# Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice



# Background and Mandates

Staff to the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice August 2019



- The Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) was established by the Colorado Legislature, in HB07-1358, and signed into law on May 23, 2007.
- CCJJ's first meeting was held January 2008.
- The CCJJ was reauthorized in 2013 (SB13-007) and again in 2018 (HB18-1287), with a current repeal date of July 1, 2023.



- Initial structure, guiding principles, and by-laws were developed in the first few meetings
- Voting protocols were developed or revised in 2008 (thresholds & alternatives established), 2009 (reconsideration established), and 2016 (supermajority threshold revised).
- CCJJ's first order of business was to address Adult Probation, Corrections and Re-entry.

# C History

- Abuse of Youth in Custody Subc.
- Bail Subcommittee
- Behavioral Health Task Force
- Community Corrections Task Force
- Cost Savings Subcommittee
- Cyber-bullying Subcommittee
- Direct File Subcommittee
- Drug Policy Task Force
- Incarceration Task Force
- Juvenile Justice Task Force
- Juvenile Continuity of Care Task Force
- Re-Entry Oversight Subcommittee
- Re-entry Task Force
- MOR Subcommittee
- Mental Health/Jails Task Force
- Mandatory Parole Subcommittee

- Probation Task Force
- Post-Incarceration Supervision Task Force
- Sentencing Task Force
- Sex Offense/Offender Task Force
- Transition Task Force
- First-Responder Study Group
- Human Trafficking Study Group
- Jessica's Law Study Group





- Enhance public safety
- Ensure justice
- Ensure the protection of the rights of victims
- Focus on cost effective expenditure of public funds and use of public resources
- Focus on evidence-based recidivism reduction (...revisiting later!)





### **Enabling Legislation**

 The Commission will conduct an empirical analysis of and collect evidence-based data on sentencing policies and practices, including but not limited to the effectiveness of the sentences imposed in meeting the purposes of sentencing and the need to prevent recidivism and revictimization.

(§16-11.3-103.2a, C.R.S)



 The Commission will investigate effective alternatives to incarceration, the factors contributing to recidivism, evidence-based recidivism reduction initiatives, and costeffective crime prevention programs.



- The Commission will make an annual report of findings and recommendations, including evidence-based analysis and data.
- The Commission will study and evaluate the outcomes of Commission recommendations as implemented.



 The Commission will conduct and review studies (including work done in other states) and make recommendations concerning policies and practices in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. The areas of study shall include, but are not limited to, the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities within the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Areas of study will be prioritized based on the potential impact on crime, corrections and the resources available for conducting the work.

**Background and Mandates** 



 The Commission, using empirical analysis and evidence-based data and research, will consider the development of a comprehensive drug sentencing scheme for all drug crimes described in article 18 of title 18, C.R.S.

(§16-11.3-103- 2.7a, C.R.S.; Repealed July 1, 2013.)



- The Commission will work with other stateestablished boards, task forces, or commissions that study or address criminal justice issues.
- The Commission, at its discretion, may respond to inquiries referred by members of the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, as resources allow. (also, HB18-1287: Biennial "Topics Letter")

(§16-11.3-103.2e & 4, C.R.S.)



#### Best Practices: State Boards & Commissions (HB18-1198)

- Shall implement bylaws and written policies.
- Shall obtain annual training. (see topics below)
- Responsible state agency ensures that training is obtained and policies are implemented.
  - (§24-3.7-102, C.R.S.)



#### **Best Practices:** <u>Eleven</u> Training Topics (HB18-1198)

- a) Operating within statutory directives, legislative intent, and directions/laws related to powers and duties.
- *b)* Define the mission/role regarding oversight of funded projects/entities.
- *c)* Understand the goals of programs overseen and have aligned processes.
- d) Identifying conflicts of interest.
- e) Understanding the requirements of the **Open Records** and the **Open Meetings** Laws.
- f) Setting parameters of **Commission staff duties**.

(§24-3.7-102, C.R.S.)



### Training Topics: (continued)

- g) Identify/secure sufficient data to make informed decisions.
- Involving members in key communications and policymaking activities.
- i) Members acting in accordance with their **roles as public representatives**.
- j) Coordinating with other boards/commissions, industry, education institutions, and state agencies where responsibilities and interests overlap.
- k) Annually reviewing management practices to ensure best practices are utilized.

(§24-3.7-102, C.R.S.)



- The Commission is comprised of 29 members and one Ex-officio member.
- Sixteen members are designated appointments based upon their position (indeterminate terms).
- Fourteen members are appointed by the Governor to represent a broad spectrum of disciplines and constituencies. (These members serve no more than two, three-year terms.)

(§16-11.3-102.2 & 3, C.R.S.)



- Only members of the Commission are permitted to participate in the Commission's formal decision making (voting) process.\* (The Director of the Division of Criminal Justice is the only non-voting member of the Commission).
  - \* Only Designated members are allowed to appoint a <u>permanent</u> <u>"designee"</u> to participate and vote on the Commission.
    - All members may designate <u>a meeting substitute</u> who may participate in Commission discussions, but this individual cannot vote.

(CCJJ By-Laws Section 5.3 & C.R.S. §16-11.3-102.2b)



## Staff Support

- Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant
- Kim English, Dir., DCJ: Office of Research and Statistics
  - Damien Angel, ORS
  - Peg Flick, ORS
  - Kevin Ford, ORS
  - Linda Harrison, ORS
  - Laurence Lucero, ORS
  - Jack Reed, ORS
  - Stephane Waisanen, ORS
- Cooper Reveley, Legislative Liaison, Exec. Dir. Office, CDPS



#### **Richard Stroker**

- Serves as consultant for the Commission
  - Plays an active role in strategic planning; facilitates most task force meetings; ties together the work of the task forces
- 25+ S.C. Department of Corrections
- 10+ years at Center for Effective Public Policy
  - Worked with dozens of policy groups in more than 40 states, in Indian Country, and dozens of local jurisdictions
  - Worked with Denver's Community Corrections Board Director of National Parole Resource Center
  - Worked with DOC's strategic planning group

#### Visit the Commission web site often! Colorado.gov/ccjj



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