

Post-Incarceration Supervision Task Force

Date: July 11, 2008, 8:30 - 10:45AM

Attendees:

David Kaplan, Chair
Christie Donner, Task Force Leader
Paul Herman, Consultant
Germaine Miera, DCJ/Researcher/Facilitator

Christine Adams, DCJ/Researcher
Mike Biggio, The Free Coalition
Carl Blesch, DCJ/Community Corrections
Brian Connors, Public Defender (sitting in for Doug Wilson)
Kim English, DCJ/Researcher
Kevin Ford, DCJ/Researcher/Staff
Tim Hand, Deputy Director of Regional Operations (Parole)
Pete Hautzinger, District Attorney
Greg Mauro, Community Corrections
Shelby McKinzey, CU Boulder
Dianne Tramutola-Lawson, CURE
Carolyn Turner, CURE

Absent:

Doug Wilson, State Public Defender
Jeaneene Miller, Director of Parole

Issue/Topic:

Update (David Kaplan)

Review of Issues (Paul Herman)

Action:

Discussion:

Introductions and Recap (David Kaplan)

Review the List of Issues (Paul Herman)

- The Task Force generated a list of 12 issues surrounding Community Corrections and areas of concern at the last meeting. Paul ran through the issue summary sheets seeking views on which items to focus attention to create recommendations.

- **Assessment: YES**, keep in the recommendation mix. Existing structures make this a viable item.
- **Fees, Restitution, Costs: NO?** An “overarching issue” for the Oversight committee due to its attention from several task forces.
- **Community Corrections breadth: NO, for now.** Wait for the outcome of the actions by the Community Corrections Advisory Council (CCAC; as reported by Carl Blesch).
- **Staff stability/Turnover: NO, for now.** Same reason as above.
- **State expectations of Community Corrections: NO, for now.** Same reason as above.

Option: On the three items above, the Post Incarceration Task Force could offer recommendations in the form of “statements of support” for the work of the Community Corrections Advisory Council.

- **Training academy** for officers and case managers in Community Corrections, Parole, Probation, and DOC: **NO?** An “overarching issue” for the Oversight committee due to its attention from several task forces.
 - Salaries of supervision officers in Community Corrections are considerably less than Parole and Probation. They can’t be raised enough to be salient, therefore other strategies to enhance professionalism are necessary. This should at least be brought to the attention of the commission.

Discussion of per diem

- Carl offers thoughts regarding differential per diem and its effect on other Community Corrections and other systems.
- The effect of per diem should also focus on unrealized savings and not just on costs.
- Need to quantify how the per diem increase might reduce recidivism.
- Although the cost of Community Corrections and its variety of support programs is higher than a stay at DOC, there needs to be some accounting for the savings resulting from reducing recidivism.
- Not all Community Corrections services are available at all half-way houses.
- Many support programs were cut within DOC.

Issue/Topic:

Review of Issues (Paul Herman)
(cont'd)

Action:

Follow-up: Need to tease out the legislative elements from the KS justice reinvestment package.

Discussion:

Review the List of Issues (Paul Herman) (cont'd)

- **Length of stay (LOS) in Community Corrections. YES,** by offering a support recommendation for a “length of stay pilot study” being proposed by the Comm. Corr. Advisory Council.

Discussion.

- The pilot will focus on reducing the residential length of stay.
- The higher bed turnover will create more residential slots.
- At the moment, 15% of residential meet non-residential requirements (e.g., age, LSI, nonviolent, community ties).
- Greg: What if judges avoid Community Corrections sentences, if offender stay is perceived to be too short?
- Has there been an audit of Community Corrections residents to determine whether they are “misplaced?” About 3% could have been placed directly on Probation.
- Maybe LOS limits should not be the decision basis for the move from residential to non-residential, instead basing the LOS decision on LSI.
- What is the purpose of the LOS study, if there is current data to answer the question? Need additional non-residential funds to offer support services and need professional data collection.

- **Probation Eligibility. NO,** due to minimal impact. The 2-felony rule is already waived in some instances reducing the impact of recommendations in this area.

- **Alternatives/Cost savings to reduce DOC bed construction. YES,** with appropriate caveats. If a reduction in recidivism will reduce needs for DOC beds immediately and for foreseeable future, this item is viable. If recommended results will develop too slowly, then this may not stem the need for DOC beds.

Discussion.

- Will money go to Community Corrections programs for Transition and other Comm. Corr. Beds?
- Recidivism will be reduced by expanded Community Corrections offerings reducing the flow to DOC.
- Need to tease out the legislative elements from the Kansas justice reinvestment model.
- Need more Transition and Diversion beds.
- Need a different kind of Transition facility that focuses on job and career skills (e.g., in the context of a work-release facility).
- Create local/state work release partnerships and shift the funding stream.
- Mesa model. Although Mesa is not a funding model, it offers a model of partnership-building that should be emulated.

Issue/Topic:

Review of Issues (Paul Herman)
(cont'd)

Action:

Issue/Topic:
Parole (Tim Hand)

Issue/Topic:
Schedule Changes

Discussion:

Review the List of Issues (Paul Herman) (cont'd)

- **Alternatives/Cost savings to reduce DOC bed construction. (cont'd)**

Discussion. (cont'd)

- Mesa has substance abuse research that supported their decision to construct a substance abuse treatment facility rather than adding additional jail beds.
- Need data to show that DOC bed demand will actually go down as a result of the recidivism reduction ideas (Tim Hand)
- Incent local governments to serve the high risk offender to reduce the flow to DOC.
- Using the Community Corrections unit (Phase 1) at the Denver Jail location (at Smith Rd) as a model, use county lands to house state Transition offenders in residential and work release programs.

- **Referral Process. NO**, because being addressed. This issue already being addressed under proposal by DOC for a new, efficient electronic system that will free up case managers for other tasks.

Discussion of Parole Board criteria and discretion disparities.

- Kim English suggests that parole criteria be studied to make them evidence-based. It's been 15 since the criteria were established.
- The problem is not so much the criteria, but the number of offenders waiting for a "parole bed." (Greg Mauro)
- The task force needs to be "forward thinking." If the changes we are recommending occur, then there will not be a backlog of requests for Parole beds necessitating better selection criteria. (Paul Herman)
- An instrument that identifies who will be accepted into Community Corrections would be welcome by DOC (Tim Hand).

- **Gender specific assessment and treatment. NO**, need more information. Not discussed.

- **Culturally relevant treatment. NO**, need more information. Not discussed.

Presentation: Tim Hand

Tim provided a quick run-through of his PowerPoint handout of Parole case management current practice and possible gaps in relation to Evidence Based Practice. He will e-mail everyone the presentation and asks for feedback at the next meeting.

David and Germaine lead discussion about changes to the meeting schedule. An additional meeting will be added. Germaine will e-mail the details.