

State Community Corrections Board Priorities

The following priorities have been established to strengthen the focus of state and local community corrections policy, practice and programming on treatment effect and recidivism reduction.

These priorities will be a primary focus of the reviews of community corrections comprehensive plans and proposals of local jurisdictions and a key determinant of the awards of P.A. 511 funds.

PRISON ADMISSIONS - FELONY TARGET POPULATIONS

- Reduce or minimize prison admissions for: (a) offenders with sentencing guidelines within the straddle cells, especially those with a PRV \geq 35 excluding G&H; and (b) probation violators.
- Offenders within the presumptive prison group should not be targeted as a group, jurisdictions should examine sentencing options on a case-by-case basis to determine if local programs are appropriate alternatives to a prison commitment.
- Community-based sanctions and services, including the creative use of jail time in conjunction with other community-based supervision, for offenders within straddle cells without compromising public safety.
- Probation violators are a priority population since: 1) technical violations are not addressed in the statutory guidelines; 2) violators account for a large proportion of prison admissions; 3) long jail sentences in response to violations contribute to jail crowding.
- The state and local jurisdictions should utilize comprehensive case planning to determine the most effective sanctions and services available locally. Case planning should begin as early as possible in the process and consider initial disposition, local probation violation response guidelines and available community-based resources. The impact upon public safety, jail crowding, prison commitments and recidivism reduction should be determinant factors.

JAIL UTILIZATION

Public safety should be the primary factor in determining the use of jail resources. Whenever possible, jail resources should be prioritized for use by individuals convicted of crimes against persons and/or offenders who present a higher risk of recidivism.

- The local community corrections comprehensive plan should establish clear guidelines, policies and procedures to ensure appropriate use of all sentencing options for all offender populations.
- For higher risk/need cases, jail should be utilized as a condition of probation and as part of a sentence plan, which includes short term in jail with release to other forms of supervision and/or treatment.

TARGET POPULATIONS FOR COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS

- Felony offenders with multiple prior convictions and/or multiple probation violations should receive higher priority than first time, civil and ordinance offenders.
- The targeting of lower level offenders must be accompanied by quantitative measures that show how targeting these populations will significantly affect state and local criminal justice objectives.
- If misdemeanants are included in the local target populations for treatment programs then priority should be given to offenders with multiple prior convictions, including felony convictions, and a current offense for domestic violence, retail fraud, or drunk driving.

- Jurisdictions should annually review and update, as needed, target populations and program specific eligibility criteria for community corrections programs and update the range of sentencing options for all population groups.
- Community-based supervision and treatment services are to be restricted to higher risk/need cases consistent with principles of effective intervention. Priorities are on cognitive based programming and education/employment services.
- Eligibility for Residential Services is restricted to felons with SGL Min/Max of 9 or greater on the initial disposition or Min/Max of 6 or greater for probation violators.

INTERAGENCY POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

CCABs should actively participate with Community Mental Health, law enforcement, and other agencies in the development of local policy and programming options to reduce admissions to jail and length of stay in jail of mentally ill offenders.

Local policies should be developed and/or updated to increase access to education and employability services for offenders such as those offered through local school districts, Michigan works, and other local service agencies.

SENTENCING RECOMMENDATION AND PROBATION VIOLATION PROCESSING

Each jurisdiction should annually review sentencing recommendation procedures, probation violation guidelines, and update response guides consistent with MDOC policies to reduce prison admission, improve jail utilization, increase program utilization, increase public safety, and decrease recidivism. Probation violation response guides should identify all available resources to address local needs.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND/OR OPERATIONAL

Local jurisdictions are required to update their local strategic plan and are encouraged to utilize system mapping principles and techniques to: illustrate processes, practices, and decision points within the local system. Further, system mapping should be used to identify and define system issues, examine options to resolve issues, and guide the local comprehensive corrections plan updates and revisions.

Local jurisdictions should describe instruments utilized within the local jurisdiction. Areas to assess should include risk of recidivism and needs for services. A priority should be placed upon criminogenic needs. Individual jurisdictions must describe how the instruments are used and what purpose the instruments serve to guide or support case planning/management and monitoring/evaluation functions

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Local jurisdictions are to present specific objectives and strategies to increase awareness of community sentencing options. These efforts should communicate how these options are used to benefit the community and the offender.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Local jurisdictions must implement and maintain current formal policies and practices that support ongoing monitoring of prison commitments, jail utilization, and program utilization. These practices should aid in the determination of how local community corrections comprehensive plan effect prison commitments and jail utilization. Policies must be developed that enhance state and local ability to monitor and evaluate program content, quality and effects upon target populations.

Note: Priorities adopted by the State Community Corrections Board on April 17, 2008.