



FY2008 RECOMMENDATION/FY08-GP26 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS INSTEAD OF PAROLING HOMELESS

Status: Implementation Complete

Actions/Updates

2013 UPDATE

Updated numbers as of 2/25/13 for the Denver Homeless Transition Program:

Total Participants since Inception to date: 150
Employed at Release: 74 (50%)
Housing at Release: 70 (47%)
Savings at Release: 69 (46%)
Both Housing and Savings: 43 (29%)
Average amount per offender with savings: \$878.05 (n=69)

2012 Specific Data: (Includes offenders that terminated in 2012)

Total Participants: 34
Employed at Release: 21 (62%)
Housing at Release: 17 (50%)
Savings at Release: 15 (44%)
Both Housing and Savings: 9 (26%)
Average amount per offender with savings: \$829.03 (n=15)

Termination Data: Inception -2/25/13

Total terminated: 149
Successful: 112 (75%)
Technical Violation: 22 (15%)
Walkaway: 14 (9%)
Other: 1 (1%)

2012 Term Data:

Total terminated: 34
Successful: 34 (71%)
Technical Violation: 9 (26%)
Walkaway: 1 (3%)

In 2013 we plan to continue navigating the challenges with referrals.

2012 UPDATE

The Denver Community Corrections Board and Denver Sheriff's Department have identified several challenges to getting referrals for placements but they are continuing to work through this. Expanding this program to other providers would be most prudent once some of these systemic challenges can be addressed and efficiencies have been created between the board, provider, and referral agencies. As of February 2012, there are 8 participants in the program.

2011 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ACTION STEPS

CCJJ member Regina Huerter to work with Glenn Tapia from the Division of Criminal Justice Office of Community Corrections to examine Denver outcomes regarding this recommendation. Ms. Huerter and Mr. Tapia will also examine three other sites (El Paso, Mesa and Larimer counties) and report back to CCJJ staff.

2010 UPDATE

Partial implementation. The pilot program was implemented in January 2009, focusing on offenders within 10 months of their mandatory parole date. Offenders in this population are generally not appropriate for standard community corrections and have often failed multiple times. By June 2010, more than 20 offenders participated in this pilot program. Data from the program shows a successful termination rate of 75% with an absconder rate of 12% and a technical violations rate of 12%. The Office of Community Corrections is working to expand this program to Fort Collins, Grand Junction and Pueblo. Research shows that El Paso County has the greater need at this point as more people are paroling homeless there than anywhere else in the state.

2009 ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION

The Denver Community Corrections Board, in collaboration with the Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Community Corrections has partnered with the Denver Sheriff's Department Phase I program to pilot the use of up to 12 beds for a 90-120 day stay for homeless parolees. Five offenders were in the program as of June 5, 2009. This pilot program is underway and, if it seems to adequately meet the needs of these offenders, it could be expanded to 40 beds in FY 2010.

In addition, the Department of Corrections reports that once this recommendation is implemented, it will facilitate community corrections referrals of offenders who lack stable housing resources. The Department of Corrections has offered to train parole board members, case managers, and community parole officers regarding the placement of this population in community corrections programs.

2009 IMPACT

Data on offender homelessness is not available from the Department of Corrections or other agencies. The status of this recommendation will be presented in future Commission reports.

2009 BARRIERS

Barriers include the inability to obtain reliable data on the homelessness of offenders, the lack of discretionary parole releases, and the lack of data on reasons for acceptance (or not) of offenders into community corrections. Expanding housing resources for homeless parolees, such as the Denver Jail Phase I pilot program, will require staffing and funding.

Description

Encourage the use of discretionary parole to community corrections in lieu of homeless parole plans to provide a stable living situation prior to the offender's mandatory parole date (MRD). Six to eight months prior to the MRD, a case manager should submit an application to community corrections for individuals who are likely to parole homeless.

Agencies Responsible

Department of Corrections, Parole Board, Department of Public Safety (Office of Community Corrections/DCJ), Community Corrections Boards

Discussion

An innovative response to the problem of homeless parolees is the allocation of community corrections beds, a pilot project that is underway in Denver. This effort addresses the problem identified in this recommendation by removing barriers to successful completion of parole, and is consistent with the Commission's mission to reduce recidivism.

Current performance indicators are as follows:

Total participants: Inception to current date (1/26/12) = 119

- *Employed at Release 50/42%*
- *Housing at Release 50/42%*
- *Savings account at release 51/43%*
- *Both Housing and Savings at release 31/26%*

Total amount in Savings = \$44,699.48

- Specifically, 51 had savings account at release for an average of \$876.00 per offender.

Termination data:

- Successful 84/111 = 76%

- Rejected /Regressed = 12/11%

- Walkaway - 13/12%

- Other - 2/2%

**** no new crimes*