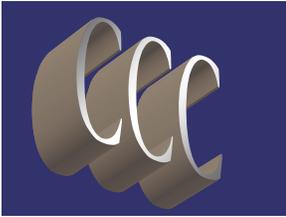


COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL



COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: MAINTAINING & ENHANCING JUSTICE, REDUCTION OF TAXPAYER COST, ENSURING PUBLIC

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What is the Community Corrections Council?



Kermit Brashear, Chair of the Community Corrections Working Group and Community Corrections Council.

In 2002, then Governor Johanns created the Community Corrections Working Group to identify ways to “plan a way out” of the impending prison population crisis. The Working Group was mandated to propose ways to maintain and enhance justice, reduce taxpayer cost, and ensure public safety, which in turn would require education

of the public.

With excellent technical assistance from the Vera Institute of Justice, the Working Group concluded that sentencing practices must change in Nebraska to identify dangerous offenders in contrast to offenders society was just “angry with”, such as first time drug offenders.

The Working Group designed a proposal which was incorporated into Legislative Bill 46— a bill to prevent Nebraska’s correctional system from bankrupting the state, thus giving birth to the Community Corrections Council (CCC).

The Community Corrections Council, headed by governor appointed Executive Director Linda Krutz, has evolved into

an “umbrella” organization, collaborating and coordinating the programs between Probation Administration, Parole Administration, the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches of the state government. The Council oversees and ensures that a continuum of community corrections is developed for use by probationers and parolees.

The Council consists of 20 members representing each of the above branches of government, as well as criminal justice and behavioral health stakeholders. On an approximate quarterly basis the Council members meet publicly to discuss the ongoing work of the various organizations and to fine tune the ultimate goals.

The Council’s Mandate/Philosophy

The Council’s mandate includes the development and implementation of a plan for statewide use of, and standards for, community correctional facilities and programs. The Council is also charged with the creation of, and revision to, sentencing guidelines for consideration

by the Nebraska Supreme Court.

The Council’s Philosophy:

- ◆ Criminal sentences should be imposed fairly, rationally and consistently

- ◆ Public safety should be promoted
- ◆ Incarceration should be reserved for the most serious offenders

Interest Points:

- THE ORIGINATION OF THE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL
- VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE
- PEW PUBLIC SAFETY PERFORMANCE PROJECT
- PROBATION
- JBHC
- CCC MISSION STATEMENT

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COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL

Vera Institute of Justice



Vera has more than 40 years of experience helping public officials.

Vera has been a vital part of developing the Community Corrections Council and providing Nebraska officials with information and data regarding national practices in the field of community corrections. Vera's Center on Sentencing and Corrections (CSC) provides non-partisan support to government officials and criminal justice professionals charged with addressing jurisdiction's sentencing and corrections policy. By using empirical data and evidence-based practices, CSC assists the Community

Corrections Council to identify emerging trends and issues in the field of community corrections and help develop cost-effective strategies for protecting public safety.

CSC has dispatched teams to Nebraska to assess the needs and aid in developing strategies for advancing reform. Each team comprises a mix of professional backgrounds and skills, knowledge of the substantive issues, and a thorough understanding of the criminal justice political environment.

On June 23-24, 2005, Vera facilitated a strategic planning meeting for the Nebraska departments of Probation and Parole to articulate a mission for field services in Nebraska consistent with evolving community corrections policies statewide.

2007 has been a busy year for Vera with an associate present at the District Judges meeting in June, and a meeting in May with Probation. Fall 2007 will see more research initiated with the Probation and Parole Services Study.

THE PUBLIC SAFETY PERFORMANCE PROJECT SUPPORTS SELECT STATES THAT WANT BETTER RESULTS FROM THEIR SENTENCING AND CORRECTIONS SYSTEMS.

Pew Charitable Trusts

An independent nonprofit organization, the Trusts is the sole beneficiary of seven individual charitable funds established between 1948-1979 by the children of Joseph Pew, founder of Sun Oil Company, and his wife Mary Anderson Pew.

The Pew Charitable Trusts serves the public interest by:

- ◆ Providing information on key issues and trends by

being a credible source of independent, non-partisan research and polling information

- ◆ Advancing policy solutions on important issues
- ◆ Supporting the arts, heritage and well-being of our diverse citizenry

An operation project of the Trusts, the Public Safety Performance Project supports

select states that want better results from their sentencing and corrections systems. The project helps states diagnose factors driving prison growth and provides policy audits to identify data-driven options for reform, drawing on promising approaches and best practices in other states. The initiative also helps state officials, practitioners and others share state-of-the-art knowledge and ideas.



Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman and Barbara Tombs, Senior Fellow of Sentencing and Corrections at Vera, look on while Chair Kermit Brasher speaks.

Nebraska Selected for Pew Public Safety Performance Project

On February 12, 2007, Governor Dave Heineman announced The Pew Charitable Trusts selected Nebraska to be one of eight states that will receive direct assistance in developing policies and programs to protect public safety, hold offenders accountable and control correction costs.

"Nebraska's leaders have made extraordinary changes in sentencing and corrections to deliver the outcomes taxpayers want: less crime, and fewer victims, the return of ex-offenders as productive, law-abiding members of society, and wiser use of public dollars," said Lori Grange, Senior Officer, State Policy Initiatives, The Pew Charita-

ble Trusts. "With Governor Heineman's leadership and his commitment to effective and efficient government, Nebraska is poised to make even greater progress in protecting public safety while controlling corrections spending. We are honored to assist the state in its efforts."

2-12-07 Governor's Press Release

Probation Administration

As the Probation Administration is an outstanding leader in community corrections, it has been designated by the CCC as the agency to deliver community correction programs through out the state of Nebraska.

The goals identified in their mission statement help to exemplify the earnest dedication the Probation team has in promoting Community Corrections.

The Mission of the Nebraska State Probation Administra-

tion is expressed as “We, the leaders in community corrections, juvenile and restorative justice are unified in our dedication to delivering a system of seamless services which are founded on evidence-based practices and valued by Nebraska’s communities, victims, offenders and courts. We create constructive change through rehabilitation, collaboration, and partnership in order to enhance safe communities.”

To this end, Probation has been working diligently to

develop new programming to handle the changing face of Community Corrections:

- ◆ A statewide model for substance abuse services delivery
- ◆ A Fee-for-Service Voucher Program to pay for substance abuse services
- ◆ A Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS) program (see below)
- ◆ Day Reporting Center (DRC)



Ellen Fabian-Brokofsky
State Probation Administrator

SSAS Program

Probation Administration’s SSAS program, an integral part to rehabilitation, consists of several key components:

- ◆ Substance Abuse Treatment
- ◆ Cognitive Behavioral Programming
- ◆ Day Reporting Centers
- ◆ Quality Case Management and Field Supervision

Justice Behavioral Health Committee (JBHC)

JBHC, which is under the purview of the Community Corrections Council, exists to create, review, and facilitate the implementation of standards for substance abuse evaluations and treatments, and standards for mental health evaluations and treatment for the criminal justice population. Their mission is to ensure integration, cooperation, and active communication between the criminal justice, substance abuse and mental health systems.

The Committee, comprised of 37 members, strives for a collaborative working relationship between criminal justice and treatment providers for the ultimate goal of effective competent client care. Their vision includes educational endeavors, data monitoring, provider competency, and strategic planning.

Some expected outcomes are: safer communities, recidivism reduction, risk reduction, and effective and competent client care.

JBHC’S MISSION IS

TO ENSURE
INTEGRATION,
COOPERATION,
AND ACTIVE
COMMUNICATION
BETWEEN THE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE,
SUBSTANCE ABUSE
AND MENTAL
HEALTH SYSTEMS.

Parole Administration

The Parole Administration works hand in hand with Probation to enhance safer communities through community corrections. With Parole, inmates are released from prison to complete the remainder of their sentence in the community under supervision.

The goal for Parole officers is

to monitor parolee activity while assisting the individual reintegrate into society. Such activities may include:

- ◆ Travel
- ◆ Residence
- ◆ Employment
- ◆ Associates
- ◆ Financial obligations

- ◆ Drug/Alcohol use
- ◆ Compliance with laws and special conditions of parole

Mental health counseling, sex offender counseling, or substance abuse counseling may also be a requirement for the parolees reintegration.



James McKenzie,
State Parole Administrator



COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kermit Brashear, Chair

Scot Adams, Director HHSS

Mike Behm, Executive Director of NE Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Esther Casmer, Chair
NE Board of Parole

Jeffrey Davis, Sarpy County Sheriff

Thomas Dorwart, Retired
County Judge

Ellen Fabian-Brokofsky,
Probation Administrator

Karen B. Flowers, District
Court Judge

Julie Hippen, Lutheran
Family Services

Robert Houston, NE Dept of
Correctional Services

John P. Icenogle, District
Court Judge

Joe Kelly, Deputy County
Attorney

Lee Kimzey, Behavioral
Medicine Association

Robert Lindemeier, Criminal
Defense Attorneys
Association

Jim McKenzie, Parole
Administrator

Senator Dwite Pedersen,
Nebraska Legislature

Senator John Synowiecki,
Nebraska Legislature

Janice Walker, State Court
Administrator

The Mission of the Community Corrections Council is to develop and monitor the implementation of a comprehensive community corrections strategy in Nebraska for the purpose of reducing the incarceration of certain, targeted felony offenders while supporting the use of a continuum of community facilities and programs to ensure a consistent and rational statewide sentencing policy; to advance the use of specific and enhanced programming and treatment by the Office of Probation Administration and the Office of Parole Administration; to encourage creativity at the local level to support alternatives to incarceration; and to promote equity and fairness within Nebraska's criminal justice system.

Community Corner

There are so many exciting and creative movements in the area of Community Corrections since the creation of the Community Corrections Council in October 2003. From the beginning we set our standards while projecting a series of ambitious goals to meet. Over the past few years numerous projects have been completed and new goals set for the Council members.

Multiple studies have been completed with the aid of the Vera Institute of Justice and the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Currently we are in the midst of another study, the Probation and Parole Services Study, with funding for Vera's expertise provided by The

Pew Charitable Trusts. As this study progresses we hope to be able to discuss further developments.

Probation has moved ahead with various projects including Problem-solving courts, Day Reporting Centers (DRC), and SSAS— all of which we will include in our upcoming newsletters to highlight the great things happening and to keep everyone abreast of the goals and achievements of our many programs and hard-working individuals in this great state.

As the readers may have noticed, Community Corrections is not a topic which involves only one individual or one agency. The effort of creating, developing and implementing a viable Community

Corrections plan is a tremendous collaborative effort by the Executive, Judicial and Legislative Branches of the state government.

Some members are appointed to the Council while others are mandated by statutory language. The vast difference of backgrounds, experiences and ideas help maintain creative influx needed for Community Corrections.

We, the Council, are proud to be an integral component to the future of the changing face in Community Corrections.

Linda Krutz
Executive Director

We're on the Web! Visit us at :
<http://www.ncc.state.ne.us>

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