



Board Summary Report

Date:

To: Board of County Commissioners

Through: Don Klemme, Community Resources Department Director

From: Brad Kamby, Judicial Services Division Manager

Subject: Community Corrections Board letter to Denver City Council

Information

The Arapahoe County Community Corrections Board (ACCCB) is requesting approval from the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) to send a letter to the Denver City Council notifying the Council that the acceptance of community corrections referrals from Denver County will be limited.

Background

In July of 2019, the Denver City Council made the decision to not enter into a new contract with the GEO Group, effectively closing the Williams Street Center (WSC). The WSC was a half-way house for women transitioning from the Department of Corrections (DOC) back to Denver or sentenced directly to the half-way house in lieu of a sentence to DOC. As a result of the closure of WSC, the ACCCB approved the transfer of several of the WSC clients to the Arapahoe County Residential Center (ACRC). The action of the ACCCB prevented the re-incarceration in DOC of these women. Since the closure of the WSC, the ACCCB and ACRC continue to screen, and if appropriate, place women referred by the Denver County District Courts and women transitioning from DOC who, if not for the lack of a female program, would be referred to Denver.

Discussion

ACRC has the capacity to house 206 residential clients. The ACCCB will always prioritize placements for women sentenced to community corrections in the 18th Judicial District or are paroling to the 18th Judicial District. The ACCCB has determined that if and when the residential population at ACRC reaches 190 it will no longer accept direct sentence referrals from Denver. The proposed letter from the ACCCB to the Denver City Council summarizes the impact the closure of WSC has had on the residential population at ACRC, notifies the Council that there is a limit on the number of referrals from Denver the ACCCB is willing to absorb, and encourages the Council to expedite efforts to bring gender specific community corrections programming back to Denver.

Alternatives

The alternative is to not send the letter to the Denver City Council. The ACCCB can provide notice of the limitation on the number of the Denver referrals it will review to the Denver County Community Corrections Board.

Links to Align Arapahoe

Community corrections promotes quality of life by assisting individuals in transitioning from prison back to their community and providing individuals sentenced directly to community corrections the opportunity to serve their sentence and address their criminogenic needs without going to prison. Community corrections also promotes public safety by providing supervision to felony offenders. Community corrections promotes fiscal responsibility as it is less costly than jail and prison and offenders are required to work and pay taxes and restitution.

Fiscal Impact

There is virtually no fiscal impact to the county. The Colorado Division of Criminal Justice has allocated funding for an additional 40 residential beds to the ACCCB to increase the female population at ACRC.

Concurrence

N/A

Attorney Comments

Reviewed By:

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