

HB16_1388 Presentation Outline

Tues 4/12/16

I am founder & owner of KEENE R&D, a consulting engineer for the past 24 yrs.

In addition to business owner I am a lay substance abuse counsellor working with men at BCJ for the past 12 years and by correspondence within DOC.

Earlier I provided you with a 5 year DOJ study of ~70,000 inmates from 30 states, including 2,300 in Colorado, who were released 2005 and followed thru 2010:

General population at 5 years had a recidivism of 77%.

For the cohort 24 yrs old and under it was 84%

Colorado's Corrections costs are ~11% higher than national average.

DOC budget >\$600 mil/yr for ~21,000 inmates

This doesn't include the County systems who suffer the same problems

Recidivism is well worth tackling from a purely economic view.

Having employment is the single largest factor in successful paroles

2015 Colorado Community Corrections annual report, provided earlier:

(pg 31/Fig 32; PDF pg 34)

Inmates employed 3x more likely to succeed

Employed inmates ½ as likely to have technical violations

A high degree of recidivism involves no new crime but parole & probation failures.

Parole / Probation success correlates to employment because

unemployment leads to insecurity in: Housing; Nutrition & Transportation;

followed by conflicted choices of associates & lifestyles

During a 40 year industrial career I have hired dozens for blue collar and professional positions. I recall few openings in the industrial sector where applicants would have been prevented from doing the job or succeeding by a felony history; of itself.

Eliminating the “felony check box” is a very useful beginning that has been shown to be measurably helpful in other states in increasing parolee employment.

The constraint on employers is negligible; whereas the broadening of the labor market for them is a clear benefit. We are often talking about people who had marketable job skills prior to incarceration.

Rodney: DRDC (Denver Reception & Diagnostic Center) facility clinic; will release with close to enough experience to be certified as a “Medical Assistant”. He has many years working in the trenches of chronic illness care and would be pleased to earn a starting wage in a sector chronically short handed. But if the check box remains the likelihood of a quality interview is nil.

Jesse: Trinidad facility will release with a multi-year depth of experience training dogs; his slots are sought after. He would be highly valuable as a Veterinary Tech. Jesse is an Army vet and also teaches a class on the “7 Habits of Highly Effective People”. But if the check box remains the likelihood of a quality interview is nil.

Respectfully,
Barry Keene
1309 Alexandria St.
Lafayette, CO 80026
krd@qadas.com
303-665-0180