

MESA COUNTY, COLORADO



Criminal Justice System Scorecard

The Mesa County Criminal Justice System's vision is one less crime, one less victim, and one less offender to create a safer community through the use of principles and practices of reliable evidence based decision-making.

The professionals who represent our criminal justice system will reduce community harm by:

1. Increasing Public Safety

By 2014, increase public safety by limiting pretrial misconduct of medium and high-risk defendants to no more than a 5% failure to appear rate and a 20% new offense rate.

For scorecard reporting purposes pretrial misconduct is limited to instances of failure to appear and the filing of any new felony or misdemeanor offense with the Colorado State Courts while the defendant is on bonded pretrial status.

2. Improving the Use of System Resources

Within 36 months, improve the utilization of financial and program resources by reducing the amount spent on low risk defendants and offenders in primary sentencing options by 33%.

Mesa County conducted citizen surveys and focus groups and found that citizens want an integrated and efficient criminal justice system using collaborative evidence-based offender management. Efficiency is demonstrated when expensive resources are minimally used on lower risk defendants and offenders who do not need services and supervision. By tracking the number of days low risk defendants spend on probation, work release and other programs and calculating the cost of resource(s) associated with these programs we can begin to measure the reduction of costs over time.

3. Decreasing Recidivism System Wide

By 2015, 75% of offenders will not recidivate within 12 months of successful completion of one of the primary sentencing options.

For this purpose recidivism is defined as any new felony or misdemeanor charge filed with the Colorado State courts within 12 months of successful discharge from a primary sentencing option. A similar definition is used by the Colorado Department of Public Safety and Division of Criminal Justice in their statewide recidivism studies. A period of 12 months was selected to allow comparison with State Judicial agencies as those recidivism studies do not include new offenses committed 13-24 months post successful program completion.