



MSCCSP's Role in Justice Reinvestment

Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board

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MSCCSP Tasks Related to the JRA

1. Collaborate with other agencies to create performance measures. **(On-going)**
2. Provide data to the Oversight Board to measure JRA-related outcomes. **(On-going)**
3. Review and reclassify seriousness categories for select drug, property, and person offenses with revised penalties pursuant to the JRA. **(Completed)**
4. Study and submit report on alternatives to incarceration. **(Completed)**



Study on Alternatives to Incarceration

- The JRA required the MSCCSP to study how more alternatives to incarceration may be included in the sentencing guidelines.
- The study included:
 - A review of how *corrections options* are currently included in the sentencing guidelines;
 - An analysis of how other jurisdictions incorporate alternatives into their sentencing guidelines;
 - Two resources to help identify evidence-based alternatives to incarceration (ARK and CrimeSolutions.gov);
 - An inventory of alternatives available in each jurisdiction in Maryland; and
 - Recommendations.



Corrections Options and Guidelines Compliance

- By guidelines rule, judges in Maryland are able to impose a sentence consistent with the sentencing guidelines by utilizing specified alternatives to incarceration, known as corrections options.
- However, this rule regarding corrections options is either not well known by the criminal justice community, not well understood, or perhaps both.



Recommended Actions for the MSCCSP

1. Expand the definition of “corrections options” to include specified sentences with required substance abuse treatment as guidelines-compliant. **(Completed)**
2. Educate judges, court staff, and legal practitioners on guidelines-compliant sentences with respect to corrections options. **(Ongoing)**
3. Adopt a **policy statement** encouraging the use of alternatives to incarceration, where appropriate. **(Completed)**
4. Collect additional data on sentences utilizing alternatives to incarceration. **(Ongoing)**



Recommendations for Other State Agencies and Local Entities

5. Create a web-based alternatives locator service.
6. Conduct an analysis of available programming for offenders and identify programming gaps.
7. Expand the scope and use of the presentence investigation (PSI) report.



Resources

- The full study on alternatives to incarceration can be accessed from the MSCCSP website at:
http://www.mscsp.org/Files/Reports/Alternatives_to_incarceration_Jan2018.pdf
- The penalty structure revisions pursuant to the JRA and the corresponding revisions to the guidelines can be accessed from the MSCCSP website at:
http://www.mscsp.org/Files/Guidelines/JRA_penalty_revisions.pdf

