



**FY2010 RECOMMENDATION/FY10-PIS03 PAROLE AND PAROLE RELEASE  
DECISION MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Status:** Implementation Complete

**Actions/Updates**

**2013 UPDATE**

Implementation Complete. Final testing continued from June through August 2012. Final implementation occurred September 2012. Annual reports ("Analysis of Colorado State Board of Parole Decisions") regarding the Parole Board Administrative Release Guideline (PBRGI) by the Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Research and Statistics are available at, [ors.colorado.gov/ors-reports](http://ors.colorado.gov/ors-reports).

**2012 UPDATE**

Implementation Ongoing. The creation of the automated parole release guideline system continued from July 2011 through February 2012. Testing of the system began April 2012 and continued through June 2012. Final testing and implementation was expected to occur from July through September 2012.

**2011 UPDATE**

Implementation Underway. The creation of the automated parole release guideline system began in February 2011 and continued through June 2011. Final implementation is expected in June 2012.

**2010 UPDATE**

This recommendation was passed into statute with the signing of HB 10-1374. The Parole Board Release Guideline Instrument (PBRGI) was implemented in September 2010.

**Description**

Introduce a structured decision-making guide for use by the Colorado parole board. Include in the legislative declaration (C.R.S. 17-22.5-404) that the guidelines reflect evidence-based practices by prioritizing public safety and actuarially-determined risk, criminogenic needs, and offender readiness for parole; organize and streamline existing information; promote consistency in parole decision making; and allow for systematically collecting data on parole decision making.

**Agencies Responsible**

Colorado State Board of Parole, Division of Criminal Justice, and Department of Corrections

## **Discussion**

*Research consistently finds that actuarial instruments outperform professional judgment by a 3:1 ratio, meaning that professional judgment has been found to be wrong two-thirds of the time. Research has also determined that addressing the service needs of high risk offenders can reduce recidivism. Consequently, at the core of recidivism reduction and evidence-based practices in corrections is the use of scientifically developed risk and needs assessment instruments.*

*The **Colorado Parole Board Release Guidelines Instrument** organizes information systematically and prioritizes public safety by relying on two such instruments, the Colorado Actuarial Risk Assessment Score (CARAS) which predicts risk to reoffend, and the Level of Supervision (LSI), which identifies the individual's needs that are associated with criminal behavior. Both instruments are currently completed by DOC personnel, and the data elements reside in DOC's information management system. As such, the instrument has the capability of being automated when resources allow. DOC supports this Guideline instrument. Currently, the parole board reviews several documents and case summaries when making release decisions but the information is not organized systematically nor is individual, case-level data available for analysis on the decisions made by board members.*