

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
(Division of Criminal Justice)
FY 2012-13 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING AGENDA**

**Wednesday, January 5, 2012
1:30 – 2:30 pm**

1:30-1:45 INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING COMMENTS

1:45-2:00 OVERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. *[Rep. Levy]* Are the rate differentials paid for special community corrections services adequate to provide special-needs offenders the services they need?
2. *[Sen. Steadman]* What percentages of DOC offenders have been placed in community corrections in recent years? Are we achieving the 11.5 percent target? What obstacles are there to achieving that target? Do reversions in the appropriations for community corrections mean that we did not achieve the target?
3. *[Rep. Levy]* How do community corrections boards impact the state's ability to achieve the goal of placing 11.5 percent of inmates in community corrections programs?
4. *[Rep. Levy]* Is the community corrections board structure still appropriate for the state?
5. *[Rep. Levy]* What obstacles are there to spending the entire community corrections appropriation? What can be done to address these problems?
6. *[Rep. Levy]* Some H.B. 10-1360 dollars were used to place parolees with substance abuse or mental health treatment needs into community corrections beds as an alternative to parole revocation (i.e. as an alternative to a return to prison). Are these dollars being fully spent? If not, how much is reverting? If there are reversions, what are the obstacles to completely using these funds?
7. *[Rep. Levy]* Is DCJ the best place to locate community corrections? Is that the best place to locate the appropriations? Should it be in the Department of Corrections or in the Judicial Branch?

2:00-2:15 PERFORMANCE-BASED GOALS AND THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE'S FY 2012-13 BUDGET REQUEST ISSUE

8. *[Rep. Levy]* Does the department measure the extent to which community corrections centers use evidence based programs? Do the programs or the department collect data on the effectiveness of those programs?
9. *[Sen. Steadman]* Given that per diem rates have been flat, are community corrections facilities seeing a higher rate of staff turnover as a result? Is it fair to evaluate the facilities on something that they do not control? How could this impact the things that facilities are rated on by the Risk Factor Analysis score (RFA)?
10. *[Rep. Levy]* Does the Department track improvement in scores by specific community facilities?
11. *[Sen. Lambert]* Is there a goal that is specifically associated with the percent of community corrections programs that are rated lower risk, as shown on the chart at the top of page 14 of the briefing document? Safety is important, why not make it a goal to get that measure to 100 percent? This would focus attention on the risky outliers. These outliers are less apparent when you report an average.
12. *[Sen. Steadman]* Referring to the chart on page 14, is this average a weighted average based on the number of beds, or does it count each program equally?
13. *[Rep. Gerou]* Why do the historical data start at FY 09-10 rather than earlier? Please provide FY 07-08 data for the graph on page 14.

2:15-2:30 OFFENDER TRANSITION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS THROUGH COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ISSUE

14. *[Sen. Lambert]* Please add percentages to the chart on page 21 of the briefing document, showing the percentage who walk away, fail, progress to parole, etc. Could a strategic plan be built around the percentages in this chart, where the objective is to reduce or increase various percentages?

[Background for the next two questions: When discussing the chart on page 21 of the briefing document, the JBC analyst indicated that the walk away percentage from community corrections equals 15 percent and that the regression to prison rate is 38 percent.]

15. *[Rep. Levy]* If an offender is late, is he classified as a walk away? To what extent is there discretion when deciding whether something is prosecuted as an escape? What portion of the 15 percent who walk away can be attributed to technical issues like this? Are walk aways included in the failure rate?
16. *[Sen. Steadman]* What are the reasons that people fail in community corrections and regress to prison? To what extent are H.B. 10-1352 substance abuse treatment dollars being utilized?

How are these dollars impacting offender failure rates in community corrections programs? Is some of the failure rate due to people not complying or not being able to afford treatment? What portion of failures is due to shortcomings or inadequacies in our wrap-around services, addiction services, and screening? If we did a better job helping people to succeed would we see a decrease in the failure rate? Could H.B. 10-1352 dollars be reallocated to reduce failure rates by investing more in wrap around services and treatment?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ASKED DURING THE BRIEFING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

17. *[Rep. Levy]* Please address the relative efficacy of providing sex offender treatment in prison as opposed to in the community. Is there adequate availability of treatment in community? Is treatment in the community more effective than treatment in prison? How do the costs of providing sex offender treatment in prison compare with the costs of treatment in the community?
18. *[Sen. Lambert]* How do you develop your parole projections? Are the parole and prison projections interrelated or are the forecasts constructed independently of one another? Based on the current forecast, how will the number of offenders on parole change relative to the number of offenders in prison over the next few years?