



Colorado Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice

FY2015 RECOMMENDATION/FY15-CC05 Provide funding for very high risk offenders

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.

2017 ACTION TO DATE

Status of the EMBARC Program is unknown.

2016 UPDATE

An FY2017 Results First Budget Amendment initiated by the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting was passed by JBC and launched a Cognitive Behavioral Pilot Project. The project, named the Enhancing Motivation By Achieving Reshaped Cognition (EMBARC) Program, is a cooperative endeavor between the DCJ Office of Community Corrections, the City and County of Denver and a private provider in community corrections. The pilot project focuses on the highest risk and highest need offender population in community corrections and provides evidence-based, cognitive skill-building in a highly intensive therapeutic environment.

2015 ACTION TO DATE

Update pending.

2014 ACTION TO DATE

This recommendation requires budget consideration and funding to be implemented.

Description

The General Assembly should provide funding for a specialized program in the community corrections budget for very high risk offenders. This program requires a differential per diem, appropriate standards of practice, and services to address what criminologists term the “top four criminogenic needs.” (Footnote: 1)

Agencies Responsible

DCJ Office of Community Corrections

Discussion

The target population for this specialized program is very high risk offenders as identified by the Level of Service Inventory (LSI-R). According to research (Footnote: 2), the program should provide:

- 60 days of intensive behavioral change/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) interventions prior to community access;
- 150 hours minimum of direct therapeutic contact (within 60 days) with a CBT intervention; and
- Minimum of 50% of overall time structured in clinical, psycho-educational, and re-entry services.

Programming should prioritize antisocial attitudes, peer relations, and impulse control over all other criminogenic or non-criminogenic needs.

The risk profile, based on the LSI, of the FY2011 residential community corrections population is as follows: (Footnote: 3)

- Very high: 14%
- High: 37%
- Medium: 41%
- Low: 8%

This recommendation is proposed as a budget item.

Footnotes

Footnote 1: These include antisocial thinking, antisocial companions, antisocial personality/temperament, and family and/or marital problems. For more information see National Institute of Corrections. (2004). Implementing evidence-based practice in community corrections: The Principles of effective intervention. Washington, DC: Department of Justice.

Footnote 2: See for example Sperber, K.G., Latessa, E.J., & Makarios, M.D. (2013). Establishing a risk-dosage research agenda: Implications for policy and practice. Justice Research and Policy, 15, 123-141.

Footnote 3: Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Research and Statistics (2014).