



**FY2008 RECOMMENDATION/FY08-GP22 IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS RE-ENTRY SERVICE GAPS**

**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**

***Probation***

In January of 2009, following 7 months of multi-agency planning, we initiated the Rural Initiative that provided probation funding to establish sex offender and domestic violence treatment capacity in rural counties where no such services previously existed. To date, through this effort there are now 6 approved sex offender and 6 approved treatment providers now delivering treatment services in Huerfano, Las Animas, Gunnison, Delta, Park, Logan, Kit Carson, Elbert, Grand, Otero and La Plata counties. This effort was done in partnership with the Division of Criminal Justice (SOMB, DVOMB), Parole and the Department of Human Services (Division of Behavioral Health, Social Services).

As for substance abuse treatment gaps, Probation complies with statute and completes the Standardized Offender Assessment on all cases. When the assessment indicates the need for treatment the probation officer refers the defendant to the treatment provider who then makes a final decision on the appropriate level of treatment. Probation has in the past completed quasi-scientific gap analysis by determining what the total treatment need is, based on assessment results and compared it to the treatment bed/space capacity provided by DBH. Historically there has always been a deficit in Intensive Residential Treatment capacity. On closer examination the issue is not simply insufficient capacity as it is also the location of capacity. IRT beds are concentrated on the I-25 corridor which creates problems for all of the defendants needing those services who do not reside near the I-25 corridor. Treatment agencies will not expand capacity until there is an increased demand for the services. There seems to be some disconnect between assessed need and actual demand.

The question of treatment matching is not one Probation can address as our current management information system does not accommodate that kind of analysis.

## **2011 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ACTION STEPS**

Judge Gilbert Martinez to work with Probation and report back to CCJJ staff on the status of this recommendation. Todd Helvig from the Department of Corrections to also report back to CCJJ staff on the status of this recommendation.

## **2010 UPDATE**

*No Implementation.* The Department of Corrections reports that the gaps analysis has not started due to severe staffing shortages in its Office of Planning and Analysis (OPA) and also due to data integrity problems. Since fall of 2009, OPA has taken the lead to fund and manage a project to improve the data tracking of inmates' needs, readiness, and treatment participation. The existing data system was never properly designed to track program participation so new modifications to the database will enable DOC to better identify, refer, and place inmates into recommended programs. When this is done, it will be possible to begin an analysis of the gaps that exist between offender need and treatment services. The database changes are anticipated to be implemented by June 2010 for substance abuse, sex offender, and mental health programs. The Department cannot fully implement this recommendation until the judicial districts complete their gaps analysis and forward their information to the Department of Corrections for coordination.

Resource limitations have precluded the Division of Criminal Justice's ability to convene a group of agency researchers to pursue this recommendation.

## **2009 ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION**

The Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Research and Statistics (ORS), is exploring the availability of program/service information and offender needs data. The ORS plans to convene a group of agency researchers to identify potential sources of information, develop an analysis plan, analyze data when feasible, and prepare a preliminary status report for the Commission.

## **2009 IMPACT**

Future Commission reports will document progress toward this recommendation.

## **2009 BARRIERS**

Lack of resources and data availability present the largest barrier. For example, DOC reports that this initiative requires four FTE at a cost of \$227,184.

## **Description**

Each judicial district should be required to conduct an inventory of the services and resources, including available housing and the capacity of those resources, to address the needs of offenders reentering the community. This information should be paired with an analysis of the risk/needs of offenders released from the Department of Corrections. Re-entry service gaps must be identified, along with the costs to fill those gaps. Using this information, a plan should be developed that identifies the appropriate parties to provide services and a funding scheme.

Inventory reports should be provided to the Division of Criminal Justice, which will forward the information to the Commission.

### **Agencies Responsible**

Colorado Judicial Districts, Department of Corrections, Department of Human Services, Department of Public Safety (DCJ, Office of Community Corrections)

### **Discussion**

*This large-scale project assesses the state's ability to match the need for services with the availability of services and, where gaps occur, identify funding requirements. Incorporating needs assessment data into a strategic approach to building service capacity reflects the Commission's commitment to evidence-based practices as the path to recidivism reduction.*