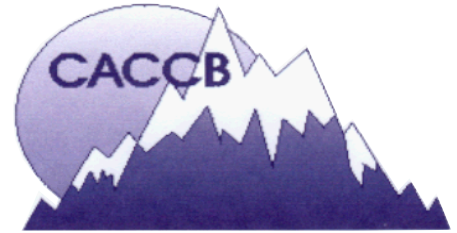


Colorado Association of Community Corrections Boards

Issue 39, July 2001



"Community Control for the Community Benefit"



Thursday in Steamboat

John Ponikvar, Annual Meeting host, poses with Toni Mench and Jim Dumas during an informal get-together Thursday night in Steamboat Springs. The May meeting in Steamboat Springs was the last for Ms. Mench as Association Administrative Coordinator.

19th JD to Host Summer Conference in Greeley

By Pat Herrera, Newsletter Editor

The next CACCB Conference will be held in Greeley August 10-11, and hosted by the 19th Judicial District Board.

Programs set for this Summer Conference include *Intensive Supervision Parole Inmates*, facilitated by Jeaneene Miller, DOC Office of Community Corrections Director, and *Interconnectability of Computer Systems*, facilitated by Bob Roper, Director of Integrated Information Services in the State Court Administrator's Office. The evening festivities involve honoring Judge John Leopold, Arapahoe County District Judge, for his outstanding contribution to community corrections.

Please get a hold of your local contact person for information on lodging locations and rates, and conference site!

2000 DCJ Study On Community Corrections a Mixed Bag

By Pat Herrera, Newsletter Editor

The Executive Summary of the 2000 Community Corrections study conducted by the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) reported that nearly two-thirds of offenders terminated from placement during the 97-98 fiscal year successfully completed a halfway house program. The summary report also stated that offenders who participated in services such as substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and financial planning were statistically linked to program success.

The DCJ Office of Research and Statistics (ORS) analyzed information on all 3,054 offenders who were terminated from twenty-five community corrections programs during FY 97-98. The ORS then tracked nearly 2,000 cases that successfully terminated the programs for twenty-four months to obtain recidivism information, which was based on new misdemeanor or felony arrests and filings in district court.

The study revealed that prior criminal history, young age, high level of supervision of inventory (LSI) score, and lack of post-release supervision statistically predicted recidivism. The study also stated that offenders who were released from a halfway house and placed on probation, parole, or non-residential status were significantly more likely to stay crime free during the two years following release from the program than those that did not receive similar post-placement supervision.

In areas of female offenders, the study suggested that women recidivated at a lower rate (24.8%) than men (38%). Prior research conducted by the ORS in 1994 found that women succeeded significantly less often than men in community placement. The report stated that this finding may indicate that increased numbers of female-only facilities increases the likelihood that women offenders will succeed in community corrections.

See "Study," Page 3.

CACCB HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

By Jim Dumas, CACCB Past President

About four or five years ago I was surfing the CACCB bylaws and discovered a provision that allows the CACCB to grant honorary membership to persons who have made extraordinary contributions to the advancement of community corrections in Colorado. Since then the Association has awarded honorary membership to nine such deserving individuals.

The bylaws provision authorizing honorary memberships is straightforward and follows:

Honorary Membership. All past presidents of the Association shall automatically become honorary members of the Association with the right to take part in all proceedings. The Executive Committee may present to the delegates at the annual meeting the names of other worthy persons who have contributed some outstanding service to Community Corrections and who may be elected as honorary members of the Association by majority vote of the delegates present and voting. Honorary members shall have no voting privileges.

The Executive Committee has developed an inclusive approach to nominating persons referred for honorary membership. The nominees may not include persons presently sitting as community corrections board members or past presidents of the CACCB who automatically become honorary members when they leave office. State legislators are eligible.

Members will be reminded at the business meeting of the CACCB quarterly meetings to refer names of persons they would like to see nominated. At the Executive Committee meeting following the February quarterly meeting its members will nominate a person or persons for honorary membership. Brief profiles of the nominees will appear in the CACCB April newsletter. The names of nominees will be presented at the annual business meeting when delegates will be asked to vote to approve them.

The Executive Committee appreciates your interest in this program and looks forward to your referrals between now and the March Executive Committee meeting. Please send referrals to jimdumas@aol.com and I will get them to the other committee members.

www.courts.state.co.us/comcor/caccb.htm



McWilliams Leaving 19th Board

Sylvia McWilliams, 19th Judicial District Board member for many years, announced at the Annual Association meeting that she had resigned her position on the Board. The Association thanks Sylvia for her dedication and service to CACCB.

Photo by Jim Dumas

Leopold Conferred Honorary Membership

By Jim Dumas, CACCB Past President

CACCB delegates voted to confer honorary membership on Arapahoe County District Court Judge John Leopold, at their annual meeting in Steamboat Springs in May of this year. He is the ninth person to be so recognized by the Association.

Judge Leopold is a past chairman of the Arapahoe County Community Corrections Board and continues to actively support prison alternatives where public safety permits. He provides liaison between the courts and the Arapahoe County Board and routinely provides understandable information to the public and consumers about community corrections.

Darla Hofmeir, Arapahoe County Board Director, referred Judge Leopold to the CACCB Executive Committee, which nominated him. He will be honored at the CACCB August meeting in Greeley following the Friday evening dinner.



The Bully Pulpit

By Larry Nelson, CACCB President

One of the most difficult things for those who deal a lot with offenders is to strike a balance between civility towards them that recognizes their humanity and in some cases earnest effort by them to improve their pro-social and empathetic outlooks, and to always be aware and display an awareness that the offenders are where they are because they did something to someone else that caused a serious hurt.

Community Corrections is a place where people get an opportunity to work on these issues while not being isolated from society so much. That requires good screening so that opportunities for more hurt don't happen. It is the mark of good case management that strikes a good balance between these forces. The best case managers are the ones that can avoid vindictive or apathetic approaches to offenders, but also do not become manipulated by them or forget about or minimize their offenses. And the best managers and board members keep the same kind of balance.

One measure of this is the exit interview, where offenders are asked to evaluate their experience in Community Corrections after completing the program. It is by no means the only measure, and it is of course from a source that is in no way detached, but for those who use this interview, it can provide the opportunity to see trends, when they are there, both good and bad.

The 20th Judicial District would like to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of Phil Miller, who recently left the Community Corrections Board after 15 years of service. His even hand and always gentlemanly demeanor added dignity and fairness to the board mix. As a member of the CACCB, Phil contributed intelligently to discussions over the years.

THANKS, JEAN!

The Association is again indebted to Jean Carlberg for spearheading the completion of the enclosed Community Corrections Information Forms for FY 01-02.

Once again, they are informative and sharp-looking!

www.courts.state.co.us/comcor/caccb.htm

"Study," Continued from Page 1

The study also revealed areas of concern regarding services provided to female offenders and program staffing problems.

According to interview data, the study revealed that coed programs could lead to relationships between male and female offenders and these relationships could distract from the goal of successful program completion. In addition, some women in coed facilities reported personal safety concerns, and these concerns coincided with the location of the bedrooms allocated for women. The report stated that some facilities located women's rooms near the security desk to enhance safety. Another area of concern was female specific programming.

Women and many staff in coed facilities consistently reported that services were tailored to males and that some staff in coed facilities reported that they did not have female-specific programming, which runs counter to the research literature that suggests that female offenders require distinct programming because they have different risks and needs compared to male offenders.

Issues associated with staffing problems for community corrections programs entailed high staff turnover, significant variation in the skill level of staff, and the lack of training. The study revealed that the approximate employment period for security/line staff in a community corrections program was six months. The study stated that given the typically low salaries, it is not surprising that some facilities had difficulties finding qualified staff and that rural areas may experience more hiring challenges due to the small applicant pool. It was also reported that halfway house staff did not receive a core curriculum of training, especially on the topic of special populations.

The full report, which was scheduled to be available on May 1, made monitoring and programming recommendations for Boards and Programs. They suggested that the development of standards and measures of quality for operations, programming, and service delivery must be a priority.

The Executive Summary and *The Community Corrections in Colorado: Annual Statistical Report Fiscal Year 1997-98*, can be found in its entirety at:

<http://cdpsweb.state.co.us/occ/ccrpt.htm>

CACCB Officers

Larry NelsonPresident
20th JD, Citizen Board Member, Boulder County

Charlie Schmalz Vice-President
21st JD, Judicial Process - Probation, Mesa County

Colleen Truden Secretary
9th JD, Citizen Board Member, Garfield County

John Delohery Treasurer
17th JD, Citizen Board Member, Adams County

Jim Dumas.....Past President
2nd JD, Citizen Board Member, Denver City and County

Judy Anderson.....Administrative Coordinator
4th JD, El Paso County

Upcoming Events Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Summer 2001

August 10-11 Greeley 19th JD

Fall 2001

November 9-10 Westminster 17th JD
(Legislative Meeting)

Winter 2002

February 8-9 Colorado Spgs 4th JD

Spring 2002

May 10-11 Estes Park 8th JD
Annual Conference

Newsletter Printed by: O&V Printing - Alamosa
Pat Herrera - Newsletter Editor
Jim Dumas - Newsletter Photographer
Larry Nelson - Newsletter Photographer

CACCB Newsletter

Newsletter Office

Alamosa County Courthouse

702 4th Street

Alamosa, Colorado 81101

July 2001

Forwarding Service Requested