

**Re-entry Task Force**  
**Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice**  
**Minutes**

July 6, 2016, 1:30PM-4:30PM  
700 Kipling, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference room

**ATTENDEES:**

**CHAIR**

Stan Hilkey, Dept. of Public Safety

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

Tom Giacinti, Representing Community Corrections

Mark Evans, Public Defender's Office

Monica Chambers, Department of Corrections (phone)

Sherri Hufford, Division of Probation Services

Jennifer Bradford, Metro State University of Denver

Hassan Latif, Second Chance Center (phone)

Anne Carter, Parole Board

Jessica Jones, Criminal Defense Attorney

Gary Darling, Larimer County Criminal Justice Services

Rick Raemisch, Dept. of Corrections

Christie Donner, Colo. Criminal Justice Reform Coalition

Beth McCann, State Representative

Dave Young, District Attorney 17<sup>th</sup> JD (phone)

Regi Huerter, Denver Crime Prevention and Control Commission

**STAFF**

Richard Stroker/CCJJ consultant

Kim English/Division of Criminal Justice

Germaine Miera/Division of Criminal Justice

**ABSENT**

Adrienne Russman, Governor's Office

Rose Rodriguez, Community Corrections

Alfredo Pena, Parole Board

Pat Steadman, State Senator

<p><b>Issue/Topic:</b> Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p><b>Discussion:</b> Stan Hilkey welcomed the task force members and reviewed the agenda. He asked everyone in attendance (both in person and on the phone) to introduce themselves. Stan also introduced Richard Stroker, the new Commission consultant and provided background on Richard’s extensive criminal justice expertise.</p>
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<p><b>Issue/Topic:</b> Other Groups Working on Housing</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion:</b> Stan introduced Kathy McGuire from the Mentally Ill in the Criminal Justice System (MICJS) Advisory Task Force. He explained that she was going to provide information on efforts by the MICJS regarding housing issues and added that it’s important for the Re-entry Task Force to be aware of other ongoing efforts in other organizations to address the housing crisis for people re-entering the system.</p> <p><i>DISCUSSION</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kathy shared that she was a public defender for 19 years and is the alternate defense council representative on the MICJS task force.</li> <li>• The MICJS has member representation by all state agencies that ‘touch’ an offender including Probation, Judicial, the Public Defender’s office and the District Attorney’s Council. There are numerous other stakeholder representatives as well.</li> <li>• The MICJS task force charge is defined in statute.</li> <li>• Housing is a gigantic issue for all stakeholders but nobody has been able to tackle it, mostly because the problem is so big.</li> <li>• There’s not enough supportive housing and stable housing is the biggest problem.</li> <li>• The MICJS task force met last week to map out the issues and determine how best to proceed.</li> <li>• Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo (CMHIP) vouchers are tied to the individual rather than program. It’s a good means of helping a person get wraparound services and to get housing needs met when they come out CMHIP.</li> <li>• People coming out of jails and prisons have different programs.</li> <li>• MICJS would like to see the same model used for people coming out of CMHIP used in the jails and prisons.</li> <li>• When it comes to HUD vouchers, veterans and the mentally ill have mostly been the recipients of vouchers, while the justice system folks have fallen by the wayside.</li> <li>• Rick Raemisch mentioned that another private organization, the Equitas Foundation, is holding a summit at the end of August called the Colorado Summit on Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice, which will be looking at housing along with other criminal justice issues.</li> <li>• Equitas is interested in brining stakeholders together to try to come up with a statewide pilot program aimed at diverting people with mental health issues from the criminal justice system. They’re end goal is to</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Issue/Topic:</b></p> <p>Other Groups Working on Housing</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p>	<p>create a statewide success story and take it nationally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stan asked Kathy what the process would be to replicate the voucher system for justice involved people, and if MICJS has done work on capacity? Kathy replied that the MICJS has generated a to-do list with a capacity study and that the goal is to present a white paper to the legislative oversight committee.</li> <li>• At some point there will need to be some de-confliction because there's a lot of overlap in the housing arena.</li> <li>• Kathy finished by saying that Peggy Heil from the Division of Criminal Justice is also on the MICJS Task Force, and that she can keep the Reentry Task Force updated on the work of the MICJS Task Force.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Issue/Topic:</b></p> <p>Report Backs</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>Melissa Roberts offered a report back to the group on the Corporation for Supportive Housing Summit in Chicago last month</p> <p><i>DISCUSSION POINTS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melissa noted there were many workshops offered through the week on issues ranging from eviction prevention to structuring positive relationships between probation, parole and landlords.</li> <li>• There were discussions around a Pay for Success model.</li> <li>• There were also discussions on how to leverage Medicaid funds for supportive housing services.</li> <li>• Workshops included discussions on the importance of involving the people serviced by supportive housing in decision making.</li> <li>• HUD regulations don't allow for discrimination due to someone's criminal record, unless someone is a lifetime registered sex offender or was involved in meth production IN a public housing unit. Those are the only two allowed restrictions.</li> <li>• There are some problems with HUD's definition of homeless because if someone is in jail that's considered 'stable housing'. Therefore when someone comes out of jail they're not eligible for housing vouchers.</li> <li>• Melissa noted that nobody from DOLA was able to attend the summit since they are currently short staffed.</li> <li>• She also added that the CCJJ is pulling together a housing panel presentation for either its August or September meeting and that two of the women from CSH (Annie Bacci and Katie Bonamasso) will be able to present to the Commission.</li> <li>• Housing issues regarding people re-entering the system are problematic in many states. In Oregon when someone releases homeless they get a tent, here in Colorado a homeless person leaving prison is given a back pack.</li> <li>• DOC is currently looking at properties that might be attainable for the development of alternative housing structures. DOC is also working on doing a better job developing relationships with landlords</li> <li>• Sherri shared that probation officers have reported that even people</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Issue/Topic:</b></p> <p>Report Backs</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p>	<p>with misdemeanors on their record are getting screened out for housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rick added that the housing crisis is a problem for everyone and that even correctional officers are commuting far distances because of the lack of housing.</li> <li>• Melissa reported back on the Department of Correction’s Housing initiatives.</li> <li>• There’s a new unit in parole called the Housing and Stabilization Unit.</li> <li>• One of the efforts of this unit is around blending parole operations with the reentry center. Already a team of 9 people have been moved over to Broadway reentry center.</li> <li>• The unit will focus on the chronically homeless and high risk/high needs individuals. As of July 1<sup>st</sup> all of these cases have been transferred.</li> <li>• DOC is also working on updating the case management system with homeless tracking and by the middle of this month (July) DOC programming will be ready to track homeless on CWISE.</li> <li>• Under the new system DOC will be able to track parolees living on the streets, those receiving hotel vouchers, those in transitional housing and supportive housing along with people living in shelters or with family and friends. The new system will be able to track all these nuisances.</li> <li>• The system will be able to track people coming out of the system and people currently on parole; the biggest focus is in the Denver metro area currently.</li> <li>• Colorado Springs and Pueblo are going to need some help with housing soon too.</li> <li>• The geography of the Western Slope makes it tricky to organize and coordinate housing assistance.</li> <li>• There’s capacity to house people on the western slope, there’s more housing stock, but the referral and connecting the dots is more difficult.</li> <li>• The data is currently unavailable to determine if someone paroling homeless has a higher recidivism rate. It makes sense to assume this, but the data isn’t available yet. It will be soon.</li> <li>• Melissa added that hopefully a better trained work force can help address issues homeless and housing issues in different ways.</li> <li>• There are still issues around the parole board releasing people ‘homeless’ or with no housing plan. There are also issues where someone may have a housing option, but if it’s not approved then they can’t take advantage of the plan.</li> <li>• The problem of people being released without a parole plan is being looked into.</li> <li>• There’s a new DOC Administrative Regulation where the parole officer in the facility will take the primary lead on investigating the plan, rather than the officer who receives the person when they’re released.</li> <li>• DOC is also working on better communication around the parole plan with family or friends and other relatives.</li> <li>• Melissa reported out on the state collaboration between DOC, DOLA and the Governor’s Office to address reentry housing issues.</li> <li>• Jenn Lopez is the Governor’s Homeless Initiatives Director and up until now her primary focus has been on veterans. However, she’s now shifting into work on justice involved individuals as well.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Issue/Topic:</b></p> <p>Report Backs</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a cabinet level meeting recently with the Governor’s Office, DOC, DOLA and DHS to discuss how to work on housing together. This group is looking at state property and buildings on state campuses that may be available.</li> <li>• The group is creating an inventory of homeless releases and compiling a spreadsheet to see where there might be the biggest bang for the buck on different housing paths.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Issue/Topic:</b></p> <p>County Housing Initiatives</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>Gary Darling, the Director of Criminal Justice Services in Larimer County provided a report on some of the collaborative housing efforts taking place in Larimer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gary explained that Larimer County is working in a variety of areas to address housing issues for the homeless and for people reentering the community.</li> <li>• The Housing Authority in Larimer is actually providing presentations to other housing authorities in Colorado about how to be less restrictive.</li> <li>• Larimer is working with CSU and 22 other local stakeholder organizations on a mental health and substance abuse partnership working to identify issues and enhance services in Larimer County.</li> <li>• Larimer provides CIT training to all its officers and there’s another program called Partners for Alternatives to Incarceration for Individuals with Mental Health Needs (AIIM).</li> <li>• The DUI Court and Wellness Court partners with Probation, Judicial, Mental Health Providers, Housing Authority, Community Corrections and Alternative Sentencing.</li> <li>• AIIM is a diversion program that includes a wellness court and a co-occurring court, and it serves 70 people altogether.</li> <li>• In Larimer everyone is working together to try to find solutions.</li> <li>• The Larimer Co. Housing Authority has worked with a lot of these programs and created a lot of trust.</li> <li>• Homeward 2020 partners with the housing authority and is working toward a goal of ending homelessness by 2020.</li> <li>• The first large supportive housing project in Larimer opened a year and a half ago and features 60 apartments, mostly for vets.</li> <li>• The managers of the program were having quite a few problems with people not getting mental health services.</li> <li>• After finding that those who were involved in the criminal justice system were easier to deal with than those that were not, FCHA started to work with Larimer County Criminal Justice Services.</li> <li>• Staff working in the AIIM and Wellness Court Programs would work more closely with individuals than any other organization would.</li> <li>• The partnership has been a benefit to the FCHA and to Criminal Justice Mental Health programs.</li> <li>• Nobody has been revoked from a single occupancy unit so far.</li> <li>• It’s been a team effort with the Housing Authority, Probation, Courts,</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Issue/Topic:</b></p> <p>County Housing Initiatives</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p>	<p>and the Public Defender.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Housing Authority has stated they have not seen any noticeable changes in tenant profiles, problems, eviction rates, etc. when they relaxed their requirements for allowing individuals in the CJ system to participate in housing programs.</li> <li>• The LCHA won't eliminate someone with a CJ record and they strive to work under HUD regulations.</li> <li>• The National Association of Counties has told member counties they can't wait for the Feds and the State and that they need to do something on their own to address housing issues.</li> <li>• With that in mind Larimer worked with the LCHA on a housing partnership to create a strategic plan for a housing facility.</li> <li>• Approval for this facility will be on the upcoming ballot.</li> <li>• A similar ballot initiative failed in 2008 and 2012, but early polling shows 65% of people currently approve this new ballot initiative.</li> <li>• A citizen committee is taking over with campaigning now and they're getting good press. Laurie Stolen is heading up this objective.</li> <li>• The ballot initiative would result in a .25% sales tax.</li> <li>• Larimer is also just getting started on a pay for success grant.</li> <li>• This would result in a 60 bed supportive housing unit – the county will build the building, and then put out an RFP for operations of the facility. It will include medically assisted detox and money is in the budget to also assist with people's copays.</li> <li>• What Larimer is really trying to do is address these issues more at the front end rather than playing catch up at the end.</li> <li>• 26% of people in the jail are homeless, which is twice as many as 2012.</li> <li>• Larimer has hired three people to work in the jail, community corrections and community mental health to sign people up for Medicaid.</li> <li>• It's a great example of a local community taking this challenge into their own hands.</li> </ul> <p>Regi Huerter of the Denver Crime Prevention and Control Commission reported on some of the collaborative efforts taking place in Denver.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regi noted that simply due to its size, location and population, housing and other criminal justice issues in Denver are magnified.</li> <li>• Denver is currently really looking implementing changes at the pretrial stage.</li> <li>• The Denver jail data system overlays CPAT scores to see what different populations look like.</li> <li>• Denver is continuing to data collection issues with pretrial and pretrial services.</li> <li>• At the front end of the system, six mental health clinicians and substance abuse workers (co-responders) are currently rolling with cops on the street.</li> <li>• Crisis Services Denver has a walk in facility.</li> <li>• Denver has no ATU (Acute treatment unit) beds, so Denver is creating its own facility which will have 16 beds and is working on creating another 32 beds for the homeless.</li> <li>• With an ATU bed there is capacity to do lockdowns.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Issue/Topic:</b></p> <p>County Housing Initiatives</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The co-responders working with police are helping redirect people to walk-in centers or surrounding beds.</li> <li>• Social impact bonds (SIB) started in February in Denver.</li> <li>• SIB will have 250 beds total and will hopefully be housed by this time next year.</li> <li>• The hope is to be able to pay out 13 million dollars that Denver has set aside for this purpose.</li> <li>• Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and Mental Health Center Denver are the two vendors.</li> <li>• CCH has North Point on Colorado Blvd.</li> <li>• They also recently broke ground on Sanders location on south Federal.</li> <li>• Unfortunately NIMBY (Not in My Back Yard) is alive and well in Denver with a multitude of zoning restrictions.</li> <li>• There’s also a Day Reporting Program at a sober gym in Denver. In the mornings it is set up for probation and parole. There are 30-50 people there per day, people come in and do yoga, there’s trauma care and substance abuse care. This is matched with MHCD.</li> <li>• Medicaid enrollment assistance has been going on since 2014. Specialists are there every day. There’s a constant juggling act to turn Medicaid off and on. People are not considered ‘in custody’ if they’re in the hospital.</li> <li>• Denver jail offers a 30 day supply of medications upon release; they’ve been doing that for about 10 years now.</li> <li>• It’s the only jail in the state that continues with heroin treatment in the jail so people don’t get really sick and really expensive.</li> <li>• Denver has sobriety court and drug court, and at the lower end there is court to community and recovery court. Denver combined the two to be a wellness/behavioral health court. It’s tied into paying for housing and it’s very expensive (beds are about \$900/month for a single).</li> <li>• Denver is starting a homeless court.</li> <li>• The Denver Housing Authority is pretty good with following HUD restrictions.</li> <li>• Working on medication consistency across the system. Working with DOC and the hospitals on a statewide formulary. Working with state purchasing for people to buy in at the endcap level.</li> <li>• CCJJ could help run legislation around medication consistency. It would be similar to what DOC has now. If someone is on medication at DOC and then comes to jail, the jail needs to continue the medication. Not to force meds but to have a consistent formulary. It would be a continuation of meds at a 30% lower price.</li> <li>• Stan said he believes they can build a medication data sharing system. The CIJS Board is discussing this but the last meeting didn’t go too well.</li> <li>• There can be issues with the medical side vs. the criminal justice side.</li> <li>• Stan noted the mechanics of <u>building</u> the system for medication sharing is possible, it’s the buy in that causes the problems.</li> <li>• For example, the CIJS Board requires 100% unanimity on all agreements to add a new function.</li> <li>• Another issue is around how to inspire landlords to take on folks with a criminal history. Incentives around landlords.</li> <li>• On the parole side, it would help to get transition plans in place BEFORE</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Issue/Topic:</b></p> <p>County Housing Initiatives</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p>	<p>someone comes out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are issues at homeless shelters too. When someone is staying at Samaritan House and gets paid in cash they will get robbed. It's hard for offenders to get bank accounts but without an account they're easily victimized.</li> <li>• It would help to have basic papers for people like their birth certificates, etc.</li> <li>• What about tiny houses for offenders?</li> <li>• Regi noted that the Delancey Street Housing Model in San Francisco would be a great model to replicate and should be looked at.</li> <li>• Regi added that another recommendation that could really work for the CCJJ would be around CBI information.</li> <li>• People who look up information at CBI get voluminous reports and they don't know how to read them and they freak out about what looks like a ton of history.</li> <li>• It would be beneficial to revise the CBI report and supply landlords and employers a summary page that is simple and straight forward.</li> <li>• AS far as accessibility to vouchers, DOC could buy a floor of a hotel, turn one of the rooms into a kitchenette, and then a HUD voucher could be used for that facility.</li> <li>• Another place the CCJJ could make a recommendation is around shared living arrangement with sex offenders.</li> <li>• There's also an ongoing issue of making sure ex-offenders have an ID.</li> <li>• The Denver jail provides released folks with an ID. It's not a state id but they worked with shelters to accept it as an ID. People can't use homeless shelters unless they have an ID.</li> <li>• It's easier to get a passport than a Colorado ID.</li> <li>• All Denver PD are CIT trained.</li> <li>• Denver recently received 3.4 million in housing assistance and is working on a work plan next steps.</li> <li>• Stan said he agrees with Regi that the group needs to start to try to figure out how to form a recommendation specific to CCJJ.</li> <li>• Historically, CCJJ has worked on policy and legislative recommendations, and needs to determine what to do with housing.</li> <li>• Stan noted that two things jumped out for him today. One is around local housing authorities and whether they're being more restrictive than HUD, and can that be fixed legislatively. And two, retooling the CBI product that's produced when someone runs a criminal history. Figuring out a way to create a summary report.</li> <li>• Regi noted that to piggy-back on that – there could also be a recommendation about who should be asking, something similar to HIPAA restrictions. The CBI report recommendation should not just be about how the information is summarized but also who has access and how to get that.</li> </ul>
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Issue/Topic:	Discussion:
<p>Work Plan / Next Steps</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p>	<p>Richard thanked everyone for their presentations.</p> <p>He then asked the group to work through an exercise of identifying four major categories of issues as follows: major lessons learned, significant problems relevant for the task force to pursue (CBI reports, housing authorities, etc.), possible focus for the task force and identification of the process to move forward. Richard gathered feedback from the group as outlined below:</p> <p><b><u>Major Lessons Learned</u></b></p> <p>Richard asked what everyone has learned about housing that has to do with offender reentry in general.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-There's a lot we don't know</li> <li>-Absence of data for key elements</li> <li>-Numerous initiatives already ongoing</li> <li>-Capacity is an issue</li> <li>-Lack of political will to focus on justice involved people/restrictive</li> <li>-Localized vs. globalized model: pockets that work locally in jurisdictions, but what would work across the board</li> <li>-Confusion around terminology/definitions (HUD, state housing, vouchers, etc.</li> <li>-Housing issues touch many 'types' of people, those with mental health issues, behavioral health, veterans, substance abuse. What's our connection to that bigger wheel</li> <li>-struggle understanding the correct housing match to various offender populations</li> <li>-housing dollars attached to someone's status in CJ system and funding, so once somebody is off paper do they fall off the cliff? Funding silos, building infrastructure in the cj system but what is the sustainability afterwards. Continuity of care. Difficult to leverage other funding.</li> <li>-Solutions exist – it's going to take resources</li> <li>-Scalability problem</li> <li>-'Over conditioning' people</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Significant Problems Relevant for this Task Force</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Structural barriers → affordability. Is there a constitution around rent control? Significant gap between cost of living and wages. Not affordable.</li> <li>-Employment</li> <li>-Capacity</li> <li>-Criminal record, CBI</li> <li>-Resources, money, flexibility / funding silos and no flexibility</li> <li>-Barriers (NIMBY, etc.) Need collaboration and community education</li> <li>-Local housing authorities more restrictive than HUD</li> <li>-Disregarding community input</li> <li>-Lack of data, what are offenders needs / sometimes it's a choice</li> <li>-Community corrections options</li> <li>-Portability of solutions, pockets of excellence at local levels (can Larimer be packaged and transported, can it be replicated)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Issue/Topic:</b></p> <p>Work Plan / Next Steps</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p>	<p>-Employment is a big part of housing</p> <p><b>Possible Focus for the Task Force</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Local housing authority restrictions and HUD, local ordinances</li> <li>-Analysis of other groups and their legislative ideas plus policy partnering (CCJJ could offer to be the point on the legislative piece to move initiatives forward).</li> <li>-Partnership: How can CCJJ help with legislative barriers / network with other groups on already ongoing issues</li> <li>-identify reforms that can save money and identify where that money can go (cost avoidance/justice reinvestment)</li> <li>-Focus on Parole population first? (if 150 release homeless per month_</li> <li>-Jail/reentry</li> </ul> <p>**At this point in the meeting the group ran out of time and task force members started to disperse. It was agreed that this discussion would carry forward to the next meeting and the group would start here next time.</p>
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<p><b>Issue/Topic:</b></p> <p>Adjourn</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm. The group agreed to finish this discussion at the next meeting.</p>
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**Next Meeting**

August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016      1:30pm – 4:30pm      700 Kipling, 4<sup>th</sup> floor training room