

Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice
Sentencing Reform Task Force

Sentence Progression Working Group
MINUTES

October 11, 2022 / 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
VIRTUAL MEETING

ATTENDEES

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Emily Fleischmann, *WG Co-leader*, Office of the State Public Defender
Brian Mason, *WG Co-leader*, District Attorney's Office/ 17th Judicial District (JD)
Greg Mauro, *WG Co-leader (CCJJ member)*, Denver Division of Community Corrections
Joseph Archambault, Office of the State Public Defender
Christie Donner, CO Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
JR Hall, *(CCJJ member)*, Parole Board Chair
Merideth McGrath, Division of Parole/ CDOC
Amber Pedersen, Exec. Dir. Office/ CDOC
Emily Tofte Nestaval, Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center
Catrina Weigel, District Attorney Office/20th JD

STAFF

Laurence Lucero, Division of Criminal Justice
Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant
Stephané Waisanen, Division of Criminal Justice

ABSENT

Taj Ashaheed, *(CCJJ member)*, Second Chance Center
Rick Kornfeld, *(CCJJ member)*, *TF Co-chair*, Criminal Defense
Andrew Matson, Colorado CURE
Richard Morales, Latino Coalition
Steve O'Doriso, *(CCJJ member)*, Adams County Commissioner
Michael Rourke, *(CCJJ member)*, District Attorney/ 19th JD
Abigail Tucker, *(CCJJ Vice-Chair)*, Mental Health providers

Guests

Chystal Owin, Office of Community Corrections/ Division of Criminal Justice
Mike Tessean, Director/ Parole Board

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Welcome & Introductions <i>WG Co-leaders</i></p>	<p>Emily Fleischmann, WG Co-leader, welcomed all participants and asked them to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant provided a summary of the previous Working Group meeting.</p>

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Summary of Previous Meeting <i>Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant</i></p>	<p>The Working Group focused on the progression of individuals from prison to the community and completed its examination of the current end-of-sentence options (Community Corrections, Parole (mandatory and discretionary), and Intensive Supervision Program-Inmate [ISP-I]).</p> <p>In 2021, the number of inmates transitioning from prison to the community included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Corrections (CC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1,932 inmates transitioned from prison to CC ▪ Eligibility: Individuals are <u>eligible for referral</u> to Community Corrections 19 months before their Parole Eligibility Date (PED) for non-violent offenses, 9 months prior PED for violent offenses. Individuals are <u>eligible for placement</u> in a Community Corrections facility 16 months before their Parole Eligibility Date (PED) for non-violent offenses, 6 months prior to PED for violent offenses • Intensive Supervision Program-Inmate (ISP-I) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 215 transitioned from prison to ISP-I ▪ Individuals are eligible to transition 6 months before PED • Parole <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4,049 inmates released on discretionary parole ▪ 2,000 inmates released on their mandatory release date ▪ Non-violent offenses- must complete 50% of the time served minus earned time ▪ Violent Offenses- must complete 75% of time served minus earned time. <p>At the previous Working Group meeting, three areas and specific issues were identified for continued exploration- Community Corrections, ISP-I, and Parole:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Timing of Eligibility:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Corrections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 42% of individuals eligible for placement in Community Corrections were accepted, 58% eligible for placement were denied, ○ Placement occurs in advance of parole eligibility for non-violent offenders, ▪ ISP-I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A small percentage of individuals are referred and fewer are accepted into the program, • <u>The population of individuals with a shorter sentence:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How do the timeline and time served percentages fit together? ▪ How does this impact individuals with a short sentence, • <u>Are individuals placed correctly into available programs:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individuals with special needs or assistance.

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Prioritize the Areas of Interest <i>WG Co-leaders, All</i></p>	<p>The group had a robust discussion about the need for more synchronized options for the transition to the community, particularly regarding the timing of eligibility of the programs, individuals who received short sentences in prison, special needs populations, and the need for additional prison-to-community (“off-ramp”) options. The goal for the group is to create more cohesion in the use of the different options and to better match individuals to the correct and needed services.</p> <p>Richard noted the following areas the group has identified for continued work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine opportunities to synchronize the timing and operation of the transition options, • Identify and address issues to improve outcomes associated with individuals moving through the transition options into the community, and • What are the basic services offered by community corrections. <p>The group acknowledged the need to identify the most appropriate population to transition from the Department of Corrections to Community Corrections. After a brief discussion, Richard suggested a case management/transition release plan to determine the risks and needs of incarcerated individuals and identify the most appropriate transition options for better outcome. The transition program would provide a strategy for managing the individual.</p> <p>The group discussed the formation of a study group to examine the population who would best benefit from Community Corrections programs, and Merideth McGrath proposed to review example cases of inmates whose profiles suggest that transitioning to Community Corrections programs would provide a better outcome.</p> <p>Might group could obtain data on success rates of the inmates who transitioned to community corrections? Chrystal Owin will provide that information to members.</p>

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Next Steps & Adjourn <i>Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant WG Co-leaders</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group will continue discussions of synchronized options and the decision processes of local communities for placement in community corrections facilities. • Merideth McGrath will present a variety of cases that highlight the needs of individuals who are eligible for the transition options. • Richard Stroker to provide case management approaches from other states. • Crystal Owin to provide the success rates for community corrections. <p>With no further discussion or questions, the Working Group Co-leaders thanked participants for their contributions and adjourned the meeting.</p>

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 8, 2022 / 9:00am-11:00am

Meeting information will be emailed to members and posted at, colorado.gov/ccjj/ccjj-meetings