Community Corrections Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes: 10/30/2019

**Date/Time:** October 30, 2019, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
**Meeting Location:** Wellington Webb Building, 201 West Colfax Ave Conf Room 4F6
**Facilitator:** Johanna Leal

**Present Advisory Group Members:**

**Guest Speakers:**
- Rep. Leslie Herod, Colorado District 8, Vice Chair Judiciary Committee, Prison Population Management Interim Study Committee
- Vance Roper, Legislative Analyst, Colorado Joint Budget Committee, Colorado General Assembly Robert Halpern, Colorado Public Defender’s Office- Denver office
- Steve Abraham, Denver District Attorney’s Office

**Speaker Highlights**

1. **Rep. Herod**
   - Provided information and updates regarding the work of the Prison Population Management Interim Study Committee.
   - Discussed bills likely to be put forth in the upcoming legislative season which address data gathering, population management and youthful offenders.
   - Discussed impact of near-future substantial reduction of Denver Community Corrections beds would have on the Department of Corrections capacity.
   - Identified challenges for client reentry include substance use, lack of housing, escape/abscond, mental health, access to family, and cost of living in Denver metro area.
   - Discussed proposed prison population committee bill that would establish a 5-year timeline for shifting away from private prisons. Length of time based on complex needs and time needed to implement thoughtful, coordinated solutions.

2. **Roper**
   - Described 15-month process of his office, in coordination with stakeholders, to develop a plan for implementation of Performance Based Contracting. The intention of this is to provide financial incentive to programs who are providing quality services to clients.
   - Encouraged the Community Corrections Advisory committee to integrate the findings of his plan, which will be presented to the Joint Budget Committee 11/27/2019.
c. Provided comment that the timeline being discussed for Denver’s exit from Corecivic as a service provider is concerning and likely not possible without adverse impacts.

3. Halpern and Abraham
   a. Shared the immediate impact the termination of contracts has had in terms of how current sentencing options are being viewed by clients, concerns of those sentenced to community corrections but not yet placed, and those currently placed.
   b. Described current sentencing possibilities:
      i. Some clients are appropriate for and are sentenced to probation.
      ii. Some clients are appropriate for and are sentenced to DOC.
      iii. Some clients are appropriate for and go to Community Corrections. These clients include:
         1. Persons under current probation revocation for whom reinstated probation is not possible. Many require a more structured environment to be successful, but prison is not necessarily an appropriate choice.
         2. Persons who have previously engaged in less intrusive forms of supervision (such as probation), but whom continue to be convicted of additional, new crimes.
         3. Persons who are transitioning out of prison who require additional supports and community reintegration and benefit from the stability of a community corrections environment.
         4. Loss or reduction of community corrections as a sentencing option in Denver would limit alternatives from a Department of Corrections sentence.
   c. Description client challenges addressed by community corrections
      i. It allows clients to remain closer to their home communities and families (i.e. Denver), provides housing, access to mental health treatment, access to substance use disorder treatment.
   d. Group discussion
      i. Exploration of alternative sentencing options available. Breath of sentencing options is statutorily defined.

4. Group Discussion
   a. Group explored the feasibility of shutting down all four Core Civic Facilities (including Sex Offender and Intensive Residential Treatment Programs).
      i. Discussed pros and cons of CoreCivic contract termination including potential extension.
         1. Current facility impacts (clients, staff, stakeholders)
         2. Closely held stakeholder values and norms
         3. Challenges with zoning and physical plant for siting Community Corrections programs
         4. All options are to be considered
      ii. Denver Community Corrections to develop plan inclusive of
         1. Alternative timelines which incorporate actionable items and measurable progress/goal lines along the way
         2. Identify client populations affected, number of beds needed
3. Identify not only what is being transitioned away from, but what is being transitioned to
   
   iii. Denver CC will present updates at the November 15th meeting.

b. Subcommittee Groups
   
i. Reannouncement of Subcommittee Groups
   
   1. Zoning Strategy
      a. Hon. CdeBaca & Hon. Torres
   
   2. Gender Responsive
      a. Sykes
   
   3. Standards Alignment
      a. Latif & Thome
   
   4. Complaint Response
      a. Mauro
   
   5. Statutory Alignment
      a. Johnson

   ii. Assigned Task for Committees Prior to 11/15/202109 to identify answers to the following:
      
      1. Goal/Focus of the Subcommittee
      2. Prioritization of Group Tasks
      3. Identify others who will be in the group
      4. Identify dates and times the work group will meet

5. Response to Previous Inquiries
   
   a. Community Corrections (as represented by Thome) and DOC (as represented by Johnson) are working within their respective structures to identify comparable data to present to the committee. Continued barriers to direct comparability are being identified, however future information presented will incorporate discussion of various definitions of success/recidivism.

6. Community Questions and Comments Received in this meeting
   
   a. Is there a committee work toward community partners, recovery homes and alternative housing for placement?
   
   b. Is these number of 500 beds reflect the city and county jail beds in community corrections? Some never get a doc number.
   
   c. I believe zoning issues need to be reworked to fit our current resources, partners and organizations. Really look at issues like ordinance 565 make it work. Fix what’s broken.
   
   d. What was your process for shutting down solitary confinement? Why can’t the same be done here? You agreed solitary didn’t work as this community correction-great change begins with small choices.
   
   e. How do we find an option for those that are attempting to find a place to live with a felony conviction? Its hard to find a place so how can it become easier.
   
   f. Which community house you have now is the most successful? When do we get to speak on our thoughts on this. I can tell you from experiences of the time spent in prison.
g. Education is the key, it has to start in prison. If you educate in prison, and create a reasonable halfway house, you can have more success. Don’t treat halfway house rules as DOC rules, they don’t work. Community is not prison, change the perception change the outlook.

7. Correction and Clarification from Previous minutes
   a. Community members shall have opportunity to participate in committees.
   b. Tooley Hall is located at 4280 Kearney St, Denver, CO 80216.
   c. Jane Prancan was excused from 10/24/2019 meeting.