

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203 - 1792
Phone (303) 866-2471



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

March 30, 2012

Dear Commissioner Craig Meis:

On behalf of the State of Colorado, we would like to extend our sincere congratulations to Mesa County for your selection as a National Institute of Corrections (NIC) Tier 1 site for Phase III of the Evidence-Based Decision Making in Local Criminal Justice Systems (EBDM). We understand you were selected for this Implementation Phase because of Mesa County's outstanding work during Phase II in building collaborative alliances, analyzing current practices, identifying gaps and developing multiple strategies for system-wide improvement in your criminal justice system. We also understand that Mesa County is the only Colorado jurisdiction that was selected to participate in this national pilot program. Your unique approach will surely lead Colorado in a nationwide effort toward empirically based decisions that will transform the entire judicial system. The goal of One Less Offender, One Less Crime and One Less Victim should always be at the forefront.

We look forward to following the progress of Mesa County as you implement your expressed goals and document your results. We are confident that Mesa County will share its experiences and serve as a lead, not only for Colorado, but the nation as you address the tough issues of increasing public safety, reducing precious resources spent on low risk defendants/offenders and decreasing recidivism – challenging long-held assumptions in the criminal justice arena.

Again, we congratulate the Mesa County team for your outstanding efforts to implement the EBDM Framework and to serve as a learning site for other jurisdictions within Colorado and across the country engaged in their own efforts to improve evidence-based practice.

Please let us know if there are ways the State of Colorado and its resources may work with you or assist you to further to enhance your local efforts.

On behalf of the citizens of this state, we wish you the best of luck and look forward to following your project.

Sincerely,

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Cc:

Ms. Chantal Unfug, Mesa County Administrator

Mr. Stan Hilkey, Mesa County Sheriff

Honorable David Bottger, Chief Judge, 21st Judicial District

Mr. Pete Hautzinger, District Attorney, 21st Judicial District

Ms. Susan Gilbert, Chief Probation Officer, 21st Judicial District

Honorable Craig Henderson, 21st Judicial District

Ms. Roberta Nieslanik, Deputy Director, State of Colorado Alternate Defense Counsel

Mr. Dennis Berry, Director, Criminal Justice Services Department

Mr. Steve Colvin, Grand Junction Regional Office, Colorado State Public Defender

Ms. Trish Mahre, District Attorney's Office, 21st Judicial District

Ms. Judy Vanderleest and Ms. Sandy Casselberry, 21st Judicial District

Ms. Kimberly Bullen and Ms. Sue Gormley, Local Initiative Coordinators

Ms. Jennifer Sheetz, Mesa County, Criminal Justice Data Analyst