



**COLORADO**

**Department of Corrections**

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**SB 16-180 STATUS REPORT  
JUVENILE RE-INTEGRATION PROGRAM**

A STATUS REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE  
JOINT JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
DUE DECEMBER 1, 2019, PURSUANT TO C.R.S. 17-34-101

PREPARED BY  
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ANALYSIS  
DECEMBER 2019

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## BACKGROUND

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The United States Supreme Court has held in several recent decisions regarding the criminal sentencing of juveniles, deciding they are constitutionally different than adults for purposes of sentencing and should be given an opportunity for release based on demonstrated maturity and rehabilitation. Colorado Senate Bill (SB) 16-180, was signed in order to:

*“implement a system that allows any offender who committed a serious crime as a juvenile, was treated as an adult by the criminal justice system, and has served more than twenty or twenty-five calendar years of a sentence to the department of corrections, during which he or she has exhibited growth and rehabilitation, the opportunity to further demonstrate rehabilitation and earn early release in a specialized program in a less secure setting without compromising public safety.”*

This report is developed pursuant to Section 17-34-102, C.R.S., which states:

*“On and after January 1, 2018, during its annual presentation before the joint judiciary committee of the general assembly, or any successor joint committee, pursuant to section 2-7-203, C.R.S., the department shall include a status report regarding the progress and outcomes of the specialized program developed and implemented by the department pursuant to this section during the preceding year.”*

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## STATUS REPORT

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### Program Description

During the 2016 legislative session SB 16-180 was passed, which addressed specialized programming for certain offenders who were convicted as adults for offenses they committed as juveniles. A key provision of this bill was to develop and establish specialized programs for any offender “who successfully meets the guidelines addressed in this bill.”

As of October 10, 2017, specialized programming has been developed and implemented at Fremont Correctional Facility and La Vista Correctional Facility. The specialized Independent Living program offers three phases of instruction. Phases of instruction provide a mastery based instruction that covers the following topics: Healthy Living, Life Skills, Career Development, Technology, and Financial Literacy. The three phases are taught through immersion-based instruction utilizing laptops, virtual reality, and instructor-lead, clinician-based, work-driven programming.

The specialized programming was developed utilizing an evidence-based and best practice implementation that considered many factors of life skills and criminogenic factors to create goals and curriculum to address offender needs in mental health, life skills, education, and

work related topics. Curriculum was developed based on promising practices from similar programs.

Policies, procedures, and application parameters have been developed and implemented through Administrative Regulation (AR) 650-08 Juveniles Convicted as Adults Program and Posted Operational Rules (POR). A tracking system has been developed through the Office of Information Technology and in collaboration with the Office of Planning and Analysis, Education, and Clinical Services to determine measurement outcomes and program accountability. The specialized programming curriculum is technology-based learning that will create a community of learning and mentorship in the daily living skills such as health, relationship, money management, global awareness, career development, social skills, time management, managing a home, and self-awareness.

### Policies and Procedures for Placement

Policies and procedures that were developed to determine eligible offenders that may be placed in the program are described in Administrative Regulation 650-08. The eligibility criteria is as follows: Offenders must meet all criteria outlined in section 17-34-101, C.R.S. in order to petition for placement into

the Juveniles Convicted as Adults Program (JCAP) to include but not limited to:

- Serving a minimum of twenty years of his or her sentence if the conviction was murder in the first degree as described in C.R.S. 18-3-102 (1) (b) or (1) (d);
- Serving a minimum of twenty-five years of the sentence if the conviction was murder in the first degree as described in C.R.S. 18-3-102 but was not murder in the first degree as described in section 18-3-102 (1) (b) or (1) (d), C.R.S.;
- Has not previously been released on parole;
- Has not been convicted of unlawful sexual behavior as defined in 16-22-102(9), C.R.S.;
- Is not currently in a treatment program for a serious mental illness such as a residential treatment program;
- Has obtained his or her high school diploma or equivalency exam as defined in 22-33-102(8.5), C.R.S.;
- Has participated in required programs and is currently program compliant;

- Has demonstrated positive growth through maturity and sustained appropriate institutional behavior;
- Has accepted responsibility for the criminal behavior for which he or she was convicted;
- Has obtained approval through the director of prisons review process.

### **Program Conduct Policies and Procedures**

The policies and procedures developed by the department to address the conduct of participants are addressed in each facility's Posted Operational Rules (POR). Copies of the facility's POR's were provided to each offender for both the living unit as well as the classroom. The PORs outline facility expectations for offender behavior.

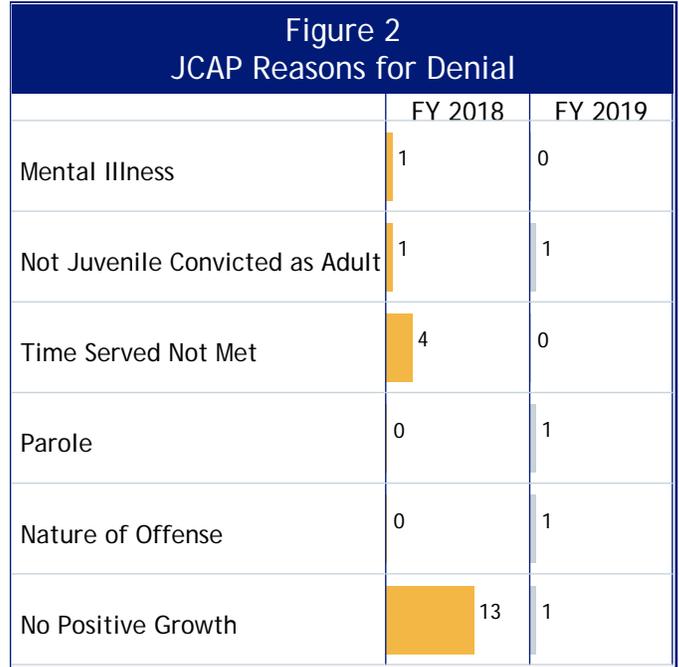
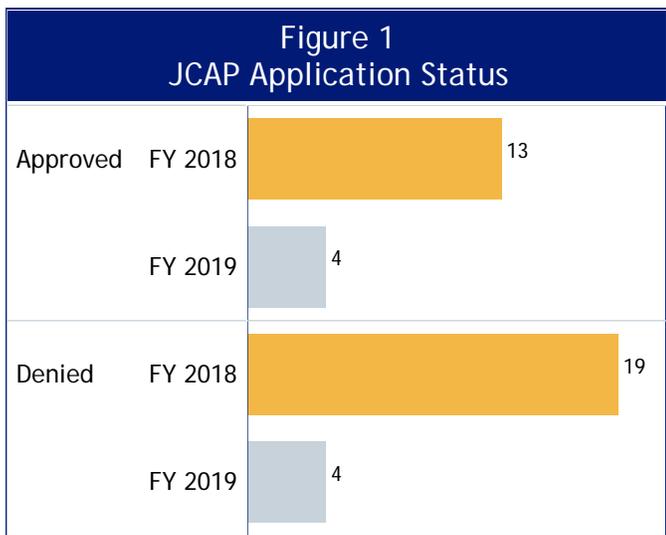
### **Program Location and Bed Availability**

The program is designed to house both male and female offenders. Fremont Correctional Facility houses male offenders in an incentive living unit for medium custody offenders and La Vista Correctional Facility houses female offenders in a re-entry unit which consists of 4 pods with 24 offenders in each pod. It was

decided that these living units are the most fitting for this program based on previously established amenities and resources.

### Program Participation, Denials, and Removals

The program is continuing to receive applications. Currently the program has received 40 applications. Of these, 15 male and 2 female offenders were approved for the specialized programming, 23 were denied. The denial reasons were as follows: 1 offender was denied as they were in a treatment program for a serious mental illness; 2 offenders were denied for not being a juvenile when the offense was committed; 4 applicants were denied due to time not served; 1 applicant was on Parole; 1 was denied due to the nature of the offense; and 14 applicants were denied due to no positive growth.



### Program Updates

The program is implemented in a series of three phases. Phase I is structured around a combination of classroom and employment opportunities. In the classroom the standards-aligned curriculum (iCEV) consists of foundations of independent living and provides education in Career Development, Financial Literacy, Healthy Living, Technology, and Life Skills. Colorado Correctional Industries (CCI) provides hands-on job experience in either Fiberglass, Furniture Shop, 3D Printing, or Welding depending on the offender’s experience.

Phase II expands and focuses on the advanced independent living skills. At this time the program assists offenders in developing and identifying short and long-term goals.

Offenders continue to build experience and understanding of the outside world through the utilization of virtual reality and the driving simulator. Also, the offenders are introduced to the basic life skills of Food, Nutrition, and Health in the JCAP kitchen. The kitchen curriculum is delivered through lecture and hands on experience.

In Phase III the schedule will involve strong case planning. If the offender has additional programming that needs to occur according to the Re-entry Tool (RT) assessment, the programming will occur in this phase. Furthermore, Career Technical Education (CTE) classes, Apprenticeship Programs, and Industry recognized certifications which were identified in the offender's long term goals in Phase II will be implemented. This certification earned through CTE courses will provide the offenders with college credit and industry-recognized certifications rendering them job-ready upon release.

To provide additional support, the JCAP Social Worker III enhances the iCEV curriculum by identifying the mindsets and behavioral patterns that may hinder self-sufficient development in the classroom setting. Individual sessions, journaling, and the Start Now curriculum is utilized in all three phases.

## **Programs Staff**

The program has three dedicated positions. The JCAP Administrator manages the applications and appointment of offenders to the program and assists with their Life Skills development. The State Teacher I and Social Worker collaboratively deliver the curriculum to ensure all aspects of the offender's mental health and educational needs are met.

## **Program Participant Behavior Patterns**

Since the implementation of the program, criminogenic thinking patterns have been identified using the Texas Christian University (TCU) assessments, specifically the criminal thinking scale, engagement scale, psychological scale, and social scale. Additional measuring tools, including the Generalized Anxiety Scale (GAD-7) to measure anxiety and depression and the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ=9), are completed by each participant to fully assess behavior treatment needs and deliver focused treatment for each offender. Offenders have been compliant in the program and there have not been any behavioral issues.

## **Completions**

As the program is still in its early phases, there have been no successful completions.

## **Parole Board Referrals**

As the program is still in its early phases, no participants have been referred to the parole board for early parole.

## **Early Parole Grants**

As the program is still in its early phases, no participants have been granted early parole by the Governor.

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