

# Justice Reinvestment Oversight Committee Report

Sandy Jones, Executive Director  
Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole  
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## Parole Commission JRI Priorities

1. Evidence-based parole decision making (I.C. 20-223)
2. Parole readiness (I.C. 20-223)
3. Intermediate sanctions for parole violators (I.C. 20-229B)

## Evidence– Based Parole Decision Making

- ▶ Parole Guideline scoring developed based on data from past years decisions
- ▶ Guidelines include statutorily required factors for parole consideration
  - Risk assessment
  - Program completion
  - Criminal history
  - Institutional behavior
  - Other individual characteristics

## Evidence–Based Parole Decision Making

- ▶ Individual scores for each factor
- ▶ Overall guideline score for each offender
- ▶ Commission considers the guideline score, and weighs additional risk factors against the score
- ▶ Parole decision made based on guideline score and parole interview

## Evidence-Based Parole Decision Making

- ▶ Pilot of guidelines May through October
- ▶ Pilot data being analyzed and recommendations made this month by CSG and consultant
- ▶ Initial findings show consistent rates of granting parole, but highlight areas for improvement

## Parole Readiness

- ▶ I.C. 20-223 requires “parole readiness” by the end of the fixed portion of offender sentences
  - Program completion (capacity issues)
  - Parole plan established
  - Current risk assessment
- Good progress being made in this area
- JPA recommendations expected to impact earlier program completion

## Intermediate Sanctions for Parole Violators

- ▶ I.C. 20-229B requires technical parole violators and absconders to receive sanctions, followed by a return to parole
  - Up to 90 day sanction for first technical violation
  - Up to 180 day sanction for second technical violation
  - Up to 180 day sanction for first time Absconding violation
  
- ▶ New Felony or Violent Misdemeanors require consideration by Commission for revocation

## Intermediate Sanctions for Parole Violators

- ▶ New structure effective October 1, 2015
- ▶ To date, Commission has imposed sanctions as follows
  - 90 day (first technical) = 95
  - 180 day (second technical) = 20
  - 180 day (first absconding) = 25
  
- \*average days served for 90 day sanction = 63 days
- \*average days served for 180 day sanction = 152 days

## Intermediate Sanctions for Parole Violators

Issues of concern related to sanctions:

### 1. Housing of offenders during sanctions

- Most efficient housing is in county jails
- Concerns by Sheriffs about capacity

### 2. Pending violent charges

- Historically held on Commission warrant until disposition of new felony (technical violation becomes a non technical once a conviction occurs)
- Today, Commission must sanction and release
- Court will address the risk with the bond decision on the new crime until disposition

## Questions?

