



COLORADO
Department of Corrections
Office of the Executive Director

Mr. Steve Allen
Principal Legislative Analyst
Joint Budget Committee
200 East 14th Avenue, 3rd Floor
Denver, CO 80203

November 1, 2016

Dear Mr. Allen:

The Department recommends that the Division of Adult Parole retain the current caseload funding level for Fiscal Year 2017-18. The Summer 2016 Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) population forecast for FY 2017-18 reflects a slight increase in the parole population from current funded levels. The forecast was influenced by trends in parole revocations, specifically in the area of technical parole violation revocations. The projections were significantly modified by the enactment of Senate Bill 15-124, *Reduce Parole Revocations for Technical Violations*, which impacted the decline in revocations by providing for the consistent application and increased use of intermediate sanctions prior to revocation. The Division of Adult Parole is linking the Colorado Violation Decision Making Process (CVDMP) to the parole complaint program to better track the use of intermediate sanctions and revocations. The Division's Sure and Swift program quickly addresses violations with the use of short-term jail stays in lieu of revocation whenever low level violations can safely be addressed in the community. This ensures that offender stability (e.g., housing, employment) is not interrupted, which results in more parolees remaining on parole rather than revoking to the prison system.

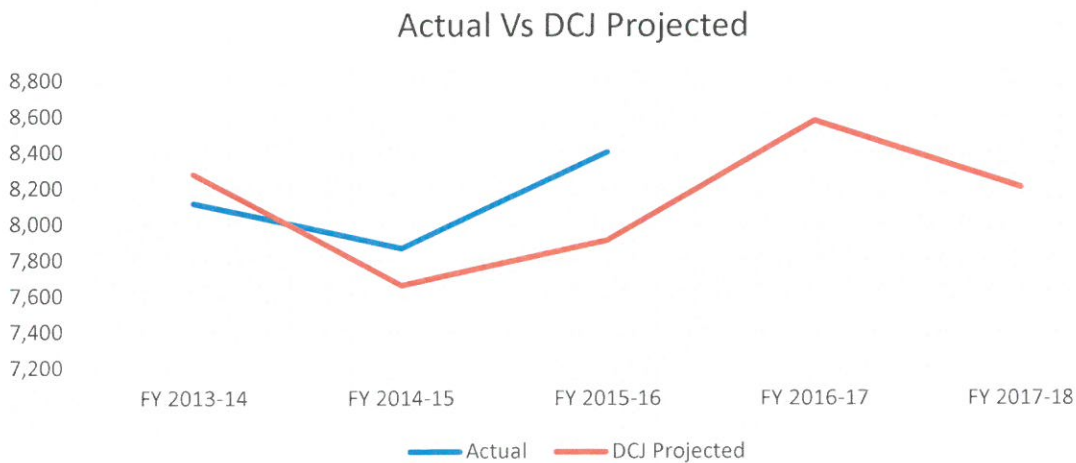
The actual parole population for FY 2015-16 increased significantly due to a reduction in technical parole violation revocations. Specifically, 774 fewer parolees returned to prison on technical parole violation revocations from June 2015 to June 2016. This trend has caused future parole caseload projections to increase since the December 2015 projections. With an increased parole population projection for the current year and a slight decrease in FY 2017-18, the average population for both years will continue to be comparable to the current funded levels. The DCJ projected FY 2017-18 average daily population (ADP) of 8,388, calculated by the average of the FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18 ending population projections $((8,574 + 8,202) / 2 = 8,388)$, is comparable to DCJ's December 2013 parole population forecast on which the current caseload funding is based (8,280).

The table and chart below illustrate the volatility of actual populations from June 30, 2014 to June 30, 2016, along with the DCJ projected population through FY 2017-18. As of June 30, 2016, the population swing of 492 parolees between the actual and DCJ projected population illustrates the need to maintain the current staffing and funding level. The actual parole population increase of 537 from June 30, 2015 to June 30, 2016 further supports the recent trend of a volatile parole population. If a caseload adjustment had been made in FY 2015-16 based on the DCJ December 2014 forecast for last fiscal year, the Department would have been underfunded by approximately 10 parole officers. Consequently, the level of parole support and supervision with the reduction of parole officers would have reduced the ability to provide appropriate treatment and supervision plans for parolees. The multiple duties of a parole officer include the arrangement of approved treatment provider programs and housing; assisting with employment opportunities, educational support, health care needs, drug/alcohol treatment and programs, finances, and family integration; along with regular visits to the home, and personal encouragement for a successful release.



Maintaining the current staffing levels will provide stability to the Division of Adult Parole as they continue to implement initiatives that are focused on successful re-entry of offenders as they return to their communities and become pro-social, productive taxpaying members of society.

Actual vs DCJ Projected		
Fiscal Year	Actual	DCJ Projected
FY 2013-14	8,116	8,280
FY 2014-15	7,865	7,659
FY 2015-16	8,402	7,910
FY 2016-17		8,574
FY 2017-18		8,202



Please let me know if you have any questions. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this additional information on the positive improvements within the Division of Adult Parole.

Thank you,

Kellie Wasko
Deputy Executive Director
Department of Corrections

Cc: Mr. Henry Sobanet, Director, Governor’s Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Mr. Erick Scheminske, Deputy Director, Governor’s Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Ms. Rebecca Dial, Budget Analyst, Governor’s Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Mr. John Ziegler, Staff Director, Joint Budget Committee

