



Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

Minutes

September 13, 2019

Jefferson County Government Center
100 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, CO 80401

Commission Member Attendance

Stan Hilkey, Chair	Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez	Tom Raynes
Joe Thome, Interim Vice Chair	Kristen Hilkey - ABSENT	Cliff Riedel
Chris Bachmeyer	Nancy Jackson	Megan Ring
Minna Castillo-Cohen - ABSENT	Jessica Jones	Gretchen Russo
Shawn Day	Bill Kilpatrick - ABSENT	Matt Soper
Janet Drake	Rick Kornfeld	Jennifer Stith
Valarie Finks	Matt Lewis	Glenn Tapia - ABSENT
Bob Gardner	Andrew Matson	Anne Tapp
Priscilla Gartner	Greg Mauro	Abigail Tucker
Julie Gonzales	Angie Paccione	Dean Williams - ABSENT

Guest: Travis Trani for Dean Williams

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

Stan Hilkey, Chair and Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety

Mr. Hilkey, called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm and asked Commissioners to introduce themselves. Mr. Hilkey thanked Commissioners for attending and welcomed Senator Bob Gardner to his first Commission meeting.

Mr. Hilkey reviewed the agenda, and then asked for any additions or corrections to the August meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes; the motion was unanimously accepted by the Commissioners.

TASK FORCE UPDATES

Drug Offense Task Force

Megan Ring and Tom Raynes, Co-Chairs

Ms. Ring presented an update on the newly created Drug Offense Task Force (DOTF).

Ms. Ring reminded the group that Senate Bill 19-008 (*Concerning treatment of individuals with substance abuse disorders who come into contact with the criminal justice system*) directs the Commission to study and make recommendations regarding diversion and record sealing for individuals with substance use disorders who come into contact with the criminal justice system.

The first Task Force meeting was held on September 12, 2019. Two Working Groups have been created:

- Diversion Working Group, WG Co-leaders Mr. Thome (DCJ) and Mr. Adam Zarrin (Governor's Office)
- Sealing Working Group, WG Leader Ms. Audrey Weiss (District Attorney's Office, 1st Judicial District)

The topics of discussion during the first meeting centered around an overview of the mandate, background information about record sealing and diversion, and the development of a work strategy for the Task Force and Working Groups.

Opioid Investigations Subcommittee

Stan Hilkey, CCJJ Chair for Task Force Co-chairs, Sheriff Matt Lewis and Chief Bill Kilpatrick

Mr. Hilkey explained that he was asked to chair the first Opioid Investigations Subcommittee meeting as both Sheriff Lewis and Chief Kilpatrick had prior engagements and were unable to attend. However, Chief Kilpatrick was able attend the meeting after all.

Senate Bill 19-008 mandates that the Commission study best practices for investigating unlawful opioid distribution in Colorado, including the potential creation of black market opioid investigatory entities at the state and local levels.

At the first Subcommittee meeting, the group discussed the extent of the problem and received presentations on current efforts in the state. The goal is to submit preliminary recommendations to the Commission by May 2020.

Pretrial Release Task Force

Stan Hilkey, Chair

The Task Force heard reports from the Pretrial Task Force Working Groups.

- 1) The Data Collection Working Group presented two draft recommendations to the Task Force, including a list of data points to collect from pretrial services entities.
- 2) The Judicial Engagement Working Group discussed keynote speakers for the State Judicial Conference next year.
- 3) The CCJJ Recommendations Review/HB19-1226 Working Group expects to present recommendations to the Task Force for consideration in October and to provide a preliminary presentation to the Commission in November 2019.

PRESENTATION: Community Reinvestment: Four Initiatives in Colorado

Terri Hurst and Juston Cooper, CO Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC.org)

Hassan Latif, Second Chance Center (scccolorado.org)

Richard Morales, Latino Coalition for Community Leadership (latinocoalition.org)

Mr. Hilkey welcomed the panel of presenters. The full presentation can be found on the Commission website under the September 13, 2019 meeting tab at, Colorado.gov/ccjj/ccjj-mtgs2019.

Terri Hurst explained that CCJRC has collaborated in the development of four different community reinvestment legislative initiatives. The highlights of the presentation follow:

- The Re-Entry-Work and Gain Education and Employment Services (WAGEES) Program began in 2014 with four pilot programs in partnership with the Department of Corrections (DOC). Today there are 18 programs statewide with the mission to provide services to people on parole, on transition in Community Corrections, or who have discharged their DOC sentence. The latter group can access services for one year following discharge. This is a voluntary program.
- The Transforming Safety Initiative began in 2017. Two pilot sites, in north Aurora and southeast Colorado Springs, provide grants for direct services and also micro-loans for small businesses. Twenty-six community organizations are funded by the program, providing a variety of services to justice-involved people, crime survivors, and K-12 students.
- The Crime Survivors Services grant project began in 2018. This initiative is housed in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and focuses on underserved victims, particularly men, people of color, and young adults. As an example of some of this work, a grant was awarded to Denver Health to research best practices regarding the responses to repeat victimization and to convene men from the community to discuss victimization issues.
- The rollout of the Harm Reduction program has just begun (2019).
- The Latino Coalition for Community Leadership (LCCL) serves as a “community-facing grant intermediary” for these initiatives. The LCCL is the grant manager for both the WAGEES reentry program in partnership with DOC and the Victims Services grant program in partnership with CDPHE. For the Transforming Safety initiative, LCCL provides technical assistance to grantees along with data collection and evaluation.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Russo asked if these services are available to juveniles. Mr. Cooper responded that currently the programs are not available to juveniles but noted that the community reinvestment model could be applicable to juveniles.

Ms. Paccione mentioned the potential for collaboration following the recent passage of Senate Bill 19-231, *Colorado Second Chance Scholarship*. The act creates a scholarship program in the Department of Higher Education for youth previously committed to the Division of Youth Services in the Department of Human Services.

Mr. Matson asked how the success of these programs is measured. Mr. Morales explained that there are established measures for the WAGEES program, and recidivism (new arrest) is tracked while people are in the program. All programs undergo sunset reviews, per statute, which require performance measures.

Individuals who might benefit from the services described learn of these programs through informational presentations regularly held at DOC facilities and community corrections half-way houses and by word of mouth. DOC also provides information on existing programs that support successful reentry in the community.

Ms. Stith asked if CCJRC has considered providing services to individuals who have experienced sexual abuse as children. Mr. Cooper responded that CCJRC is currently discussing this possibility and acknowledged that many justice-involved individuals have experienced various forms of trauma during their childhood.

**Presentation: Desistance from Crime – Empirical Evidence – Implications for Policy and Practice
Roger Przybylski**

Mr. Hilkey introduced Mr. Przybylski from the RKC Group (rkcgroup.org) and Justice Research and Statistics Association (jrsta.org) to present on desistance from crime. The full content of the presentation can be found on the Commission website under the September 13, 2019 meeting tab at, Colorado.gov/ccjj/ccjj-mtgs2019.

The highlights of the presentation follow:

- Desistance is the process of abstaining from crime among those who previously had engaged in a sustained pattern of offending.
- Desistance requires motivation, acquisition of new skills, and relationships that facilitate and help maintain change.
- Desistance is related to both external/social aspects of a person's life as well as internal/psychological factors. Age and maturity, employment, family and relationships, and sobriety are very important factors that help a person desist from crime.
- Positive relationships between offenders and justice system professionals matters; every interaction is an opportunity to support desistance.
- Time in treatment and aftercare treatment is important for long term results.
- From the National Research Council report on *Parole, Desistance from Crime, and Community Integration*:
 - Work, family ties, reduced consumption of drugs are important factors in desistance.
 - The time period immediately following the release from prison is the riskiest.
 - Supervision alone does not reduce recidivism; supervision integrated with treatment does.
 - Sanctions alone have little impact on desistance behavior.
- What we can do?
 - Give strong optimistic messages and avoid labelling.
 - Focus on strengths not just risks.
 - Make practical assistance the priority.
 - Work with parents and partners.
 - Recognize and mark achievement towards desistance.
 - Work with and support communities.
 - Work with, not on, the individual.
- Policy Implications
 - The evidence highlights the need to alter current policies on lengthy (or any) incarceration and the collateral consequences for a felony conviction.
 - Incarcerating high percentages of offenders damages already weak bonds to society. Imprisonment harms family, school and job stability.

- Offenders should be enabled to continue their education while in prison and also participate in meaningful occupational and vocational programs that could improve post-release job stability.
- Programs should effectively monitor the compliance of ex-prisoners and incorporate treatment focusing on job training and employment, education, family counseling, and reconnecting individuals to the community.
- Invest in communities, as was discussed in the first presentation.
- Invest in crime prevention.

Mr. Przybylski concluded by recommending a documentary film on the topic of crime desistance, *The Road from Crime* (running time, 48:35), available at, iriss.org.uk/resources/videos/road-crime.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public signed up to offer comment.

WRAP-UP AND ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Commission is October 11 at 1:00 pm at the same location, the Lookout Mountain Room, Jefferson County Government Center.

Mr. Hilkey reminded the group that, according to Commission Bylaws, Commissioners are expected to participate on Task Forces and Subcommittees and invited members to inform staff which groups they will join.

Mr. Hilkey thanked Commissioners for their time and asked the group for any final comments. Seeing no further business, Mr. Hilkey adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.