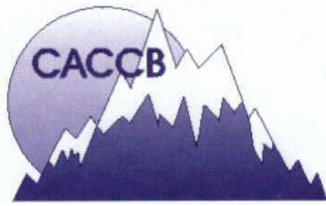


Colorado Association of
Community Corrections Boards
3500 Illinois Street, Suite 2800
Golden, CO 80401

CACCB Newsletter



PRESIDENT

Steve Reynolds
9th JD citizen member
steveatthegym@live.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Dianne Tramutola-Lawson
2nd JD citizen member
Dianne@coloradocure.org

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Janelle Shaver
1st JD citizen member
janelleshaver@aol.com

SECRETARY

Gerry Oyen
16th JD citizen member
bsheriff@bentcounty.net

TREASURER

Marlene Hiller
1st JD citizen member
Marti44@aol.com

AT-LARGE

Tom Simmons
4th JD citizen member
tsimmons@frii.com

AT-LARGE

Frank Schoengarth
17th JD citizen member
fschoengarth@ci.broomfield.co.us

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Lori Lucero-Ferman
llucero@jeffco.us

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Stephanie Tolen
st7dccb@yahoo.com

WEB MASTER

Pat Stanford
stanford@amigo.net

LEGISLATIVE LIASON

Tom Giacinti
tgiacint@co.jefferson.co.us

**THE NEXT CACCB MEETING will be HOSTED by THE
4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT in Colorado Springs ON
NOVEMBER 12TH
ONE DAY MEETING**

Meeting Highlights

- * State and CACCB Business Reports
 - * Individualized District Selection and Retention Factors
 - * Impact of Spice/Black Mamba on Community Corrections
- * MEETING REGISTRATION DEADLINE *
- October 29th

Make the most of your visit to Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs is full of beauty, adventure and interesting activities for everyone.

- ◆ Old Colorado City—Christmas is just around the corner—visit the artisan shops in this historic shopping district.
- ◆ Southern Colorado's Annual Holiday Food & Gift Festival, November 12th—14th at Phil Long Expo Center. www.hfgf.com/colosprings
- ◆ Seven Falls—a spectacular array of waterfalls cascading down the mountainside. www.sevenfalls.com
- ◆ Cave of the Winds—take the family on an adventure deep into the earth. www.caveofthewinds.com
- ◆ Garden of the Gods—drive through breathtaking natural rock formations. www.gardenofgods.com
- ◆ Cheyenne Mountain Zoo—this zoo is fun for the entire family set in the hills above the city. www.cmzoo.org

This newsletter will be distributed via e-mail to all community corrections board contacts throughout the State of Colorado, to the DOC and the DPS-DCJ, to CCC and to legislators via snail mail. It is expected that board contacts will, in turn, distribute it to their board members, service providers and other interested parties. It will also be available on the Association's website at coaccb.org. If you cannot access any of these methods, please contact CACCB Administrative Coordinator Lori-Lucero-Ferman at (303) 271-4840

Revised Re-entry Guide Coming Soon

By Carol Peeples

Re-entry Coordinator for Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition

Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC) will release the second edition of *Getting On After Getting Out: A Re-entry Guide for Colorado* this coming December. The revised GO guide is completely updated and expanded to include information about additional statewide resources as well as the newest criminal justice laws and policies that affect re-entry.

Like the first edition, the second edition begins with information people need to know while they are incarcerated, including a chapter about community corrections. A section that's new to the revised community corrections chapter covers Senate Bill 159, legislation passed in 2010 that requires community correction boards to develop a written policy on acceptance of third-party statements on behalf of applicants to community corrections. Thanks to the cooperation of community corrections boards, CCJRC was able to include an e-mail address or phone number for a contact person at each

community corrections board for an inmate's friends and family to enquire about a specific board's policy.

The revised GO guide chapter about community corrections also includes information about another requirement of SB10-159, the opportunity for an inmate to submit a written statement as part of his or her community corrections packet. The Department of Corrections updated Administrative Regulation 250-03 to include a form that includes space for an applicant to discuss his/her transition plan, community support, and reason why he/she is a good candidate for a community corrections facility. You can review AR 250-03 at http://www.doc.state.co.us/sites/default/files/ar/0250_03_1.pdf.

CCJRC will publicize the actual date of release for the revised edition of *Getting On After Getting Out* as soon as possible. Through grants, over 20,000 copies will be distributed for free to people in prison and on parole. In addition, the book will be available for purchase.



Meet Lisa Scullion – Ulster Program Director

Lisa Scullion joined the CMI Team this month as the new Program Director of Ulster. Lisa obtained her Bachelors Degree in Psychology and went on to achieve her Masters Degree in Criminal Justice from CU Denver. She began her career in this field approximately 15 years ago working at The Savio House as a counselor for juvenile offenders. Her background is very impressive and includes a variety of positions from Investigator and Case Worker with Arapahoe County Department of Social Services, to Program Manager and Developer of a reunification program for an Indian Reservation, to Program Manager for a Child Abuse Prevention program. One of her greatest professional accomplishments was working for Value Options, a Community Corrections program in Arizona. There, she developed the Mental Health Court and Jail program for seriously Mentally ill offenders involved in Community Corrections. Her work with this program earned her a Presidents Award from the American Parole and Probation Association.

A Colorado native, Lisa recently returned to her hometown after spending several years in Arizona. She is excited about the opportunity to make a difference with the Ulster program and help it become the best program it can be. She also looks forward to helping clients meet their fullest potential and seeing them leave successfully.

When she is not working, Lisa likes to relax, have fun and laugh. She is a "die hard" Bronco's fan and is very excited about this football season. She has two sons, ages 21 and 14.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS at the August CACCB Meeting

- ✿ *Janelle Shaver* was presented with a certificate and gift card to thank her for her many dedicated years of service as President.
- ✿ *In absentia, Brian Gomez*, who retired from DOC this summer, was recognized for his years of service to DOC and faithful contributions to CACCB meetings. A congratulatory card and gift card were mailed to him.



7th Judicial District Unsuccessful in Attempt to Use Olathe Dormitory for Community Corrections Facility

By Stephanie Tolen

7th Judicial District Community Corrections Board Coordinator

Over the summer, the 7th Judicial District Community Corrections Board members worked tirelessly and diligently in an effort to gain approval from the government officials of the Town of Olathe to open a much needed facility in the district. The 7th JD CCB Joint Resolution requires approval of any governing body of the town or municipality prior to opening a facility.

The facility chosen was the defunct Olathe farm workers dormitory. The dormitory opened in the early 1990's and, due to governmental regulations, is no longer being used for the intended purpose and is vacant. The dormitory is a custom fit for a facility. The building has 36 rooms sharing 18 semi-private bathrooms on two floors, a full commercial kitchen and cafeteria, a lobby with office which could operate as security center, a laundry room and attached 3-bedroom apartment. The building is owned by the Montrose County Housing Authority, which just recently paid off the remainder of a loan which limited the use of the building, making it available for sale.

The 7th JD CCB made an offer to purchase the building from the Housing Authority, which was accepted. The Board made a formal presentation to the Town of Olathe at a meeting in June and proceeded to develop bi-lingual brochures, flyers; hold well advertised open houses at the dorm; speak with all neighbors whose property abutted up to the dormitory property and communicate with the public through many means. Throughout the process, every effort was made to educate the community members of Olathe on community corrections and the need and benefits of opening a facility in Olathe. Mesa County generously accommodated a number of tours of their facility and were instrumental in garnering the growing number of individuals in support of the project.

The Board continued to work on educating the Olathe Town Trustees and Mayor and attended two more town meetings and a work session. Throughout the process, many business and community members saw the benefits in bringing a facility to the community. The Olathe Town Trustees and Mayor voted on the request for approval of the facility at the September 13th town meeting. Due to the continued vocal concerns of some community members, the town of Olathe did not approve the use of the dormitory as a community corrections facility. The 7th Judicial District is disappointed; however, the board members will continue to work to bring a facility to their district.

Many thanks go out to all those who helped in this effort: The Mesa County Community Corrections Board and staff, particularly Dennis Berry and Diann Rice, were very helpful. Carl Blesch of the Office of Community Corrections provided excellent information to aid in the education of the public. Also many community members in Olathe and Montrose stepped up in the effort, putting in many hours and contributing much in the way of expertise and knowledge.

CCJRC Seeks Feedback on House Bill 10-1360

During the 2010 legislative session, CCJRC worked with a broad coalition of stakeholders for the passage of House Bill 1360, Reducing Revocations for Technical Violations. This bill created a savings of \$4.5 million in avoided prison costs that were reinvested into treatment and re-entry support services for parolees, including the funds for additional condition of parole treatment beds.

CCJRC is seeking feedback from community corrections providers who received additional funding for these beds as a result of HB10-1360. For example, are providers encountering any difficulties? Is the parole board using this option to the greatest extent? Feedback is greatly appreciated. Please contact CCJRC Executive Director Christie Donner at christie@ccjrc.org or 303.825.0122.

Commitment is the first step in making your dreams a reality.

Raymond C. Nolan

Giving troubled inmates a way out

By Imani Latif

Published in *The Denver Post*, October 17, 2010

For Eric Miracle, 40, the past four years have been well, a miracle.

Miracle had spent almost 10 years in and out of prisons and jails, his methamphetamine addiction fueling thefts and family turmoil. His three small children grew up without him, their mother struggling to provide for them. His wife was pregnant with his second child when he did his first stint in the Colorado Department of Corrections. When he was released from prison in 2002, he went right back to drug use, the wrong crowd and getting in trouble.

When confronted with prison again, his family wrote letters and pressured the court to send Miracle to an addictions program at Arrowhead Correctional Center in Cañon City. It was called Crossroads to Freedom. Instead, the judge sentenced him to prison for theft and told Miracle he'd have to figure out a way to get into the program if it was really what he wanted. He did. Although there was a waiting list, he kept writing staff at the addictions therapeutic community. Eventually, he was admitted.

"You have to be willing to give up your way of thinking, give up everything, and trust someone else. If it wasn't for that program, I wouldn't be where I am today," Miracle says.

Today, he is a graduate of the program at Arrowhead, as well as Peer I, a therapeutic community in Denver, where he chose to continue his treatment instead of being put on parole. "Peer I taught me that even though you're a felon, it's not how you lived before. It's about how you live today and tomorrow." Miracle is four years into his goal of becoming a journeyman electrician in Denver. And last month, he married his second wife, who is equally committed to sobriety. His children, now teens, spend summers with him.

Participation in a therapeutic community in prison and then in the community reduces recidivism, thus saving money in an already distressed economic environment. It also greatly reduces generational criminal and addictive behavior. Combined treatment in prison and then in the community is cost-effective, and studies show that the treatment works. For every \$1 invested in treatment, there is a \$7 return to the community.

In his 2008 budget report to the Colorado legislature, Department of Corrections executive director Ari Zavaras wrote, "In 1998, a department outcome study found that therapeutic community participants who stayed in treatment at least six months had a 43 percent reduction in recidivism rates when compared to control groups." Further, "A continuation study completed in 2004 has shown that the outcome effect is dramatically improved when prison treatment is combined with the community Peer I TC [therapeutic community] and parole supervision."

The recidivism rate for offenders who did not participate in any form of therapeutic community was 45 percent. With the prison therapeutic community alone, the rate dropped to 37 percent. With prison and community programs combined, recidivism rates dropped to 8 percent. Zavaras cited this data when asking for increased funding for prison and community corrections substance abuse treatment. The state increased funding, but not at the level requested.

The prison and community corrections programs focus not only on addiction treatment, but also on behavior modification, cognitive behavioral approaches designed to promote positive social attitudes, and emotional growth and development. Participants focus on changing criminal thinking errors that led them to incarceration.

The Peer I residential therapeutic community is a long-term treatment program for adult males who abuse substances. It is a program under the umbrella of the University of Colorado, and also receives referrals through the judicial and corrections systems. It is contracted by the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice as a community corrections facility. According to Kenneth Gaipa, program director of Peer I, it is not an easy process for an offender to move from the prison therapeutic community to Peer I. He needs to be involved in the prison therapeutic community for six to 12 months and receive staff recommendations. Finally, he must be approved by the Denver Community Corrections board. The goal is gradual integration back into the community. Clients can graduate after two years in the program.

Damond McCreedy spent his teen years moving up the ranks of a gang in Chicago. After joining the army at 17, he was honorably discharged in 1992 and moved to Colorado Springs, where he headed up a gang. In 1995, at 23, he was arrested and convicted for racketeering, assault, burglary and conspiracy. He received a 20-year sentence, leaving behind his wife and baby daughter, and two young sons who lived out of state with their mothers.

While in prison, his daughter died in an accident. McCreedy was so distraught and unable to cope that he was transferred to the Colorado State Penitentiary, where he stayed in his cell for 23 hours a day. There, McCreedy had plenty of time to contemplate his future. He began to study Islam. "I had been making decisions all along just for me," McCreedy says. "For once, I needed to make decisions for my children. Even though my baby daughter had passed away, I still had two boys who needed their father."

Because of parole eligibility, McCreedy was sent to Arrowhead, and applied to be part of the therapeutic community there. "The longer I was there, the more I learned how to change my criminal thinking. I learned how to change my core values and beliefs to ones that were productive." He applied to Peer I "because that would give me an opportunity to put what I had learned into practice before I went out into society on my own."

He graduated from the Peer I program in 2006. His first job outside prison was at a Denver lumber yard, where he worked six days a week. McCreedy says "the benefit of this job was learning to be humble. I never missed a day." He enrolled in Colorado Technical University, graduating summa cum laude in 2009. He married the same year and was able to bring his sons, both teens, to live with him in Aurora.

"What people should understand about Arrowhead and Peer I TCs is that they throw everything at you...the kitchen sink. What I got from them is that life is going to throw you...unexpected adversity, trials and tribulations. You have to learn how to accept it and move forward." McCreedy is now a supervisor at an Aurora non-profit organization.

Treatment reduces recidivism, cuts the cost of long-term incarceration, and reverses the negative impact of incarceration upon the families, says Ken Gaipa. Treatment also helps to interrupt the intergenerational aspect of addiction, reducing the likelihood that children of inmates will follow in their parents' footsteps.

I urge our next governor to share Zavaras' goal of increasing funding for therapeutic communities in prisons and community corrections.