

**SB24-030 Recidivism Definition Working Group**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 18, 2024 | 1:00-3:00pm**  
**Location: Hybrid - 700 Kipling, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor DCJ Conference Room / Zoom**

Attendance: Kelli Burmeister (Division of Youth Services), Michael Campbell (University of Denver), Jeff Wise (Remerg), Dave Wolfsgruber (DOC-Parole); Greg Saiz (DOC-Parole Board), Aaron Stewart (State Judicial)

Absent: Katie Ruske (Office of Community Corrections)

DCJ Staff: Erin Crites, Linda Harrison, Jack Reed

Guest: Valerie Schamper (for Katie Ruske-Office of Community Corrections), Adrienne Sanchez (DOC)

## Meeting Minutes

- Welcome
- Introductions: appointed members introduced themselves since there were guests in attendance.
- Review minutes from previous meeting
  - No edits to minutes from last meeting. Open to additional edits when members have time to review.
- Review decision on disaggregation of termination types and recidivism
  - Discussed the agreement at the last meeting to disaggregate the cohort into the type of release or termination. These would be defined using standard agency definitions and recidivism rates will be reported for each type of termination/release.
  - Group discussed the challenges of identifying and reporting data both granularly and broadly given how it is currently captured. It will be important to create transparency in the data reporting so others can use the data to answer their research questions.
  - Community Corrections has a number of different populations internally and identifying when individuals have “left” will require some additional effort especially for diversion and non-residential participants.
- Discussion of options for “length of time to track”
  - Previous discussions of the length of time to track were based on statutory requirements, recommendations from other organizations, and historical practices to ensure some comparability. Getting too granular on the reporting will create challenges for analysts completing the work, but also want meaningful timeframes.
  - It was noted that technological advancements have created an opportunity and to some degree an expectation of access to data. Current state systems do not allow us to leverage these newer technologies for data preparation, analysis, or visualization. All members of the group agree that would a valuable, but costly advancement.
  - While 1, 2, and 3 years has been a standard reporting timeframe, members identified the desire to also identify rates for recidivism earlier. A lack of new criminal activity in the first 6 months post release/termination is a good indicator of success. Additionally,

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most recidivism will occur within that first 3 years so looking further than that has a low return on investment.

- Group decided to follow individuals for 3 years and include reporting on each cohort's recidivism in annual reports to include a 6 month, 1 year, 2 years, and 3 years rate.
- Given current resource limitations, data cannot be reported more often than once per year.
- General discussion
  - Now that the general definitions are complete, there is a need to bring in the agencies' data analysts to identify what resources would be needed to execute this new definition in full.
  - How will agencies access the Judicial data needed to count the recidivism event? These conversations will need to happen between each agency and Judicial.
- Public Comment [no members of the public were in attendance]
- Wrap-up and Adjourn
  - Follow up items: Erin will send out an email summarizing the proposed definitions for agencies to share with their data analysts to get their feedback on implementing the definition, including the use of judicial data. Those not in a state agency will think about an ideal future state of recidivism reporting for discussion at the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## Statutory Mandates

Pursuant to 24-33.5-536, C.R.S. (Senate Bill 2024-030) the working group shall:

- Be appointed no later than September 15, 2024.
- Develop a definition of recidivism no later than January 15, 2025.
- Provide a definition of recidivism to each state entity identified by DCJ and the working group pursuant to 24-33.5-536(1)(b) CRS no later than January 31, 2025.
- Conclude its meetings by January 31, 2025

**The working group is required** to develop a definition of recidivism consistent with statute that includes:

- A clearly defined measurement point to begin tracking the recidivism event defined in 24-33.5-536(2)(4)(c).
- A clear description of the cohort to be tracked.
- A clearly defined time period during which an event is considered a recidivism event that is consistent with best practices for measuring recidivism.
- The recidivism event is a new deferred agreement or adjudication or conviction for a felony or misdemeanor offense, including "Victim Rights Act" crimes.
- In order to promote the use of consistent definitions by various state entities, the working group may develop definitions or data points related to recidivism or the desistance from crime that state entities may use as applicable.