



Colorado Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice

FY2013 RECOMMENDATION/FY13-DP05 EXPAND CIVIL REMEDIES TO PREVENT, INTERVENE IN AND TREAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

Status: Implementation Unknown

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.

2014 - 2022 UPDATE

Status unknown.

2013 ACTION TO DATE

No implementation.

2012 ACTION TO DATE

Update pending.

Description

Allow for expansion of civil remedies (e.g. consumer protection and/or use of public health regulatory authority) as part of building more comprehensive drug policy. Areas related to this proposal include strategies to prevent and effectively intervene in prescription drug abuse/misuse and adopting medical models for detoxification programs.

Agencies Responsible

Discussion

Comprehensive drug policy should integrate law enforcement, treatment, public health and civil law strategies designed to prevent drug abuse, promote recovery from addiction, and reduce the supply of illegal drugs in Colorado.

In 2012, the Colorado Legislature revised the Colorado Consumer Protection Act to promote its use in stopping retailers from selling designer drugs like "bath salts" and "spice". There may be other applications of the Colorado Consumer Protection Act. Currently, the Colorado

Department of Health, Welfare and Environment does not have any regulations regarding the possession or sale of illegal drugs.

One emerging drug problem involves the misuse or abuse of prescription pharmaceuticals, particularly opiates ("pain pills"). Opiates can result in death by overdose and can be highly addictive for patients with legitimate medical needs for the treatment of pain. There is also an increasing problem of prescription medications being diverted for non-medical use. Developing an addiction to prescription opiates or stimulants may also lead to more people switching to illegal drugs like heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine.

In Colorado, the dominant model for detoxification programs is a "social" model that is largely ineffective as a strategy for engaging people in treatment. Also, people with long-term histories of alcohol or opiate use may face significant or potentially life-threatening medical emergencies during detoxification.

The Drug Policy Task Force of the CCJJ is encourage to explore the expansion of civil law strategies and to collaborate with medical and behavioral health treatment providers, their respective regulatory agencies/boards, and health departments to develop recommendations related to preventing and intervening in the misuse of prescription medications and development of medical-based models for detoxification services in Colorado.