



CACCB REVIEW

ISSUE 51

June-July 2004

newly-elected

CACCB OFFICERS 2004-2005

PRESIDENT

Dianne Tramutola-Lawson
2nd JD citizen member
martl44@aol.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Janelle Shaver'
1st JD citizen member
shavonium@aol.com

SECRETARY

Ted McNeilsmith
12th JD
citizen member
tpmcneil@adamas.edu

TREASURER

Marlene Hiller
1st JD citizen member

AT-LARGE

Carrol Warner
7th JD Probation member
carrol_warner@judicial.state.co.us

AT-LARGE

Jim Miles
16th JD citizen member
jamiles@rmi.net

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Manda Smith
(719) 520-6687
mandasmith@elpasoco.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Judith Horose
judyhorose@elpasoco.com

WEB MASTER

Pat Stanford
stanford@amigo.net

Colorado Association of Community Corrections Boards
P. O. Box 2007 Colorado Springs CO 80901
www.coaccb.org

Happy Birthday, Community Corrections!

How are you doing?

The subject of community corrections relevancy was explored in depth at the last meeting of the Association held in Colorado Springs May 21 and 22.

In '74 the first community corrections legislation was passed which allowed for and encouraged pilot programs modeled after programs in Minnesota and Iowa. Grants funded the initial programs. The Governor's Advisory Council on Community Corrections and this CACCB were formed in '88.

Thirty years ago, community corrections was a good idea. Good ideas follow a general path of beginning with a lot of energy and interest, progressing through growth and acceleration and then leveling off during a time of popularity and success, and moving into eventual decline.

It appears that in some Judicial Districts, the majority of the funding is spent on the small percentage of offenders who are sentenced to incarceration. Our halfway

house model is really a very small part of the big picture. It is imperative to look critically at whether or not we have lost relevancy as a correctional sanction. Have we adjusted in response to increased demands and decreased funding? Can we move beyond just providing prison cost avoidance and add value to the correctional services we provide? Can we do all these things and still remain economically viable for our partners?

Strengths identified by the panelists included:

- o beginning to adopt the technological advances coming along in offender assessment;
- o the well-managed filling of funded beds and allotment spending overall;
- o a low recidivism rate;
- o the programs' familiarity with what is "best practices" in the industry;
- o the partnership between the local community, private business, and governmental agencies;

and

- o the increased willingness to be responsive to the needs of the inmate populations coming back into the community.

The challenges are at least as great:

- o the motivation of programs to change their focus from containment to therapeutic;
- o the limitations of the funding model;
- o the lack of public knowledge of community corrections;
- o the fluctuations in the diversion and transition populations;
- o the increased severity and demographics of the criminal pool; and
- o the increased financial demand on offenders to support themselves.

Possible solutions brought forward from the panel discussion included:

- o focusing on special populations such as the mentally ill, the aging, and women;

See page 2

Sixteen states have used Colorado directly as a model for developing their own community corrections program. An additional five states used it indirectly.

NEXT
CACCB
MEETING
September 10
and 11, 2004
Denver, CO
FOCUS:
VICTIMS of
CRIMES

ON THE
WEB
Colorado
Association of
Community
Corrections
Boards
<http://www.coaccb.org>



4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

- o El Paso and Teller counties
- o 15 member community corrections board
- o meet monthly 2nd WED of month
- o vote on cases weekly
- o 3 service providers: ComCor, Inc., Community Education Centers, Inc., and Gateway: Through the Rockies of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office
- o Contact (719) 520-6685

Birthday continued from Page 1

- o encouraging the use of more skillful offender assessment tools;
 - o fostering better communication with the parole board and DOC to develop programs and a standardized referral process for all offenders leaving incarceration;
 - o adopting more business-like marketing practices to educate the public including local boards;
 - o assessing the funding structure to see how resources might be better allocated to improvements in the system; and
 - o preparing the next generation of decision-makers in this community corrections arena.
- It was the general consensus of the session, that we need to continue to build on our partnerships, work on our challenges and generally fine-tune community corrections as a continuing valuable resource.

Panelists

Tom Giacinti provided the summary of the past and the challenges

Representatives of the meeting's host District, Judith Horose and Henry Sontheimer, facilitated the discussion about the present and the future.

Panelists participating in the relevancy discussion represented the Departments of Public Safety and Corrections, private vendors, local Board staff, the Legislature's Joint Budget Committee staff, Probation, and the National

Institute of Corrections - Dan Beeck, Ed Camp, Kim English, Mike Holland, Larry Linke, Greg Mauro, Jeaneene Miller, Tom Quinn, Vivian Simpson, Karl Spiecker and Joe Thome.

DPS DCJ

FY 03-04 It is anticipated that less than 1% of the total budget for community corrections will be returned to State as unspent.

FY 04-05 There were an additional 144 beds added to transition; 30 of those are therapeutic beds at Peer 1. Additional information is being requested from local boards this year as part of the contract process – victim rights procedures, list of current board members, board by-laws, insurance certificates, sex offender and domestic violence policies. Requests for this information, contracts and funding letters were recently sent to Districts. State has issued 3 RFP's – day reporting, seriously mentally ill, and women's remediation.

DOC

FY 04-05 Nineteen parole officers were re-distributed around the State based on new bed allocations. Return-to-custody beds total 92. Pre-release and revocation center ground-breaking took place in Colorado Springs and is expected to open Summer of '05.

Prejudice saves a lot of time because you can form an opinion without the facts. ANON

Newsletter Distributor 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 and to legislators. It is expected that board contacts will, in turn, distribute to it to their board members. It will also be available on the Association's website at coaccb.org. If you cannot access any of these methods, please contact Manda Smith at (719) 520-6687.