

**Age of Delinquency Task Force
Minutes**

December 11, 2019 1:30PM-4:00PM
2nd Floor Meeting Room, 710 Kipling, Lakewood, CO

ATTENDEES:

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Joe Thome, TF Co-chair, Division of Criminal Justice
Maureen Cain, Office of the State Public Defender
Shawn Cohn, Denver Juvenile Probation
Beverly Funaro, Victim Representative
Priscilla Gartner, Office of the State Public Defender
Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, Representative, House District 4
Arnold Hanuman, Colorado District Attorneys' Council
Kelly Friesen, Grand County Juvenile Justice Services
Tariq Sheihk, District Attorney's Office, 17th Judicial District

STAFF

Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant
Kim English, Division of Criminal Justice
Stephané Waisanen, Division of Criminal Justice

ABSENT

Jessica Jones, TF Co-chair, Private Defense Attorney
Molli Barker, Juvenile Assessment Center, 18th Judicial District
David Bergman, Youthful Offender System
Audra Bishop, Department of Public Health & Environment
Jim Bullock, District Attorney's Office, 16th Judicial District
Melanie Gilbert, At Large
Anders Jacobson, Division of Youth Services
Dan Makelky, Child Welfare, Local agency repr. (Douglas Co. DHS)
Dafna Michaelson Jenet, Representative, House District 30
Angie Paccione, Department of Higher Education
Gretchen Russo, Department of Human Services

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| <p>Issue/Topic Welcome & Introductions Joe Thome</p> <p>November Meeting Recap Richard Stroker</p> | <p>Discussion</p> <p>Joe Thome, Co-chair, called the meeting to order and explained that Jes Jones, Co-chair, is traveling and unable to join the group today. The minutes were approved unanimously.</p> <p>Richard Stroker briefly summarized the November meeting and mentioned the efforts of the two Working Groups: the Youthful Offender System (YOS) Working Group and the Community Supervision Working Group.</p> |
| <p>Issue/Topic Update on Legislation Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez</p> | <p>Discussion</p> <p>Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez informed the group that she withdrew the bill that she had drafted as part of the Prison Population Management Interim Study Committee – discussed at the November meeting – but that she will introduce a new bill that captures some of the elements of the previous bill but excludes reverse transfers (a process that would allow younger adults to petition the court to have the case heard in juvenile court).</p> <p>Serena also mentioned her concern about the lack of data necessary to better understand what happens to those who enter the justice system (e.g., information on services provided).</p> <p>Joe mentioned that the need for data is surfacing in many groups discussing criminal/juvenile justice issues.</p> |
| <p>Issue/Topic Data Update Kim English</p> | <p>Discussion</p> <p>Kim English provided another update of the requested data for males and females aged 18-24, which included the most serious filing charges, felonies and misdemeanors. She also provided data from the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) at the request of the Task Force (persons under 25 with 8+ year sentences for non-violent offenses). The CDOC reported that there are 150 individuals meeting these criteria.</p> |
| <p>Issue/Topic Youthful Offender System Tour Maureen Cain & Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez</p> | <p>Discussion</p> <p>Maureen Cain reported on the Youthful Offender System Working Group activities, including a recent meeting at, and a tour of, the YOS facility in Pueblo. Based on the meeting and tour, Maureen stated that her group made a list of approximately 30 issues. These issues included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring Practices • Lack of information transferred to YOS to assist in case planning and programming • YOS eligibility • Community supervision and revocations (a revocation for a technical violation can result in serving the original DOC sentence) • Transfer of medical and behavioral health information upon release • The viability of the boot camp portion of the program |

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| <p>Issue/Topic Youthful Offender System Tour Maureen Cain & Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez (continued)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are not involved in progress reviews; family engagement is minimal; undocumented parents are reported to ICE • Assessments for trauma are undertaken for women only • Gang interventions • Is programming evidence-based? • Some courts give longer YOS sentence than a DOC sentence (it should be the opposite) • Six inmates are below the age of 18 • Termination of the high school; this may be illegal per federal law <p>Richard summarized the issues as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eligibility criteria 2. Information sharing 3. Programming/operations 4. Re-entry/violations/revocations |
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| <p>Issue/Topic Diversion Cases 18-25 year-olds, 17th Judicial District Tariq Sheikh</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Discussion</p> <p>Tariq Sheikh briefly discussed the juvenile diversion programs in the 17th and 18th Judicial Districts, and told the group that the only judicial district that is focused on diversion for this age group is Denver. Tariq explained that, with the movement in criminal justice supervision towards individualized interventions/responses, age is less relevant because an individual’s needs – regardless of age – will dictate the service plan.</p> |
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| <p>Issue/Topic Boulder County Outcomes for 18-20 year-old population Shawn Cohn</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Discussion</p> <p>Shawn Cohn mentioned that in Boulder County, 18 and 19 year-olds on probation are supervised by juvenile probation officers and that family involvement was a key element of the supervision. Shawn stated it is critical to have supervising officers on staff who want to work with juveniles. Providing training on brain development and implementing specialized caseloads will not change client outcomes if the probation officers do not want to work with the juvenile population. Kelly Friesen agreed and stated that many rural districts do not have juvenile probation officers.</p> <p>Priscilla Gartner proposed raising the age of delinquency to 19 rather than developing “special” programs for 18-24 year-olds. Most 18-19 year-olds are sentenced to probation. Most of those in CDOC likely started with a probation sentence and were later revoked to CDOC. Lookout Mountain is being remodeled and this is an opportunity to build a plan for 18-19 year-olds to be sentenced to the Division of Youth Services (in CDHS).</p> <p>Bev Funaro, the victim representative on the Task Force, told the group that she prepared a document to read aloud that described her experience as a victim in the juvenile justice system, and now seemed like an appropriate time</p> |
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| <p>Issue/Topic Boulder County Outcomes for 18-20-year old population Shawn Cohn (continued)</p> | <p>to share the information. Bev read her statement that described the crime(s) against her daughter that resulted in death. The perpetrator was 16 years old and was eventually charged with a very minor crime. Bev fought to get charges filed and fought to have probation hold him accountable. She explained to the group that raising the age of delinquency will have a negative effect for victims of those crimes since victims in juvenile court are un-empowered.</p> <p>The Task Force members expressed their gratitude to Bev for sharing her story.</p> <p>Shawn informed the group that they should be aware of the Emerging Adult Justice Project at Columbia University (justicelab.columbia.edu/EAJ) and encouraged the Task Force to consider this resource. She also mentioned that chief probation officers support raising the age of delinquency.</p> <p>The group discussed considering a pilot program for young adults with a focus on case planning and engagement, staff recruitment, training, and specialized caseloads.</p> |
| <p>Issue/Topic Next Steps Richard Stroker</p> <p>Adjourn Joe Thome</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Discussion</p> <p>Richard suggested that the group consider the discussion today and be prepared to get more specific in January, and to be ready to begin recommendation development in February. The YOS Working Group will identify priority issues.</p> <p>Joe thanked the Task Force member for their participation and adjourned the meeting.</p> |

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

1:30PM – 4:00PM

2nd floor Meeting Room

710 Kipling, Lakewood, CO