

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.

FROM: *Tracy A. Little*
Tracy A. Little, Deputy Secretary

RE: Legislative Report on the Community Service Work Program
(N.C.G.S. 143B-262.3 and Section 17.17 of SL 2007-323)

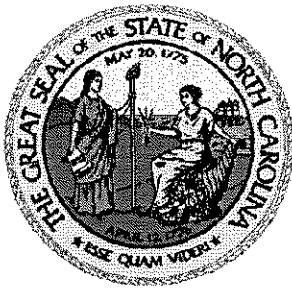
DATE: February 1, 2008

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143B-262.3 and Section 17.17 of SL 2007-323, please find attached the Department of Correction's report on the Community Service Work Program.

TAL:ea

Attachment

cc: Jim Mills
John Poteat
Sheryl Kelly



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

February 1, 2008

Michael F. Easley
Governor

Robert Lee Guy
Director

Theodis Beck
Secretary

N.C.G.S. 143B-262.3 and Section 17.17 of Session Law 2007-323**COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK PROGRAM**

SECTION 17.17. The Department of Correction shall report to the Chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety by February 1 of each year on the integration of the Community Service Work 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 shall also report to the Chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety by February 1 of each year on the average caseloads of Community Service Work Program coordinators, by district, division, and statewide. The report shall also 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, DWI, or any other agency referrals).

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

During the 2001 session, 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 FY 2006-07 numerous enhancements were made to the system to assist field staff, managers, and administration with assessing the efficiency of case monitoring.

During FY 2006-07, CSWP coordinator positions continued to be included in the Division's position management practices. Lead coordinators in larger urban districts continue to assist management with supervision of the coordinators and administration of placement agencies. The coordinator's role in many areas is being expanded to include court processing in areas where resources demand. In these areas, the coordinators provide initial intake of offenders for both CSWP and supervised probation, eliminating the need for duplicate services in order to process the offender into both areas. The linkage of CSAS to the OPUS system has provided an efficient means for the coordinator to work within both. This function also provides the opportunity to move towards the paraprofessional role for judicial services functions noted within the 2004 National Institute of Corrections (NIC) Report. The NIC report is a foundation of

the case and position management strategies, which include CSWP practices. The statewide lead coordinator continues to assist field staff, 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 FY 2006-2007, AOC indicated that \$7,906,794.86 was collected for all cases. Fee collection increased by three percent from FY 2005-2006.

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 FY 2006-07 from the CSAS is as follows:

UNSUPERVISED COMMUNITY SERVICE FEES

CS FEE PAID: YES	CS FEE PAID: NO	CS FEE: WAIVED	CS FEE: STRICKEN
24,892 OFFENDERS	3, 333 OFFENDERS	3,213 OFFENDERS	355 OFFENDERS
78%	11%	10%	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 (\$6.15 per hour after December 31, 2006)
- 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 FY 2006-2007:

TYPE LABOR	# OFFENDERS	# HOURS COMPLETED	\$ VALUE
GENERAL & LITTER PICK UP	50,109	1,687,338	\$9,557,323.00
SKILLED	49	925	\$15,725.00
CLERICAL	272	6,968	\$76,648.00
PROFESSIONAL	28	311	\$6,220.00
STATE TOTALS	50,458	1,695,542	\$9,655,916.00

The data indicates that offenders working in CSWP placements completed approximately 1.7 million hours of work, providing an estimated cost avoidance value of \$9.7 million to governmental and nonprofit agencies. Statewide totals for hours performed increased three 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 during FY 2006-07. Total admissions increased three percent from FY 2005-06 to FY 2006-07. The following tables provide a summary of the information available for FY 2006-07:

Case Admissions by Unsupervised/Supervised Probation

Total Admissions: 57,700

- Supervised 25,496 (44%)
- Unsupervised 32,204 (56%)

Supervised Probation:	DWI	4,071
	Deferred Prosecution	1,722
	All other Supervised Probation	19,608
	Parole: Supervised Parolees	95
Unsupervised Probation:	DWI	13,441
	Deferred	7,225
	Civil	56
	Federal	1
	Other	11,481

Case Exits by Unsupervised/Supervised

Supervision Type	# Offenders: Completed Hrs	# Offenders: Did Not Complete Hrs.	# Offenders: Hrs. Stricken	Total Exits
Unsupervised	27,155	4,113	281	31,549
Supervised	14,275	9,059	1,103	24,437
Total	41,430	13,172	1,384	55,986

VI. Community Service Caseload

CSWP coordinator caseloads for FY 2006-07 on average were 165. DCC continued to review all coordinator vacancies and reassigned positions as caseloads warranted. These practices have continued to steadily improve caseload averages.

FY 2006-2007 CASELOAD AVERAGES
Community Service Caseload Averages as of 6/30/07

Location	# of Coordinator Positions	Caseload Averages
Statewide	136	165
District 1	3	85
District 2	2	115
District 3A	3	135

Location	# of Coordinator Positions	Caseload Averages
District 3B	5	154
District 4A	2	144
District 4B	2	170
District 5	5	161
District 6A	1	130
District 6B	2	131
District 7	4	122
District 8A	2	143
District 8B	2	197
DIVISION 1	33	141
District 9A	1	137
District 9B	3	151
District 10	12	161
District 11	3	169
District 12	3	155
District 13	2	234
District 14	5	185
District 15A	3	190
District 15B	2	151
District 16A	1	154
District 16B	3	136
DIVISION 2	38	166
District 17A	2	128
District 17B	3	130
District 18	4	259
District 19A	3	183
District 19B	2	228
District 19C	3	163
District 19D	1	271
District 20A	2	200
District 20B	1	143
District 21	11	96
District 22	4	160
District 23	2	209
DIVISION 3	38	161
District 24	2	145
District 25A	2	188
District 25B	2	128
District 26	7	270
District 27A	2	263
District 27B	2	232
District 28	3	202
District 29A	2	250
District 29B	2	329
District 30	3	130
DIVISION 4	27	221

- 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 2006-07, 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 \$9.6 million. Community service fees amounted to more than \$7.9 million, while the total value of the program to the State of North Carolina was estimated to exceed \$17.5 million.