

Presentation to Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

The Context of Evidence Based Practice in our Criminal Justice System

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Comments are solely those of the author

Themes for today

- Our diverse goals impede overall policy
- We must improve return on investment
- What we measure should link to our goals
- The gaps in our continuum of supervision & treatment must be filled
- We ***can*** focus policy, improve ROI and improve results

The Goals of Justice

GOAL	MEASURE
Rehabilitate	 abuse, recidivism  pro-social attitudes
Incapacitation	Incarceration, LOS, Technology
Retribution	Incarceration, LOS, Technology, Fines
Deterrence	 recidivism (individual)  crime (general)
Restore victim, repair harm to community	Restitution, satisfaction with process & outcome

Public dissatisfaction

- Gallup polls consistently find that the public has less confidence in the CJS than other institutions (schools, medicine, etc)
- In the CJS, corrections and courts fall behind police in public confidence
- Procedural justice – how the public perceives they are treated – is what controls trust levels
- The public wants major change in how the justice system works, with more treatment and a greater role for victims and community

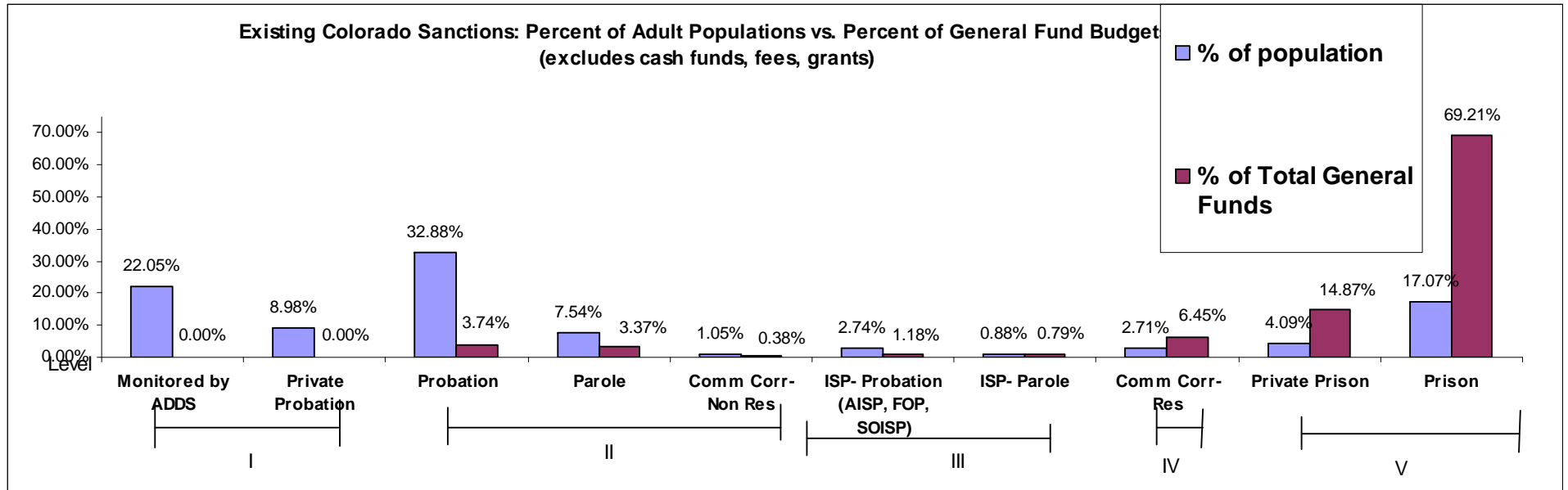
Needs/Wants of Victims

- **Acknowledgement** To have people recognize how much trauma they have been through; to express that and to have it expressed to them
- **Why?** To find out what kind of person could have done this and why it was done to them
- **Apology** To hear that the offender is sincerely sorry
- **To be heard** To give input at all points in the system
- **To have their needs met**
- **To participate** in their own healing and in the justice process. To speak directly with the offender, **if victim desires**, to let them know how the crime affected their life, and to learn more about the offender and the crime
- **Assistance** compensation, information, services
- **Reparation** from the offender and to help decide how the offender repairs the harm

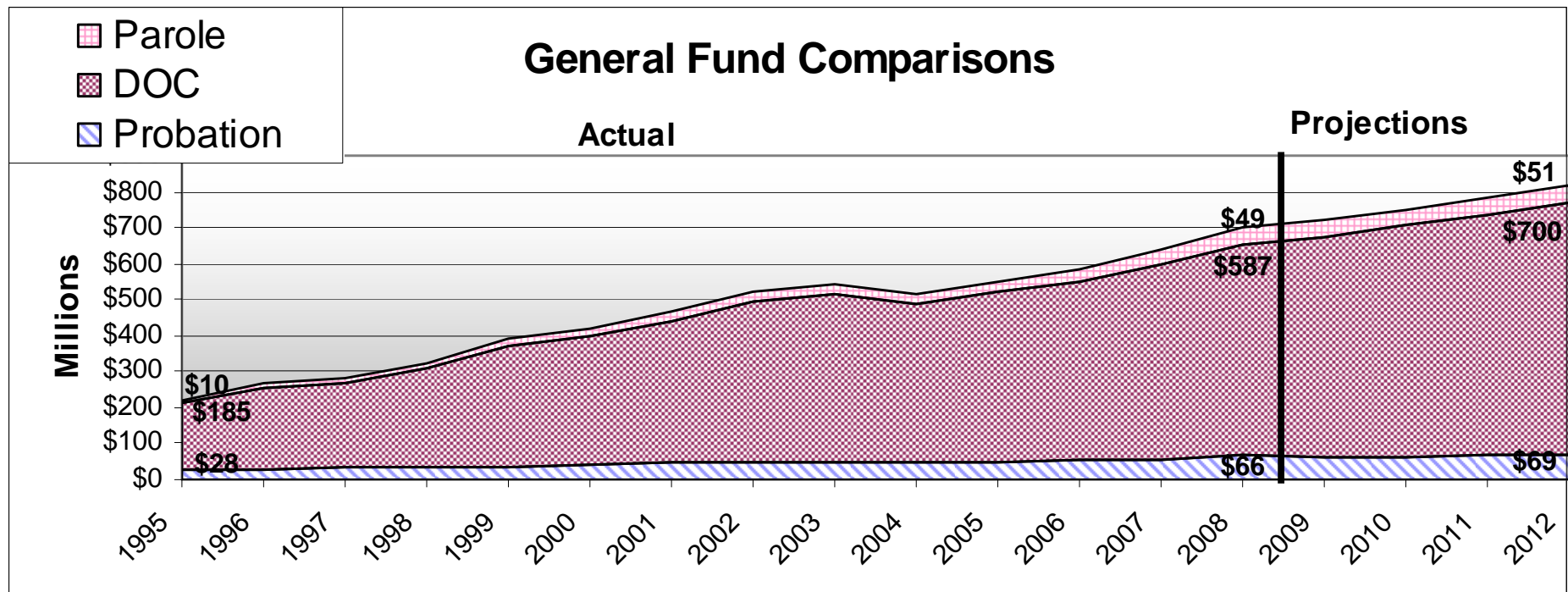
Research findings – RJ

- Involves persons harmed & the community more directly
- Reduces recidivism (or no difference)
- Gives choices to persons harmed
- Increases plea negotiation options
- Improves payment of restitution
- Can reduce caseload
- Increases perception of fairness
- Resolves minor cases outside system
- Gives person harmed a sense of control
- Allows person causing harm to express sorrow
- Addresses harm directly
- Creates meaningful community service

Continuum of Placements



Budget Trends Past and Future



Conclusions

- Our diverse goals impede overall policy
 - *Recognize and balance goals in overall policy and with individual cases*
- We must improve return on investment
 - *Use EBP & set policy with fiscal responsibility*
- What we measure should link to our goals
 - *Include other measures with systemic focus*
- The gaps in our continuum of supervision & treatment must be filled
 - *We need to shift and add resources to high intermediate range*
- We **can** focus policy, improve ROI and improve results
 - *Systemic approach gets done what no single agency can*