



FY2015 RECOMMENDATION/FY15-CC06 Develop and implement professional judgment and research-based decision making process

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.

2018 - 2022 UPDATE

Status unknown.

2017 UPDATE

Status is unknown regarding the two boards previously working on EBDM processes.

2016 UPDATE

SB 15-007 failed, but two boards are working on EBDM processes.

2015 UPDATE

This recommendation was included in Senate Bill 15-007 which was indefinitely postponed during the 2015 Legislative Session due to fiscal concerns. The recommendation was returned to the Community Corrections Task Force for further work with the intent to introduce a new bill in the 2016 Legislative Session.

2014 ACTION TO DATE

This recommendation requires statutory change to be implemented.

Description

Community corrections boards shall develop and implement a structured, research-based decision making process that combines professional judgment and actuarial risk assessment tools. This structured decision making process should sort offenders by risk, need and appropriateness for community placement. The Division of Criminal Justice shall receive resources to assist local boards in developing these processes.

Agencies Responsible

Community corrections boards

Discussion

Evidence-based correctional practices include the use of structured and data-informed decision making processes that include considerations of risk of recidivism combined with needs assessments and service availability. Community corrections boards should develop and build an empirically-supported decision making process for the purpose of identifying and accepting higher risk offenders when services are available to meet their needs. Recidivism rates are reduced an average of 30% when medium and high risk offenders receive appropriate behavior changing programming. (Footnote: 1) Conversely, offenders assessed as low risk to reoffend do not benefit from behavior changing programming (Footnote: 2) and are slightly more likely to recidivate when they are overly supervised or programmed. (Footnote: 3)

This recommendation is proposed as a statutory change requiring a fiscal note.

Footnotes

Footnote 1: See for example Andrews, D. A. (2007). Principles of effective correctional programs. In L. L. Motiuk and R. C. Serin (Eds.), *Compendium 2000 on effective correctional programming*. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Services Canada. Andrews, D. A., & Bonta, J. (2007). Risk-need-responsivity model for offender assessment and rehabilitation (2007-06). Ottawa: Public Safety Canada; Lipsey, M. W., & Cullen, F. T. (2007). The effectiveness of correctional rehabilitation: A review of systematic reviews. *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, 3, 297–320. Smith, P., Gendreau, P., & Swartz, K. (2009). Validating the principles of effective intervention: A systematic review of the contributions of meta-analysis in the field of corrections. *Victims and Offenders*, 4, 148–169.

Footnote 2: Ibid.

Footnote: 3: See for example Andrews, D. A., & Bonta, J. (2007). Risk-need-responsivity model for offender assessment and rehabilitation (2007-06). Ottawa: Public Safety Canada; Bonta, J., Wallace-Capretta, S., & Rooney, R. (2000). A quasi-experimental evaluation of an intensive rehabilitation supervision program. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 27(3), 312–329; Cullen, F. T., & Gendreau, P. (2000). Assessing correctional rehabilitation: Policy, practice, and prospects. In J. Horney (Ed.), *Criminal justice 2000: Policies, processes, and decisions of the criminal justice system*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice; Lowenkamp C. T., Latessa E. J., & Holsinger, A. M. (2006). The risk principle in action: What have we learned from 13,676 offenders and 97 correctional programs? *Crime and Delinquency*, 52, 77–93.