

Consensus Question	YES	NO
<b>Investing in Communities to reduce crime and violence</b>		
1. To reduce crime and violence, should there be investment in underserved and/or impoverished communities?	We all know that prosperous communities suffer little violence and crime. Rather than punishment, there is now sufficient evidence to support an entirely new model for countering violence — one driven by investment. <a href="#"><u>Community investment, not punishment, is key to reducing violence</u></a> Kwame Raoul made <a href="#"><u>the connection between investment, poverty, and violence</u></a> : "We must invest in these communities to eradicate poverty, and in eradicating poverty, we will eradicate violence."	Private companies will not invest in poverty areas because there is no effective demand for their products and services and it is too dangerous to do so.
<b>Bias in the Criminal Justice System</b>		
2. Should there be periodic training for individuals working in the criminal justice system to recognize implicit racial and ethnic bias in order to more adequately work toward the goal of equal treatment under the law?	Even with good intentions, people are unwittingly biased and need ongoing training to recognize and work to correct their biases.	Broad-based training detracts from the work that employees are hired to do. This training is sometimes ineffective and therefore not worth the expense.
<b>Gender-Responsive Approach for All Offenders</b>		

<p>3. Should a Gender-Responsive Approach be used for all offenders with the goal of equitable and appropriate treatment?</p>	<p>Gender responsiveness means understanding the differences in characteristics and life experiences that men and women bring to the criminal justice system and adjusting practices in ways that appropriately respond to those conditions. More can be found at <a href="#">Fact Sheet on Justice Involved Women in 2016</a> The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed unanimously by Congress in 2003 and was designed for all jail and prison populations. Among <a href="#">The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards</a> provides that decisions about where a transgender person, or a person with an intersex condition, is housed must be made on a case-by-case basis. they cannot be made solely on the basis of a person's anatomy or gender assigned at birth and personal safety must be considered.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Some inmates would object to transgendered people being transferred to their prison. There is a safety issue and cost issue in accommodating transgendered people.</p>
<p><b>Data Collection and Transparency</b></p> <p>4. Are efficient data collection, data sharing, and transparency critical in an impartial and unbiased criminal justice system?</p>	<p>"The Commission recommends the creation of the Illinois Data Exchange Coordinating Council which would...establish the platform, authority, and accountability that will allow the creation of a statewide information-sharing environment." (<a href="#">Final Report of CJSR</a> , p. 32)</p> <p>In addition, the Commission's Recommendation 7 recognizes the need to "collect and report data on race and ethnicity at every point in the criminal justice system to allow a systematic assessment of disproportionate minority impact."</p> <p>(<a href="#">Final Report of CJSR</a> , p. 34)</p> <p>When reliable data are shared, the results are mutually beneficial for both the State and the local jurisdictions. Analysis of reliable data can identify procedures and practices on all levels that are more likely to achieve desired outcomes and those that are not helpful or that are even harmful and should be eliminated. Best practices and evidence-based practices and procedures emerge from the analysis of reliable data.</p>	<p>Jurisdictions throughout Illinois operate on different computer platforms: operating systems, hardware, and software. To enable them all to communicate with one another would be a major expenditure of time and money. This then could also involve privacy and security issues, with data shared inappropriately—e.g. social security numbers</p>
<p><b>Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils (CJCCs)</b></p>		

5a Should CJCCs be created throughout the state?	Coordination and cooperation between the state and local agencies is a way to share local criminal justice needs and a coordinated way for local governments to learn from the experiences and data that the state has. Coordinating councils are strategic planning bodies that bring together representatives from justice service agencies, other government bodies, service providers and the community to create strategic plans that deal with local crime problems. Local communities receive funding from the state, but criminal justice outcomes would be improved for all if data and goals were shared.	All justice is local, including elected mayors, community boards and sheriffs. Communities do not want increased mandates from the state that are not funded and the local community cannot pay for it.
5b Should CJCCs include a wide representation from local justice systems agencies, other government bodies, service providers, and the community?	Early CJCCs were developed to address huge increases in jail numbers. Jail population growth has put unsustainable financial pressures on local communities and affected families. Bringing together diverse local public health and service organizations can help manage and prevent the problems that lead to involvement with the criminal justice system. Involvement is local, but data is shared statewide	Local criminal justice professionals represent all who live in the community. Their role is to keep the community safe and punish those who threaten public safety. Additional organizations may dilute the mandate of the criminal justice departments.
5c Should incentives and support be provided for the establishment of local CJCCs to assist them as they develop strategic plans to address crime and corrections policy?	Currently the state provides funding for local criminal justice issues from a variety of sources directed toward a variety of local entities, but there is no coordinating mechanism that allows the state to know how this funding is working to meet local communities criminal justice needs. Because there is no coordination of goals and needs to funding, much of the state's funding may be misaligned. CJCCs allow local needs to be aligned with funding needs.	The incentives and support must be adequate to not increase the costs to the local community. Local communities are overwhelmed with high expenses and demands and cannot afford to begin a new project that will cost the community more financially and with limited personnel.
5d Should there be cooperation and coordination between the State and CJCCs in order to share experience and data with the goal of improving plans to address crime and corrections policy both locally and statewide?	CJCCs will create a coordinated way for both the state and local communities to share data and experiences. Criminal justice tends to be insular. By sharing goals/problems, all parties may find more cost-effective and efficient ways to address local problems which may lead to savings in financial and human capital and improved outcomes regarding recidivism and behavior change.	Most crime is local. Local communities do not need the state to direct them on what needs to be done in their communities.
<b>Policing</b>		

<p>6a Is building trust and nurturing legitimacy on both sides of the police/citizen divide foundational to positive relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve?</p>	<p>“Building trust and nurturing legitimacy on both sides of the police/citizen divide is the foundational principle underlying the nature of relations between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve....[Law] enforcement cannot build community trust if it is seen as an occupying force coming in from outside to impose control on the community. . .Law enforcement culture should embrace a guardian – rather than a warrior – mindset to build trust and legitimacy both within agencies and with the public.” <a href="http://www.gbfir.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Presidents-task-force-on-21st-Century-Policing.pdf">Final Report of the President’s Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing</a>, p.1. <a href="http://www.gbfir.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Presidents-task-force-on-21st-Century-Policing.pdf">http://www.gbfir.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Presidents-task-force-on-21st-Century-Policing.pdf</a></p>	<p>None of the reforms described in questions 6a – 6g can be accomplished without the abolition of the police and the prison system. There are a significant number of organizations who share the same goals of structural reform, but argue that it cannot be achieved within the given institutional structure and composition of law enforcement agencies and the power and influence of police unions who resist police accountability and the move from a warrior to a guardian mindset. In order for the type of system of equitable and just “protect and serve” described here to be achieved, they argue for the abolition of the police and the prison system.</p> <p><a href="https://www.thenation.com/article/what-is-prison-abolition/">https://www.thenation.com/article/what-is-prison-abolition/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.themarshallproject.org/records/4766-prison-abolition">https://www.themarshallproject.org/records/4766-prison-abolition</a></p> <p><a href="http://criticalresistance.org/about/not-so-common-language/">http://criticalresistance.org/about/not-so-common-language/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nlg.org/tag/prison-abolition/">https://www.nlg.org/tag/prison-abolition/</a></p>
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6b Should law enforcement agencies collaborate with community members to develop policies and strategies to reduce crime?	<p>Communities must be respected and valued in order for there to be positive response from and collaboration with the community. The community's input and insight is essential if law enforcement is to respond properly and effectively. Both the community and police departments are responsible for developing ways of ongoing collaboration with the community that will lead to more deflection from arrest by using community resources and responding in a creative, less punitive manner. <u>Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing</u>, p.13.</p>	See 6a
6c Should law enforcement adopt model policies and best practices for technology-based community engagement that increases community trust and access?	<p>Some technology is not conducive to increasing trust, so there is a need for the community's input in choosing technology that is appropriate. Types of technology that are not desirable are those that are more appropriate for the military than for police. Transparency, accountability, accuracy and privacy are chief concerns</p>	See 6a
6d Should community policing be the guiding philosophy for all stakeholders?	<p>"Community policing emphasizes working with neighborhood residents to coproduce public safety. Communities should support a culture and practice of policing that reflects the values of protection and promotion of the dignity of all— especially the most vulnerable, such as children and youth most at risk for crime or violence. Law enforcement agencies should avoid using law enforcement tactics that unnecessarily stigmatize youth and marginalize their participation in schools (where law enforcement officers should have limited involvement in discipline) and communities ." <u>Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing</u>, p.3.</p>	<p>See 6a Not all officers are interested in or suited for community policing.</p>

6e Should quality training and education begin with recruits and continue throughout an officer's career?	<p>Better and ongoing training in each of the following areas will lessen bad outcomes and increase better ones, as officers feel better prepared and more confident in stress producing situations: policing in a democratic society, community policing and problem solving principles, implicit bias and cultural responsiveness, social interaction skills and tactical skills, crisis intervention teams (mental health, addiction, spectrum disorders), how to work with LGBT and gender nonconforming populations, languages and cultural responsiveness. <a href="#"><u>The President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Implementation Guide: Moving from Recommendations to Action</u></a>, pp. 2- 30. <a href="https://noblenational.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/President-Barack-Obama-Task-Force-on-21st-Century-Policing-Implementation-Guide.pdf"><u>https://noblenational.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/President-Barack-Obama-Task-Force-on-21st-Century-Policing-Implementation-Guide.pdf</u></a></p> <p>It is rigorous and ongoing training that might finally "abolish" the system and transform our law enforcement into truly "serve and protect" guardians.</p>	<p>See 6a</p> <p>The cost of such extensive and ongoing training for all officers is prohibitive</p>
6f Is the wellness (health) and safety of law enforcement officers critical not only for the officers, their colleagues, and their agencies but also to public safety?	<p>Good physical health and good mental health are essential for a police officer to be effective and safe in their work. The Final Report of the President's Task Force found that officer suicide is also a problem: a national study using data of the National Occupational Mortality Surveillance found that police died from suicide 2.4 times as often as from homicides. <a href="#"><u>The Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing</u></a>, p. 61.</p>	<p>See 6a</p> <p>It should be the responsibility of individual officers to seek the mental health and physical health support and treatment that they need.</p>
6g Is it desirable for police to use alternatives whenever possible to deflect offenders from arrest?	<p>Police are called upon to respond to a number of issues that would be better handled by the public health system or social services. Too often police officers rely on intrusive measures that leave residents feeling overpoliced and underprotected. Police may allow fear, distrust, and rancor to germinate between them and the communities they serve. A new model is needed: one that rebuilds trust, maintains public safety, and reserves arrest as a last resort. S. Rebecca Neusteter, Ram Subramanian, Jennifer Trone, Mawia Khagali, and Cindy Reed, <a href="#"><u>Gatekeepers: The Role of Police in Ending Mass Incarceration</u></a>, Vera Institute of Justice .August 2019, p. 52. <a href="https://www.vera.org/publications/gatekeepers-police-and-mass-incarceration"><u>https://www.vera.org/publications/gatekeepers-police-and-mass-incarceration</u></a></p>	<p>See 6a</p> <p>Many officers do not see themselves as social workers, nor do they want to be seen that way.</p>
Pretrial Procedures		

7a Should we delete the existing position and revise our position based on consensus regarding the following issues?		
7b Should cash bail be abolished?	Cash bail enables anyone who can afford it to be released, while those who cannot, must remain in jail for months pending an outcome of their case simply for lack of funds. They are presumed innocent until there is a finding of guilt.	There should be a presumption of detention for violent crimes. The court system relies on cash bail to provide services to victims. Cash bail makes the defendant more likely to remember to show up for court appearances. Victims of crime would be endangered.
7c Should defendants be detained in jail only if they are a flight risk or a danger to society?	The overuse of pretrial incarceration and monitoring comes at tremendous personal cost to impacted individuals and entire communities. Pretrial detention leads to lost jobs, lost housing, and even lost custody of children.	Law enforcement would be discouraged from making arrests if they see someone whom they arrested on the street the next day.
7d Should risk assessments be transparent and designed to exclude weights that may be prejudicial against certain populations?	Risk assessments are non biased, and are therefore are a reliable instrument in determining if the defendant is a flight risk or a danger to the community.	Risk assessments may consider those from disadvantaged communities to be a higher risk of flight or danger to the community
7e Should electronic monitoring be used rarely for offenders prior to trial and/or sentencing	Electronic monitoring puts the defendant, who has not been found guilty, in a restrictive situation, not allowing them to care for their children, go the doctor or grocery store or perform other essential tasks even within where they reside. Continuing to work can be challenging, given the restrictions. Some jurisdictions charge for EM, unduly burdening the defendant.	Electronic monitoring isn't as restrictive as jail, and provides the community with a sense of security.

7f Must the Bond Court Judge review the Public Safety Assessment that is the basis of determination as to his/her release	The Public Safety Assessment accurately predicts the defendant's flight risk and/or danger to the community	The judge is able to determine these factors without the PSA, considering the 37 factors that they must consider in making this decision. These factors are set by state statute. See <u>Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices Preliminary Report</u> pp. 8-9
7g Should Pre-Trial Service providers remind defendants of court appearances?	Reminding defendants of upcoming court dates ensures that they will not forget to come to court. This is not burdensome and avoids unintentional mistakes.	It is the defendant's own responsibility to remember court dates.
7h Should an attorney or a public defender be present for all defendants, at all hearings?	Because of the complexity of the criminal justice system, an individual needs an attorney immediately to ensure maximum protection of his/her rights	By law, attorneys are provided to defendants who can't afford to hire one. But to require the attorney to be present at all hearings represents an undue burden on courts especially in rural areas
<b>Restorative Justice</b>		
8a Should the criminal justice system be open to the use of restorative justice approaches and values?	Restorative Justice Courts encourage the defendant to take responsibility for his/her illegal behavior, and involve the community in the process or rehabilitation. The victim and the offender are allowed to work together toward a just outcome for all.	The criminal justice system exists for the victims of crime to receive restitution and retribution and to punish the offenders
8b To be successful, must restorative justice courts involve members of the community?	The involvement of community members provides a support system for young offenders as well as victims, and assists in repairing the harm done.	Members of the community do not need to be involved in the process. It is between the offender, the victim, and the court.
8c Must restorative justice courts be adequately funded?	Adequate funding for restorative justice courts promises to alleviate the costs in other parts of the system: reduced reliance upon other alternatives, upon prison, and the regular court system.	Restorative Justice Courts should only focus on the victim being made whole subsequent to a crime.
<b>Emerging Adults</b>		

9 Should emerging adults (ages 18-25) in the criminal justice system be treated in a developmentally appropriate manner, recognizing that those in this age group are not fully mature and culpable for their actions?	Research has shown that most crimes are committed by this age group, largely owing to the incomplete development of the brain, which causes them to make rash decisions and youthful mistakes.	Leave age out—further research might expand or contract the ages involved. Young people are considered adults, e.g., in voting and serving in the military; why should they be treated differently here?
<b>Courtroom Procedures and Access</b>		
10. Should barriers to and within the courthouse and courtrooms be eliminated whenever possible?	All attendees should be admitted access to the court and be able to hear the proceedings so they can understand what happened.	It is not necessary for everyone to hear the proceedings.
<b>Sentencing Laws and Procedures</b>		
<p><b>11a Should we delete from existing position:</b></p> <p>“The League believes that there should be strict penalties and enforcement for all crimes committed with a handgun or an assault weapon.”</p>	<p>Sentencing for a crime should be based on the actual crime, circumstances and outcomes, and not be dependent on the type of weapon used whether it is a car, drugs, knife, rope, gun or something else. In the final report of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform <a href="#">Final Report of CJSR</a>, there are numerous recommendations to decrease all mandatory sentences. Also, in the conclusion of the CJSR report, it reads “removing or reducing the automatic enhancement for possessing a firearm during any felony crime”. According to The National Institute of Justice in its report <a href="#">Five Things about Deterrence</a> it states that increasing the severity of punishment does little to deter crime. In <a href="#">Evidence-based practices and best practices</a>, (p.1) it states that the anger and fear that gun violence provokes should not lead to harsher penalties which are politically expedient but not proven to address the underlying causes of the violence.</p>	<p>In the League’s current position on Gun Violence Prevention states -“The League advocates restricting access to automatic and semi-automatic assault type weapons. These weapons present a clear and unequivocal danger to public safety.”</p> <p>Therefore, there should be strict penalties for a crime committed with a handgun or assault weapon. There is more certainty of being killed with a gun rather than another weapon.</p>
Should we revise the position based on consensus regarding the following?		

11b Should evidence-based practices and best practices guide sentencing laws and prosecutorial decision-making?	<p>In the 25 years since the League position was last reviewed, the population of the states and countries jail and prison populations have grown to millions and cost the states and country billions. Published studies demonstrate that the current practices are not effective and many times harmful. In <a href="#">Evidence-based practices and best practices</a> it states that evidence-based practices are approaches which have been empirically researched and proven to have measurable positive outcomes. Additionally, Professor David Olson, PhD. Loyola University, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, in his June 7, 2019, presentation stated that policies and practices should truly address the problem and practitioners and policy makers need to implement evidence-based strategies to use what works and improve outcomes for all stakeholders.</p>	<p>Sentences are set by statute to dissuade and punish crimes. The legislature proscribes certain conduct, sets sanctions and rules under which the system operates. (<a href="http://www.rstreet.org/2020/01/30/how-conservatives-can-make-prosecution-more-productive">www.rstreet.org/2020/01/30/how-conservatives-can-make-prosecution-more-productive</a>)</p>
11c Should sentencing take into consideration the public health issues involved in any crime committed?	<p>The first recommendation of the <a href="#">Final Report of CJSR</a> recommends increasing rehabilitative service and treatment capacity in high-need communities with the highest priority to behavioral health/trauma services. {Executive summary p.1} In <a href="#">Building a Safe Chicago</a>, the first core component of a comprehensive plan to address root causes of violence is to “Put Public Health First” (pp.3-7). Public Health strategies include violence prevention, family support, and strategies dealing with trauma and the consequences of violence. Public health includes mental health and extends to the family and community impacted.</p>	<p>Public health is too broad of a term, the issue of sentencing may consider mental health specifically.</p>
11d Should there be more collaboration between stakeholders so that sentencing outcomes are more just and fair?	<p>Collaborating with different stakeholders, including victims, accused, prosecutor, defense attorney, judge and probation services, has been shown to produce better justice outcomes. <a href="#">the SFY 2017 Annual Report of Redeploy Illinois Successful Alternatives to Incarceration Success of ARI in DuPage County</a>  <a href="#">Problem-Solving Court Standards</a> where teams come together to improve outcomes for the defendant, victim and community. The <a href="#">Final Report of CJSR</a> (p.26) recommends Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils which is another collaborative approach to improve justice, public safety and reduce criminal justice costs.</p>	<p>An increase in collaboration may increase the time involved in getting to a sentence. Additional parties may confuse or distract from the issues involved. Our adversarial system guards against collaboration and/or collusion that may not lead to just outcomes.</p>

11e Should racial impact statements inform any new criminal law or regulation?	<p>The premise behind racial impact statements is similar to fiscal or environmental impact statements which are required and considered responsible mechanisms of government. The goal of these statements is to determine possible unintended consequences of new laws.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Racial Impact Statements: Changing Policies to Address Disparities</u></a></p> <p>A significant negative impact is the outcomes of mandatory minimum sentences for crack and powder cocaine, which are pharmacologically alike, yet more severe sentences were put into effect for crack cocaine. Crack cocaine was sold in cheaper amounts than powder form and severely impacted impoverished inner-city African American neighborhoods, who suffered more severe sentences.</p>	All laws should treat defendants equally already. A new regulation is not required. Justice should be blind.
11f Should legislation that reduces penalties for a crime also benefit those previously convicted and sentenced for that crime?	<p>Severe sentences have not shown to improve public safety and or deter crime. (National Institute of Justice <a href="#"><u>Five Things about Deterrence</u></a>)</p> <p>Additionally, the cost to society is severe fiscally and community wide, with detrimental impacts on families and loss of human capital in society.</p> <p>According to CJSR, <a href="#"><u>Final Report of CJSR</u></a>, the fiscal cost to the state in 2015 to annually incarcerate one prisoner is greater than \$37,000. In 2020, the cost estimate to the state on criminal justice is over \$1.4 billion. (Criminal Law and Public Safety hearing, Feb 13, 2020). Research has shown that many sentences are so long that defendants age out of criminal activity.</p> <p>When legislation changes, all those charged and imprisoned due to that crime should benefit from the shortened sentence in order to decrease costs and treat people humanely</p>	If someone is convicted of a crime, particularly by a jury, then that person should serve out that sentence even if the law gets changed. You do the crime, you serve the time.

11g Should the charge of felony murder be abolished?	<p>The United States is one of the last “major, modern countries” to still enforce felony murder rules. The felony murder rule can lead to murder charges for people with little or no involvement in the death, such as the get-away driver. The felony murder charge disproportionately impacts youthful offenders who many times act in groups. The felony murder charge assumes that an individual or group involved in committing a crime that ends in a death should have known that death could be a consequence and all are equally culpable for the death. As the recent science shows, “emerging adults” (ages 18-25) are still maturing developmentally and areas of the brain that control judgement, reasoning and impulse control are not fully developed. This group is more influenced by group and peer pressure and many times make poor decisions which result in poor outcomes. In many cases, a charge of felony murder will result in extreme prison sentences, including life without parole.</p>	<p>Felony murder is a charge that can be levied on a defendant to punish that person or their co-defendants involved in a crime that results in someone’s death. If someone is involved in a crime, even if that person was just the driver of the get-away car, that person should have understood the risk and suffer the consequences. The felony murder charge assumes that an individual or group involved in committing a crime that ends in a death should have known that death could be a consequence and all are equally culpable for the death. Those people often are involved in gangs.</p>
<b>IDOC: Incarceration, Mandatory Supervised Release</b>		
12a Should offenders be entitled to humane treatment and access to healthcare?	<p>IDOC has constitutional healthcare obligations. In 2012, Illinois ranked 44<sup>th</sup> out of 46 states for state-funded treatment capacity. This lack of programming has serious consequences for people leaving prison: An estimated 75% of people released on parole without drug treatment for their addictions resume drug use within three months of release.</p> <p>IDOC’s healthcare system is not just an issue for the state’s prisons. Every year almost 35,000 inmates leave IDOC to return to their communities. If the prison system is not able to meet its healthcare obligations, cities, counties, and the general public will inevitably pay a higher price when inmates are released. John Howard Association of Illinois, <a href="#">Unasked Questions, Unintended Consequences</a>, pp3,4.</p>	<p>The population increase over the last 40 years (700% ) has made it virtually impossible to keep up with and pay for the cost of healthcare for inmates. The elderly population has grown by 300%. IDOC lacks adequate physical space which means either early release or building new facilities.</p>

12b Should all programs be evidence-based or based on best practices?	<p>There is firmly established research to support evidence based or best practice programming. Enhance rehabilitative programming in IDOC. Implement or expand evidence-based programming that targets criminogenic need, particularly cognitive behavioral therapy and substance abuse treatment. Prioritize access to programming to high risk offenders. Evaluate promising programs and eliminate ineffective programs. <a href="#">Final Report of CJSR</a> #23 (pg 68)</p>	<p>It is very expensive to house inmates in prisons. Why should we go ahead and spend MORE money to makes their lives easier upon release—for example, offering school and vocational programs while they are incarcerated? Most of us have to pay for college or training for ourselves or our families. We should not have to pay for those incarcerated.</p>
12c Should all rehabilitative and evidence-based programs be made available to all for whom they are appropriate?	<p>About 97% of all inmates will someday be released from prison, and society has a compelling interest in encouraging those inmates to address the problems (lack of job skills, substance abuse, poor education) that increase the chances of recidivism after release. Giving inmates an incentive to participate in these programs through sentence credits is one of the best ways to safely reduce prison population, and through supplemental sentence credits, to improve the safety of the prisons themselves. <a href="#">Final Report of CJSR</a> #19 (pg 58)</p> <p>Criminal justice and social science research has established that recidivism can be reduced and criminal conduct changed through effective, tried and true interventions. Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council , Illinois Results First (pgs 7-8) <a href="#">The High Cost of Recidivism</a> , summer 2018 (pgs 7-8)</p>	<p>Inmates are sentenced to do their time. They should not be involved in programming.</p>
12d Should programs be tailored according to individual needs?	<p>It is now firmly established that evidence based prison programming that addresses the criminogenic needs of the offenders plays an important role in reducing recidivism. If inmates do not have access to educational and vocational training to help them find jobs and they do not get assistance with their substance abuse and psychological problems, the chances of successful integration after release drop dramatically. <a href="#">Final Report of CJSR</a>#23 (pg 68)</p>	<p>Tailoring programs to fit individual needs is expensive. We should not have to foot the bill for inmates to receive programming</p>

12e Should all offenders have access to program credits?	<p>One of the most significant changes in thinking about corrections over the last two decades is that restrictions like this [has to do with denying inmates credit for their participation in programming] focus on the wrong issue. Prison programming and the resulting sentence credit , should be made available based on the individual risk and needs assessment. Preventing inmates from receiving credits because they are repeat offenders or because they have once received programming credit and then committed another crime misses the point-- these are precisely the high-risk, high-need inmates that need the programming the most. <a href="#">Final Report of CJSR#18</a> (pg 56)</p>	<p>Those persons serving long sentences should not have access to program credits based on the severity of their offense or if they are repeat offenders. They do not deserve to have programming.</p>
12f Is pre-release planning critical for successful reentry into the community?	<p>Research and experience have shown that releasing an inmate at the end of his sentence without adequate preparation while in prison and without adequate support outside of prison is a recipe for failure. <a href="#">Final Report of CJSR#20</a> pg 61)</p> <p>Successful reentry programs support a successful transition from a period of incarceration/detention to the community and reduce recidivism with service during incarceration and extending to post release.</p> <p><a href="#">Building a Safe Chicago</a> (pg 6)</p>	<p>It should be incumbent upon the releasee to plan for his/her release.</p>
12g Are adult transition centers critical in bridging the gap between prison and the community in order to ensure successful reintegration into society?	<p>ATCs have proven to be an effective way to help offenders adjust from life behind bars to life on the outside. Prior to the completion of their sentence, inmates have the chance to live in a secure facility while learning money management, educational and job seeking skills that will help them re-integrate in to the community . Inmates in ATCs can also benefit from substance abuse and mental health treatment or referrals. <a href="#">Final Report of CJSR#20</a> (pg 61)</p>	<p>When individuals are released from prison, they should not continue to be housed at taxpayer expense. When they have completed their sentence of incarceration they should find their own housing. ATCs are ineffective since they have rules but no special areas of confinement if rules are not followed.</p>

12h Should the length of Mandatory Supervised Release (MSR) be determined by completion of goals tailored to the individual rather than a strict length of time?	<p>Providing incentives for meeting case specific goals of supervision is a powerful tool to enhance individual motivation and promote positive behavior change. Shortening the period of supervision builds on research which has found that recidivism rates are highest in the first year of release before stabilizing in the second and third year. Front loading supervision addresses the period of highest risk and the possibility of reducing the supervision term through earned discharge should enhance offender motivation to comply with conditions and reform their behavior. Additionally there is a cost saving advantage to the goal-driven supervision, whereby front loading resources in the first year when violations are most likely to occur and reducing or eliminating supervision thereafter results in fewer resources spent on simply trying to catch technical violators.</p> <p><b><u>Putting Public Safety First</u></b>- The Urban Institute (pg 16)</p>	It should be dealt with the same as a sentence. It takes more time to compile a specific MSR program for an individual and is costly and inappropriate use of staff time.
12i Should rules attached to MSR be clearly explained to the offender as well as expected consequences if rules are violated?	<p>The MSR structure should be more targeted, more flexible, and the supervision should end promptly once the period of significant risk to the public has passed. .<a href="#"><u>Final Report of CJSR</u></a> # 24 (pg 71)</p>	When an individual is released from prison there are rules they must follow. They should be held accountable.
12j Should caseloads be manageable so that parole officers are able to play a supportive role with the parolee?	<p>Providing incentives for meeting case-specific goals of supervision is a powerful tool to enhance individual motivation and promote positive behavior change. <b><u>Putting Public Safety First</u></b>- The Urban Institute (pg 16)</p> <p>When caseloads are manageable, parole officers can focus less on the breaking of rules and more on providing support to the parolee.</p>	When an individual is released from prison there are rules they must follow. Shouldn't the assigned parole officer act as a police person and send them back to prison when they violate the rules? Shouldn't a release be held accountable for following the rules of parole/Mandatory Supervised Release? Reducing the caseload is not going to help Parole Officers who are ineffective, enjoy being the "cop" and having "control" over their caseload.
<b>Post-Incarceration and Sentence Completion: from recidivism to successful re-entry</b>		

<p>13a Should all unnecessary barriers encountered by people with criminal records which hinder their successful return to society after completion of sentences be removed?</p>	<p>Among the barriers that people with criminal records encounter include these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The burden of being a felon</li> <li>Debt barriers</li> <li>Housing barriers</li> <li>Employment Barriers</li> <li>Difficulty in pursuing higher education.</li> </ul> <p>A felony conviction should not be a scarlet letter that burdens a returnee. Without access to employment, housing and education, the chances that a returnee will return to crime and prison are great. Instead returnees should be supported so that they are able to succeed.</p>	<p>Even though someone has completed their sentence, they still may pose a danger to the community.</p>
<p>13b Should people with criminal records have access to the same income-based support opportunities and services that are available to others in society and for which they would otherwise qualify?</p>	<p>After one has served their time, all rights common to citizens should be restored.</p>	<p>Those convicted of certain crimes forfeit their rights forever.</p>
<p><b>Funding</b></p>		
<p><b>14a Should we delete from existing position:</b>            "The League believes that state funds should emphasize community-based sanctions over the construction of more prisons."</p>	<p>This is simply a rewording of the position, substituting "and treatment instead of incarceration" for "over the construction of more prisons."</p>	
<p><b>Should we revise the position based on consensus regarding the following?</b></p>		
<p><b>14b</b>Should state funding emphasize community-based sanctions and treatment instead of incarceration?</p>	<p>This is a rewording of the existing position</p>	

14cShould all program funding be periodically evaluated for its effectiveness and to ensure that proper offender populations are being served?	Periodic evaluation is in accord with Recommendation 8 of The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform :"Require all State agencies that provide funding for criminal justice programs to evaluate those programs. Agencies should eliminate those programs for which there is insufficient evidence of effectiveness and expand those that are proven effective. Ensure that programming appropriately targets and prioritizes offenders with high risk and needs. ( <a href="#">Final Report of CJSR</a> , p. 37.)	Won't the people directly involved keep the programs that work and eliminate the ones that don't work? Is this oversight necessary?
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