

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 and advance community health and safety in Colorado.

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2018 Legislative Wrap-up

By Terri Hurst, Policy Coordinator

Holy Cats Batman! We made it through another legislative session and it was a monster session for CCJRC!

We helped defeat not one, not two, but three separate efforts to reopen the Colorado State Penitentiary. Since CCJRC's founding in 1999, this is the first time the Legislature has rejected a request by DOC for more prison beds. We also helped write and shepherd several bills that are aimed at reducing and better managing the prison population. Unfortunately, a bill (HB18-1425) that would have created an interim legislative committee to monitor the prison population passed the House but was killed in the Senate. CCJRC will be working with several legislators who want to do this work, even if in an unofficial capacity. The prisons are full and if the legislation that is intended to reduce the prison population isn't successful or doesn't have the impact soon enough, we expect DOC to come back with another request to reopen a prison in the near future.

Most proudly was our efforts to "fight for the money" in order to help support community-led efforts to build healthier, stronger, and safer neighborhoods. First, we successfully advocated for the reauthorization of the DOC community reentry grant program and a \$3.2 million increase in annual funding. Second, the Crime Prevention Initiative that was created in legislation (HB17-1326) last year that CCJRC wrote and shepherded received \$4 million in the second year of the pilot to fund small business lending and community-based crime prevention services in N Aurora and SE Colorado Springs. The newest addition to our community investment agenda includes HB18-1409 which CCJRC also wrote and shepherded that created the first grant program in the state department of public health to expand community-based crime survivor services with a prioritization on people of color, men, and young adults. Combined, these three initiatives are investing a total of over \$50 million into communities most impacted by crime and mass incarceration over the next several years.

The list of bills below only scratches the surface of all the work that was accomplished this session. We'd like to thank all of you who helped to support our efforts this year and congratulate everyone for the very hard work that was put in to help move the needle on reforming the criminal justice system and transforming how we approach public safety.

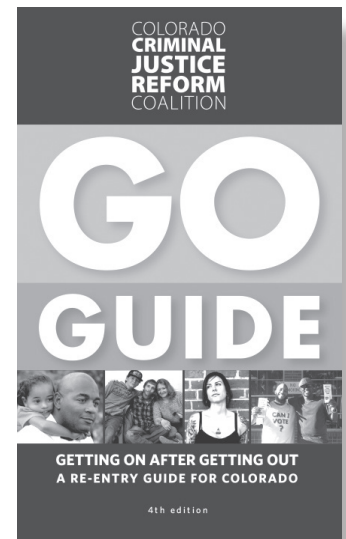
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GO GUIDE Release The 4th Edition

By Pamela Clifton, Communications Coordinator

*"This book
saved my life."*

That's the kind of feedback that made us take our work on the Go Guide pretty seriously, and to appreciate all of the people who have helped to make it possible. This fourth edition of the Guide owes its existence to many people, both inside and outside of prison, and we are grateful for their support and suggestions.



It is with our great pleasure that we are able to announce that the fourth edition of the Go Guide has been published and is now ready for order. This 200-page book provides extensive information to help people prepare for release and successfully reintegrate back into their families and communities. DOC has copies so ask your case manager if you can get one.

This publication is helpful for people involved in the criminal justice system, their families, community service providers, and criminal justice professionals. This new book has expanded information on healthcare and treatment resources. Also, we have included inspirational personal stories. If you would like to order a copy please go to the CCJRC website. If you would like to inquire about bulk orders please feel free to email pam@ccjrc.org.

CCJRC Priority Bills

SB18-20 Registered Psychotherapists Auricular Acudetox

Senate Vote: 33 yes, 0 no, 2 excused / House Vote: 63 yes, 0 no, 1 excused

Will allow registered psychotherapists to provide auricular acudetox services. Auricular acudetox has been shown to improve treatment outcomes and reduce withdrawal and cravings in people who use drugs. It has also been used to help with symptoms of PTSD and is a low-cost treatment that is helpful for people who have experienced trauma.

SB18-150 Voting Registration Individuals Criminal Justice System

Senate Vote: 24 yes, 11 no / House Vote: 37 yes, 26 no, 2 excused

Beginning July 1, 2019, a person on parole will be able to preregister to vote as long as they meet other voting registration requirements. Once an individual is off of parole, they will automatically be registered to vote, if they pre-registered. Beginning in the fall of this year, probation and parole officers will be required to provide information to people about their right to vote. In addition to our work on SB150, CCJRC and others met with the Secretary of State and convinced them to issue new rules that will require election clerks and jail administrators to develop a plan to ensure that eligible voters in jail have a meaningful opportunity to register to vote and vote beginning with the 2018 November election.

HB18-1176 Sunset Offender Reentry Grant Program

House Vote: 48 yes, 16 no, 1 excused / Senate Vote: 30 yes, 5 no

Reauthorized the DOC reentry grant program for another 5 years. CCJRC wrote and advocated for an amendment to HB1176 that increased the annual funding by \$3.2 million to add another 10 grantees in other locations throughout the state and develop a specific reentry model for women with high medical, mental health, and/or substance abuse treatment needs. People who are transitioning from prison through community corrections will also now be eligible for services, not just those on parole.

HB18-1251 Community Corrections Transition Placements

House Vote: 57 yes, 4 no, 4 excused / Senate Vote: 34 yes, 1 excused

CCJRC facilitated a stakeholder group starting last summer that developed multiple recommendations to improve utilization of community corrections for people leaving prison. These recommendations were adopted in this bill.

HB18-1409 Community Crime Victims Grant Program

House Vote: 40 yes, 24 no, 1 excused / Senate Vote: 29 yes, 6 no

CCJRC wrote and shepherded this bill which creates the first of its kind grant program in the department of public health and environment to provide funding for community-based victim services with a prioritization on people of color, men, and young adults who have been historically underserved.

HB18-1410 Prison Management Measures

House Vote: 63 yes, 2 no / Senate Vote: 34 yes, 1 excused

CCJRC wrote and shepherded this bill that would require DOC to take proactive measures when the prison bed vacancy rate drops to 2% or less for over 30 days, including:

- Identify available empty beds in community corrections and submit a referral.
- Provide a list of all people in prison within 90 days of the mandatory release date who have an approved parole plan and do not require full board review or victim notification. The Parole Board has 10 days to conduct a file review and may set a release date up to 30 days prior to MRD.
- Provide a list to the Parole Board of all people in prison who have satisfied conditions that were the basis of a conditional release decision by the Parole Board who do not require full board review or victim notification. The Parole Board has 10 days to conduct a file review to determine a release date.

SB18-274 Implement Prison Utilization Study – did not pass

Senate Vote: 24 yes, 10 no, 1 excused / House Judiciary Committee: 5 yes, 6 no. This bill would have reopened CSP-II and repurposed DRDC to incarcerate individuals who are in need of long term care. The bill was killed in the House Judiciary Committee.

Budget Highlights

The DOC budget for FY18-19 ended up being just shy of \$900 million. Some of the additions in the DOC budget include an additional \$100,000 for inmate pay and a total of \$20.5 million for Hepatitis C treatment. Funding was provided to the Division of Criminal Justice to help people in community corrections cover their subsistence payments for the first 10 days of residency. The Department of Local Affairs also received \$4.7 million to provide housing assistance for people with mental health disorders who are transitioning from incarceration. The Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) received an additional \$15 million dollars to enhance and expand substance use disorder treatment services and another \$3 million to re-open the Circle program which provides residential treatment services to people with co-occurring addiction and mental health disorders.

Behavioral Health Bills

SB18-249 – Redirection Criminal Justice Behavioral Health

Senate Vote: 35 yes / House Vote: 44 yes, 21 no

Will create up to 4 Mental Health Criminal Justice Diversion Programs in selected judicial districts. The pilot programs will identify individuals with mental health conditions who have been charged with a low-level criminal offense and divert these individuals into community treatment programs and out of the criminal justice system. A low-level offense may include a misdemeanor, petty offense, a drug felony 3 or 4, or any class 3, 4, or 5 felony. The first round of grant awards shall occur on or before January 1, 2019.

SB18-250 Jail Based Behavioral Health Services

Senate Vote: 35 yes / House Vote: 43 yes, 22 no

Formally establishes the Jail Based Behavioral Health Services (JBBS) program within the Office of Behavioral Health. The JBBS program must ensure jails participating in the program are conducting appropriate screening, treatment, and transitional care upon release.

SB18-251 Statewide Behavioral Health Court Liaison Program

Senate Vote: 35 yes / House Vote: 43 yes, 22 no

Will create a behavioral health court liaison program within the Office of the State Court Administrator. The program is tasked with helping to identify and ensure that each judicial district implements a local behavioral health court liaison program to ensure better communication and collaboration between criminal justice and behavioral health systems when a justice-involved person has behavioral health needs.

HB18-1003 Opioid Misuse Prevention

House Vote: 59 yes, 1 no, 5 excused / Senate Vote: 28 yes, 7 no

Formally establishes the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorder Study Committee that will consist of 10 members of the General Assembly (5 Senators & 5 Representatives). The Committee shall be appointed by June 1, 2018 and is tasked with looking at issues pertaining to addiction disorders in Colorado. In addition the bill supports school based health centers, SBIRT and training for health care providers.

HB18-1136 Substance Use Disorder Treatment

House Vote: 52 yes, 11 no / Senate Vote: 34 yes, 1 excused

Will expand the substance use disorder benefit in Medicaid to cover inpatient, residential and medical detox services pending federal approval. The state must seek federal authorization no later than October 1, 2018. It is anticipated it will take 2 years to receive federal approval and design the benefit. The goal for implementations of this enhanced benefit is July 1, 2020.

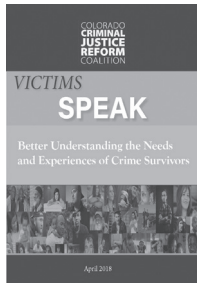
HB18-1357 Behavioral Health Care Ombudsman Parity Reports

House Vote: 40 yes, 20 no, 5 excused / Senate Vote Count: 27 yes, 7 no

Creates a Behavioral Health Ombudsman that will be designated by the Governor by November 1, 2018. The Ombudsman will serve as a neutral party to help consumers who have public or private health insurance coverage navigate and resolve issues related to consumer access to behavioral health treatment.

Colorado Crime Survivors for Health, Safety, and Justice

by Juston Cooper, Deputy Director



We are excited to share with our members and the broader public the official launch of CCJRC's "Crime Survivors for Health, Safety and Justice" campaign. For too long, efforts to promote public safety, ostensibly at the demand of victims, has sacrificed both the health of the community and fair and equal justice. Our intention is to build a broad base of political power in communities that includes both people impacted by crime and mass incarceration to transform how we approach community safety.

We began this campaign by conducting nine focus groups across the Denver metropolitan area and we hired Ridder/Braden & Stay Current strategies to conduct a random telephone poll of 500 survivors of crime across the Denver metro. In April 2018, we released our report entitled "Victims Speak: Better Understanding the Needs and Experiences of Crime Survivors" which you can download for free at https://www.ccjrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/CCJRC_victims_speak33118-Final-2.pdf

Some of the key findings from the poll include:

- Most crime survivors believe prevention, education, treatment, and rehabilitation improve public safety more than incarceration. Seventy-one percent of crime survivors, including majorities of every demographic group, prefer that Colorado focus more on rehabilitating than punishing people who commit crimes. By a margin of five to one, crime survivors prefer shortening prison sentences and spending the savings on rehabilitation to increasing the length of prison sentences.
- The survey also found victimization can lead to significant trauma for many victims, but few receive the services or treatment they need to heal and recover. About six out of seven victims experienced at least one symptom commonly associated with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and nearly one-third (30%) experienced six or more negative impacts. Only one in 10 respondents received victims' services. Most victims were unaware of the services that are available, and just over one-third of victims (37%) were aware of services and interested in receiving them, but could not access them. The survey also found that nearly one-third of victims did not report the crime to law enforcement.
- The report also highlights the disproportionate impact of crime on communities of color, as well as perceived differences in how people of color are treated by the criminal justice system. According to the survey, black people and Latinos were, respectively, 34% and 38% more likely than white people to have been the victim of a violent crime. Three out of four survivors, including majorities of all racial demographics, believe the criminal justice system treats people, both victims and defendants, differently based on their race or ethnicity.

These findings, along with other key findings regarding high rates of repeat victimization and wide gaps in victim services, particularly for people of color and men, inspired CCJRC to launch this campaign and organize with survivors.

The campaign launch included a press conference that was well covered by both print and TV media. We held our first "Day of Healing" community event on April 14th that coincided with National Crime Victims' Rights Week at the Aurora Strong Resilience Center. The event was attended by over 50 people and featured workshops, a variety of healing modalities, and opportunities to connect with other survivors in community.

Our launch also included a bold effort to address the gaps in services. CCJRC, along with survivors, led the charge on HB18-1409 this legislative session. This bill created the first grant program to fund community-based victim services that is housed in the state health department (not a criminal justice agency) and will prioritize underserved victims, namely people of color, men, and young adults. We are so grateful to Representatives Lee (D) and Herod (D) and Senators Lundberg (R), Fields (D), and Prioloa (R) for sponsoring this important legislation.

This is just the beginning! We have a lot more work to do. Colorado Crime Survivors for Health, Safety and Justice meets at CCJRC every month. If you'd like to be involved, please reach out to me at juston@ccjrc.org.

The Relationship of Civic Engagement

by Alex Landau,
Community
Outreach
Coordinator

169 days and counting until the election.... and our boots are already on the ground.



CCJRC and jail-based voting crew at Denver County Jail

In the last couple of election cycles, CCJRC has been expanding our involvement in voter engagement which is intentionally focused on people with a criminal record who may not think they can vote and more broadly throughout communities of color. What started off as a small voter education campaign that was active only a few weeks before an election has grown to a year-round campaign that integrates a number of different strategies.

Our voter education effort is helping debunk the common belief that people in Colorado with a criminal record can never vote again. We're training other civic engagement campaigns on the nuances of voter eligibility for people with a criminal record so that they aren't inadvertently providing misinformation and perpetuating disenfranchisement.

We expanded our jail-based voter registration drive where CCJRC staff and volunteers are in both the Denver jail and detention center once a month. We also helped convince the Secretary of State (SOS) that more effort needed to be made by election officials to ensure that eligible voters in jail across the state have a meaningful opportunity to register and vote. The SOS is currently issuing new rules to all election clerks requiring them to work with their local jail administrators to develop a written plan prior to the 2018 election that is provided to the SOS office and available to the public.

In the 2017 election cycle, we launched our first civic engagement field canvas in Aurora and this year we registered as a formal Voter Registration Drive. Our goal is to register at least 2,000 people. However just making sure people register to vote is not enough. We're also going to knock on 10,000 doors in Denver and Aurora to encourage people to vote.

The summer months are when this campaign kicks into higher gear and we have been working diligently to build our volunteer base and offer monthly volunteer orientations for any new people.

But what is a base? Is it a rolodex of people you can count on and call to help accomplish a task, then you put them away until its time for the next task? Not for us here at CCJRC. It's about the relationship we have the opportunity to develop. It is about making sure people who have been directly impacted have the opportunity to get involved in making a difference. But our connection and involvement with our members, volunteers, and the broader community is one that we hope lasts a life time. Our volunteers are dedicated people who care about the mission of our organization. They are also powerful representatives for the importance of voting because when we decide not to vote, that's when the conditions for oppression get stronger. If you are interested in getting involved please reach out to me at alex@ccjrc.org.



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Meet CCJRC's Newest Staff Member

My name is Jasmine Ross. I'm from Haiti, and also an adoptee. I graduated from the Denver School of the Arts and have attended Metro State for two years. Last year, I was introduced to CCJRC. As an admirer of their work I wanted to get more involved. A month later, I became a part of the team working as their part-time field canvasser during the 2017 Aurora City Council elections. It was such a great experience, and we did an amazing job reaching our goal.



In March of 2018, CCJRC asked me to come back and be the Civic Engagement Field Canvasser Assistant. I am so honored for this opportunity and to be back with CCJRC. I'm excited to help advance our Civic Engagement campaign by focusing on helping to organize and grow our volunteer program, register people with justice involved backgrounds to vote, and training the wider civic engagement field on the importance of voting for people with a criminal background.

10th Annual Voices for Justice

On Wednesday, September 26, 2018 we will celebrate our tenth 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 or become a sponsor of this event. Get information at www.ccjrc.org/events.

2018 Game Changer Award Recipient:

House Representative Pete Lee



Wednesday, September 26, 2018
5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m
COCKTAILS AND CUISINE
BASKETS AND BUNDLES SILENT AUCTION
MILE HIGH STATION
2027 West Lower Colfax
Denver, CO.
CATERED BY FOOTERS
Early Bird Tickets \$75
Available June 1

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!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL: _____

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

Credit Card #

_____ Exp date _____

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CCJRC is a proud member of
Community Shares of Colorado!