



FY2008 RECOMMENDATION/FY08-GP16 INVEST IN EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

Status: Implementation Complete

Actions/Updates

2010 UPDATE

Implementation underway. Significant progress has been made on this recommendation. In 2009, the Department of Public Safety, on behalf of the Commission, submitted a grant proposal to develop and implement a multi-agency training initiative on evidence-based correctional practices. 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, 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.

In addition, in 2009 and on behalf of the Commission, the Division of Behavioral Health was awarded **\$1.48M** in federal grant funds to develop a statewide network of community-based criminal justice clinical specialists to coordinate the case management and clinical treatment services to adult offenders with behavioral health problems. Ten full-time specialists have been hired in mental health centers across the state to serve as the point of contact for criminal justice agencies referring clients. The goals of this project are to reduce recidivism by aligning offender supervision requirements with community treatment agency services including assessment, treatment, medication evaluations, residential services, benefits acquisition, vocational training.

2009 ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION

The Division of Probation Services (DPS) reports that it published a white paper on evidence-based practices (EBP) in late 2007 and soon afterward formed the EBP Committee. The EBP Committee has focused its efforts in three areas: (1) training, (2) implementation and sustainability, and (3) evaluating and enhancing the working relationship between a probation officer and the probationer. The training curriculum has been developed and training is underway. The DPS is currently evaluating two major initiatives, Intensive Supervision Probation and in-house cognitive-behavioral groups.

The Department of Corrections reports that it pursued funding for evidence-based programs through the state budget process. The Division of Adult Parole, Community Corrections and YOS collaborated with the Division of Probation Services and the Division of Criminal Justice in

applying to the Justice Assistance Grant program in February 2009 to provide training for parole officers in Motivational Interviewing and cognitive-behavioral programming. DOC reports that it continues to assess evidence-based programs that are appropriate for its offender population.

The Department of Public Safety/Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) reports that, in collaboration with Probation and DOC, it continues to be engaged in specific evidence-based programming, particularly for special offenders. For example, DCJ's Residential Mental Health Services beds are being converted into expanded Dual Diagnosis programming using EBP. Its 45-day Intensive Residential Treatment (IRT) model for substance abuse demonstrated poor evidence-based outcomes, and has been converted into a 90-day IRT program on the basis of research in Colorado and elsewhere. DCJ is also pursuing the Early, Enhanced Nonresidential Treatment (EENT) pilot, which will study the efficacy of the "early" transfer of selected low-risk offenders from residential community corrections to enhanced nonresidential programming (see GP-29). DCJ reports that, despite these initiatives, there remains a clear and worsening shortage of evidence-based treatment resources for "average" community corrections offenders.

2009 IMPACT

Complete implementation would result in systemic reform. The rate of new crimes committed by offenders under supervision is expected to decrease as implementation expands; this information will be reported in future Commission reports.

2009 BARRIERS

Judicial anticipates technical assistance needs as well as timing/sequencing may be a barrier to the implementation of evidence-based programs. The Departments of Corrections and Public Safety expect lack of program funding to be a barrier.

Description

Invest in evidence-based programs and emerging best practice, treatment and education so that there is sufficient programming available to meet the needs of the offender population.

Agencies Responsible

State Judicial, Department of Corrections, Department of Public Safety (Office of Community Corrections/DCJ)

Discussion

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