

Guiding Principles

- Public safety should always be paramount in our thoughts.
- It is important that we are inclusive of all represented perspectives and areas of expertise, and that we commit to non-partisanship.
- We must question our own assumptions and trust each other to do the right thing.
- We should seek outside help for areas where we are lacking in knowledge.
- The impact of our decisions will have on all of Colorado should be well thought out (big and small counties alike, as well as offenders *and* victims).
- To the best of our ability our decisions should be simple and not complex and made with a sense of urgency. .
- Any and all decisions are data-driven and should be aimed at slowing penetration into the system
- We should be mindful that a need for treatment is not an adequate reason to incarcerate someone (other options should be available).

Definition of Success – Primary Goals

- **Develop an evidence-based plan for reducing recidivism.**
 - Compare our rates to those of other similar states.
 - Reduce the number of new crimes committed by offenders under correction control (probationers and parolees).
- Reduce the number that return to DOC by 50%
- **Assess Probation, Institutions, Reentry, Parole, and Community Corrections**
 - Define success for these components of the system.
 - Are these components helping to reduce recidivism? If so, how?
 - Are these components employing evidence based practice?
 - Increase success (as defined) in all of these areas.
 - Provide adequate funding for these system components to be successful.
- **Focus on juvenile programs and policies.**
 - Make services available for juveniles without putting them in the juvenile justice system.
 - Provide early valid assessments for juveniles.
 - Evaluate Juvenile Assessment Centers.
 - Prioritize programs for at-risk youth.
 - Front load treatment for juveniles.
 - Involve schools in the prevention process, but be mindful of the limitations that schools face.
 - Increase the high school graduation rate.
 - Reduce truancy, crime and youth violence.
 - Decriminalize minor crimes that tend to start the revolving door process for youth in the criminal justice system.
 - Promote early prevention programs.

- **Focus on crime prevention programming.**
 - Retain public support of the commission – thus, we must keep them informed.
 - Coordinate mental health treatment with crime prevention.
 - Create police-citizen partnerships to help prevent crime.
 - Focus on healthy families, risk reduction, with a strength based focus.
- **Review Sentencing and Parole Laws**
 - Develop a system that is simple, fair, constitutional, evidence based, that will reduce crime and future victimization.
 - Define and assess the difference between mandatory sentences and judicial discretion.
 - Define what is considered a status offense and why.
 - Describe relevant sanctions in lay terms.