



COLORADO

Overview: Community Corrections

August 9, 2022

Presentation to the Sentence Progression Working Group
of the Sentencing Reform Task Force
of the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice



COLORADO
Department of Public Safety

PURPOSES AND GOALS RE: TRANSITION PLACEMENTS

- Reduce risk
 - treatment services
 - programming
 - cognitive behavioral interventions
 - skill development
 - social support
- Improve protective factors
 - employment
 - financial stability
 - housing resources
- Provide reentry services
 - in-house
 - community partnerships

Referrals to Comm Corr are statutorily time-driven:

- 19 months (9 for violent) to PED for referral
- 16 months (6 for violent) to PED for placement
- Regardless of Case Manager recommendation

WHOM SHOULD WE SERVE?

- Great opportunity to support higher risk clients
- *And* should be a fair opportunity for all clients regardless of risk level
 - eligibility = time-based
 - lower risk = in DOC longer to be eligible for ISP-I or Parole
 - lower risk could benefit from CC with more focus on stabilization/reentry
- Movement through CC via Progression Matrix and level system is designed to be individualized for clients' risk and needs.
 - However, potentially a lower risk client could complete the program more quickly and not yet be eligible for ISP-I

FY22 DOCT Data

Risk Levels

6% Low
 37% Medium
 34% High
 22% Very High

Avg LSI (successful)

Intake: 27

*Final: 22

* every 6 months, not all successful clients
 stay 6 months

Terminations

59% successful
 9% tech violation
 18% escape

Avg LoS successful

231 days/7.5 months

WHO IS NOT APPROPRIATE?

- There is not a certain type of felony offender who is not appropriate for CC
- It is a challenge for some programs to accommodate high medical needs or have other barriers to access necessary community resources or transportation
 - CC does not have on-site medical staff
 - Programs do their best in these situations, but there may be better options
- We hear it can be a challenge
 - a Diversion client is regressed to DOC
 - it's a quick turnaround as a DOCT referral (meets eligibility)
 - the jurisdiction may not be ready to take the client back so soon

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE TIMING OF TRANSITION PLACEMENTS

- Time frames for intended to align as a client transitions through levels of supervision: CC, ISP-I and/or Parole
 - ISP-I: 6 months to PED
 - Parole: PED > and successful completion of CC (per HB 18-1251)
- Timing can be a challenge if a client completes CC and is not eligible for ISP-I
 - frequency unknown
- Clients can waive referral to CC - possible reasons?
 - lack of knowledge/understanding about CC
 - personal or secondhand negative experience of CC
 - take a chance at Parole
 - possible option
 - waive placement (upon acceptance) vs referral
 - may be less likely to waive if the opportunity is real

IDEAS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Quick turnaround of referrals of Diversion regressions and short DOC sentences
- Challenge for programs to support clients with special needs
- Allow waivers after acceptance to CC vs before referral

PRESENT AND FUTURE

- HB 18-1251 impacts
 - requires boards to use structured decision-making in screening
 - requires CM to make a recommendation
 - requires training of DOC staff and boards
- DOC in-reaches
- Performance-based contracting: incentivize quality programming and public safety



COLORADO

thank you

Chrystal Owin
chrystal.owin@state.co.us

Presented to the Sentence Progression Working Group of the Sentencing Reform Task Force, 8/9/2022
Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice



COLORADO
Department of Public Safety