



## **FY2008 RECOMMENDATION/FY08-BP62 INMATE PARENTING AND BONDING PROGRAMS**

**Status:** Partial Implementation

### **Actions/Updates**

#### **2010 UPDATE**

*Partial implementation.* Officials from the Department of Corrections report parenting classes are offered at all female facilities and included in some of minimum security facilities for men. DOC officials report that when they receive a pregnant offender through intake in the Denver Complex, she is assigned to Denver Women's Correctional Facility until after the delivery of the child. At the time of delivery, the offender is hospitalized for at least 24 hours to assure she is stable and to allow for time to bond with her infant. Offenders decide where to place the baby during their incarceration.

Denver Women's Correctional Facility has a specialized visiting program to allow offenders to earn the privilege of having their children overnight in an area connected to the visiting room. This allows for offenders to have time with their children during their incarceration. The Department has expanded the program and will continue to explore the opportunities for additional expansion.

The courses related to parenting and bonding developed by Colorado State University (mentioned in the 2009 Action, above) has been implemented at both DOC's women's facilities.

#### **2009 ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION**

The Department of Corrections reports that it hired instructors who recently started programs at La Vista Correctional Facility for Women and the Denver Women's Correctional Facility. DOC is working with Colorado State University to develop certified courses and programs for parenting and bonding.

#### **2009 IMPACT**

The number of inmates participating and completing parenting and bonding programs will be documented in future Commission reports, if available.

#### **2009 BARRIERS**

The need for additional programming in other institutions has not been addressed. Data to assess the impact of these programs on recidivism are unavailable.

### **Description**

Commission supports the Department of Corrections' effort to expand parenting and bonding programs.

### **Agencies Responsible**

Department of Corrections

### **Discussion**

*Implementation of this recommendation is underway. Implementation of this recommendation is consistent with the Commission's statutory mandate "to investigate effective alternatives to incarceration [and] the factors contributing to recidivism..." [C.R.S. 16-11.3-103(2)(b)] and to the extent that these programs prevent future criminal behavior on the part of the child and the parent, it enhances "the cost-effective use of public resources" [C.R.S. 16-11.3-103(1)].*