



FY2008 RECOMMENDATION/FY08-BP57 OUTSIDE AGENCY ANALYSIS AND ASSISTANCE FOR THE PAROLE BOARD

Status: Implementation Complete

Actions/Updates

2012 UPDATE

The Parole Board received a technical assistance grant from the National Institute of Corrections for strategic planning. The grant will provide additional training to parole board members on evidence based practices to enhance the consistency of Parole Board policy and decisions.

An additional source of Parole Board activities is available at the Parole Board website (paroleboard.colorado.gov) and outside analysis of parole board decisions by the Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Research and Statistics is available at, ors.colorado.gov/ors-reports (See "Analysis of Colorado State Board of Parole Decisions").

2011 UPDATE - OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ACTION STEPS

CCJJ staff to provide a link on the Commission website to the annual report entitled Collection and Analysis of Parole Board Decisions: Progress Report.

2010 UPDATE

Implementation underway. While technical assistance has not been made available to the Parole Board, some progress has been made on the tasks listed within this recommendation:

- Review parole guidelines

The Post Incarceration Supervision Task Force of the Commission developed an administrative release guidelines instrument for use with parole candidates (not incarcerated for sex offenses). The use of these guidelines was included in House Bill 2010-1374.

- Review the use of assessments

The initial steps of identifying potential decision factors in parole decisions and developing a process to collect this decision factor information are underway.

- Review the parole board's internal capacity

The introduction of the Parole Board Application Hearing Portal offered an opportunity to streamline the collection of parole decision data. The Hearing Portal is still in the testing phase.

- Review forms used by the parole board

The form used to record parole hearing decisions, "Notice of Parole Board Action," is under revision to accommodate the newly introduced administrative release guidelines and to better reflect parole decision information.

- Conduct a workload survey
This task has not been undertaken.

- Review the opportunities
This task has not been undertaken.

2009 UPDATE - ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION

The JEHT Foundation closed in January 2009 but activity on this recommendation continued. The Post-Incarceration Supervision Task Force reviewed this recommendation and developed another strategy to implement this recommendation. A request for technical assistance was submitted by the Parole Board to the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) for outside assistance with the first bullet in the recommendation, and the request was approved in April 2009. Experts from the Center for Effective Public Policy are scheduled to begin work with the parole board in June 2009.

In addition, the Department of Public Safety (Office of Research and Statistics (ORS), DCJ) is working with DOC and the parole board to clarify the use of risk assessment, the Colorado Actuarial Risk Assessment Scale (CARAS). CDPS is also developing a database to analyze the decisions of parole board members, and will work with DOC in FY 2010 to automate a revised Parole Board Action Form.

The Department of Corrections has agreed to develop a memorandum of understanding with the parole regarding data analysis duties, and to provide consistently-defined parole release data.

The Commission's Post-Incarceration Supervision Task Force has agreed to work with the parole board to understand its current release decision making criteria including those used to make parole revocation judgments, identify current policy and practice, and identify targets of change in board practice. This task force has also agreed to study the current parole board structure and identify possible modifications; these reforms may require legislative action.

This work will be ongoing throughout FY 2010. Please see the implementation plan attached as Appendix V in the 2009 CCJJ Annual Report.

2009 UPDATE - IMPACT

Progress on implementation will be reported in future Commission reports. Associated information, including parole board workload and decision making, will also be reported as information becomes available.

Description

The Commission requests that an independent agency with expertise in paroling authorities (in particular, the Center for Effective Public Policy) provide technical assistance to the parole board

to increase efficiency and effectiveness. This assistance would involve bringing to Colorado experts in parole and release to engage in the following tasks:

- Review parole guidelines, policies, procedures, sanction grids, and training standards;
- Review the use of assessments, the decision making process, and how parole decisions are communicated to interested parties;
- Review the parole board's internal capacity for data collection and reporting;
- Review forms used by the parole board;
- Conduct a work-load survey to identify inefficiencies and possible remedies; and
- Review the opportunities for inmate supporters and victims to participate in the parole hearing.

The Commission requests that the Department of Public Safety, on behalf of the Colorado Criminal and Juvenile Justice Commission, apply for funding from the JEHT Foundation* to provide the aforementioned assistance.

**The JEHT Foundation ceased operation at the end of January 2009. Funding should be sought from an alternate source.*

Agencies Responsible

Department of Public Safety

Discussion

Implementation of this recommendation is underway. This critical re-entry reform initiative furthers the Commission's mandates to "...ensure justice..." and enhance "the cost-effective use of public resources" [C.R.S. 16-11.3-103(1)].