

Transition Task Force

Date: February 10, 2009, 3:30pm-5:30pm

Attendees:

Regis Groff, Retired Senator (Chair)
Louise Borris, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (Task Force Leader)
Don Quick, DA for 17th Judicial District
Carol Peeples, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
Brian Holsen, Intervention Community Corrections Services
Charlie Smith, Colorado Department of Human Services
Traci Garrett, University of Colorado
Stacey Kirk, Judicial
Dean Condor, Juvenile Parole Board Chair
Doyle Forrestal, Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council
Greg Mauro, Denver Community Corrections
Sean McDermot, Colorado Criminal Defense Bar
Lou Archuleta, Department of Corrections
Bridget Klauber, Defense Attorney
Paul Herman, The Center for Effective Public Policy
Christine Adams, Division of Criminal Justice
Germaine Miera, Division of Criminal Justice

Absent:

Regi Heurter, Denver County Director of Public Safety
Keith Penry, Douglas County Sherriff
Brian Gomez, Department of Corrections

Issue/Topic:

Welcome and Sub-Group Updates

Action:**Discussion:**BP-44/Assessments

Greg Mauro/Community Corrections:

- This group hasn't sat down together but instead individually wrote down what is involved in the assessment process.
 - LSI
 - ASUS
 - SSI
 - Treatment Worksheet
- In theory these items should drive the case plan
 - Official standards state that community corrections facilities have to reassess the offenders.
- Historically there were attempts to use Kim English's assessment for parole (the CARAS) but it never took hold.
- There are differences amongst the jurisdictions, but sometimes more is not better as far as how it is decided what assessments are used.
- Boards have not fully grasped the use of risk assessments, but instead it is the local control that decides what is necessary.
 - They are not really looking at what might be best for the individual.
 - Maybe if it were tied to money the assessments would be more attractive.
 - It might be a cultural issue – keeping them inside instead of treating the problem.

Carol Peebles & Lou Archuleta/Institutions:

- Carol met with a parole board member to see what it is they're doing (see more below).
- One of the concerns DOC has with the CARAS is that it's tied to the LSI.
 - Need to figure out how to best approach this.
 - To DOC, doing this every 6 months makes no sense.
 - Need to figure out best times to do this.
 - If we could tie the LSI to the needs assessments then there would be more cooperation.
 - Because everyone in DOC understands needs scores.
 - Everything takes money → we are losing ~200 female beds, ~192 male beds.
- DOC assessments:
 - PAS assessment
 - LSI → but these two things don't always match
 - Trying to figure out the best way to handle and approach this.
- Updated scores/assessments are happening before someone leaves.
 - But medical/mental health doesn't necessarily tie to other things.
- Idea from DOC → find a way to use one document that ties all of the scores/tests/assessments together.
 - DOC has to accept something conducted within 6 months, so Comm. Corr. Should be required to accept the same.
 - If the case plan followed these assessments it would have more value.
- DOC staff are being forced to use something that they don't understand the purpose of (the LSI).
 - It was designed for case management on the outside.
 - But reentry back into the community is relevant to public safety – but the cultural difference is that many DOC staff believes public safety means keeping them behind the fence.
 - How do you change a culture? They may not want to read a report on the benefit of the LSI, but might be interested if it could reduce their workload.
 - Educate on why we do what we do. Use it to help reduce workload.

Issue/Topic:

Sub-Group Updates, cont.

Action:

Discussion:

- We have built our systems to be separate – the LSI could be the thread between the different systems if we use it correctly.
- Also, there is evidence that behavior can be improved within the DOC if criminogenic needs are focused on.

Stacey Kirk/Judicial (from IT for State Judicial)

- LSI and Mittimus are transferred electronically
 - Includes whether or not the information was collected pre-trial.
 - PSI's are only on paper. But judicial WANTS to put them (and other paper only documents) in program called "file bound" to share and store this information.
 - This program is running in Weld County now, Jeffco looking to do this with PSIs.
 - The problem is that we don't want people without the proper authority to be able to view.

Don Quick/Juvenile

- Juvenile system – see flow chart (see attached)
- Interested in system continuity across jurisdictions.
 - Juvenile system has really standardized processes and uses the same documents across jurisdictions.
 - But if a person is transferred to the adult system, this info may not follow them.
 - YOS is not included in flow chart because it is the juvenile program within the adult system.
- A major gap exists in jurisdictions that don't have assessment centers.
 - Not sure when information is being entered.
 - SB 94 has helped but rural districts are not meeting as often because they are physically spread out wider.

Carol Peeples/Parole board

- There is a necessity for more paperwork → case managers not getting all of the information that they need.
 - Want people to sign off, for parole board to know what they did.
 - More than just "were they there" but "did they participate? "
 - Request for parole board feedback loop – did the person feel heard?
 - Request for information on the person that would travel from facility to facility.

Issue/Topic:

Sub-Group Updates, cont.

Action:

A strategy needs to be developed to get some “on-the-ground” people together to tell us what’s happening and what needs to happen.

Discussion:

BP-48/Transportation/drop off

Lou Archuleta:

- An average of 8 offenders are being released at DRDC every day. This equals approximately 160/month
- The majority of releases are from state institutions – although DOC does run Buena Vista and Territorial as well.
- DOC drives them up to Denver and drops them off at bus stop in front of Denver County jail.
 - They get 7 bus tokens which are meant to get them to their parole office.
 - The parole office is on 10th and Lincoln.
 - They are released at Smith Rd. instead of directly at the parole office in an attempt to avoid a public misperception. It is acknowledged that Smith Rd. is distant from where they need to get.
- DOC will let families send clothes to the inmates so they don’t have to walk out in prison garb.
- Question: If they’re all supposed to report to the parole office, why not drop them off at the office?
 - Too many offices
 - Public safety is concern. → When people are dropped off others are picked up to take back to DOC. They don’t want to run the bus all over town because it’s a liability concern.
- Question: Why not have a centralized drop off with info on how to get to their next stop? What’s the point in dropping at the diagnostic center if they don’t need to be there?
- A strategy needs to be developed to get some “on-the-ground” people together to tell us what’s happening and what needs to happen.

Issue/Topic:

Sub-Group Updates, cont.

Action:

Discussion:

Social Supports – Doyle Forrestal

- With the individuals in this group what types of pro-social supports people may need.
 - Haven't met as a group, but Doyle has met with people from this group and has done some recruiting from MH organizations.
- Ideas from this group were compared (e.g., mentoring programs, recreation centers) to evidence based research in CCJJ report.
- To have one coordinating entity in community to know what's available and where to go would be beneficial.
- Doyle needs ideas on what types of things they're looking at:
 - Request for money to look at mapping: Compare return maps and resource maps
 - DOC has FORGES, but it's fallen behind.
 - DOC has thousands of volunteers that come into the facilities – Could develop a program to provide this information through volunteers.
 - But offenders can't contact the volunteers once they're out.
 - It was also suggested that there should be someone who reports directly to the governor about system coordination (FTE – obviously not this year).
- Other people to include:
 - Reach out to DOC's reentry person – Carl Wotois
 - He believes we should be reaching out to the community to help with this process.

Issue/Topic:

Sub-Group Updates, cont.

Action:

Discussion:

Employment – BP52 used as frame – (see attachment)

- Met individually
- They are working on focusing questions
- Will try to have report back to group in March or April – hopefully with recommendations.
- They are focusing on DOC, but will also look into all of the areas where employment might be an issue.

Issue/Topic:

Critical Issues Discussion for Oversight Committee on Re-entry

From the lens of transition, what are the most critical issues/problems to address regarding Minority Over-Representation, Gender and Data issues?

Action:

Discussion:

- Minority over representation
 1. Lack of access – minorities don't have tools for access to what they need when they get out (includes knowledge)
 2. Environment → going back to same peer group or place without a way to get out and stay out. (people and places)
 3. Lack of social support
 4. Gang culture
 5. Underrepresentation of minorities in providers
 6. Culturally appropriate treatment and services
 7. Getting funding to community organizations
 8. Education gap/drop-out rate

- Data
 1. Information sharing
 2. Using the same language
 3. Using the same documents
 4. Common ID
 5. Relevant data for service allocation – tie data to plan/response
 6. Data reporting and feedback – quality assurance and outcome
 - To make course decisions and changes.
 7. Inter-rater reliability

- Gender
 1. Single mother households
 2. Family reunification
 3. Parenting skills
 4. People and places – going back to the same places/people
 5. Going back to the abusive spouse/victim.
 6. Child care
 7. Job skills
 8. Lack of strong social support systems
 9. Lack of MH services for women – needs are higher for women

- Behavioral Health → will be covered in depth at March CCJJ meeting.