



FY2008 RECOMMENDATION/FY08-BP58 PAROLE SUPERVISION POLICIES AND TRAININGS

Status: Partial Implementation

Actions/Updates

2023 UPDATE (JUNE)

During the FY 2023 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 2023-158 to reauthorize the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) was postponed indefinitely on May 7, 2023. Therefore, with the sunset of the Commission, all activities of the CCJJ ceased on June 30, 2023.

No further monitoring of CCJJ recommendations will occur.

2012 UPDATE

****CVDMP****

The Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), State Judicial (Probation), Community Corrections Boards and Centers and CDOC's Division of Adult Parole, Community Corrections and Youthful Offender System (APCCYOS) are developing a decision making instrument for use with all diversion and transition offenders in community corrections centers. Meetings chaired by DCJ have occurred with centers across the state to explain the process and identify a group of core members to design the instrument. In February 2012, APCCYOS and DCJ staff presented feedback at the Colorado Association of Community Correction Boards (CACCB) meeting from the regional focus groups to include the list of 19 expected benefits of creating the instrument and identified the members of the 4 regional working groups. In an effort to ensure all centers have a voice, each center is being asked to rate the importance of each of these performance goals. Additionally, one Community Corrections Center presented their version of a sanctions grid for consideration. The group has committed to having a paper version of the instrument developed and piloted before the end of the year.

Starting January 2012, the Youthful Offender System has started work with the YOS phase 3 staff (CPOs) regarding the CDOC Mental Health/Assessment, and in collaboration with the Division of Behavioral Health, approved YOS to move from the CYO-LSI to the standard LSI. Officers have been directed to re-score phase 3 offenders to establish a baseline risk assessment for the CVDMP. Once completed, officers will then be able to address violations using the CVDMP. The CVDMP has been initiated with this population, currently numbering 47 offenders.

****Evidence Based Practices Implementation for Capacity (EPIC)****

EPIC has currently set a full implementation schedule to bring the Buena Vista Correctional Facility to scale in Motivational Interviewing. This will take place over a five month period

(starting February 2012) in which every employee at BVCF is trained in MI at varying skill levels. Larimer County will also be brought to scale in May, June and July 2012. In addition, the nearly 250 Change Agents immersed in MI skill building continue to be coached and evaluated through EPIC.

The Parole Board is currently in the process of gaining a knowledge base of Motivational Interviewing through skill building sessions with the parole and probation EPIC Training Coordinators. Board members have expressed clear interest in using MI skills in the hearing setting.

Under the auspices of EPIC, nearly 1,500 criminal justice and mental health professionals have been trained in Mental Health First Aid which offers education in identifying and assisting those offenders with mental health issues. More classes are scheduled throughout the upcoming year.

****Second Chance Act Demonstration Field Experiment Pending Application****

CDOC is applying for the Second Chance Act Demonstration Field Experiment (DFE) grant announced by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, and Bureau of Justice Assistance. BJA anticipates awarding up to \$1 million for a 12-month project period, with a start date of August 1, 2012 to three chosen sites.

The DFE will address an offender's motivation to change as well as criminal thinking and focus on interventions to improve offender's motivation to change and strategies to alter criminal thinking using a desistance approach. This multi-site DFE will also provide a rigorous test of a specific reentry model intended to improve offender outcomes post-release.

The goals are to: (1) improve the offender's motivation to change; (2) address cognitive and behavioral functioning regarding crime-prone thoughts and behaviors; and (3) address core criminogenic needs that affect offender performance while on parole. The model also works on building the infrastructure of the reentry process and community-based services to deliver collaborative and seamless services.

The key elements of this DFE model include:

1. The National Institute of Corrections' (NIC) Integrated Case Management and Supervision Model (ICMS) and Crime Desistance training curriculum and interaction techniques for parole officers;
2. Coordinated services to address criminogenic needs that create problem behaviors for offenders; and
3. Cognitive behavioral therapy consisting of 4 MET (Motivational Enhancement Therapy) sessions followed by 25 T4C (Thinking for Change) sessions for a specific parole population.

****The Community Corrections Technical Regression Pilot****

A pilot program is being initiated through a cooperative effort with the CDOC, CMRC and the following Community Corrections Boards; Larimer, Arapahoe, El Paso (ComCor), and Mesa. The intent is to create a performance-based, incentivised opportunity for those offenders who had a technical violation to return to Community Corrections (after 6 months of intensive programming at CMRC) instead of being returned to a facility where they would remain until granted parole or until they reach their Mandatory Release Date (MRD), as Case Managers are

not required nor do they typically put offenders back in for Community placement after a regression. Upon being report free and compliant with identified programming efforts, the offender will be returned to the Community Corrections facility that he had been regressed from. The hope is that these offenders will realize that they have been given a 2nd chance that they will take advantage of, leading to successful community placement, to parole, to discharge, and living as a productive contributing law abiding member of society. Since this process differs from a typical Community Corrections referral and placement, an up-front agreement is being discussed and developed with the Community Corrections Boards at this time. This will also assist in addressing the offender(s) behaviors by the means of placing that offender in an environment where specific programming can be instilled to incentivise the offender to obtain the pro-social skills sets to reintegrate back to a community corrections setting.

****Reductions in electronic monitoring based on risk****

EBP research recognizes the importance of appropriate supervision of offenders as well as the effectiveness of using incentives and rewards to encourage positive offender behavior. As a result, in addition to early discharge opportunities (performance based, eligible after reaching 50% of their parole period), the Department will offer certain low and medium risk ISP inmates and parolees the opportunity to earn their way off electronic monitoring (EM). The details of this plan are described below.

- ISP inmates who score low on the LSI (less than 13) should be placed on the telephonic curfew check system. There is no requirement for a prior period of time on EM.

- ISP inmates, who score medium on the LSI (13 to 26), are eligible to earn their way off EM after completing 3 months of “compliant” behavior. Compliance is defined as having no Level 3 violation or higher in the last 3 months with respect to CVDMP.

- ISP parolees who score low or medium on the LSI (1 to 26), are eligible for removal from EM and subsequent placement on telephonic curfew checks after four months of “complaint” EM as defined above.

- Offenders required to register as sex offenders are not eligible and will remain on EM.

The Department anticipates that this new practice will incentivise offenders by emphasizing and rewarding compliance (good behavior) and thereby enabling them to earn their way off electronic monitoring. The Department also believes that this practice will help to improve overall successful offender outcomes. The Department’s Office of Planning and Analysis will track the outcomes of this offender population.

The Department also has a Strategic Planning Sub Committee devoted to developing a system of offender rewards and incentives for the agency.

****L-TOP (Long Term Offender Program) Pilot****

The L-TOP program is designed as a step-down transition process from incarceration to community via a structured, evidence based process that enhances the possibility of successful community reintegration for offenders that have been incarcerated for 15+ years and are over the

age of 45. Once approved by Denver Community Corrections Board (DCCB), the offenders transition from Sterling Correctional Facility (SCF) to the Denver County Jail (Mt. Parks). Upon stabilization at Mt. Parks, offenders transition to CMI Dahlia. Upon stabilization in the community, the offenders would be transitioned to the Intensive Supervision Program (inmate) and would remain on that status until granted parole (5 years). The L-TOP pilot project began in early April, 2011.

Goal:

Protect the public by providing the long - term offender, who has been incarcerated for a minimum of 15 years (consecutive) and is community and/or parole eligible, a step-down transition process from incarceration to community via a structured evidence based process that will enhance the possibility of a successful community reintegration.

Key Elements:

- Modeled after successful Canadian program: Correctional Service of Canada LifeLine Program
- Rigorous screening and selections process
- Internal / External collaborations and support mechanisms
- Multi-phase / multi-agency step down process
- Continuity of services without repetition
- Victim Awareness and Restorative Justice
- Cognitive-behavioral techniques for emotional regulation, interpersonal skills, and distress tolerance: Dialectical Behavior Therapy (CBT/DBT)
- Core Group Mentoring
- Johns Hopkins University: Oversight and consultation

Current Status:

- 15 offenders currently at SCF
- 1 offender currently at Mt. Parks
- 5 offenders currently at Dahlia
- 5 offenders are to be presented to DCCB in April.
- Several offenders are being considered for placement in L-TOP.
- 7 are recommendations from parole board (2 have given parole dates (6/27/12 & 8/15/12) and 2 are currently waiting for a decision of the full board with L-TOP recommended)

Training has been provided to the Parole Board (follow-up training will be set up for the Parole Board and DCCB). CBT/DBT - therapy continues in the community with 7 L-TOP offenders.

2011 UPDATE - OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ACTION STEPS

The Department of Corrections, Division of Parole to report back to CCJJ staff regarding the status of this recommendation.

2010 UPDATE

Implementation underway. In an effort to develop even more consistency regarding the response to violations, the Division has begun to develop a Colorado Violations Decision Making Process (CVDMP). This instrument, once completed, will provide officers guidelines to address

violations, based on the severity of the violation and the level of risk as determined by assessment instruments.

In addition, the Department of Public Safety received a one-time \$2.1M grant in collaboration with the Division of Behavioral Health, the Department of Corrections, the Division of Probation Services, the Office of Community Corrections to train over two dozen “train the trainers” and over 1,000 criminal justice professionals and private services providers in Motivational Interviewing®, the science of addiction and mental health problems, and evidence-based case management. This initiative is intended to improve supervision practices across the agencies and, in doing so, promote uniformity in case management. This initiative, called Evidence Based Practices Implementation for Capacity, or EPIC, is underway. By September 2010, approximately 240 professionals had been trained in evidenced based correctional practices: approximately 90 were trained in Motivational Interviewing ® and 150 in responding to individuals with behavioral health problems.

2009 UPDATE - ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION

The Department of Corrections has established policies and trainings directly connected to conditions and privileges of parole supervision. DOC reports that these policies and trainings will be reviewed annually to ensure alignment with evidence-based practices. DOC also reports that by January 2010, case plans will be developed based on the criminogenic needs of offenders and updated based on offender compliance.

DOC collaborated with the Division of Probation Services and the Office of Community Corrections to submit an application to the Justice Assistance Grant program that would provide funding to train officers consistently across agencies in evidence-based practices, in Motivational Interviewing® (MI) and in MI coaching.

2009 UPDATE

IMPACT

Resource constraints preclude the implementation of a comprehensive study to determine the level of consistency in the application of discretion by supervising officers, the implementation of case plans based on criminogenic needs and the extent to which the plans are regularly updated.

The training grant application includes research and evaluation resources that, if funded, will allow progress reports on some aspects of this recommendation.

BARRIERS

Barriers include lack of funding to provide adequate training and coaching in Motivational Interviewing® skills; also resource limitations regarding evaluating of this recommendation.

Description

To promote continuity of supervision, the Department of Corrections should develop consistent policies and trainings that promote uniformity in establishing and implementing discretionary conditions and privileges of parole supervision.

Agencies Responsible

Department of Corrections

Discussion

Implementation of the recommendation is underway. Its full implementation is critical to the reform efforts of the Commission, as specified in C.R.S. 16-11.3-103(1).