

PROBATION AND PAROLE PRACTICES: SUPERVISING TO RISK

Department of Corrections

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OBJECTIVE

Determine if the Probation and Parole Division supervises offenders according to recidivism risk level, as required by state law and best practices.

METHODOLOGY

Reviewed PPD policy and procedures

Shadowed PPOs at 4 supervising offices

Surveyed PPOs & Supervisors

Surveyed individuals on Community Supervision

Reviewed other states' programs

Analyzed data on completion of risk assessments, use of MIIG, and frequency of offender contacts

Completed Usability Study of Offender Management Information System

PROCESS EFFICIENCY & CASELOAD

RISK ASSESSMENTS



Completing annual reassessments initial assessments



Difficult to keep up with annual reassessment requirements



Not completing after life altering events



Reducing assessment length and increasing automation can improve completion and use of risk assessments

RECOMMENDATION #1

Simplify the assessment and reassessment process without decreasing effectiveness at predicting recidivism risk.

Department response: **Concur**

MINIMUM
CONTACT
REQUIREMENTS
NOT
CONSISTENTLY
MET

Nearly one-third of
officers reported they
meet contact
requirements for
**half or fewer of
offenders on their
caseload.**

RECOMMENDATION #2

Improve process requirements and decrease caseloads by:

- decreasing traditional caseloads below 70 offenders,
- decreasing the administrative requirements for supervision of some offenders, and
- decreasing the amount of paper processes and signatures.

Department response: **Concur**

IT IS DIFFICULT
FOR OFFICERS TO
IDENTIFY
CASELOAD
CONTACT NEEDS



RECOMMENDATION #3

Develop a method in the caseload health dashboard to easily identify offenders due for a contact according to their risk level and last date of contact.

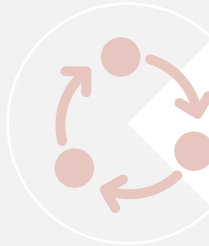
Department response: **Concur**

EVALUATING PERFORMANCE AND PROGRAM OUTCOMES

RISK ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED, BUT UNDERUTILIZED



Case plan and case planning procedure underdeveloped



Need for quality assurance to ensure risk assessments being applied



Level of prediction of risk assessments in Montana not yet validated or communicated to officers

RECOMMENDATION #4

Strengthen the inclusion of offender risk assessment results in officer case management strategies by:

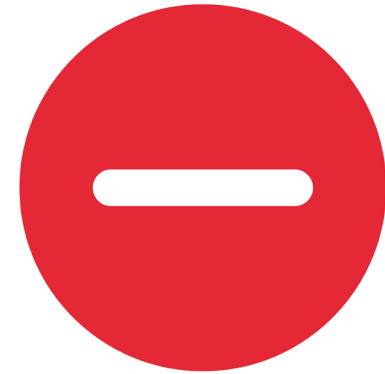
- revising current case plan and policy,
- establishing quality assurance methods,
- providing annual refresher training, and
- evaluating and validating risk assessments for Montana's offender population.

Department response: **Concur**

OFFICERS DID NOT FULLY UTILIZE THE MIIG

Montana Incentives and Intervention Grid:

Tool used to guide responses to offender behavior, using incentives to encourage good behavior and interventions to discourage harmful behavior.



CONCLUSION

Statutory changes, including the cap on rates for jail stays, contributed to limiting PPD officers' ability to fully utilize the MIIG and supervise to risk.

INCENTIVES
ARE
UNDERUSED

70% of officers record
using **more** interventions
than incentives.

High risk offenders are
less likely to report
receiving incentives

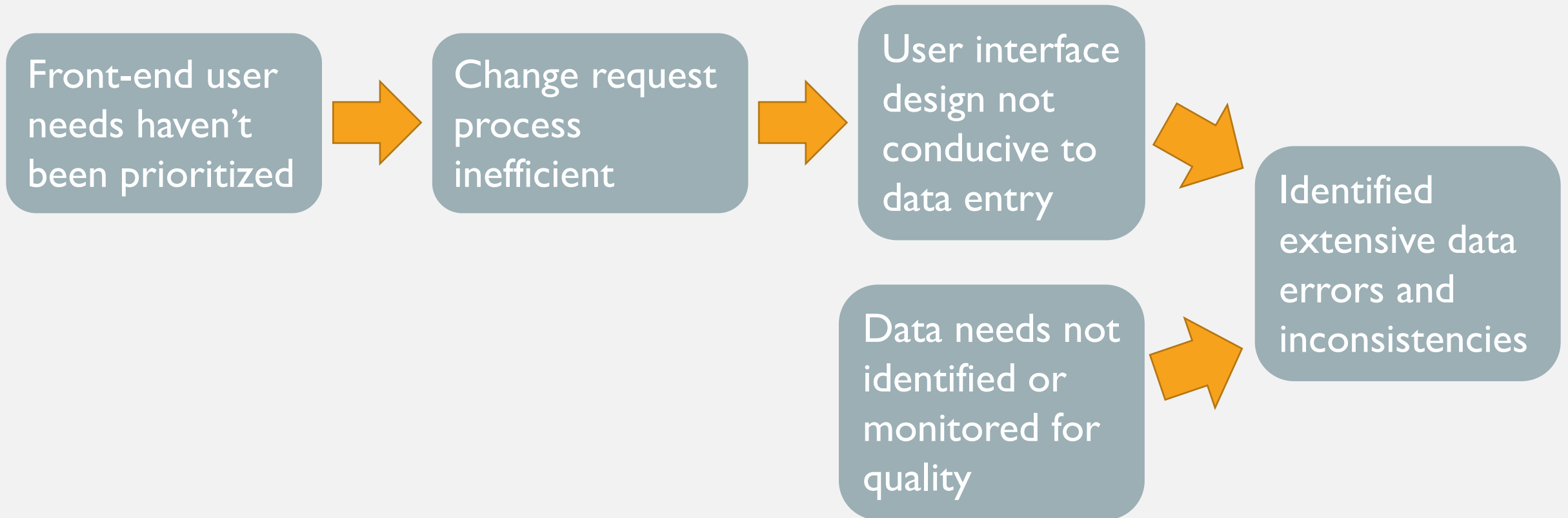
RECOMMENDATION #5

Develop processes for ongoing maintenance and evaluation of the MIIG, including making necessary revisions and targeting training efforts.

Department response: **Concur**

**DATA INTEGRITY TO MONITOR &
EVALUATE SUPERVISION TO RISK**

IDENTIFIED DATA INTEGRITY ISSUE



Need to Consider Long-term Information System Needs

RECOMMENDATION #6

Address data integrity issues by:

- updating OMIS to ensure data collection needs are met,
- establishing a process for prioritizing change requests,
- developing a plan to improve ease of data entry, and
- evaluating long-term system needs for the department.

Department response: **Concur**

QUESTIONS