

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Tuesday, November 7, 2017 - 2 p.m.

**CSU Extension Office
17 N. Spruce, Colorado Springs, Colorado**

- 1. Welcome / Introductions** (Commissioner Glenn)

- 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes** (Commissioner Glenn)

- 3. Information Items**
 - A. CJCC Committees Update (Tim Wolken)
 - B. Committee Reports
 - a. Pretrial Services Advisory Board (Chief Judge William Bain / Christine Burns)
 - b. Strategic Planning Committee (Rosalie Roy / Tim Wolken)
 - c. Behavioral Health Committee (Matthew Caywood)
 - d. Financial Resources Committee (Christine Burns)
 - e. Transition to Workforce Committee (Jen McKee)

- 4. Action Items**
 - A. Pretrial Services Program Expansion Proposal (Tim Wolken / Christine Burns)
 - B. Criminal Justice Planner Proposal (Tim Wolken)

- 5. Community Reports**
 - A. Criminal Justice Outcomes Project
SherryLynn Boyles, Executive Director, TESSA

- 6. Next Meeting**

Tuesday, February 27, 2018 / 2 p.m. / Pikes Peak Regional Building Department

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2017

Location: Pikes Peak Regional Building Department

1. Commissioner Glenn welcomed Council members and thanked everyone for their service.

2. The following members were in attendance:

Darryl Glenn	Board of County Commissioners
Todd Johnson	Public Defender Office
Julie Krow	El Paso County Dept. of Human Services
Shaun McGuire	Division of Adult Parole
Denise Krug	Discover Goodwill
Cindy Patton	Probation, 4th Judicial District
William Bain	Chief Judge, 4th Judicial District
George Reed	UCCS School of Public Affairs
Andrea Kedley	Community Health Partnership
HayDen Kane	Colorado Springs Municipal Court
Jennifer Debros	AspenPointe
Margaret Vellar	District Attorney Office
Bill Elder	El Paso County Sheriff
Pete Carey	City of Colorado Springs Police Depart.
Joel Siebersma	Springs Rescue Mission
Henry Yankowski	El Paso County Administration
Tim Wolken	El Paso County Community Services Department
William Bain	Chair, Pretrial Services Board
Joe Ribeiro	Manitou Springs Police Department
Tara Hall	Chair, Community Corrections Board
Marc Dettenrieder	Teller County Commissioner
Russ Bogardus	Citizen

3. Tim Wolken provided an overview of the CJCC bylaws.

4. The Council approved the following 2017-18 officers: Commissioner Darryl Glenn – Chairperson, Judge William Bain – Vice Chairperson, and Shaun McGuire, Second Vice Chairperson.

5. The Council selected the following upcoming meeting dates: November 28, 2017, February 27, 2018, and May 22, 2018.

6. The Council established the following committees: Pretrial Services Community Advisory Board (existing), Behavioral Health, Financial Resources, Strategic Planning, and Transition to Workforce.

7. Christine Burns and Kelley Vivian provided overviews of several grant opportunities to support local criminal justice programs.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Committees

Pretrial Services Advisory Board

Judge William Bain
 Christine Burns
 Michael Baier
 Audra Boileau
 Sallie Clark
 Lisa Kirkman
 Jeffrey Lindsey
 Dawn Montoya
 Randy Polk
 Rosalie Roy
 Margaret Vellar
 Mark Waller
 Gail Warkentin
 Shannon Gerhart
 Bridget Collins
 Kathy Livornese
 Jonathan Caudill
 Teri Frank
 Tim Wolken

Chief Judge, 4th Judicial District
 EPC Community Services Department
 EPC Sheriff's Office
 PR Bond Commissioner / EPC CS Dept
 Citizen
 EPC County Attorney's Office
 EPC District Attorney's Office
 PR Bond Commissioner / EPC CS Dept
 Citizen
 Colorado Public Defender's Office
 EPC District Attorney's Office
 EPC County Commissioner
 Magistrate, El Paso County
 Judge, El Paso County
 Deputy District Administrator
 4th Judicial District
 University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
 Sheriff's Office
 EPC Community Services Department

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 719-520-6996
 719-390-2056
 719-390-2100
 719-651-5030
 719-520-7264
 719-520-6161
 719-390-2061
 719-475-1235
 719-520-6175
 719-520-6412
 719-452-5524
 719-452-5193
 719-452-5269
 719-452-5345
 719-255-3238
 719-520-7244
 719-520-6981

Behavioral Health Committee

Kathy Sullivan
 Judy Haller
 Sallie Clark
 Matthew Caywood
 Michele Newell
 Claire Moon
 Lynn Schull
 Jason DeaBueno
 Stephanie Gangemi
 Andrea Kedley

Division of Adult Parole
 EPC District Attorney's Office
 Citizen
 Department of Human Services
 Public Defender's Office
 4th Judicial District Probation Office
 National Alliance on Mental Illness
 Aspen Pointe
 El Paso County Sheriff's Office
 Community Health Partnership

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 719-520-6217
 719-651-5030
 719-444-5485
 719-475-1235
 719-452-5753
 719-473-8477
 719-572-6100
 719-390-2339
 719-632-5096

Financial Resources Committee

Christine Burns	EPC Community Services Department	christineburns@elpasoco.com	719-520-6996
Kelley Vivian	EPC Public Health	kellyvivian@elpasoco.com	719-578-3243
Scott Sosebee	Court Administrator – 4 th Judicial District	scott.sosebee@judicial.state.co.us	719-452-5270
Russ Bogardus	Citizen	russbogardus@comcast.net	719-337-6328
Anna Auwae	Colorado Springs Police Department	auwaeaan@ci.colospsgs.co.us	719-444-7809
Larry Borland	El Paso County Sheriff's Office	larryborland@elpasoco.com	719-520-7636

Strategic Planning Committee

Tim Wolken	EPC Community Services Department	timwolken@elpasoco.com	719-520-6981
Sallie Clark	Citizen	sallie.clark@yahoo.com	719-651-5030
Rosalie Roy	Public Defender's Office	Rosalie.Roy@coloradodefenders.us	719-475-1235
Joe Ribeiro	Manitou Springs Police Department	jribeiro@comsgov.com	719-685.5407
Bridget Collins	Deputy Court Administrator / 4th Judicial District	bridget.collins@judicial.state.co.us	719-452-5269
Russ Bogardus	Citizen	russbogardus@comcast.net	719-337-6328
Teri Frank	Sheriff's Office	terifrank@elpasoco.com	719-520-7244

Transition to Workforce Committee

Christine Richard	Division of Adult Parole	christine.richard@state.co.us	719-635-0800
Marc Dettenrieder	Teller County Commissioner	mdteller2012@yahoo.com	719-689-2988
Tara Hall	Chair, Community Corrections Board	tarahall@elpasoco.com	719-444-5212
Kurt Runge	4th Judicial District Probation Office	kurt.runge@judicial.state.co.us	719-452-5706
Denise Krug	DiscoverMyGoodwill	DKrug@discovermygoodwill.org	719-785-9226
Jen McKeel	Pikes Peak Workforce Center	jennifermckee@elpasoco.com	719-667-3741
Chip Underwood	Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center	cunderwood@mtcarmelcenter.org	719-309-4722

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Pretrial Services Community Advisory Board Report

November 1, 2017 – 12:00 p. m.

1. Attendees

Members of the Pretrial Services Community Advisory Board: Chief Judge William Bain (Chair); Michael Baier, Jim Bentley, Audra Boileau, Christine Burns, Jonathan Caudill, Shannon Gerhart, Kathy Livornese, Rose Roy, Margaret Vellar, Gail Warkentin, Tim Wolken; Guests: Joe Breister

2. Pretrial Services Community Advisory Board Vision

Pretrial Services will be a leader in the area of pretrial decision-making, information preparation, and pretrial monitoring services while maintaining the interests of safety and justice.

3. Meeting Proceedings

- PR Bond Commissioners provided year to date program statistics: 1090 defendants interviewed; 834 defendants approved for PR Bond; 76% compliance with conditions of Bond
- Board members endorsed a proposed funding increase for the Pretrial Services Program to provide a more robust and effective Pretrial Services Program for the 4th Judicial District.

4. Pretrial 2017 – 2018 Objectives

- Reduce the use of County Jail resources for defendants where less restrictive alternatives are appropriate.
- Facilitate the identification and provision of productive pre-conviction treatment to defendants while awaiting court proceedings.

5. Next Meeting: February 7, 2018

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Strategic Planning Committee

Meeting Notes – October 31, 2017

1. The following committee members were in attendance:

Sallie Clark	Citizen
Rosalie Roy	Public Defender's Office
Bridget Collins	Deputy Court Administrator / 4th Judicial District
Russ Bogardus	Citizen
Teri Frank	Sheriff's Office
Tim Wolken	EPC Community Services Department

2. Rosalie Roy was selected as Chair and Bridget Collins as Vice-Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee.

3. Tim Wolken reviewed the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council bylaws and the Strategic Planning Committee description.

4. It was suggested that additional committee members be added from the 4th Judicial District Probation Office, Department of Human Services, and the District Attorney's Office.

5. The committee agreed to the following 2017 – 2018 objectives:

- A. Support the hiring of a Criminal Justice Planner to support the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and CJCC committees.
- B. Coordinate the development of a Five Year Strategic Plan for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The plan will be completed by December, 2018.
- C. Explore expanded data collection and sharing opportunities among CJCC member agencies.
- D. Provide innovative criminal justice program information from other jurisdictions to CJCC members and committees.

6. Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 – 3pm

Behavioral Health Committee
November 1, 2017; 1-2:30PM; Citizen Service Center

Introductions-

Judy Haller- DA Office, District Court
Katheryn Chacon- EPC Department of Human Services, Economic Assistance
Kathy Sullivan- DOC Parole
Jane Gravelle- EPC Department of Human Services, Economic Assistance
Andrea Kelley- CHP/RCCO
Michele Newell- Public Defender
Erik Weitzel- EPC Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Operations
Clarie Moon- Probation
Stephanie Gangemi- EPSO/Armor
Amber Biss- EPC Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Operations
Doug Greenberg- EPC Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Operations
Dr. Matthew Caywood- EPC Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Operations
Kelley Vivian- EPC Public Health
Lynn Shull- NAMI

Committee Overview-

Committee is grounded in CJCC by- laws; reviewed the by-laws
This group's focus will be behavioral health and substance use

Chairperson-

Dr. Matthew Caywood

Additional Committee Members-

Cheryl Schnell- EPC DHS; DHS Division Director over the county detox program
Jason DeaBueno Or Erin Millikan- Aspen Pointe; Andrea Kelley will do outreach
Hospital- Kelley Vivian will do outreach
Housing- Beth Roalstad; Michele Newell will do outreach
Substance Abuse Provider; Erik Weitzel will do outreach
Sue Kuiper from Comcor; Michele Newell will do the outreach
Law enforcement- John Hammond; Stephanie Gangemi will do outreach

Group Objectives-

1. Create understanding the Medicaid benefit for incarcerated individuals.
2. Develop recommendations to address case management of behavioral health and substance abuse services (while incarcerated and once released to community).
3. Assessment of holistic well-being.
4. Mapping of supportive services (housing, transportation, food, medical care, etc.).
5. Streamline communication between systems serving clients
6. Data sharing and collection across systems.

Public Health Ask-

Jail Diversion/ Co-responding Programming from EPSO
Responding and providing appropriate intervention for welfare calls
Grant is due on Tuesday, November 7
This group agrees to serve as the Steering Committee

Next Meeting Date- December 8 at 1PM at Citizen Service Center in room 3008

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Financial Resources Committee

November 2017 Report

Current Local Criminal Justice Grant Efforts

- A. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office (EPSO) is applying for a grant from the Colorado Department of Human Services to support a Co-Responder Services program. The grant period is from January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2022. Funding available for each project year is \$362,500, or \$1.8M over the full project period. The Co-Responder model was developed in Los Angeles and has been adopted in multiple jurisdictions across the US. The model pairs specially trained officers with mental health professionals to provide a response to calls for service where mental health and/or substance use disorders might be relevant factors. The EPSO plans to deploy this team to suicide/check the welfare calls, of which they receive more than 1,100 each year in unincorporated portions of El Paso County. The behavioral health provider shall offer assessment and crisis intervention services at the scene, provide referral information to the individual, and provide follow-up as necessary.

The goals of the Co-Responder model are to:

- Prevent unnecessary incarceration and/or hospitalization of mentally ill individuals
- Promote alternate care in the least restrictive environment through a coordinated system wide approach
- Prevent duplication of mental health services
- Facilitate the return of law enforcement units to patrol activities

The Behavioral Health Committee of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council has agreed to serve as the Steering Committee for this project. The application is due November 7th. Eight awards will be made across Colorado. EPSO will know more about its status in early December.

Committee Chair:

Christine Burns

El Paso County Community Outreach Division Manager, Community Services Department

The Financial Resources Committee is currently considering 2018 committee meeting dates and objectives.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Transition to Workforce Committee

October 24, 2017

1. The following members were in attendance:

Jen McKee	Pikes Peak Workforce Center
Christine Richard	Division of Adult Parole
Kurt Runge	4 th Judicial District Probation Office
Chip Underwood	Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center

2. The committee reviewed the CJCC bylaws and agreed to the following committee description: "This committee will identify gaps in services and streamline resources in the community that will assist those clients with criminal record".
3. The committee will explore adding additional members.
4. The committee discussed the following concepts:
 - What we currently have: RTW (road to work grant) this is with DOC and PPWFC, DOC has CRES/ETN/CCCM, VETs (Funding there as well we can tap into and assist those with VA benefits, Probation will look into resurrecting the Bridges program from past, Bring Your a Game – through the PPWFC, includes workshops, assessments/soft skills/bonding/wotc
 - GAPS: No communication between agencies doing the same thing, bus/transportation for this clientele is very difficult would city consider extending bus hours to accommodate the working clientele
 - GOALS: Look for potential funding to assist, what resources do we need to bring to the table, no one program works
 - IDEAS: Would the county/city be willing/able to give priority for certain jobs to second chance applicants? If no, would they be willing to task their business development dept to partner with local businesses to push for a county/city-endorsed second chance initiative?)

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Agenda Item Summary Form

Agenda Item Title: Pretrial Services Program Expansion

Agenda Date: November 7, 2017

Agenda Item Number: #4 - A

Presenter: Tim Wolken, Director, Community Services Department
Christine Burns, Community Outreach Division Manager,
Community Services Department

Information: **Endorsement:** X

Background Information

The El Paso County Pretrial Services program offers an array of services to support the criminal justice system. Specifically, the program objectives include:

- Provide the Courts with accurate, timely and comprehensive information to help determine whether a defendant can be released on a personal recognizance (PR) bond while considering public safety and court appearance concerns;
- Provide court ordered pretrial supervision services;
- Reduce the impact on the Criminal Justice Center (CJC) population by supporting the release of qualified PR Bond defendants;
- Provide the opportunity through PR Bond release for a defendant to maintain employment and support his / her family while awaiting court proceedings.

Prior to the recession, El Paso County managed a robust Pretrial Services Program that included a Manager, a Chief PR Bond Commissioner, five PR Bond Commissioners, and three court staff with an annual budget of \$500,000. The average daily PR Bond population was 440 and the CJC population was 1,200 in 2004.

Current Pretrial Services Program

The County's existing Pretrial Services Program consists of two PR Bond Commissioners and operates on an \$118,000 annual budget. The average daily PR Bond population is 275 and the average CJC population is 1,600. When compared to other Pretrial Services programs provided by other Colorado counties (please see attached), our Pretrial Services program is unable to provide a more robust and effective program due to existing resources.

In 2017, the National Institute of Corrections completed a review of the County's Pretrial Service Program. The review provided the following recommendations:

1. Reduce / eliminate the eligibility criteria and increase the number of assessments being conducted with CJC defendants to maximize release while meeting our program goals. Ideally, all defendants should be assessed. We are currently completing assessments on approximately 15% of defendants.
2. Eliminate the \$55 Pretrial Services Bond Fee to not impair PR Bond qualified, but financially disadvantaged defendants to be released due to inability to pay.
3. Develop and track expanded outcome measures that can be used to demonstrate over time an increase in appearance rates, net day bed savings, decrease in pretrial jail population, decrease in recidivism, and increase in court appearance rates.
4. Expand supervised Pretrial Services to improve public safety and court appearance.
5. Provide PR Bond Commissioners with Administrative Release Authority to identify and release those pretrial defendants with low public safety risk.

The report concluded that an expanded investment in our Pretrial Services Program will result in a reduction in the CJC pretrial population while providing a more effective Pretrial Services program for our clients.

2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan Alignment

The Pretrial Services Program was addressed in El Paso County's Strategic Plan under Goal # 5 - Strive to ensure a safe, secure, resilient and healthy community.

Strategy A, Objective 1

Increase and improve Pretrial Services core functions, utilizing standards and procedures recommended by the Colorado Association of Pretrial Services and the National Association of Pretrial Services.

Strategy A, Objective 6

Seek new and support existing innovative programs which intend to reduce recidivism and length of stay in the El Paso County jail.

Expanded Pretrial Services Program

It is proposed to provide an additional \$400,000 (please see the attached budget) for the Pretrial Services Program to add four full-time intake staff, two part-time intake staff, and two full-time case managers.

This will allow our program to provide the following targeted benefits:

1. The ability to expand the criteria for when a defendant can be assessed and / or considered for a PR Bond. Currently, we are assessing 15% of pretrial defendants due to staff limitations and the current criteria. With an expanded program, our target goal will be a minimum of 50% of qualified defendants being assessed for potential release on a PR Bond.

2. Expand defendant supervision efforts to ensure defendants will attend required court proceedings and in turn, avoid re-arrest for failure to appear.
3. Increase the average participation in the PR Bond Program from 275 per month to 500 per month within one year of the full implementation of the expanded Pretrial Services Program.
4. Convert the existing PR Bond Fee to an administrative fee that is collected through release and collect procedures. This will allow financially disadvantaged clients to be released while awaiting court proceedings. It is proposed to convert the current \$55 Pretrial Services Bond Fee to a one-time \$25 administration fee (no testing) and \$40 administration fee (testing).

Recommended motion

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council endorses a proposed funding increase within the 2018 – 2022 El Paso County Five Year Financial Roadmap for the Pretrial Services Program to provide a more robust and effective Pretrial Services Program.

Pretrial Services Program Comparison

County	Population	Pretrial Services Budget	Full-Time Staff	Assessments Completed	Total Pretrial Services Clients Per Year	Fee	Average Jail Population	Administrative Release Authority
Arapahoe	637,068	\$1.1 million	15	4,992	3,657	\$50	1,000	No
Larimer	332,830	\$1.7 million	22	5,508	2,100	\$30	550	Yes
Weld	307,600	\$930,000	9	3,050	2,661	\$20	700	No
Douglas	322,020	\$1.7 million	11		1,632	\$40	400	Yes
Jefferson	565,230	\$1.5 million	17	6,615	4,397	\$40	1,300	Yes
El Paso County	677,020	\$118,000	2	1,579	1,480	\$55	1,600	No

Proposed Pretrial Services Program Budget

	Current	Proposed
Revenue		
PR Bond Program Fees		
PR Bond Fee - 1,400 x \$55 =	\$ 77,000	\$ -
Administrative Fees:		
No testing - 2,000 x \$25 =	\$ -	\$ 50,000
Testing - 700 x \$40 =	\$ -	\$ 28,000
Total Revenue	\$ 77,000	\$ 78,000
Expenses		
Full-Time Salaries	\$ 86,757	\$ 360,000
Part-Time Salaries	\$ -	\$ 50,000
FICA	\$ 6,637	\$ 31,365
Drug / Alcohol Testing	\$ 21,000	\$ 50,000
General Operating Expenses	\$ 5,550	\$ 30,000
Total Expenses	\$ 119,944	\$ 521,365
General Fund Support	\$ (42,944)	\$ (443,365)

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Agenda Item Summary Form

Agenda Item Title: Criminal Justice Planner Position
Agenda Date: November 7, 2017
Agenda Item Number: #4 - B
Presenter: Tim Wolken, Director, Community Services Department
Information: **Endorsement:** X

When reviewing the staffing structures of other counties that have Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils (CJCC), it is common for the respective counties to employ at least one Criminal Justice Planner to provide professional and dedicated staff support for the CJCC and the committees.

The Criminal Justice Planner will provide dedicated staff support for the following CJCC objectives:

- A. Research, analyze, evaluate, and develop innovative planning recommendations regarding criminal justice matters.
- B. Oversee the collection of criminal justice data for use by the Council, agencies, and departments.
- C. Analyze past and current El Paso County Criminal Justice Center (CJC) populations and develop recommendations to address capacity issues at the CJC.
- D. Identify gaps and deficiencies in the criminal justice system and make recommendations to address service gaps.
- E. Make recommendations that will help control the costs of managing offenders.
- F. Evaluate and recommend crime prevention and early intervention programs that will help reduce recidivism.
- G. Seek grants that will support the enhancement of the criminal justice system.
- H. Make recommendations on proposed legislation that will impact the criminal justice system in our region.
- I. Provide meeting management support functions including developing agendas, meeting notes, and completing CJCC directives.
- J. Complete special projects as assigned by the CJCC and its member agencies.

It is anticipated that the salary range for the Planner position is \$65,000 to \$70,000.

Recommended motion:

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council endorses the inclusion of a Criminal Justice Planner position in the 2018 – 2022 El Paso County Five Year Financial Roadmap.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE OUTCOMES (CCO) PROJECT

In collaboration with the 4th Judicial District Attorney, TESSA has created an innovative project called the Criminal Justice Outcomes Project, which is staffed by TESSA's Criminal Justice Clinician. The project involves two primary components:

- (1) Pre-Plea Investigative Reports (or PPIRs)
- (2) Expert Witness Testimony

With funding, TESSA could ensure continuation of the project and with sufficient resources, expand it to meet the unmet demand described below.

Pre-Plea Investigative Reports

When responding to a domestic violence incident, law enforcement officers need to quickly assess a highly-escalated, complicated situation and may determine that probable cause exists to arrest one or both of the parties involved with little knowledge of historical or contextual information.

In El Paso County, if the District Attorney has reason to question whether the victim (versus the primary offender) has been arrested, they have the option to refer the defendant to TESSA for a Pre-Plea Investigation Report. A PPIR requires thorough investigation that on average involves 10 hours of staff time as well as trained expert analysis. Only experienced clinicians conduct PPIRs, which involve a battery of evidence-based psychological assessments, extensive interviews of both parties, interviews of witnesses when possible, and review of the District Attorney's discovery packet.

TESSA has the current funding and human resource capacity to process 8-10 PPIRs each month. However, requests for this service routinely exceed 20 requests each month. The purpose of the PPIR is to assess the presence of domestic violence and abuse dynamics, determine which party is the primary aggressor, and identify the nature of the violence.

The benefits of this component of the program include:

- Improved accuracy in determining who the primary aggressor is, which leads to just and fair outcomes;
- Cost savings to local taxpayers so funds aren't spent unnecessarily on prosecuting victims;
- Identification of offenders so we are more likely to prosecute them and hold them accountable, which can lead to interruption of the violence for current and future victims; and
- A process supported by both defense and prosecuting attorneys.

Expert Witness Testimony

Nationwide, the majority of domestic and sexual violence incidents are not reported. Despite high rates of calls to local law enforcement (30-40 calls every day), Colorado Springs is no exception. When law

enforcement does intervene, victims are often just seeking intervention in the incident and do not want to participate in prosecuting an offender—or victims may participate at first and then pull back and even recant.

The reasons victims do not participate or recant are many: fear of retaliation by the offender, homelessness if the offender (and often breadwinner) is unable to work, commitment to marriage vows, believing the offender's promises to change, and others. Sometimes victims just find the system intimidating and unsupportive or just want to "put it all behind them."

Due to the confluence of challenges, the vast majority of domestic and sexual violence arrests are dismissed, leaving offenders free to abuse the same or new victims. When victims recant, leave the area, or choose not to participate in prosecution, TESSA's expert witness services can make all the difference to a case. TESSA's staff work with thousands of victims every year and avail ourselves to training on latest trends, research, and best practices. TESSA witnesses can speak to the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence, neurobiology of trauma, the cycle of violence—but more important, to the reasons that victims choose to recant testimony or not participate in the prosecution of offenders.

Prosecuting attorneys and jurors often report that TESSA's staff testimony was instrumental in returning guilty verdicts, especially when victims do not testify.

The benefits of the program include:

- Increased rates of conviction for domestic and sexual violence offenders;
- Juries that are more informed and educated about domestic and sexual violence dynamics.

TESSA BACKGROUND

TESSA serves more than 10,000 victims of domestic and sexual violence in El Paso and Teller Counties every year. Since its founding in 1977, TESSA has evolved into a multi-faceted agency that includes one of the largest Safehouses for victims in the state, a 24/7 hotline, hospital and courthouse support for victims, counseling, and services for children who come from homes where domestic violence has taken root.

TESSA is unique in the Colorado Springs area in that it is the only agency whose mission is to serve domestic violence and sexual assault victims in the region. Additionally, we are the only victim service provider who is enabled by Colorado Revised Statutes to provide services in absolute confidentiality. This privilege allows victims to seek and obtain assistance while preserving their privacy. Consequently, more victims are willing to seek help through TESSA than through other channels that cannot guarantee confidentiality.