**Colorado Funders for Inclusiveness & Equity**

**April 7, 2016**

**Meeting Notes**

Guest: Christie Donner, Executive Director Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Center (CCJRC)

One handout – PowerPoint presentation

Introductions & Check-ins

COFIE members shared their name, organization and a brief check in.

Overview

Christie Donner shared the history of how CCJRC was founded. She framed her talk by saying that she would be focusing on the prison population. She explained the difference between jails, which house people convicted of petty offenses and misdemeanors and are run by counties and prisons, which house people who are convicted of a felony.

Current Status of the Criminal Justice System

Christie shared that the likelihood of imprisonment is at an epidemic level, with 1:3 black men currently incarcerated. The incarceration rate for women is growing at a faster rate than men. The majority of incarcerated women are single mothers. Research shows that children follow their parents to prison, especially daughters following mothers. She cited several reasons for this, including the War on Drugs, and the criminal justice system becoming the de facto mental health system (not just in terms of mental health disorders but for addictions as well).

Christie also talked about the importance of having those most impacted at the center of the work of trying to change the criminal justice system. Most of CCJRC’s members are currently in prison, which Christie says helps them to stay at the center of the work. When talking about returning citizens, she expressed the importance of criminal justice advocacy and of being able to navigate within one’s own community, versus a one-size-fits-all approach. Returning citizens need to know what the resources are in their community. Christie also talked about the difference between crimes that are reported and crime victimization. Currently we do not have a crime victimization rate for Colorado, but CCJRC will be working on this.

Returning Citizens

Christie shared an overview of returning citizens in our state. Over 100,000 adults in Colorado are under some form of criminal justice supervision on any given day. This includes jail, prison, probation, parole, pretrial services, and community corrections.

She asked COFIE members to think about the barriers that a criminal record creates in opportunities for housing, employment, etc. 800 people per month are released from prison in Colorado. As of April 2016, there were 10,000 people on parole in Colorado.

CCJRC focuses on drugs and parole because they are two major reasons for people going to (or returning) to prison. She also shared that there is not enough research on the impact of PTSD on violence and crime.

Christie wrapped up her presentation by talking about HB14-1355 and invited COFIE members to tour any of the organizations funded under HB14-1355.

Additional Resources from CCJRC

1. **Piton Perspective Reentry Study**[http://www.ccjrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Barriers\_to\_ReEntry.pdf](http://cp.mcafee.com/d/k-Kr4wUSyMUOUqen1ObNKVJ6XPVEVvp7ccCQkrELELFLzzqadTQNP0V5ASztUsMOCYCedWgY_z3slovioaS5b4SVyzKGOfbeRrwxIVlxM04TIam9JP57tlAumtGT13pOH3w09J1x1DShP_nV5VBVAQsCzDHTbFETd7fcLCzBdV5fBHEShhlKCPOEuvkzaT0QSyrsdTVeZXTLuZXCXCM0lH2crs01MMInJm4_xf6RzWWxj4XEKptf1DoNBYq2IWyEbYqxe9rBA7jvA9gtH50546_fftGT13pOH3w09J55OX1IgggBeloquq80nZaJNJZ3qtPtB7l3Bm5)
2. **Infographics – Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition**

<http://www.ccjrc.org/did-you-know/>

1. **Take Care Health Matters (our ACA campaign website)**

[www.takecarehealthmatters.org](http://cp.mcafee.com/d/k-Kr6hAg3xESyMUOUqen1ObNKVJ6XPVEVvp7ccCQkrELELFLzzqadTQNP0V5ASztUsMOCYCedWgY_z3slovioaS5b4SVyzKGOfbeRrwxIVlxM04TIam9JP57tlAumtGT13pOH3w09J1x1DShP_nV5VBVAQsCzDHTbFETd7fcLCzBdV5fBHEShhlKCPOEuvkzaT0QSOrsdTVeZXTLuZXCXCM0kZa_ro-j_jVARtDfUQU03xLO4EeRyw2y3vDDKRrwxIVlxM04SyyVtwS888iDaIdfd40b-BmUS-xJeVIYcgvjtO)

1. **Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC) Website**

[http://www.ccjrc.org/](http://cp.mcafee.com/d/2DRPosrhospsd7bwV5UTsSztVYQsLIzC6jqadQnQnQTNNJ56XWoVwsyOrhKYeopjuj76Z8uvNxKaIfFc5r2ByrsNhTlp7BDqJMgSsGMU02rS5b4SVyzKGOfbeRrwxIVlxM04SwMwPX8V_HYyYOYOqejhPRXBQQrCzDCnPhOCYyDORQr8EGTjpVkffGhBrwqrodK6XYDuZXTLuZPtPo0aRx6dK00UrYxa3JoE0EwTVVXJmU8relos01dEEKnody224FOH3jPh02_FlKdLErjKrKH7MMGr9)

1. **Foundations Move to Ban the Box**

[http://www.nelp.org/news-releases/nelp-applauds-foundations-move-to-ban-the-box/](http://cp.mcafee.com/d/avndz9J5xNBMQsK3AnztPqdTDPhO-OeopdEEThvhvjv76QkrLFzC1Ob9J6XMVxBdVcsrQxV_66UGM-AMlIam9JP57tlAumtGT13pOH3w09LokIjrCaeWH8YIXlK26PBm700jq323fIzD-LObPbP9EVd7fnKnjhKqeupvd7arOavbnhIyyHtdDBgY-F6lK1FJYSUrLOtXTLuZXTdTdw0EuuJM078uoEnzV_XjWp3PRy-Hb7WSxgKXlK26PBm52WJjfBVRbAdwnCjYKgG7UrYxa3JoE0EwTVVXJmU8relos01dEEKnody224FOH3jPh02_FlKdLErjKrRpxK)