

CCJJ Exploratory Re-entry Planning Group

Background

In March 2014 the CCJJ identified re-entry issues as a priority for future work. The Exploratory Re-entry Planning Group (ERPG) was created to review various re-entry issues, identify key issues and key stakeholders, and propose a work plan for a new task force.

Planning Group Process

The ERPG met three times from November 2014 through January 2015. The group established a re-entry definition and conducted an environment scan of other organized groups and/or organized efforts currently underway regarding re-entry. Dozens of possible improvement areas were discussed and vetted and recommendations from previous work groups (both the 2012 Community Corrections Lean Initiative Work Group and the CCJJ's 2008 Re-entry Oversight Committee) were examined to identify commonalities and/or redundancies. The group identified re-entry topics ranging from housing, employment and readiness to effective supervision, public awareness and collateral consequences of conviction. The exploratory group members agreed that re-entry issues are vast and varied and that successful outcomes from a longer term task force would require prioritizing a handful of key issue areas and narrowing the scope of work significantly. The ERPG also discussed the fact that many other groups are addressing similar re-entry issues and that it would be critical not to duplicate other efforts already underway.

Key Issues

The ERPG identified the following eight pressing issue areas:

Priority Problems for Re-entry Consideration

1. There is a significant gap in finding stable housing for offenders in the community.
2. Providing IDs for offenders leaving custody facilities continues to be a problem even though some progress has been made over the last few years.
3. Collateral consequences of conviction are roadblocks to successful re-entry.
4. Technical violators continue to be a problem for the criminal justice system as a whole, in probation, community corrections and parole.
5. There is a gap in residential treatment beds for behavioral health problems. This results in offenders not receiving timely and appropriate services and increasing the likelihood of failure in the community.
6. Access to medical and mental health care including medication continues to be a significant barrier to successful offender re-entry. Access and coverage under the ACA is a barrier for offenders released to the community.
7. Young adult males 18-25 years old are failing at a significant rate.
8. The most significant concern for Youth Corrections is post custodial recidivism.

CCJJ Exploratory Re-entry Planning Group

After further consideration, group members identified the following top three areas as those that should be paramount for the task force to address:

- Collateral consequences of conviction are roadblocks to successful re-entry
- Technical violators continue to be a problem for the criminal justice system as a whole, in probation, community corrections and parole
- Access to medical and mental health care including medication continues to be a significant barrier to successful offender re-entry. Access and coverage under the ACA is a barrier for offenders released to the community

Stakeholders

The ERPG has identified the following key stakeholders for the proposed task force:

Department of Corrections	The Judicial Branch / Probation	Adult Parole Board
Juvenile Parole Board	Community Corrections	Jail
CMHIP (Colo. Mental Health Institute at Pueblo)	Human Services	ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement)
HUD (Housing and Urban Development)	DOLA (Colo. Department of Local Affairs)	HCPF (Colo. Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing)
Faith Based Organization representative	Offender representative	Homeless provider
Behavioral Health provider	Veteran's representative	Youth corrections
Advocacy Group representative	Victim's representative	District Attorney representative
Defense representative		