

Governor's Community Corrections Advisory Council
 Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Community Corrections
 700 Kipling St, Suite 1000
 Denver, Colorado 80215

Meeting Minutes – October 25, 2019

Council Member Attendance

<i>Judge Kathy Delgado, Chair</i>	<i>David Johnson</i>	<i>Beale Tejada</i>
<i>Shannon Carst, Co-Chair</i>	<i>Doug Erler</i>	<i>Marti Kovener– Absent</i>
<i>Bill Cecil</i>	<i>Peggy Ritchie</i>	<i>Jagruti Shah – Absent</i>
<i>Alex Walker</i>	<i>Nikea Bland</i>	<i>Jackie McCall – Absent</i>
<i>Glenn Tapia (for Eileen Kinney)</i>	<i>Tim Hand</i>	<i>Joyce Downing – Absent</i>
<i>John Draxler</i>	<i>Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky</i>	<i>Jim Bullock – Absent</i>
<i>Greg Mauro</i>	<i>Hassan Latif</i>	
<i>Jason Shankle</i>	<i>Angela Cifor - Absent</i>	

Welcome and Introductions

The above council members were joined by the following guests:

Angela McBeain, Daniele Wolffe, Irene Arguelles, Jeanenne Miller, and Doug Carrigan

OCC: Katie Ruske, Valarie Schamper, Tahnee Santambrogio, Cara Wagner, Chrystal Owin, Jeff Jorden, Carrie Barton, Aaron Stewart, Lydia Popovski, Scott Kirton, Wendy Bacchi

Minutes from the August 16, 2019 Meeting

Ms. Bacchi advised the Council that she re-designed the minutes format and asked that if anyone had any feedback, either positive or negative, to please send that to her. She then asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the meeting held on August 16. A motion was made to approve the minutes as written and was promptly seconded; the motion was unanimously accepted by the Council members. Two members abstained from voting.

Call for Additional Agenda Items from Members

Judge Delgado advised that she currently presides over juvenile dependency cases. She then explained that in these cases, there are many parents who are incarcerated, in either DOC, the county jails, or community corrections. The Social Services department is required to create treatment plans for the incarcerated parents that addresses the causes that put their child/children at risk. She heads a committee that is working on making these types of services available to more parents that need them. They have implemented a program in Adams County called Parents on a Mission and she was shocked to realize this program was not available to community corrections clients. She offered to send out the contact information for Mr. Ramos, as he is the point of contact for her committee, to Ms. Bacchi to be disseminated to the Council with the hope they can forward it out to community corrections providers and facilities to help clients receive the services they need with regard to their children.

Denver Community Corrections Service Provider Contract Issue Update

Mr. Mauro asked Mr. Latif to contribute to this agenda item as they co-chair the working group addressing this issue. Mr. Mauro then gave a brief history of the contract situation in Denver with regard to the CoreCivic and GEO facilities. Once the impacts of immediately severing ties with these two service providers were identified, the GEO contract was given a six-month extension (until 12/31/19) and CoreCivic was granted a year- long

extension (until 6/30/20). These two services providers hold about 70% of the local system capacity (about 517 beds within six facilities). He explained that a working group was set up to address these impacts and issues moving forward. The group includes members who are stakeholders, community partners, DOC, and the DCJ. The purpose of the group is to figure out a way to continue/restore services, improve outcomes in Denver and recognize the systemic impacts this is having around the state prison system.

Mr. Mauro advised that the group has held three meetings and the conversations are productive and starting to gain momentum. The group is working closely with GEO and CoreCivic throughout the process to make sure the transition process for the clients goes smoothly. The first GEO facility, Williams Street Center (WSC) closed effective October 21, 2019.

Mr. Mauro explained that one of the biggest challenges in Denver and in other jurisdictions as well is land use issue. There are only ten sites in Denver zoned for community corrections and with the closure of Williams Street, now there are nine. The WSC property was deemed a non-conforming use property and cannot be used for community corrections any longer.


Mr. Mauro then advised the next steps for GEO's Tooley Hall facility. That facility will close no later than December 15, 2019. The City of Denver is going to continue the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Pilot Program (EMBARC) out of the Work Release building at the Denver County Jail complex on Smith Road. Denver board staff will work to hire new clinicians and case managers and the jail will provide security and space for the program.

Mr. Mauro acknowledged the long conversations that have taken place around the timeline for CoreCivic options. He explained that it is incredibly overwhelming to think about the systemic and logistical impacts of potentially losing three hundred or more beds in Denver. He then turned to Mr. Latif for his comments around these discussions.

Mr. Latif explained that the discussions have included the formation of two working groups – one to look at the zooming issues and the other to look at the community corrections standards. He added that while the members at the table are focused on the problem, there is not a lot of time to solve the issues. He stated that one of things that has been helpful is to review all the things that are involved up to this point and they were able to review those again last night. Mr. Latif then said that the things happening here in Denver may have an impact on decisions that the Council may have to make moving forward, including bringing in the Governor's office.

Mr. Latif advised that he has also starting running some focus groups with community corrections clients. He explained that the clients had thoughtful input regarding this situation. Mr. Mauro and Mr. Latif then listed some major points from the focus group discussions.

- *The power and importance of staff in the facilities or mentors who have been through the criminal justice system and are now living successfully.*
- *Having staff who are focused on client success*
- *Worries about the immediate accrual of debt that begins when clients move into a community corrections facility.*



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Mr. Mauro commended Shannon Carst, Jeanenne Miller and Frances Faulk for working diligently and patiently with the Denver board as this transition moves forward. Ms. Carst and Mr. Mauro both commented on the input from clients that were focused on the community corrections standards and that they are asking for things that the working group is trying to do. Mr. Mauro called it an implementation and language failure. Both groups are talking about the same topics but using different language.

Ms. Ruske advised that the Progression Matrix has been a topic in many conversations. She noted that we would add an overview of what the Progression Matrix is, to the agenda for an upcoming Council meeting.

Mr. Tapia asked Judge Delgado if there was time in today's meeting to discuss a state level conversation regarding this issue, mainly where can the Council be helpful to this issue. Mr. Mauro agreed to open this up for discussion as the impacts do not only affect Denver but also the DOC population and the state budget process. Mr. Johnson thought this might be a good agenda item moving forward for many reasons.

Mr. Tapia then relayed some facts about capacity around the state and what some of the resolution options may be as well as the timing of this situation. The Council proceeded to have a very thoughtful conversation around this situation. Many Council members contributed to this informative discussion and covered the following topics:

- *ISP-I referrals*
- *ISP-I clients and the Progression Matrix Levels*
- *CSP2 Department of Corrections Facility*
- *Staff Retention at the facilities that are potentially closing*
- *Community caseload issues with regard to releasing more clients out in the community (parole or probation)*
- *Rushing through this due to the tight timelines and missing something*
- *Part of the solution to this relies in the relationship building but it takes time to bridge those gaps*
- *The increasing length of stay in community corrections*
- *Eliminating stall points in the process*
- *Work together with community partners to provide support and services to clients coming out in to the community*
- *Who is the right client for DOC, Probation, Community Corrections?*
- *Education for Judges around Sentencing Options*
- *Addressing substance abuse issues*
- *Early parole discharges*
- *Working closely with community corrections boards*

Judge Delgado acknowledged the worthwhile discussion that was taking place but brought the Council back around to the original question of what can the council can do to help. Mr. Mauro explained that the discussion is actually helpful as he and Hassan can take this conversation back to the working group. In addition, there are others in this room with relationships with decision makers in Denver and they can report the discussion in this meeting at some time as well. Mr. Mauro stressed that ultimately it is a political issue as well as an operational one.

Performance Based Contracting (PBC) – Update

Ms. Ruske advised that Performance Based Contracting is one the Governor's Wildly Important Goals (WIGS) for the upcoming fiscal year and something that the OCC will be working on for the next couple of years. She would like to present an updated timeline for PBC at the next Council meeting. The current billing and information system for community corrections does not have the functionality to process PBC so there is a project that has begun to develop a new, updated system. The OCC is also working finishing the baseline scoring for both the PACE and Core Security program audits. The goal to finish the baseline scoring is June 30, 2020 and the teams are working diligently to get there. A solicitation just closed to hire a consultant to help define the risk-informed outcomes piece of the PBC in cooperation with the OCC and stakeholders around the state. This consultant will also work with the Council to define the benchmarks for PBC and solidify the plan originally drafted by Council members. Ms. Ruske hopes to be able to introduce the selected consultant at the next meeting. Mr. Tapia offered to let the OCC review a risk-informed outcomes model that his staff have been working on once the consultant has been chosen and hired.

HB 18-1251 - Update and Discussion

Ms. Owin advised that there would be at least one DOC case manager training in compliance with HB 1251. There have been eight completed so far. She is still working with Richard Stroker on a structure-based decision making workshop; there is one scheduled for boards and providers in December.

Ms. Owin is reviewing the data from the last fiscal year and it starting the template for the legislatively mandated 1251 annual report that will be published in February.


Ms. Owin announced that the planning for the Best Practices & Interagency Collaboration in Community Corrections conference is on going. There will be a free day on Friday for staff to come and participate in Communities of Practice, skill training and implementation workshops and the CACCB will hold their meeting that day as well. There is going to be a great line-up of presenters for the first couple of days of the conference, which is being held at the Jefferson County fairgrounds. She is expecting the on-line registration system with the conference agenda to be up and running sometime in November.

Ms. Ruske announced that Ms. Owin was nominated by the DOC for our annual Department of Public Safety Awards. While she did not win, many stakeholders have contacted Ms. Ruske to express their thanks for all the amazing work Ms. Owin has been doing as the 1251 Implementation Specialist.

Community Corrections Annual Report Overhaul

Ms. Ruske explained that the Community Corrections Annual report is published by the OCC annually and while not legislatively mandated, may be combined with the legislatively mandated 1251 Annual Report in the coming years. Ms. Bacchi would like to solicit feedback from the Council anything they would like to see changed, added, deleted, etc. to make the report more meaningful. She added that she would be sending out a Survey Monkey survey sometime soon to try to get some general feedback about the OCC Annual Report.

Ms. Ruske and Ms. Schamper realized they did not do a review of last year's report with the Council. They advised they would be happy to do that if the Council would like. Ms. Ruske also told the Council that we have met with our Office of Research and Statistics since they presented to the Council and came up with some steps to make sure they data they are using and the data we are using is the same.



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2020 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Bacchi presented a list of proposed dates for the coming year for the Council. After reviewing the list, there were some significant issues with the proposed dates so, Ms. Bacchi, was asked by the Council, to review and update the schedule to help alleviate some of the issues. She did that after the meeting and was able to re-do the scheduled send it out to the Council following the October meeting. The following schedule was approved through email by the Council:

- April 3, 2020
- June 5, 2020
- August 7, 2020
- October 2, 2020
- February 5, 2021

Review of the Action Items - Status

Action Item	Assigned To	Timeline Goal	Status	Volunteers from Council
Letter to be sent to the Governor from the Council. Get signatures on the approved letter and then send through the proper channels to the Governor's office	Wendy, Shannon, Judge Delgado		All of the needed signatures were unable to be collected at the last meeting. This will happen today.	
Update and Revise UA Standard with stakeholder participation.	Office of Community Corrections Core Security Group	6/30/2020	The audit team has been working on a plan and gathering data and information. Looking to schedule a meeting soon.	Shannon, Tim, John, Rose volunteered someone from IH
Create an information sheet for judges.	Katie, Nikea	2/30/20	Now that PBC solicitation process is complete, Ms. Ruske would like to get some time set up with Nikea to start working on this.	
Create scope of work and engage in contract with consultant for PBC. Top Priority	Office of Community Corrections, Greg, Shannon	11/30/19	The solicitation process is complete and now a selection will need to be made out of the four respondents.	



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Council Chairs meet with Katie to discuss updating the Council by-laws	Judge Delgado and Shannon	TBD	Currently working to find a time that works for everyone's schedule. Will Address membership first as we have some changes coming up.	
Review and update by laws as needed.	Council	TBD	Establish a working group of volunteers.	
New Items Added 10/25/19				
Review of the Progression Matrix for the Council	Katie	TBD	General overview of what the Progression Matrix is and how it is used in Community Corrections. <i>Shannon asked for length of stay prior to the Progression Matrix and post-implementation of the Progression Matrix.</i>	
Community Corrections Funding and Capacity related to the issues in Denver and where we are with our funding for the year.	Katie, Greg			
Survey Monkey regarding the OCC Annual report	Wendy			

Announcements

Mr. Cecil asked for an agenda item around subsistence forgiveness and other costs incurred by clients when they come into community corrections.

Mr. Mauro asked Mr. Tapia about a bill being put together that might be asking for changes to escapes. Mr. Tapia gave a very brief overview of parts of the bill, but it has not yet been published, so he was unable to provide too much detail.

Katie announced that the DCJ JBC hearings will be held earlier than usual this year and to keep watch for the schedule if you would like to listen in.

Adjournment

Next Meeting – Friday, February 7, 2020