

WHAT ELSE DOES THE BOARD DO?

The Board of County Commissioners has designated the members of the Mesa County Community Corrections Board to be the Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB). In this role, they evaluate and assess criminal justice issues on a broad scale, and provide recommendations for possible changes or improvements to the County Commissioners and to local criminal justice agencies.

WHO IS ON THE BOARD?

The MCCCCB is appointed by the Mesa County Board of County Commissioners and has 19 members. The following agencies are some of those represented on the board: Mesa County District Attorney's Office, Mesa County Sheriff's Office, Colorado Public Defender's Office, Probation Department, Colorado Division of Youth Corrections, Grand Junction Police Department, Colorado Department of Corrections, and Mesa County Criminal Justice Services Department.

Other members are from related agencies such as: Mesa County Department of Human Services, School District 51, Mesa County Partners, and Hilltop Community Resources. The Board also includes community representatives and private citizens. The group meets approximately ten times per year, usually on the third Thursday of each month.

HOW CAN A CITIZEN GET ON THE BOARD?

To express an interest in being appointed to the MCCCCB as a volunteer, you must complete an application (available on Mesa County's web site at www.mesacounty.us. Click on *Volunteer Opportunities*, then on *Boards & Commissions*).

For more information, call Mesa County Administration at 244-1860, or email us at: Kathy.crane@mesacounty.us.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Community Corrections Board

Mesa County Community Corrections Board and the Adult Review Committee:

P.O. Box 20,000
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5018
Phone: 970-244-3340
Email: mcccb@mesacounty.us
Fax: 970-241-0836

The Board also has a webpage located at:

<http://cjsd.mesacounty.us>

(Click on *Community Corrections Board*)

Community Corrections Program

Mesa County Criminal Justice Services Department:

P.O. Box 20,000
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5018
Phone: 970-244-3300
Email: mccjsd@mesacounty.us
Fax: 970-241-0836

The program has a webpage located at:

<http://cjsd.mesacounty.us>

(Click on *Residential*)



Mesa County Community Corrections Board





WHAT DOES THE BOARD DO?

The Mesa County Community Corrections Board (MCCCB) makes decisions about whether offenders from the 21st Judicial District (Mesa County) are eligible for placement in a community corrections program. The board also oversees all local community corrections programs, and audits them for program compliance with state operational standards.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAM?

A community corrections program is an alternative to incarceration in prison. Supervising offenders in community settings can protect the public and cut crime in the community by reducing recidivism.

Offenders in a community corrections program are closely monitored in a highly-structured setting that uses random drug screening, location verification, periodic searches and other means to ensure community safety.

Offenders also receive services such as: employment assistance; substance abuse treatment; and classes in life skills, problem solving and anger management. The programs help them successfully reintegrate back into the community and lower their risk of re-offending.

HOW ARE REFERRALS PROCESSED?

Protecting the public is paramount to the Community Corrections Board as it makes its decisions. Offenders placed in the program must be approved by the board's Adult Review Committee. There are two primary types of community corrections offenders: diversion and transition.

Diversion cases involve offenders who are diverted into a community corrections program in lieu of a prison sentence. Information on these cases is provided to the Review Committee by the local Probation Department.

Transition cases involve offenders who are already serving a prison sentence and are eligible for transfer into a community corrections program (as they transition out of prison and back into the community). Referral information is provided to the Review Committee by the state Department of Corrections (DOC).

When a referral is received, board staff prepares the case for review, and may seek additional information or clarification for the Review Committee.

HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE?

Referral information is provided to the Adult Review Committee, which is appointed by the Board to act on its behalf. All community corrections offenders must be reviewed and approved by the Review Committee prior to placement in a program.

The committee uses the Board's established criteria for assessing cases. Members consider the risk to the community, as well as the benefit to the offender of participating in a structured, intensive community program. The Review Committee meets every Friday to review both diversion and transition cases. The committee's decisions are final and there is no appeal.

HOW CAN I SUBMIT COMMENTS TO THE BOARD ON A CASE?

All comments must be submitted in writing by 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday **before** the case is to be reviewed. (See contact information on the back of this brochure). Committee members will consider material that specifically relates to the offender's risk to community safety, and the benefit the offender would gain from the supervision and services of the Community Corrections Program.

- **VICTIMS**—Victims of a crime may provide information related to the case in advance to the Review Committee. This will be considered at the time of the review. Victims may contact board staff to provide information, or they may provide the details in writing. Such information will be kept confidential. The committee's decision will be communicated to victims, if they so desire.
- **OTHERS**—Others (including offenders and their families or friends wishing to make comments about the offender's placement) can provide written information to the Review Committee for consideration.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE DECISION IS MADE?

The Review Committee's decision on a case provides the courts and the Department of Corrections (DOC) with an alternative sentencing option.

For diversion cases, the court must sentence the offender to community corrections. If a diversion case is approved for placement, that decision is provided to the referring agency, and is therefore available to the courts at the time of sentencing.

For transition cases, the DOC must approve the offender's move to community corrections. If a transition case is approved for placement, then the decision is provided to the DOC.

