



Community Corrections Task Force

March 14, 2014

Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

Community Corrections Task Force

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Commission members in red

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Purpose Statement

*The purpose of community corrections is to ensure public safety and further the sentencing goals of the State of Colorado. This is accomplished by utilizing community corrections boards and the **local community** to identify **appropriate individuals** to be placed in the community, **implement research-based policies, practices and programs** to assist individuals so that they may successfully function in the community.*

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Topic Areas

1. Community and Community Boards
2. Populations Served by Community Corrections
3. Referral Process

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Topic #1 / Community and Community Boards

Statement of the Problem

- There is a lack of clarity regarding how boards represent and engage the community.
- Board decision making processes have remained largely unchanged despite emerging practices to improve decision making using evidence based approaches.

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Topic #1 / Community and Community Boards

Pros/Cons/Feasibility

- This topic needs to be addressed from the community perspective and part of the larger correctional process – instead of a silo model.
- Board membership should represent the community and include people of color whenever possible.
- Community education is needed about benefits of community corrections programs.
- There is a need for evidence-based decision making.
- It may be difficult to get the boards to accept structured decision making tools.

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Topic #1 / Community and Community Boards

Plan to address topic / Timeline

A working group has been created to:

- Collect and review board membership across the state.
- Review current statutes and local ordinance/rules regarding membership.
- Review formal board decision making criteria.
- Review of “model” decision making processes.

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Topic #2 / Populations Served by Community Corrections

Statement of the Problem

- Low risk/low needs (but possibly high stakes) and high risk/high needs populations are in need of specific strategies that are not currently offered by the general community corrections programs or existing specialty programs.

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Topic #2 / Populations Served by Community Corrections

Pros/Cons/Feasibility

- Some programs do not have the ability to serve special populations.
- Statutes limit how funding is distributed; currently a “one size fits all” model.
- Current practice, driven by funding, requires offenders to find work immediately - when research suggests that they may be better served by receiving services first.
- Must avoid encouraging programs to accept lower risk offenders because they have better outcomes. Research supports focusing resources on medium and high risk offenders.

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Topic #2 / Populations Served by Community Corrections

Plan to address topic / Timeline

A working group has been formed to:

- Profile the low risk/high stakes and “super high risk”* populations.
- Examine DCJ performance standards and determine necessary steps to obtain flexibility in who is served.
- Study how funding drives the current program model to determine feasibility of providing services immediately upon entry and delaying employment requirement.

*LSI score 36+

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Topic #3 / Referral Process

Statement of the Problem

- The current referral system is inefficient and ineffective; it is constrained by statute and administrative regulations.
- Information provided to boards is inconsistent and often incomplete.
- Referral criteria is not evidence-based.

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Topic #3 / Referral Process

Pros/Cons/Feasibility

- Improvement in referral process could ensure the targeted population is getting referred.
- Improvements in information sharing would improve decision-making by DOC case managers, boards and programs.
- This is complex: Prior efforts to improve decision making have lacked a successful outcome.

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Topic #3 / Referral Process

Plan to address topic / Timeline

A working group has been formed to:

- Review statutes and DOC administrative regulations to look for opportunities to include research-informed referral criteria.
- Review current process and tools/assessment instruments in use to determine methods to improve diversion, transition and parole referrals (Mesa Co. in particular for diversion process).
- Review obstacles to information sharing.
 - Statutory, federal regulations, HIPAA, agency policy
- Explore and promote risk driven decision making at the service provider level.

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Discussion

Priorities

Next Steps

Topics Reminder

1. Community and Community Boards
2. Populations Served by Community Corrections
3. Referral Process