

Probation Task Force Minutes
May 22, 2008
CDPS Complex, 710 Kipling

Present:

Judge Gil Martinez, Chair
Mike Riede, Task Force Leader
Christine Adams, Facilitator
Germaine Miera, staff
Bill Kilpatrick, Golden Police Dept.
Steve Siegel, Victim's rights
Sherri Hufford, Probation
Ann Terry, CDPS
Charles Garcia (on the phone intermittently), Community Corrections
Mary Claire Mulligan, CCDB
Kevin McGreevy, CCDB

Absent:

Ken Plotz, Senior Judge
Tom Moore, Community Corrections
Ken Gordon, Senator

Data:

Discussion Topics:

Introductions

Task Force members introduce themselves

Overview by Chair

Chair Martinez reviews the graphic, the commission and oversight committee on re-entry

- He states we should be bold in our recommendations
- We have a report due August 20th
- The Chair states that for example, when people are convicted of drug crimes we give them lots of things they have to do and then take away their driver's license. These are the sorts of things that need to be addressed in the task force.
- The Chair talks about the Charter and explains it page-by-page
- Policy vs. Practice. The Chair points out that we have policies and we have regulations in Colorado for probation, but he says the group also needs to be mindful that that can be different from actual practice
- We have 7 meetings to accomplish our goals, we need to be here, work hard and do the homework

- The Chair discusses the probation matrix and evidence based practice and how we can use the matrix to accomplish some of our goals.
- Chrissy states she will send Tab 9 (Evidence Based practice) summary to the task force members.

Concerns

Kevin asks if we worry that there is a discrepancy between legislation, practice and policy. And how do we deal with this when it varies district to district and rural to urban.

A membership issue is brought up regarding the fact that there is no prosecuting attorney on the task force. Steve Siegel responds that there are four reps from the DA's office on the commission and he and Ann Terry both have enough background.

The question is raised whether we have a rep from the drug and alcohol field, restorative justice, domestic violence? A response is made that maybe we should have these special areas covered by guest lecturers rather than permanent members.

Open discussion on Current Issues

Structure. The Chair says we will be looking more at structure in this task force rather than programming.

Case Load. Steve Siegel asks - Is there a standard in the state on how many probationers are on a case load?

Sherry answers with the fact that probationers are rated low, medium, high and the caseload reflects how many of each category the probation officer is supervising.

Regi added that her understanding is that while the caseloads are determined by weighted values it doesn't take into account mental health issues and females (both groups are more time consuming). There's LSI risk but not broken out by mh and female and no way to account for that.

The comment is made to not look at what we are or aren't doing currently but instead to look at best practice as far as caseload disbursement.

Absconders. Mike - What's killing our success rate is absconders, rate statewide is 22%. Do we need a fugitive unit?

Sentencing and Legislation. Mary Clare, should we look at sentencing?

Regi said let's identify the specific issues, current issues that should be raised. Maybe make as a recommendation that should go forward legislatively.

The Chair asks - what about legislative roadblocks in regard to sentencing?

Kevin asks - Can we do something around earned time for P.O.'s? Can't we propose legislation for good time?

Educate Judges. Mary Clare asks -Maybe we need to educate judges about the appropriate time someone should be sentenced to probation.

Regi says there's a model out of Kentucky? Instead of revoking and re-granting probation maybe we need to set up a special unit to manage tv's.

The question is raised "Do judges follow PO's recommendations?"

Gil - How do you educate judges and get buy-offs, we have to have judge buy-in on this stuff, on early termination.

Terms and Conditions/Risk & Need. Bill Kilpatrick raises the question of terms and conditions and why we even bother if probationers don't follow through.

Regi responds – we need to do a better job of matching risks and needs. We need to match criminogenic risk to need. She also says it's critical for officers to not only be trained in motivational interviewing but to also PRACTICE it.

The chair comments that people will backslide, drug and alcohol people backslide. Do we revoke for a bad UA or try to get back on track?

A concern is also raised that we need to look at resource problem in rural areas as well

Second chances. Bill Kilpatrick asks why do we give people breaks and breaks and breaks.

C&R's vary from probation officer to officer.

Mike says we need to hire people that care and are not on a power trip.

Employment. How does employment fit into scheduling, if probation office is open 9-5 how can a working probationer get fulfill that requirement?

Mentally Ill. Sherry raises the issue of - Housing and medication for mentally ill

Steve Siegel has concerns around - Mental Health, PO Training, Probation and Restitution and Housing

Ann Terry - let's talk about mentally ill in the criminal justice system task force

What about medication? Jefferson County jail will fill prescriptions for 30 days for inmates? rumor? MACC, metro area county commissioners have created intercept models across every district.

Internal Auditing. The issue is raised that we need internal auditing. Mike Reide responds that we have no funds for it.

Change Behavior. The question is raised on how we illicit and build intrinsic motivation for change.

Regi answers that motivational interviewing helps the offender to own responsibility for what they have to do. Works well with highly resistive people

Minority Over-representation. Minority over-representation - success vs. unsuccess What about issues of immigration, etc? how do you sentence them? complex mess.

Regi asks if we should we send a questionnaire to probation officers on what does and doesn't work, what are their priority areas.

Written on the White Board

Programs vs. Structure

Case Management Load

- Length of time on prob.

- CM of unique needs

Absonders

Response to Prob. Violations - consistency

Incentives for positive behaviour - early term (good/earned time)

Resources

- rural areas included

- getting/keeping job

- housing

Training of prob. officers

- making sure they use it (internal/formal audit)

- mid managers

- motivational interviewing

Legislative Roadblocks for sentencing

- collaboration between jail/prob

Mentally Ill - see SB 6 and 7

Probation and Restitution

Educate the Judges, need for buy in

Minority Over rep.

Illegals (ICE)

Females

Practices by jurisdiction

Alternative sentences - Restorative Justice

Questionnaire to P.O.'s

Who our clients are

Who our PO's are

The probation process

Legislative roadblocks to judges

Legislation:

Next Agenda:

Miscellaneous:

Suggestion for future guest speaker-

Cheryl Frennett, Denver probation, mental health unit.