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Project Name: JR II Implementation

Period: 6/23/2020 – 10/29/2020

Report Date: 10/29/2020

Project Overview:

The project was established to manage all aspects of the implementation of new laws as established by Act 148 An act relating to justice investment. The project entails changes to parole eligibility and release on parole; changes to furlough and furlough violations; establishment of an earned good time program; and changes to the law related to absconding from furlough. The project requires the development of new policies and procedures, Offender Management System (OMS) updates, increased staff, and training to support new processes.

Project Organization:

- Implementation team organized and launched June 23, 2020.
- Business leads identified for each content area: Presumptive Parole, Community Supervision Furlough (Supervision Conditions, Sanctions and Incentives, Reentry, Case Staffing Determinations; Earned Good Time; Absconding from Furlough).
- Senior Probation and Parole Officers (10), Facility Caseworkers (10), Reentry Probation and Parole Officers (12), Victim Services Specialists (3) assigned to content area groups.
- Three business lead content area meetings per week.
- Multiple sub-content area and OMS mapping meetings per week.
- Bi- weekly update meetings.
- Regular meetings with the Council of State Governments.
 - Policy reviews and feedback
 - Best practices from other states

Offender Management System Change Highlights

- Revision of violation and incident functions.
- Updates to Parole module and presumptive screening process.
- Automation of earned good time.
- Increased auditing.
- Increase notifications.
- New fields to capture data for operations and monitoring.

Policy Revision Highlights

- Standard and special conditions of furlough supervision.
- Contact standards based on risk versus legal status.
- Rules and guidance to implement earned good time.
- Grids and guidance when responding to offender behaviors (incentives and sanctions).
- Engagement with Community Justice Centers on developing strategies for addressing technical violations and incentives.

- Developed a theory of change to meet housing needs for those needing transitional housing that is holistic in nature in preparation for RFP that will go out in January 2021.
- Case determination process to address signification violations that could result in a furlough interrupt or revocation of 90 days or more.
- Changes to parole summary form and recommendation process.
- Impacts to over 15 department directives and rules.

Training Plans

- Documenting the major changes in each area.
- Working with Senior PO's to develop training outline.
- Identified Testimony training as part of the Parole changes.
- Discussion with the Parole Board regarding cross training.

Risks & Issues:

Open High Impact Risks	
Title	Potential Impact
Reinvestment Funds recommended by CSG were not appropriated	JR goal is to move more people into the community with supports. The initial \$2 Million was not appropriated for additional services.
Short timeframe for implementation	Polices are effective January 1, 2021. The scope of the changes needed are vast and required additional time to implement. Procedures and practice may not be functional at the effective date.
Additional Sentence Computation Staff	Staffing issues may result in delays or errors in applying good time per the statutory requirement
COVID -19	Developing a system for post COVID supervision while operating under restricted supervision in order to be compliant with CDC/VDH guidelines.
Increase in inmate lawsuits when Reintegration Furlough goes away	Inmates who would potentially be released on RF will not be eligible for release after Jan 1, 2021. This could result in increased lawsuits.
Victim Outreach	Ability to reach victims during pandemic could limit feedback on the rule and ability to inform them about the earned good time program