

June 10, 2016

FY16-RE #02. Provide Model Conditions of Placement in Community Corrections

Recommendation FY16-RE #02

The Office of Community Corrections should provide model conditions of community corrections placement for implementation by programs statewide.

Discussion

The Office of Community Corrections (OCC) has administrative authority over 32 community corrections programs statewide. Historically the programs have independently established their own conditions of placement and protocol for addressing violations of those conditions. In FY 2014, Colorado's programs had a successful completion rate of 48%, with 25% of terminations resulting from technical violations.

To improve the rate of successful completion, the OCC has been working under a grant since 2013 to develop and implement the Behavioral Shaping Model and Reinforcement Tool (BSMART). BSMART aims to provide programs with model conditions of placement, response protocols for condition violations, incentive implementation for residents, and software upgrades to support these practices. Although the OCC hopes to have half of Colorado's programs using BSMART when its grant terminates in July 2017, programs are currently under no statutory or regulatory obligation to implement it.

The Conditions Working Group of the Commission's Re-entry Task Force has reviewed drafts of the model conditions of placement, and model basic facility expectations, that OCC is developing as part of BSMART. The consensus of the working group was that the drafts it reviewed represent a vast improvement over current practice. The OCC is currently engaged in an ongoing review of these documents, working in conjunction with the programs it oversees.

The Commission believes providing model conditions of placement is a valuable component of helping Colorado's community corrections programs lower their rate of unsuccessful completion due to technical violations. It encourages the OCC to complete the process of refining those conditions and make them available to programs statewide. Although the Commission does not believe a statutory mandate is necessary at this time, it further encourages individual programs to adopt the OCC's model conditions once they are complete.