



Colorado Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice

FY2015 RECOMMENDATION/FY15-CC08 Develop program evaluation tool

Status: Implementation Complete

Actions/Updates

2017 UPDATE

The Office of Community Corrections (DCJ) reports that work on this recommendation is complete.

2016 UPDATE

An FY2017 Results First Budget Amendment initiated by the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting was passed by JBC and funded the development and validation of the Program Assessment for Correctional Excellence (PACE). The assessment transcends typical auditing and process evaluation by directly measuring a program's adherence to the National Institute of Corrections' Eight Guiding Principles for Effective Intervention.

2015 ACTION TO DATE

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 the Division of Criminal Justice to develop the assessment process.

Description

The Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) shall develop a program evaluation tool that will assess each programs' adherence to evidence-based principles and practices and identify each program's capacity for providing appropriate programming to very high risk offenders. The DCJ should receive funding from the General Assembly to obtain expert consultation on the development of the instrument and to complete a statewide assessment of community corrections programs using the new tool. The current Risk Factor Analysis requirement of DCJ shall be removed from statute (see C.R.S, 17-27-108).

Agencies Responsible

Division of Criminal Justice: Office of Community Corrections

Discussion

The current DCJ Risk Factor Analysis for community corrections programs does not measure the quality of programming nor does it measure adherence to the Principles of Effective Correctional Intervention. (Footnote: 1) The new instrument should be rooted in best practice principles. With project-specific funding, DCJ's Office of Community Corrections should hire a consultant to review the new instrument and hire temporary staff to immediately assess all community corrections programs.

This recommendation is proposed as a policy change that will require statutory change and includes a budget item.

Footnotes

Footnote 1: For more information about the "risk principle" and evidence based correctional practices, see http://www.colorado.gov/ccjdir/Resources/Resources/Ref/CCJJ_EBP_rpt_v3.pdf.