

December 27, 2019

Denver City Council  
1437 Bannock St., Rm. 451  
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Community Corrections Referrals to Arapahoe County

Dear Council Members:

This letter is written to provide the Denver City Council with a policy update regarding the use of community corrections facilities in Arapahoe County to house former, and future referred, community corrections female clients. The Arapahoe County Community Corrections Board (ACCCB) will continue to allow female community corrections referrals, who would otherwise be referred to Denver, but for lack of a female program there, into the foreseeable future. However, the ACCCB has established a population limit, after which Denver referrals will be denied to the sole women's facility in Arapahoe County, the Arapahoe County Residential Center (ACRC).

As background, in an effort to support the former residents of Williams Street Center (WSC) and the Denver County Community Corrections Board (DCCCB), the ACCCB allowed WSC clients to transfer to ACRC. In addition to the transfer of the former WSC residents, the ACCCB and ACRC continue to screen and place women sentenced directly to community corrections by the Denver County District Courts. Moreover, the ACCCB and ACRC are screening, and if appropriate, accepting women transitioning out of the Department of Corrections (DOC) who, if not for the lack of a female program, would be referred to Denver. The ACCCB is supportive of the needs of these women and wants to provide them with the opportunity to safely transition from DOC back to the community or avoid going to prison in the first place. However, this is not without limitation.

As a result of the Denver City Council's decision to not enter into a contract with the GEO Group, effectively closing WSC, the residential population at ACRC continues to increase significantly. In order to maintain capacity to serve Arapahoe County-referred clients, the ACCCB will limit direct sentence placements from Denver, should the total residential population at ACRC reach 190. If the residential population reaches 190 the ACCCB will no longer place women referred by Denver and will automatically deny any direct sentence referrals from Denver County District Courts until the population at ACRC falls below 190. In order to prevent confusion and unnecessary delay in processing referrals, the ACCCB will inform the DCCCB about status changes in the population of ACRC.

The ACCCB encourages the Denver City Council to recognize the urgent need to provide services to this vulnerable Denver population and strongly encourages the Council to expedite efforts to bring gender specific community corrections programming and treatment back to the justice involved women of Denver.

Sincerely,

Jeff Turner  
ACCCB Chair

Cc: Denver County Community Corrections Board