

2023 Association of Paroling Authorities International Annual Training Conference

Meet the Panelists



Cynthia Wolken

Deputy Director, Montana
Dept. of Corrections



Jimmy Patelis

Member, Montana Board
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Joe Winkler

Assistant Secretary, Florida
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Mike Tessean

Director, Colorado
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Promoting Success on Community Supervision

With nearly four million people on community supervision in the United States, supervision agencies must be equipped with tools to implement evidence-based practices that ensure public safety. The Crime and Justice Institute (CJI) shared this and other conclusions from its 2022 report, *Promoting Success on Supervision*, at the annual conference of the Association of Paroling Authorities (APAI) in April 2023. The report was the culmination of partnerships with community supervision agencies in Colorado, Florida, Mississippi, and Montana. Through these collaborations spanning over two years, CJI sought to better understand the drivers of revocations from community supervision and identify policy and practice changes to safely improve supervision outcomes.

At the APAI conference, CJI facilitated a panel discussion with agency leaders in the field of community supervision who partnered on this project. Panelists shared key lessons from their years of experience in the field and recent work with CJI, including:

- Connections to **support services within the first few months of release** from incarceration are critical. Supervision agencies and reentry providers should maintain strong relationships to ensure individuals are referred to necessary services quickly.
- When rolling out new initiatives such as needs assessments or graduated response tools, it is imperative that agency leadership receive **feedback and buy-in from staff** as part of implementation.
- People are more likely to succeed on supervision when they are provided **meaningful incentives**. Supervision agencies should encourage community supervision officers to **build rapport** with individuals on their caseload and prioritize understanding the kinds of incentives that resonate with them.
- Agency leaders must provide **continuing education** for legislators, judges, and parole board members about the interplay between condition setting, treatment intervention, and compliance. This includes **highlighting challenges** individuals on supervision face when trying to comply with conditions.

"Each of our state partners received data-driven recommendations designed to improve outcomes and reduce recidivism and we're excited to continue to support them in implementing these changes."

- Valerie Meade, Deputy Director of the Crime and Justice Institute