.
2. Case Management. As far as case management we're looking at the issues of treatment, and the criminogenic needs being met, is the LSI being done consistently and are we matching services with needs, are services even available, are we cookie cutter. Technical violations, motivational interviewing, fees and surcharges. Focus on offender success, conditions of supervision, use of incentives, prioritizing. Reduction in Technical Violations.

We hope to have some long range recommendations but we also want to look at some more immediately achievable issues.

Comments-

Can PIS and probation sit down and talk about the issues in common? TV's, mental health providers, etc.. How can we share our knowledge and services so we're not duplicating. We've got some overlap.

We have a public mental health system. If we were funding this adequately these folks' needs would be met before it became an issue. How can we push the mainstream systems already in place so we don't have to reinvent the wheel.

Are we missing reps from Substance abuse, mental health and restorative justice?

Criminal Justice system is the default system for mental health crisis and issues.

State rankings-

We're sixth highest in the nation for suicides

We score 49th for mental health

50th for education

How do we resolve these issues in 7 meeting? We can't nor are we expected to.

Immediate goals-

Short term goals

1-12 months – formed in a recommendation, this could arguably be done in a 12 month period

Legislation

New budget items

1 year

Long term goals

Release structure, overall it's long term but there may be some immediate and short term achievable things

Topic - **SWOT analysis discussion**

This is going to be a critical step to make sure that we vet issues thoroughly

Internal

Strengths and Weaknesses

External

Opportunities and Threats

We will have to push people on strengths and opportunities. In terms of vetting we really need to look at External threats.. make sure your bases are covered

Paul reminds us that in the next couple meetings we need to really focus on SWOT

Regi states that while this may seem a tedious process at the moment, it is critical to pushing things through down the road

Do SWOT on the preliminary topics for each Task Force.

Send out a SWOT analysis 'how to' to all the members of the task forces

Do SWOT on the issues, some will go more indepth than others, pull the issues out, we'll organize info. Chairs task is to get the analysis done on these.. then move into priority phase of immediate, short term and long term

Topic - **Overarching issues** (like data, does it apply beyond our task force)

Evidence Based

Best Practice

Emerging

Add cost to your topic

Incorporate all of this