



**Colorado State
Board of Parole
Legislative Overview
January 18, 2013**

Selection

- Appointed by the Governor
- Interviewed by the Senate Judiciary Committee
- Confirmed by the Senate

Qualifications

- The Board consists of two representatives from law enforcement, one former parole or probation officer and four citizen representatives.
- The members have knowledge of parole, rehabilitation, correctional administration and the functioning of the criminal justice system.
- The members have at least five years education or experience or a combination thereof in their respective fields.

Mission Statement

- The Colorado Board of Parole works to ensure public safety through critical evaluation of inmate potential for re-integration to society.
- The Board sets Conditions of Parole for discretionary and mandatory parole releases in order to assist parolees in successfully transitioning to the community.

Members of the Board

- Dr. Anthony P. Young, Chair
- Dr. Patricia Waak, Vice Chair
- Michael E. Anderson
- Denise K. Balazic
- Rebecca Oakes
- John M. O'Dell
- Alfredo Pena

Types of Hearings Conducted

- Application hearings
- Rescission hearings
- Revocation hearings
- Full board hearings

Types of hearings

- Application: regular inmates will be seen by the board annually, typically.
- Rescission: granted parole can be rescinded prior to going into effect for a disciplinary action or a new sentence.
- Full board review: discretionary parole for a violent crime must be approved by a majority of the full board.
- Revocation: parole may be revoked if the parolee gets a new sentence or has a significant violation of parole agreement.

Victim Input

- Victims have the right to attend parole board hearings, in person or on the phone.
- Victims will be able to make statements on or off the record.
- Victims will be accommodated at the site where the parole board member is conducting the hearing.
- Letters are welcome when the victim or their family cannot attend in person.

Family Input

- Family of the offender may attend parole board members.
- One member may speak on behalf of the offender on the record.
- Family may attend parole board hearings at the facility where the offender is housed.
- Letters are welcome if the family cannot attend in person.

Where do we do our work

- At parole offices, county jails, and correctional facilities
- By video conference to facilities
- By phone conference to facilities and jails

Numbers of hearings

- Out of 21,000 inmates and 9,000 parolees, each board member conduct a maximum of 24 hearings per day.
- Approximately 1,700 to 1,800 per month
- Each member of the board conducts hearings individually, except in the case of Life to Life sentences, where 2 members must conduct the hearing together.
- All discretionary violent offenders must be presented to the full board. Four out of seven members must agree with release.

Decision Criteria

- Colorado Actuarial Risk Assessment Scale (CARAS)
- Victim Input
- Code of Penal Conduct (COPD): Disciplinary violations
- Escape/Abscond or attempt
- Risk mediators: age, medical condition, manageable in community
- Level of community/family support
- Level of Supervision Inventory (LSI) scores
- Program participation progress
- Treatment participation progress
- Parole plan

Motivational Interviewing

- The Colorado Parole Board is trained in motivational interviewing.
- Motivational interviewing is a type of conversation that calls upon the insights of the individual about the changes in his or her life.
- It is a collaborative conversation and is designed to evoke rather than mandate a particular response.

Evidence-Based Practice

- Use latest research on what works for reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety
- Education and vocational programming will increase the rate of employment and provide self-esteem.
- Substance abuse treatment works: the longer the treatment, the better the chance of success.

Evidence-Based Practice

- Therapeutic communities (TC) are effective.
- Aftercare is important.
- Sex offender treatment: cognitive-behavioral therapy and modified therapeutic community achieves modest reduction in sexual offenses and general recidivism.
- Early intervention for mental illness works.
- Crisis intervention teams, assertive community treatment and modified TC works.
- Cognitive-behavioral programs are effective.

What Works: Effective Recidivism Reduction and Risk-Focused Prevention Programs, RKC Group for Colorado
Division of Criminal Justice, 2008

