

Drug Offender Reform Act

Smarter Sentencing + Smarter Treatment = Better Outcomes and Safer Neighborhoods

Drug Offender Reform Act – Pilot Program

Second Annual Report to the Utah Legislature, November 2006
Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council
Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

2006 Legislative Action

Senate Bill 185: Drug Offender Reform Act Amendments was passed by the 2006 Utah Legislature. The bill amended the Drug Offender Reform Act Pilot Program to require screening and assessment for *all* felony offenders in the Third Judicial District in Salt Lake County, rather than only offenders convicted of a felony violation of the Controlled Substances Act. Effective on May 1, 2006, this amendment is enabling a “front-loading” of offenders into the DORA Pilot Program, thus providing sufficient follow-up time to measure program outcomes after the offender has completed treatment.

The 2006 Legislature also appropriated the remaining funding for years two and three of the pilot program (FY 2007 and FY 2008), in the amount of **\$918,000**, as follows:

Department of Human Services	\$647,000
Department of Corrections	\$251,000
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$20,000

Summary of the DORA Process

- ❖ Offender is arrested for a felony offense.
- ❖ Offender is pre-screened to eliminate ineligible candidates (e.g., immigration holds, sex offenders, parolees, commitments to prison, non-Salt Lake County residents, felony DUI offenders).
- ❖ Offender is convicted of a felony offense.
- ❖ Offender is screened with the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R).
- ❖ Offender who meets the DORA criteria is assessed utilizing the Addiction Severity Index (ASI) to determine the level of treatment needed.
- ❖ The Pre-Sentence Investigation Report indicates if the offender is DORA eligible and recommends a level of treatment and a treatment program based on the ASAM (American Society of Addiction Medicine) criteria, and a level of supervision as indicated by the LSI-R.
- ❖ Judges may order up to 250 offenders into DORA treatment slots.
- ❖ The DORA offender is supervised by the AP&P DORA agent, in consultation with the treatment provider.
- ❖ Outcomes measurement is administered by the treatment agency and outcomes are tracked by CCJJ and the U of U Criminal Justice Center.

Progress to Date

As of November 1, 2006:

- ❖ One hundred eighty-nine (189) offenders had been ordered into the DORA Pilot Program since the start-up date of July 1, 2005.
- ❖ Fifteen (15) offenders were in aftercare.

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- ❖ Ten (10) offenders had completed treatment.
- ❖ Six (6) offenders had completed and were released from probation.

With the passage of S.B. 185, it is anticipated the DORA Pilot Program will reach its capacity of 250 offenders by March 2007.

DORA Funding

A total of **\$1,418,000** has been appropriated by the Utah Legislature for the three-year DORA Pilot Program. In 2005, the Legislature established the program and appropriated **\$500,000** for the first year, FY 2006, as follows: \$75,000 to the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ), \$315,000 to the Department of Human Services, \$100,000 to the Department of Corrections, and \$10,000 to the Administrative Office of the Courts. The 2006 Legislature appropriated the funding for years two and three of the program (FY 2007 and FY 2008) in the amount of **\$918,000**, as follows: \$647,000 to the Department of Human Services, \$251,000 to the Department of Corrections, and \$20,000 to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The **Department of Human Services (\$962,000)** awards its funds to the Salt Lake County Division of Substance Abuse Services to be used for substance abuse treatment for DORA participants. Salt Lake County then contracts with community treatment agencies to provide these services. Treatment services may include the following, as appropriate for each offender's treatment needs/plan: Group Treatment, Group Life Skills, Group Behavior Management/ Substance Abuse Education, Individual/Family Treatment, Individual Behavior Management, Residential Treatment, Mental Health/Medical Evaluation/Intake, Case Management, and Urine Analysis.

The **Department of Corrections (351,000)** utilizes its appropriation for two full time AP&P agents and a vehicle for the agents. In addition, during 2006, the Department designated two additional DORA agents in order to address the influx of offenders into the Pilot Program (S.B. 185) and to maintain a manageable caseload for each agent, bringing the current number of AP&P agents managing DORA participants to four.

The **Administrative Office of the Courts (\$30,000)** utilizes its funds to support court clerks needed for the additional court time required for DORA offenders.

DORA Research Study

The **Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (\$75,000)** contracted \$60,000 of its funds to the Criminal Justice Center at the University of Utah to conduct the research associated with the DORA Pilot Project. This was done to ensure a professional and non-biased entity conducts the analysis of the data related to the DORA Project.

The experimental group for the DORA study includes the 250 offenders in Salt Lake County funded by the Utah Legislature to receive appropriate screening, assessment, and treatment. Researchers selected Davis County for the creation of a comparison group. An analysis of offender characteristics and sentencing patterns proved Davis County to be a close match to Salt Lake County. A group of felony offenders from Davis County who meet the same substance abuse criteria as the DORA clients in Salt Lake County will be used to compare differences in outcome.

Initial outcome results will not be available for some time. Once selected for DORA, offenders will complete an average of 12-18 months of treatment. Once treatment is completed, researchers will examine their behavior in the community for an additional 12 months.

FY 2006 DORA Reports

In addition to this annual report, during 2006 three interim progress reports were provided to the Utah Legislature, as follows: Executive Appropriations Committee on April 18, 2006; Health and Human Services Interim Committee on May 17, 2006; and Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee on July 19, 2006. These reports may be accessed on the CCJJ/USAAV website below.



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