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## **Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration Intensive Parole: Program Evaluation Design**

### **BACKGROUND**

The 1997 Washington State Legislature provided intensive parole funding for up to 25 percent of the highest-risk youth placed in the custody of the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA). The legislation directed that intensive parole be implemented by January 1, 1999, and include the following elements (RCW 13.40.210):

- 1) A case management system to include: assessment, classification, and selection criteria; individual case planning that incorporates a family and community perspective; a mixture of intensive surveillance and services; a balance of incentives and graduated consequences coupled with the imposition of realistic enforceable conditions; and service brokerage with community resources and linkage with social networks.
- 2) Transition services that transcend traditional agency boundaries and professional interests and include courts, institutions, aftercare, education, social and mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and employment and vocational training.
- 3) A plan for information management and program evaluation that maintains close oversight over implementation and quality control and determines effectiveness of both process and outcomes.

In a note for the statute (RCW 13.40.212), the legislature finds that an intensive supervision program based on the following principles holds much promise and intends for JRA to create an intensive supervision program based on these principles:

- 1) Progressive increase in responsibility and freedom in the community,
- 2) Facilitation of youths' interaction and involvement with their communities,
- 3) Involvement of both the youth and targeted community support systems such as family, peers, schools, and employers, on qualities needed for constructive interaction and successful adjustment with the community,
- 4) Development of new resources, supports, and opportunities where necessary, and
- 5) Ongoing monitoring and testing of youth on their ability to abide by community rules and standards.

Much of the language for the principles in the intensive parole legislation comes directly from the Intensive Aftercare model of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).<sup>1</sup>

The legislature funded standard parole only for sex offenders. The length of standard parole was extended from a maximum of 18 months to a maximum of either 24 or 36 months for juvenile sex offenders. Intensive parole funding was to provide for up to 25 percent of the highest-risk JRA youth, for youth placed in boot camps, and youth committed to JRA for murder.

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<sup>1</sup> David Altschuler and Troy Armstrong, *Intensive Aftercare for High-Risk Juveniles: A Community Care Model*, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, September 1994.