

*Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice*

**Sentencing Reform Task Force  
MINUTES**

July 7, 2021 / 1:30PM-4:00PM  
Virtual Meeting

**ATTENDEES**

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

*Meeting Facilitator - Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant*  
Taj Ashaheed, Second Chance Center  
Maureen Cain, Office of the State Public Defender  
Terri Carver, State Representative (House District 20)  
Christie Donner, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition  
Bob Gardner, State Senator (Senate District 12)  
Julie Gonzales, State Senator (Senate District 34)  
Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, State Representative (House District 4)  
Kristen Hilkey, Adult Parole Board  
Kazi Houston, Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center  
Jessica Jones, Defense Attorney  
Sarah Keck, Court Services  
Matt Lewis, Mesa County Sheriff  
Andrew Matson, Colorado CURE  
Greg Mauro, Division of Community Corrections  
Heather McClure, Adams County Division of Community Safety & Well-Being  
Michael Rourke, District Attorney, 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
Dan Rubinstein, District Attorney, 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District  
Glenn Tapia, Division of Probation Services  
Dean Williams, Department of Corrections  
Lisa Wayne, Defense Attorney

**STAFF**

Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant  
Jack Reed, Division of Criminal Justice  
Damien Angel, Division of Criminal Justice  
Kevin Ford, Division of Criminal Justice  
Laurence Lucero, Division of Criminal Justice  
Stephane Waisanen, Division of Criminal Justice

**ABSENT**

Michael Dougherty, *TF Co-chair*/District Attorney, 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
Rick Kornfeld, *TF Co-chair*/Defense Attorney  
Jeff Chostner, District Attorney, 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
Valerie Finks, Victim Compensation Program, DA Office, 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District  
Henry Jackson, Metro State College  
Tom Raynes, Colorado District Attorneys' Council

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Welcome, Approval of Minutes, and Agenda <i>Richard Stroker</i></p>	<p>Richard Stroker facilitated the meeting in the absence of co-chairs, Rick Kornfeld and Michael Dougherty.</p> <p>Richard welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the agenda. A motion was offered and seconded to approve the minutes from June 9, 2021. Task Force members unanimously approved the minutes.</p>

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Report: Sentencing Alternatives, Decisions &amp; Probation Working Group <i>Glenn Tapia</i></p>	<p>Glenn provided an update on behalf of the “Probation Working Group” that included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Working Group discussed barriers to treatment for justice-involved individuals as well as telehealth as a supplement to in-person treatment. The group intends to produce a recommendation regarding this topic.</li> <li>○ The Working Group intends to develop recommendations aimed at improving treatment for probationers in the areas of efficacy, quality, access, treatment matching, and stigma reduction.</li> <li>○ The Working Group may have additional recommendations regarding over-supervision but is unsure if they will be developed by October.</li> </ul> <p>Glenn asked the Task Force members for their preference regarding the presentation of recommendations and determined that the Task Force is prepared to review recommendations as they are developed and to group the presentations when the recommendations are interrelated.</p> <p>Christie Donner asked Glenn if the Working Group has considered where they might acquire state funds for programming. Glenn stated that the Working Group would discuss funding sources at their next meeting.</p>

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Report: Sentence Progression Working Group <i>Greg Mauro, Kristen Hilkey</i></p>	<p>Greg Mauro informed the Task Force that the Working Group would like some feedback regarding the direction of their work moving forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Greg stated that the scope of work for the group had grown quite large and that it would be difficult to address all the topics adequately at the Working Group level.</li> <li>● Andrew Matson spoke to the expansive scope of work as well and mentioned that the group discussed the possibility of creating a new Task Force to accomplish the work. Andrew stated that the idea was met with some opposition and said that he was concerned about creating a separate Task Force.</li> <li>● Maureen Cain echoed Andrew’s concern and stated that she believed that it is important to keep the work of the Sentence Progression Working</li> </ul>

<p><b>Issue/Topic</b>                  Report: Sentence Progression Working Group  <i>Greg Mauro, Kristen Hilkey</i>                  (continued)</p>	<p>Group within the Sentencing Reform Task Force as it was interconnected with the other Working Groups in the Task Force.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glenn provided support for the idea of creating a new Task Force and mentioned that the CCJJ has, historically, had multiple Task Forces in operation.</li> <li>• Kristen Hilkey stated that the Sentence Progression Working Group could go on hiatus until the Task Force can provide additional clarity on the scope of work for the group.</li> <li>• Dan Rubenstein stated that suggestions produced the Sentence Structure Working Group may inform the topics that the Sentence Progression Working Group should address and that putting the group on hiatus made sense.</li> <li>• Maureen Cain and Christie Donner voiced their support of Dan’s point.</li> <li>• Richard presented 9 topics that the Working Group identified as potential areas of work.</li> </ul> <p>Upon review of the list and in view of the comments offered, the Task Force agreed that it would be best for the Sentence Progression Working Group to go on hiatus until the suggestions for work topics were developed by the Sentence Structure Working Group.</p>
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<p><b>Issue/Topic</b>                  Report: Sentence Structure Working Group  <i>Maureen Cain</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Discussion</p> <p>Maureen provided an update on behalf of the “Structure Working Group” that included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Working Group conducted stakeholder listening sessions on June 21 and 22, 2021 to gather feedback as they begin their review of felony sentencing grids and offenses. Each stakeholder was allotted 20 minutes to present information to the group. The following stakeholders attended and offered comments at the sessions:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Jason Vitello, Denver Public Health &amp; President of the CO Public Health Association</i></li> <li>- <i>Amanda Myers, CO DHS, Office of Behavioral Health Forensic Support Team Director</i></li> <li>- <i>Dr. Lisa Calderon, Chief of Staff, to Councilwoman Candi deBaca, Formerly Community Reentry Project</i></li> <li>- <i>Lisa Raville, Harm Reduction Action Center</i></li> <li>- <i>Taj Ashaheed, Second Chance Center/SRTF</i></li> <li>- <i>Tristan Gorman, Colorado Criminal Defense Bar</i></li> <li>- <i>Beale Tejada, Colorado Criminal Defense Bar</i></li> <li>- <i>JoyBelle Phelan, DU Prisoner Arts Project</i></li> <li>- <i>Liam Donevan, Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado</i></li> <li>- <i>Jamie Cowan, Former Prosecutor</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<p><b>Issue/Topic</b>                  Report: Sentence Structure                  Working Group                  Maureen Cain                  (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jocelyn Rhymer, Colorado Organization for Victim’s Assistance</li> <li>- Fran Lanzer, Mothers Against Drunk Driving</li> <li>- Cynthia Randall, Latino Coalition for Community Leadership</li> <li>- Agueda Morgan, Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault</li> <li>- Jenna Harper, Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dan informed members that the most frequent topic discussed by stakeholders was truth in sentencing.</li> <li>• The Working Group will also be looking at the sentencing structures of other states to inform their work.</li> </ul> <p>Maureen invited the Task Force members to contact the Working Group via Damien Angel if they had any questions or if they knew of additional stakeholders who would like to participate in a listening session.</p>
<p><b>Issue/Topic</b>                  Public Comment                  Richard Stroker</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Comment</b></p> <p>There were no members of the public present during this meeting.</p>
<p><b>Issue/Topic</b>                  Adjournment                  Richard Stroker</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Hearing no further comment from the group, Richard thanked the everyone for their efforts and adjourned the meeting.</p> <p><b>The next meeting is scheduled for 8/11/2021 from 1:30pm to 4:00pm with details posted at <a href="http://ccjj.colorado.gov/ccjj-meetings">ccjj.colorado.gov/ccjj-meetings</a>.</b></p>