

# CCJJ: Sex Offense/Offender Task Force

## FY 2012 Recommendations

March 09, 2012

[As approved]

**FY12-SO5. Support funding of the enhanced per diem differential (\$33.02) that applies to specialized Diversion, Transition, Condition of Probation and Condition of Parole community corrections programs for sex offenders.**

*Discussion:* The goal of this recommendation is to increase community corrections placement options and bed capacity for sex offenders as an intermediate alternative to placement in the Department of Corrections or Probation. When appropriate and warranted, based on evidence-based practice and public safety considerations, some sex offenders could be managed and treated more cost effectively in community corrections. Without this intermediate option, the only options become either the most expensive but, possibly, excessive option - incarceration - or the less expensive but, possibly, insufficient option - probation or parole.

Currently, the funding for the enhanced per diem differential is supported by a Justice Assistance Grant that expires at the end of FY 2012. Without the enhanced per diem, most programs will not accept sex offenders because higher paid, specialized staff are required to work with sex offenders. Additional costs to programs are incurred because sex offenders are less able to pay the required subsistence fees due to the greater challenge for sex offenders to find and maintain employment while paying for treatment and monitoring costs. The Office of Community Corrections (OCC) at the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) would define the program criteria and specialized scope of work to qualify for the enhanced per diem which would include having a minimum of 5 beds in each funded program.

**FY12-SO9. Expand funding to the Division of Parole (DOC) to negotiate an increase in the number of beds in Community Corrections agencies and programs to house COPa (condition of parole) sex offenders for residential sex offender treatment.**

*Discussion:* Currently there are only 10 beds funded through HB10-1360 that are designated for the residential treatment of sex offenders in community corrections.

**FY12-SO11. Continue the funding of the Sex Offender Victim Specialist (SOVS) FTE to work in coordination with the sex offender treatment program to continue the current DOC grant-funded SOVS services.**

*Discussion:* This Specialist is assigned to provide education to victims (enrolled in the DOC victim notification program) regarding sex offender treatment in DOC, to prepare victims for parole release applications hearings, and to prepare victims for the possible re-entry of sex offenders into the community. If victims are amenable, the specialist can provide an opportunity for victims to be informed of and to provide input into the offender's treatment. The funding for this grant-funded position expires September 30, 2012.