

Colorado Justice Report

Founded in 1999, CCJRC is a network of organizations, faith communities, and individuals working to eliminate the overuse of the criminal justice system in Colorado.

1212 Mariposa St. #6, Denver, CO. 80204 | www.ccjrc.org | info@ccjrc.org | 303 825 0122

DA Elections Matter

The District Attorney (DA) is one of the most powerful players in the criminal justice system and very politically influential. They are also elected officials. Out of the 22 Judicial District races, we already know that several are highly contested. In the 2nd Judicial District (Denver), there are four candidates, three of which are registered Democrats and one who is running as an Independent. Therefore, there will be both a contested Primary Election and the winner of the June Democratic primary will face the Independent candidate in a contested November General Election.

CCJRC is ramping up our efforts to educate the public on the power and role of the DAs and the importance of voting in DA races through our new "Know Your DA" campaign. Please visit our new website at www.ccjrc.org for information on this campaign. CCJRC will conduct a statewide DA candidate questionnaire in an effort to promote transparency of the candidates perspective and priorities. We will distribute the results to our members so that you can be informed before voting.

On April 28th, CCJRC will host a 2016 Denver District Attorney Candidate forum. The forum will take place at the Denver Inner City Parish located at 1212 Mariposa, in Denver CO, 80204, from 6p.m. to 8p.m. Cosponsors include: Second Chance Center, Servicios De La Raza, Harm Reduction Action Center, Survivors of Liberation, VORP and The Association of Black Psychologists. Our DA candidate forum will be moderated by both a crime survivor and a formerly incarcerated person to elevate the leadership of people most impacted by both crime and the criminal justice system.

Our efforts will not end with Denver. In the 1st Judicial District (Jefferson & Gilpin Counties), there are currently two candidates, one Republican and one Democrat, which means a contested General Election in November. In the 17th Judicial District (Adams/Broomfield County), there may be a contested Primary Election and there will be a contested General Election.

CCJRC plans to host DA candidate forums in both the 1st and 17th Judicial Districts. We will keep you posted to when and where these forums will be held. The deadline for DA candidates to enter the race is April 22nd, so we will know shortly who all the District Attorney candidates are statewide and will share that information with our members.

In 2012, 17 out of the 22 judicial DA races went uncontested, therefore bringing minimum attention to the 2012 DA race. It is time to raise the profile of the 2016 DA races in order to better ensure that the next elected DA in your district is accountable and aligns with your values.

To volunteer for this campaign contact Juston@ccjrc.org.

Your Voice, Your Vote, It's time

Am I Registered to Vote? This is a question many ask themselves during an election year! However, for folks with criminal backgrounds, the question often is "Can I Vote?" The answer is "Yes", in the state of Colorado with a few exceptions. Colorado does not have permanent voter disenfranchisement laws.

Did You Know? Even if you have a criminal record, you can vote if you have served your sentence, including any period of parole; you are currently on probation for a misdemeanor or felony, or you are currently in jail as a pretrial detainee or serving a misdemeanor sentence.

Since 2006, CCJRC has run the only civic engagement campaign in Colorado that focuses exclusively on people with criminal records. In 2016 we have increase our capacity and expanded our campaign to educate communities across Colorado.

How Have We Expanded? We are proud to announce a new addition to the campaign! CCJRC welcomes community activist and social justice change agent Alex Landau as a consultant to our campaign. Alex brings extensive experience in field organizing and civic engagement on social justice issues.

In addition, CCJRC is also hosting a series of "Can I Vote?" trainings for our members and broader community. We completed our first training for 25 of our Denver members on March 29, 2016. We will keep you posted on when the next membership training will be.

We are also exploring strategies to expand our public education statewide through partnerships with local and state voter registration drives (VRDs). By collaborating with VRDs, CCJRC can help justice-involved people register to vote electronically and get more information out to the public.

We are also launching a new pilot project to increase voting at the Denver County Jail and downtown Detention Center. The majority of people in both jails are eligible to vote. Many are not aware of this and face multiple barriers that prevent them from voting. CCJRC is working with the Denver Elections Commission and Denver Sheriff's Department in developing a process to assist people in the Denver jails to register to vote and vote.

We look forward to continuing our efforts to expand this campaign and serve as a resource to our members and the broader community. We encourage all our members to vote if they are eligible, especially if you have a criminal record. Your Voice, Your Vote, Matters!

Contact pam@ccjrc.org to volunteer

CCJRC 2106 Legislative Update

We're more than halfway through the session which ends May 11th. Given the divide between the Republican-led Senate and the Democratic-run House there has been a lot of noise, but not a lot of action. Add into the mix an election year and a budget shortfall and it is almost certain we won't see anything too controversial get through the legislative process this session. However, a number of good bills are working their way through the process and some bad bills have already been defeated.

There are a handful of bills that we are engaged in and closely tracking, which are highlighted as our priority bills below. We have also included a brief listing of some of the other bills still in play that may be of interest to you. If you aren't already receiving CCJRC's weekly email legislative updates and Action Alerts, contact pam@ccjrc.org.

CCJRC Priority Bill List

SB16-065 Concerning Criminal Restitution

Sponsors: Sen. Steadman (D)

CCJRC Position: **Amend in House**

Status: Passed Senate Judiciary Committee heavily amended

Description: Current law requires that unpaid balances on restitution be charged 12% interest a year. The bill was heavily amended in the Senate to take out a lot of important reforms and now only lowers the interest rate to 8% and makes some minor clarifications. CCJRC will try to get some amendments when the bill goes to the House that would create some kind of time out on interest if someone is incarcerated or is currently making regular restitution payments. We won't lie though.... this is going to be a hard sell this year.

HB16-1344 Special Offender when Death Results After Use

Sponsors: Rep. Foote (D) and Sen. Cooke (R)

CCJRC Position: **Oppose**

Status: Calendared for House Judiciary Committee

Description: Would allow a seller to be charged with a level 1 drug felony as a special offender if a person dies as a result of using those drugs. This would carry a penalty of an 8 year mandatory minimum up to a 32 year sentence.

HB16-1331 Policies on Juvenile Shackling in Court

Sponsors: Rep. Lontine (D) and Sen. Merrifield (D)

CCJRC Position: **Support**

Status: Passed House Judiciary Committee – Up for 2nds on the House Committee of the Whole

Description: Would require a juvenile be removed from restraints prior to any court proceeding except when the court determines the restraints are necessary.

HB16-1385 Definition Child Abuse Substance Exposure

Sponsors: Rep. Singer (D) and Sen. Newell (D)

CCJRC Position: **Under Review**

Status: calendared for House Public Health Care & Human Services

Description: Expands when substance use or substance exposure constitutes "abuse" or "child abuse or neglect" in the Colorado Children's Code.

HB16-1388 Employer Hiring Criminal History Employee

Sponsors: Rep. McCann (D)

CCJRC Position: **Support**

Status: House Judiciary Committee (not yet calendared)

Description: This bill would expand Colorado's Ban the Box policy, which allows applicants to interview before being subjected to a background check, to the private sector. The bill would also exempt employers who are statutorily obligated to consider certain records.

HB16-1390 Immunity When Overdoses Reported

Sponsors: Rep. Moreno (D) and Sen. Guzman (D)

CCJRC Position: **Support**

Status: Calendared for House Public Health Care & Human Services Committee

Description: This bill would strengthening Colorado's 911 Good Samaritan law, which encourages people to seek help when they are with a person who is overdosing. This bill would extend immunity from arrest and prosecution to a person who reports an overdose. This bill also expands immunity from arrest and prosecution to underage reporters and the underage person who needs medical assistance.

Other Bills of Interest

SB16-051 Judge's Discretion Regarding Consecutive Sentences

Sponsors: Sen. Johnston (D) & Sen. Lundberg (R) and Rep. Melton (D)

Description: Would give judges discretion to sentence someone either concurrently or consecutively if a person is convicted of 2 or more separate crimes of violence that stem from the same incident.

SB16-075 DNA Collection Misdemeanor Vulnerable Persons

Sponsors: Sen. Johnston (D) & Sen. Cooke (R) and Rep. Lawrence (R) & Rep. Pabon (D)

Description: Would require a DNA sample from a person convicted of any of the following misdemeanors: 3rd degree assault, menacing, reckless endangerment, theft, criminal mischief, child abuse, violation of a protection order, solicitation of a prostitute and harassment.

SB16-102 Repeal Certain Mandatory Minimum Prison Sentences

Sponsors: Sen. Kerr (D) and Rep. Moreno (D)

Description: Removes mandatory sentences for certain types of 2nd degree assault and for violating bail bond conditions.

SB16-116 Private Company Accurate Criminal History Data

Sponsors: Sen. Johnston (D) and Rep. Lee (D) & Rep. Lebsack (D)

Description: Makes it a deceptive trade practice under the "Colorado Consumer Protection Act" for a private custodian of criminal justice records to knowingly fail to remove sealed criminal justice records from its database after receiving a copy of a court order sealing those records.

SB16-164 Private Probation Summons and Complaint

Sponsors: Sen. Cooke (R)

Description: The bill would allow a private probation the authority to issue a summons and file a complaint with the court for a person on probation that is under her/his supervision.

HB16-1104 Summons in Lieu of Warrant for Non-Violent Crimes

Sponsors: Rep. Roupe (R) and Sen. Cooke (R)

Description: Would allow a law enforcement officer to issue a summons in lieu of a warrant for lower level nonviolent felonies if the local District Attorney consents and other criteria are met.

HB16-1215 Purposes of Parole

Sponsors: Rep. McCann (D) and Rep. Kagan (D) & Sen. Guzman (D)

Description: Redefines the purposes of parole by stating the purpose of parole is to improve public safety by reducing the incidences of crime and technical revocations by people on parole. The purpose of parole is also to help individuals transition back into the community, assist them in addressing identified risks and needs and helping them achieve a successful discharge from parole.

Legislation continued on page 3

Work and Gain Employment and Education Skills Program (WAGEES)

In 2014, CCJRC helped pass legislation that created a grant program in the Colorado Department of Corrections to fund community and faith-based organizations to help people leaving prison find housing, employment and assist with many other transition needs. The following is a list of the community nonprofit organizations that are available to help people on parole in Colorado. Services are free and people can contact the programs directly or people can be referred to any of these programs by his/her parole officer or DOC community reentry specialist.

- Bridge House 4747 Table Mesa Dr. Boulder, CO 80305 Tim Arnold (303) 575-4964 tim@boulderbridgehouse.org
Intake Hours 8am-5pm Monday-Thursday. Plan 1 ½ hours for intake. No current offense for sex assault or arson.
- Inside/Out- Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center of Hope 242 Conifer St. Ft. Collins CO 80524 Ellen Toomey (303) 907-7598 ellen.t@crpio.org
Intake Hours 8am-5pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Thursdays by appointment. Plan 1 ½ hours for intake. All Offenses.
- Inside/Out 14221 E. 4th Ave Bldg. #2 Ste. 330 Aurora CO 80011 Debbie Winans (720) 207-5041 crp.insideout@gmail.com
Intake Hours 10am-8pm Tuesday-Thursday, 10am-5pm on Fridays. Plan 1 ½ hours for intake. All Offenses.
- Christlife Ministries 1211 N. Main St. Pueblo CO 81003 Linda Perkins (719) 647-9235 lperkins@mychristlife.org
Intake Hours 8am-5pm Monday-Thursday. Plan 1 ½ hours for intake. All Offenses.
- Positive Impact 2210 E. LaSalle St Colorado Springs CO 80909 Rosemary Lytle (719) 634-7813 wageescs@gmail.com
Intake Hours 9:00am-3:00pm Monday-Friday. Plan 1 ½ hours for intake. All Offenses.
- Second Chance Center 9722 E. 16th Ave Aurora CO 80011 Sean Taylor (303) 909-0813 secondchancecentercolorado@gmail.com
Intake Hours 8am-5pm Monday-Thursday. Plan 1 ½ hours for intake. All Offenses.
- Servicios de la Raza 3131 W. 14th Ave. Denver CO 80204 Josef Lopez (303) 953-5904 josefl@serviciosdelaraza.org
Intake Hours 8am-5pm Monday-Thursday. Plan 1 ½ hours for intake. All Offenses.
- The Rock Foundation 1542 7th Ave. Greeley, CO 80631 Cheryl Cook (303) 252-7453 therockfoundation@comcast.net
Intake Hours 8:30am-4:30pm Monday-Thursday. Plan 1 ½ hours for intake. All Offenses.

What Kinds of Services Do they Provide?

Each of the community partners listed above provide services designed to assist people returning from prison to successfully connect with their communities and families. People who choose to enroll and actively participate in the WAGEES program are eligible to receive services such as; Employment Preparation and Placement, Work Clothing and Tool Assistance (pay for clothing/boots/shoes required by employer or clothing for interviews, also for small tools required by employers) Mentoring, Identification Acquisition (i.e. fees for Driver's License, Birth Certificate, etc.), Vocational Training Cost Assistance, Transportation Assistance (bus passes or tickets to help attend work and WAGEES activities), Gang Disengagement, Medical Benefits Acquisition (medical and mental health), Housing Assistance (shelter fees, limited housing or hotel rent), Family Reunification/Parenting, Education Assistance (fee for classes and books) and more.

How Do I Get Referred to the WAGEES Program?

You can call or stop in to any one of the community partners listed above and request to be referred to the WAGEES Program. Community Partner staff will contact CDOC to request to work with you. Your Community Parole Officer or Community Re-Entry Specialist can also refer you directly to a community partner for help. The only eligibility requirements are; (1) that you currently be on parole and (2) you fall into medium or high risk on the LSI (it's estimated that 98% of parolees fall into one of the two).

Why would I want to go to a community partner for help?

If you're tired of ending up in the same places you've always been community partners can help you see new possibilities and how to get there. Many of the community partners reflect the people they serve meaning they look, live, shop, relax and worship in the same communities as you do. Most community partner team members have been incarcerated and know what it is to deal with all the "stuff" that comes with that. More importantly, they know what it takes to overcome that "stuff" and lead lives of satisfaction and fulfillment. If you want to keep doing what you've always done that's your choice. If want to give yourself a shot at something better, come see us

Legislation continued from page 2

HB16-1263 Racial Profiling Prohibition

Sponsors: Rep. Williams (D) and Sen. Ulibarri (D)

Description: Expands upon and updates the definition of profiling by a peace officer and describes additional prohibited activities related to profiling.

HB16-1264 Ban Law Enforcement Use of Chokehold

Sponsors: Rep. Melton (D) and Sen. Johnston (D)

Description: Would prohibit a peace officer from intentionally using a chokehold against another person unless the officer believes her or his life is in danger or that she/he or another person is in imminent danger of death or bodily injury

HB16-1265 Expunge Arrest Records Based on Mistaken Identity

Sponsors: Rep. Melton (D) & Rep. Esgar (D) and Sen. Johnston (D) & Sen. Cooke (R)

Description: Would require a law enforcement agency to file a petition to expunge the arrest record of someone who is arrested as a result of mistaken identity; requires the court to grant the petition and prohibits employers from asking about expunged records.

HB16-1278 Residential Drug Treatment for Probationers

Sponsors: Rep. Lee (D) and Sen. Cooke (R)

Description: Would allow a court to recommend community corrections for someone on misdemeanor probation for the purposes of attending residential treatment as a condition of probation.

HB16-1359 Use of Medical Marijuana while on Probation

Sponsors: Rep. Salazar (D)

Description: Current law allows people on probation to use medical marijuana unless they have been convicted of a crime related to medical marijuana or the court determines that the person should not be able to use medical marijuana, based on an assessment. This bill would remove the exception that is related to the assessment.



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CCJRC's new website!

Last year, CCJRC underwent significant strategic planning and the Board of Directors approved our new mission: To eliminate the overuse of the criminal justice system in Colorado and advance community health and safety.

Our goal is to change public attitudes and policies, and improve the lives of people directly impacted by crime and the criminal justice system. Our new website describes our campaigns, some of them will be familiar as they continue long-standing work CCJRC has been doing since our founding in 1999. But you'll also learn about our new campaigns. There are four new info-graphics that use data to tell a compelling story of misplaced priorities, impacted people and missed opportunities for actually improving public safety. You'll find new educational and training materials that you can download and share with friends and family to help this movement grow. We welcome your feedback and we hope this site is valuable to you!



SAVE THE DATE!!

Wednesday,
September 21, 2016
CCJRC's 8th Annual
"Voices For Justice"

YES! Count me in! I want to support CCJRC and help eliminate the overuse of the criminal justice system in Colorado. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution!

Your support makes all the difference!

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CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL: _____

- Individual \$35
- Household \$50
- Sustainer \$100 or more
- Freedom Fighter \$__ charge me monthly/quarterly
- Low Income/senior \$15
- Prisoner \$3 (cash or stamps)

Credit Card #

_____ Exp date _____

Please return to:
CCJRC 1212 Mariposa St. #6 Denver, CO. 80204

On Wednesday, September 21, 2016, we will celebrate our eighth annual night of fun and fundraising with an open bar, delicious food, and a magnificent silent auction at Mile High Station in Denver, Colorado. We would like to invite you to attend and/or become a sponsor of this event. This year, CCJRC is proud to honor:

Richard Morales
Deputy Executive Director of the Latino Coalition for
Community Leadership with the
Rupert-Tate Game Changer Award

Mr. Morales is the project director for the WAGEES grant which has expanded funding for community-based re-entry support for people leaving prison. His leadership and skill has built a network of eight community-based organizations in Aurora, Denver, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Ft. Collins, Greeley, and Pueblo that has strengthened not only these programs but has also elevated the role of formerly incarcerated people in this field. He has also negotiated and navigated a whole new relationship between community organizations and the Department of Corrections to forge a better partnership. We are so grateful and inspired by Richard and all the folks at the Latino Coalition for Community Leadership.