



MACCAC Recommendations and Comments to the Prison Population Task Force

The Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC) is grateful for the hard work and robust discussion of the Task Force. The MACCAC Board would like to offer the following comments and suggestions for the Task Force to consider as they review possible areas of change in the supervision of felony probationers and supervised releaseses.

The key foundation for any discussion of investment in community supervision would be making sure there is additional investment in these services commensurate to any additional workload created by sentencing or policy changes that increase Minnesota's use of community supervision instead of prison. Funding is not currently sufficient to fully implement core correctional best practice uniformly around the state.

With that in mind, the primary recommendation would be additional financial resources, over and above increase tied to policy and sentencing changes, to support the work of CCA departments, specifically for implementation of evidence based practices with the following points as a guide:

- Despite the commitment of counties to EBP, broad and impactful implementation requires more resources and greater staffing that county budgets allow.
- Counties should have flexibility in what areas and practices they are going to implement and expand with additional resources allocated for EBP.
- The CCA Comprehensive Plan could be a vehicle for evaluating counties progress and additional activities that result from additional funding.
- Measures related to steps taken toward implementing proven strategies, rather than the end goal of a measurement of reduced recidivism would be appropriate, especially in the early stages of new funding.
- In addition to greater implementation of EBP strategies, another measured approach would be to evaluate expanding the provision of existing programs and services to a broader group of offenders that may be currently receiving lower level supervision and services.

Keeping in mind the local control principles of the CCA, which allows individual counties to target the areas of greatest need in their jurisdiction, MACCAC would also like the task force to proceed cautiously with recommendations that would include the following measures:

- Take great care in not tying funding to specific number of probation agent positions or specific caseload targets in allocating the funds.
- Focus on outcomes from the spending and not moving toward a mandatory spending model.