Strategic Policy Initiatives

The Department of Corrections has identified five strategic policy initiatives for FY 2018-19 and beyond. For this performance evaluation, the Department has updated progress on the initiatives identified in the FY18-19 Performance Plan that capture the Department's strategic and operational priorities, and reflect the overall direction as identified by Department leadership. The updates reflect data as of September 30, 2018.

Additional detail for these, and other, strategic policy initiatives is available in the Department's Performance Plan, which may be accessed here.

Establish an Offender Mentoring Program Through In-Reach Services
The Department will establish an offender mentoring program through in-reach services at all level III and above facilities by June 30, 2019. The DOC will utilize mentors to assist offenders through their transition from prison to the community.

Decrease the Recidivism Rate
The Department will decrease the rate of recidivism from 50% (actual 49.5%) to 48% by June 30, 2019, thereby reducing the number of offenders who engage in future criminal activity and subsequently supporting the DOC's vision of building a safer Colorado. Recidivism is defined as returning to prison or inmate status for new crimes or technical violations within three years of release.

Increase the Percentage of Female Offenders Assessed with Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA)
The Department will increase the percentage of female offenders assessed with the Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA) from 44% to 100% by June 30, 2019, to address the gender responsive risks and needs of female offenders within a correctional setting for successful programming.

Increase the Percentage of Parolees Who are Employed
The Department will increase the percentage of parolees who are employed from 81% to 84% by June 30, 2019, to support parolees in their preparation to gain independence and build a successful life in the community.

Implement a Mental Health Peer Assistant Program
The Department will implement a mental health peer assistant program in all level III and above general population facilities that house offenders with mental health needs by June 30, 2019. This program will utilize trained offenders as peer assistants to other offenders who may be struggling with thoughts of self-harm or other stressors.

Operational Measures

Establish Offender Mentoring Through In-Reach
Major Program Area – Housing and Security
Prison Operations – provides direct staff and offender interaction

Measure	FY15 Actual	FY16 Actual	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	Q1 YTD FY19	½-Year Goal	1-Year Goal	3-Year Goal
Establish an offender mentoring program through in-reach services at all level III and above facilities by June 30, 2019 [1]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	7	15	15
Number of sex offenders in SOTMP treatment participating in in-reach [2]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	82	55	60	69
Number of sex offenders not in SOTMP treatment participating in in-reach	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	26	53	89
Number of surveys sent to re-entry offenders	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	500	1,000	2,000
Number of surveys completed by re-entry offenders	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	100	200	400
Number of mentor volunteers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	20	50	100

[1] Program to launch in mid-October.

[2] Sex offenders in SOTMP treatment participating in in-reach has already begun. Sex offenders not in SOTMP treatment participating in in-reach will begin in later October.

Decrease the Recidivism Rate
Major Program Area – Housing and Security and Adult Parole
Prison Operations – provides direct staff and offender interaction
Community Parole Officers – provide supervision to parolees as regular or ISP parole clients

Measure	FY15 Actual	FY16 Actual	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	Q1 YTD FY19	½-Year Goal	1-Year Goal	3-Year Goal
Decrease the rate of recidivism from 50% (actual 49.5%) to 48% by June 30, 2019 [1]	46.1%	48.6%	50.0%	49.5%	49.5%	49%	48%	47%
Number of partnerships with workforce centers and second chance employers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	25	30	50
Number of offender interviews conducted prior to offender release from prison	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	99	150	200	600

Number of parolees awarded permanent supportive housing vouchers through DOLA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25	30	35	50
Number of parolees awarded rapid rehousing vouchers through DOLA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0 [2]	25	50	100
Average number of parolees who parole homeless, each month	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	136	185	175	150
Percent of homeless parolees	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.72%	1.90%	1.85%	1.75%

[1] Recidivism is reported on a calendar year basis to be consistent with Association of State Correctional Administrators standards and other national prison surveys. Percentages above reflect CY14, CY15, CY16, and CY17. FY19 data (which reflects CY18) will not be reported until March 2019.

[2] Referral process for rapid rehousing will begin mid-October, as determined by DOLA.

Increase Percentage of Female Offenders Assessed with Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA)

Major Program Area – Housing and Security

Prison Operations – provides direct staff and offender interaction

Measure	FY15 Actual	FY16 Actual	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	Q1 YTD FY19	½-Year Goal	1-Year Goal	3-Year Goal
Increase the percentage of female offenders assessed with the Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA) from 44% to 100% by June 30, 2019	N/A	N/A	N/A	44%	84%	68%	100%	100%
Percent of females assessed at DRDC intake using the WRNA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	68%	100%	100%
Percent of incarcerated females assessed using the WRNA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	84%	68%	100%	100%

Increase Percentage of Parolees who are Employed

Major Program Area – Adult Parole

Community Parole Officers – provide supervision to parolees as regular or ISP parole clients

Measure	FY15 Actual	FY16 Actual	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	Q1 YTD FY19	½-Year Goal	1-Year Goal	3-Year Goal
Increase percentage of parolees employed who are able to be employed from 81% to 84% by June 30, 2019	N/A	N/A	N/A	81%	92.3%	82.5%	84%	87%
Number of offender interviews conducted prior to offender release from prison	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	99	150	200	600

Implement a Mental Health Peer Assistant Program

Major Program Area – Behavioral Health

Clinical Services – provides multidisciplinary care to offenders

Measure	FY15 Actual	FY16 Actual	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	Q1 YTD FY19	½-Year Goal	1-Year Goal	3-Year Goal
Implement a mental health peer assistant program in all level III and above general population (GP) facilities that house offenders with mental health needs by June 30, 2019	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13	6	13	13
Number of assigned peer assistants [1]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	56	50	55	60
Number of facilities trained in program	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16 [2]	6	13	13
Number of facilities using contact logs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13	6	13	13
Number of contacts made by peer assistant [1]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	759	750	800	850
Reduction of mental health holds (FY18-19) versus mental health watches (FY17-18) [3]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	78	70	75	80

[1] Because the mental health (MH) peer assistant program is new, the DOC selected modest goals. Now that the program is underway, and statistics are being collected, goals were revised to better illustrate program data.

[2] Data reflects three private prisons that are pursuing the implementation of a MH peer assistant program. The private prisons have been trained, but the program has yet to be formally launched.

[3] The DOC has restructured MH interventions. The term "mental health watches" has been revised to "mental health holds". The initial measure has been updated to reflect a more significant benchmark. It is anticipated that MH holds in FY18-19, which includes low level interventions like the peer assistant program, will decrease as compared to MH watches in FY17-18.