

Sentencing Reform Task Force

Sentence Progression Working Group / Data Study Group

MINUTES

April 13, 2021 / 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

ATTENDEES

Greg Mauro, *WG Co-leader*, Denver Division of Community Corrections

Andrew Matson, Colorado CURE

Meredith McGrath, Division of Parole, CDOC

Amber Pedersen, Exec. Dir. Office, CDOC

Katie Ruske, Division of Criminal Justice, OCC

STAFF

Kim English, Division of Criminal Justice

Linda Harrison, Division of Criminal Justice

Laurence Lucero, Division of Criminal Justice

Issue/Topic	Discussion
Sample and Data Discussion and Determinations	<p>Following the Sentence Progression Working Group meeting on April 6, 2021, the Study Group was convened to discuss the characteristics of the initial DOC data requested by Amber Pedersen a few months ago. The goal was also to determine what additional data elements may be needed and how to define the samples of interest to best answer the questions under study by the Working Group. Below are the discussion highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sample representativeness concerns: The current sample [people approaching their Mandatory Release Date (MRD)] comprised those who remain incarcerated following denials of placements in community corrections (“Comcor”) and/or parole or other rejections for placements in other release options. Also, those serving short sentences are not included.• Disciplinary data: Who succeeds and who fails in the various reentry options (Comcor, ISP-I or Parole)? Reasons for revocations and for COPD (Code of Penal Discipline) violations?• Data accuracy: The current data indicates a suspiciously high 46% of people who are within 2 years of their MRD have never been referred to Comcor. In Denver, an individual at 15 months to MRD is automatically accepted.• Referral “history”: Were those close to MRD referred or never referred? If they were referred, to what program...ISP-I?...Comcor? Did they waive referral? How many referral applications were denied? How many were ineligible for referral (COPD)? Did they transition (to Comcor) and fail?• ISP-I: Does every individual in the sample have a single referral to ISP-I? Amber will confirm.

<p>Issue/Topic Sample and Data Discussion and Determinations (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we profile these non-released individuals? Look at their risk/need levels and compare to those released to parole...compare to those accepted by Comcor or on ISP-I. • Should the data represent a current snapshot or a snapshot prior to COVID? COVID influenced decision making--will those changes continue? • How many individuals have waived transition application options? Why did they waive? Did a denial precede a waiver? A previous failure? • When a denial occurs (for example, to Comcor), how does this impact an individual's motivation in general and their motivation to re-apply? • In addition to those close to MRD, what are the referral outcomes of the initial community referrals for those prior to or near PED? Who is and isn't referred at this point and why? • Information on re-referrals: Who attempts a re-referral and who does not? What are the outcomes of these subsequent referrals?
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<p>Issue/Topic Next Steps: Data Request to CDOC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Discussion</p> <p>After the meeting, Linda and Amber will meet to draft the data request to DOC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Samples of offenders: those prior to or at PED (referral eligible) and those past PED but before MRD as of March 31, 2021. ➤ Data concerning each offender and their referrals to Community Corrections and to ISP-I, including complete history of referrals. ➤ Community waivers, acceptances (board and/or program), denials, denial reasons and failures during the current incarceration. ➤ ISP-I waivers/refusals, referrals, program responses, and reasons for closure/rejection during the current incarceration. ➤ Data regarding disciplinary actions (COPDs, transition regressions, revocations) and for program terminations in community placements (Comcor and ISP-I). ➤ Additional data elements from Amber's original data request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Custody level - Substance use needs level - Most serious crime - Gang membership - COPD conviction in past year - Prior escapes/abscond history <p>The analyses of these data will not be completed before the next Sentence Progression Working Group meeting on May 11. Linda will inform the Data Study Group when the analyses are available to allow the Study Group an opportunity to review findings and possibly refine the analyses further.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.</p>
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