



The Juvenile Justice Task Force: Background and Remaining Tasks

September 12, 2014

Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

Legislative Origins

- The Colorado Commission on Criminal and **Juvenile** Justice.
- The Legislators mandated the Commission to work on juvenile issues 16-11.3-101(h) and 16-11.3-103(e).



Commission Directives

- August 2010 the Commission created a Juvenile Justice Task Force.
- The Commission directed the Task Force to work on certain issues including the Children's Code.



Work Identified by the Commission

- Children's Code
- Information sharing
- Statewide inconsistencies
- Disproportionate minority contact
- Truancy
- Training and education
- Prevention and intervention
- Clarify and streamline services and funding



Work History of the Task Force

- March 2011 held 2-day retreat to identify problem areas in juvenile justice system.
- Finalized a mission, vision, and guiding principles to fulfill CCJJ directive.
Presented to CCJJ in March, 2012.
- Formed work groups to work on problem areas identified in retreat: Education, Judicial and Assessments.



Work Accomplishments

- FY12-JJ#1 Educational materials provided to juvenile detention facilities.
- FY13-JJ#1 Amended Department of Education rules regarding age restrictions for GED.
- FY13-JJ#2 Revised enforcement of Compulsory School attendance statute to address issues including the definition of absence, policies and procedures regarding attendance, identification of at-risk students, truancy charges, and parental roles.



Work Accomplishments continued

- FY13-JJ#3 Revised Sex Offender Deregistration Statute to allow a person who *committed* an offense while under 18 years of age to deregister as an adult after successful completion of the terms of the sentence.
- FY13-JJ#4 Revised Escape statute to provide that an adjudicated juvenile who turns 18 while in custody, not in a state-operated facility, commits a misdemeanor 3 rather than a felony if convicted.
- Revised statewide Juvenile Screening and Assessment Guide.



Work Accomplishments continued

- FY15-JJ#1 Create a petty ticket option for law enforcement as an alternative to formal proceedings.
- FY15-JJ#3 Create first steps to provide for statewide standards of professionalism throughout the juvenile justice system.



Remaining Tasks as Identified by CCJJ

- The Children's Code
- Information sharing
- Disproportionate minority contact
 - in the principles



Plan to Address the Children's Code

Primary focus is on Article 2

- ✓ Delete outdated language.
- ✓ Conform Code to current adolescent brain development science.
- ✓ Amend Code to reflect best practices.
- ✓ Resolve existing inconsistencies in the Code.
- ✓ Clarify services and funding streams.



Plan to Address Information Sharing

- ✓ How are records shared among juvenile justice agencies?
- ✓ How can information sharing be improved to meet the needs of the child and the community?
- ✓ How can records be protected for the benefit of the juvenile and the community?

