

North Carolina Department of Correction

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Michael F. Easley Governor Theodis Beck Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Representative Alice L. Bordsen

Senator Eleanor G. Kinnaird

Representative Jimmy L. Love, Sr.

Senator John J. Snow, Jr. Deacy a. Little

FROM:

Tracy A. Little, Deputy Secretary

RE:

Legislative Report on the Community Service Work Program

(N.C.G.S. 143B-262.3 and Section 17.21 of SB 622)

DATE:

February 15, 2007

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143B-262.3 and Section 17.21 of SB 622, please find attached the Department of Correction's report on the Community Service Work Program.

TAL:ea

Attachment

cc:

Jim Mills

Sheryl Stephens

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



Division of Community Corrections
LEGISLATIVE REPORT
ON THE
COMMUNITY SERVICE
WORK PROGRAM

February 1, 2007

Michael F. Easley Governor Robert Lee Guy Director Theodis Beck Secretary

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ι.	Introduction	Page 1	-
II.	Integration of Community Service Work Program into DCC	Page 1	1
III.	Community Service Fee Monitoring	Page 2	2
IV.	Type and Value of Work Performed	Page 2	2
V.	Offender Population & Type of Referral	Page 3	3
VI.	Community Service Caseload	Page 3	3
VII.	Conclusion	Page 5	5

N.C.G.S. 143B-262.3 and Section 17.21 of SB 622

The Department of Correction is required to report to the Chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety, by February 1 annually, on the Community Service Work Program (CSWP). The report is to include an update on the integration of the program into the Division of Community Corrections, including the Department's ability to monitor the collection of offender payments from unsupervised offenders sentenced to community service. The Department also shall report on the average caseloads of Community Service Work Program coordinators, by district, division, and statewide. The report also shall include the money collected, the type and value of the work performed, and the number of offenders in the Community Service Work Program, by type of referral (i.e. parole, supervised probation, unsupervised probation or community punishment).

I. Introduction

The Community Service Work Program (CSWP) receives offenders from the courts or from the Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission, reviews the offender's history and places the offender at an agency in the community to perform work. Placements are made to government or nonprofit agencies. Community service hours are ordered as a condition of supervised or unsupervised probation or parole and also can be utilized as a supervision tool by the probation officer through the use of the delegated authority provisions of Structured Sentencing.

II. Integration of CSWP into DCC

The 2001 session of the General Assembly transferred CSWP from the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety to the Department of Correction, Division of Community Corrections (DCC) effective January 1, 2002. Since that time, DCC has taken the necessary steps to integrate CSWP into DCC.

First, DCC implemented an automated information system, Community Service Automated System (CSAS), which affords more efficient recording and tracking of offender information, improved monitoring of fee collection and enhanced communication between CSWP coordinators and probation officers. During FY2005-06 numerous enhancements were made to the system to assist field staff, managers, and administration with assessing the efficiency of case monitoring. FY2005-06 was the first year of completely automated system data for community service.

During FY2005-06, CSWP coordinator positions continued to be included in the Division's position management practices. Lead coordinators were established in larger urban districts to assist management with supervision of the coordinators and administration of placement agencies. Additionally, two pilot sites began utilizing coordinators in the court management processing role, thereby eliminating duplication of staff assigned to these work duties. The position of Statewide Lead Coordinator was also implemented to assist field, management, and administration with data integrity, statistical reports, system development, policy recommendations and implementations.

III. Community Service Fee Monitoring

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides data concerning the total collection of the community service fee. *For the fiscal year 2005-2006, AOC indicated that* \$7,687,042 was collected for all cases.

In unsupervised probation cases, CSWP coordinators continue to monitor the payment of all monies owed and report to local clerks of court. In some areas, clerks of court allow the coordinators to issue a show-cause order when the community service fee is part of court indebtedness and the fees are not paid as directed. Fee collection data for FY2005-06 is the first year of automated data within the Community Service Automated System for the unsupervised population.

Unsupervised Community Service Fees

Paid	Not Paid	Waived	Stricken
24,906 Offenders	3,526 Offenders	2,915 Offenders	342 Offenders
79%	11%	9%	1%

IV. Type and Value of Work Performed

Historically, all values placed on the work performed by the offenders were calculated using the minimum wage hourly rate. In order to define a more accurate assessment of the monetary value of the work performed, DCC developed new formulas using NC Department of Labor categories and relative market value minimum payment rates. These categories provide a better analysis of the cost avoidance savings that can be attributed to the program. The revised work type categories and their associated values are as follows:

•	General Labor	\$5.15 per hour
•	Skilled Labor	\$17.00 per hour
•	Clerical	\$11.00 per hour
•	Professional	\$20.00 per hour

The following chart provides a statistical breakdown of the work category and values for fiscal year 2005-2006:

Statewide Totals	48,144	1,653,828	\$8,581,744.20
Professional	19	584	\$11,680.00
Clerical	252	6,364	\$70,004.00
Skilled Labor	74	1,572	\$26,724.00
General Labor	47,799	1,645,308	\$8,473,336.20
Type Work	Offenders Completed	Hours Completed	Value

The data indicates that offenders working in CSWP placements completed 1,653,828 hours of work, providing an estimated cost avoidance value of \$8,581,744 to governmental and

nonprofit agencies. Of the hours completed, 945,829 (57 percent) were completed by offenders in unsupervised probation cases. The general labor category continued to be the most utilized, representing 99 percent of the totals. The statewide totals for hours performed increased 4 percent from the previous year.

V. Offender Populations & Type of Referral

Admission and exit data from CSAS is now available for offenders on supervised and unsupervised probation. The following tables provide a summary of the information available for FY 2005-06:

Case Admissions by Unsupervised/Supervised Probation

Total Admissions: 56,150	O (Supervised 25,473 / 0 45%	(Supervised 25,473 / Unsupervised 30,677) 45% 55%		
Supervised Probation:	DWI	3,602		
•	Deferred Prosecution All other Supervised Probation	1,582 20,098		
Parole:	Supervised Parolees	191		
Unsupervised Probation:	DWI Deferred Civil Federal	11,825 7,008 69 5		
	Other	11,770		

Case Exits by Unsupervised/Supervised

Totals	40,557	12,610	1,591	54,758
Supervised	13,896	8,151	1,126	23,173
Unsupervised	26,661	4,459	465	31,585
	Hours	Complete Hours	Stricken	Exits
	Completed	Did Not	Hours	Total

VI. Community Service Caseload

CSWP coordinator caseloads for FY2005-06 on average were 183. The initial standard for a caseload was established at 185 during 2004. DCC continued to review all coordinator vacancies and reassigned positions as caseloads warranted. These practices have continued to steadily improve caseload averages, with the lowest caseloads now up to an average of 98 and the highest down to 314 by the end of the fiscal year.

Caseload averages for judicial district, division, and statewide for fiscal year 2005-06 were as follows:

FY 2005-06 CASELOAD AVERAGES

Location	CSWP Coordinator Positions	Caseload Averages
Statewide	135	183
District 1	3	98
District 2	2	150
District 3A	3	201
District 3B	5	162
District 4A	2	129
District 4B	2	148
District 5	5	190
District 6A	1	153
District 6B	2	141
District 7	4	165
District 8A	2	143
District 8B	2	277
Judicial Division 1	33	163
District 9A	1	152
District 9	3	183
District 10 *	12	149
District 11	3	184
District 12	3	140
District 13	2	153
District 14	5	179
District 15A	3	171
District 15B	2	170
District 16A	1	289
District 16B	3	121
Judicial Division 2	38	172
District 17A	2	124
District 17B	3	193
District 18	4	250
District 19A	3	232
District 19B	3	226
District 19C	3	169
District 20A	1	297
District 20B	2	198
District 21 *	10	108
District 22	4	220
District 23	2	238
Judicial Division 3	37	205
District 24	2	188
District 25A	. 2	250
District 25B	2	210

Location	CSWP Coordinator Positions	Caseload Averages
District 26	6	299
District 27A	2	314
District 27B	2	186
District 28	3	235
District 29	5	216
District 30	3	138
Judicial Division 4	27	226

^{*} Districts 10 and 21 are pilot locations that use a judicial service coordinator who functions as a paraprofessional performing CSWP and court services duties.

VII. CONCLUSION

The Community Service Work Program now is fully integrated into the Division of Community Corrections. The integration of policies is complete, the automated system is operational and caseload averages have improved. During FY 2005-06, employees worked with 3,700 agencies across the state to provide meaningful placements for work hours and provided a monetary value to agencies of more than \$8.5 million dollars. Community service fees amounted to more than \$7.5 million dollars, while the total value of the program to the State of North Carolina was estimated to exceed \$16 million dollars.

Updated 81-62-67

N. C. DEPARTIMENT OF CORRECTION DIVISION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

