

# Drug Offender Reform Act

Smarter Sentencing + Smarter Treatment = Better Outcomes and Safer Neighborhoods

## Progress Report on the Drug Offender Reform Act Pilot Program

May 17, 2006

*Presentation to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee*

### 2006 Legislative Action

**Senate Bill 185: Drug Offender Reform Act Amendments** was passed by the 2006 Utah Legislature, and amended the Drug Offender Reform Act Pilot Program to require screening and assessment for *all* felony offenders in Salt Lake County, rather than only felony offenders convicted of a violation of the Controlled Substances Act. This amendment, which became effective on May 1<sup>st</sup>, will enable a “front-loading” of offenders into the DORA Pilot Program, thus providing sufficient follow-up time to measure program outcomes. The Legislature also appropriated the remaining funding for years two and three of the 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.
- ❖ 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 May 11, 2006:

- ❖ Ninety-two (92) offenders have been ordered into the DORA Pilot Program since the start-up date of July 1, 2005.
- ❖ Two hundred forty-nine (249) offenders have been screened (LSI-R) by AP&P for possible participation in DORA.
- ❖ Of the offenders screened, 110 have been referred to the Salt Lake County Division of Substance Abuse for substance abuse evaluations (ASI).
- ❖ Of the offenders screened, 139 were disqualified from participation in the DORA Pilot Program. Most disqualifications occurred for the following reasons: AP&P recommendation based upon public safety considerations (e.g., the offender warranted more severe sanctions such as prison

commitment or a lengthy jail sentence, or the offender presented with multiple criminal offenses); the offender was already in treatment or did not require treatment; the offender's LSI-R score was outside of the DORA criteria; the offender was pending action by Immigration and Customs Enforcement; or the offender did not reside in Salt Lake County.

- ❖ DORA offenders have been referred to nine different community treatment agencies.
- ❖ Levels of treatment include: general outpatient, intensive outpatient, day treatment, and residential treatment.
- ❖ With the passage of S.B. 185, the DORA Pilot Program should reach its capacity of 250 offenders by the end of calendar year 2006.

### **Use of DORA Funds**

S.B. 1004 appropriated **\$500,000** for FY 2006, the first year of the DORA Pilot Program, 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 **Department of Human Services (\$315,000)** awarded funds to the Salt Lake County Division of Substance Abuse Services to be used to fund substance abuse treatment services for DORA participants. Salt Lake County, in turn, contracted with nine different treatment agencies to provide these services.

The Salt Lake County Division of Substance Abuse Services estimates its expenditures through FY 2006 at \$251,189, with a projected \$63,811 to be carried forward to FY 2007. Funds have been utilized to provide substance abuse treatment (Tx) services for DORA participants, including the following as appropriate for each offender's treatment needs/plan: Group Tx, Group Life Skills, Group Behavior Management/Substance Abuse Education, Individual/Family Tx, Individual Behavior Management, Residential Tx, Mental Health/Medical Evaluation/Intake, Case Management, and Urine Analysis.

The **Department of Corrections (\$100,000)** estimates its expenditures for FY 2006 at a total of \$107,113, as follows:

Personnel (1.5 AP&P Agents)	\$84,492
Vehicle Purchase	\$17,621
Vehicle Operating Costs	\$5,000

The **Administrative Office of the Courts (\$10,000)** estimates its expenditures for FY 2006 as follows:

Personnel (Court Clerks)	\$10,000
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Funding appropriated to the Department of Human Services, Department of Corrections, and Administrative Office of the Courts for years two and three of the DORA Pilot Program will be utilized for the same purposes as in year one.

### **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 will include the 250 offenders in Salt Lake County funded by the Utah Legislature to receive appropriate screening, assessment, and treatment for drug-related issues. Researchers selected Davis County for the creation of a comparison group. After analyzing offender characteristics and sentencing patterns, Davis County proved 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 the DORA program, offenders must complete 12-18 months of treatment. Once treatment is completed, researchers will examine their behavior in the community for an additional 12 months.

For additional information, please contact:



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