



Community Corrections Council Bulletin

New statutory duties for the Council go into effect July 15, 2010

The passage of [LB 864](#) during the 2010 legislative session created several new statutory duties for the Community Corrections Council which will go into effect on July 15, 2010. LB 864 contains the initial recommendations of the Sentencing and Recidivism Task Force. The task force is a legislative working group chaired by State Senator and Council member Pete Pirsch, which is working closely with the Council to address concerns about prison overcrowding and recidivism.

The primary focus of LB 864 is the development of a plan for expanding reporting centers to all judicial districts in the state. LB 864 asks the Council to prepare a reporting center expansion plan and submit it to the task force by December 1, 2010. Reporting centers have been a key component of the community corrections efforts initiated by Probation and supported by the Council, and expansion of these services to all areas of the state has been a goal of the Council since the first reporting centers opened in 2006.

The bill contains two other duties for the Council which focus on data collection and analysis of community corrections programs and the Council's role in gathering and sharing information with the legislature. The first requires the Council to establish uniform definitions of outcome measures for community corrections programs. The second requires the Council to collect outcome data from partner agencies and report annually to the legislature on the progress of community corrections programs in Nebraska.

Currently, community corrections programs operated by different agencies each have their own definitions of outcome measures such as recidivism or employment. Establishing uniform outcome measures for community corrections programs will enable the Council to better evaluate such programs, compare programs to each other, and make improvements based upon comparable data sets. The diversified nature of community corrections also makes it difficult for the legislature to evaluate the system as a whole as corrections and probation have separate data systems. LB 864 formalizes the Council's role as a clearinghouse for community corrections information. Publishing annual comparable recidivism, utilization, and budget data will assist the legislature in making informed decisions on correctional policy.

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