



FY2008 RECOMMENDATION/FY08-L04 EARNED TIME CREDITS FOR JAIL INMATES

Status: Implementation Complete

Actions/Updates

2012 UPDATE

Arapahoe County report continued implementation of this recommendation. The Sheriff's Office reports that for Calendar Year 2011 a total of 8733 bed days were saved due to the change in good time days.

2011 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ACTION STEPS

Sheriff Grayson Robinson will request other Colorado Sheriffs to collect and report this information.

2010 UPDATE

Implementation complete. For the purposes of the Commission performance measures, Recommendations L-2, L-3, and L-4 have been combined because the impact overlaps. No centralized jail data system exists that would allow empirical assessments of the implementation impact. However, the impact in a single jail, Arapahoe County, is likely to be multiplied across the state's jails and must serve as the impact measure for the Commission.

Arapahoe County reports full implementation of this recommendation including modifications to policies and the completion of staff training. The Sheriff's Office reports that for the 12 month period from June 2009 to May 2010, 7,220 bed days were saved at an approximate cost of \$490,960 in Arapahoe County (assuming a daily cost of \$68/bed). This translates into millions of dollars in savings across county jails each year.

2009 IMPACT

This recommendation was successfully implemented with the passage of House Bill 09-1263. If available, data will be obtained from a number of local jails on length of stay data, earned time awards, and program participation. These data will be analyzed to determine if the average time served is reduced.

Description

Modify C.R.S. 17-26-109 to include the ability for jail administrators to award discretionary earned time of 3 to 5 days per 30-day period for the completion of certain programs or education, or for an unusual or extraordinary accomplishment by a jail inmate. This requires that each county sheriff develop an earned time schedule for their jail in keeping with community expectations and standards.

Agencies Responsible

General Assembly, county jails to implement

Discussion

This recommendation was successfully implemented with the passage of House Bill 09-1263 which allows individuals in jail to be awarded up to two days of earned time a month in addition to good time.

The use of incentives is a fundamental component of evidence-based correctional practices designed to encourage offenders to engage in behaviors that will improve their likelihood of success in the community. The passage of HB 09-1263 is consistent with the Commission's statutory mandate to "focus on evidence-based recidivism reduction initiatives..." [C.R.S. 16-11.3-103(1)].

Footnotes

Note: Elements from recommendations L-2, L-3, L-4 and CS-64 were combined in House Bill 09-1263.