

STATE OF COLORADO



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Aristedes W. Zavaras
Executive Director

September 15, 2008

Dear Citizens of Colorado:

The Colorado Department of Corrections respectfully submits its five-year Strategic Plan for your consideration.

The primary mission of the Department is to preserve and protect public safety for the citizens of Colorado; our five-year strategic plan reflects this mission. Our primary goal is to place the right offender in the right environment with the right resources.

Managing the right offender in the right bed ensures the safety of the public, staff and offender population. It also provides the environment to allow offenders to take advantage of programs, treatment, and work-setting opportunities. Ground was broken on Colorado State Penitentiary II in August, 2007. In the Spring, 2010, this state-of-the-art prison will provide an additional 948 high-custody beds for the management of offenders who are difficult to manage in other, less restrictive prison settings.

We strive to provide the right resources so that offenders are ready for parole when presented to the Parole Board. The Department has converted contract education positions to State FTE to provide a continuum of programs in our prison facilities from basic education to pre-release.

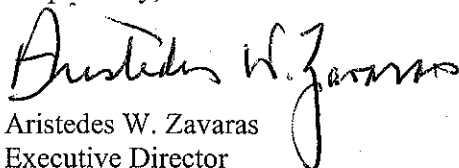
Our strategic plan reflects our goal of breaking down the barriers to re-entry. Parole Wrap-around services provide at risk parolees with necessary resources in the community:

- substance abuse and mental health treatment services and support,
- housing,
- clothing, and
- employment referral and more

The number of Offenders with Serious Mental Illness (OSMI) has doubled in the past eight years. The Department has had difficulty in maintaining appropriate treatment to meet and address their specific needs. We have also had challenges in gaining access to the correct medication and medical monitoring while on parole. These service reduce the likelihood that the offender will self medicate with illegal drugs and alcohol. Additionally, these special needs offenders struggle to find and maintain employment and housing. Family support is frequently unstable, with many having little or no family support.

We are proud of the dedication and professionalism of our staff. They are a highly trained and professional corps committed to protecting the citizens of Colorado. Our staff are instrumental in achieving the Department of Corrections' public safety mission.

Respectfully,


Aristedes W. Zavaras
Executive Director