



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

PHASE Program

Mayors Innovation Project

January 17, 2017

FOR CITY SERVICES VISIT | CALL
DenverGov.org | **311**

Probation and Parole Accountability and Stabilization Enhancement PHASE

A Collaboration of Criminal Justice and Mental Health Partners in Denver:

- *Mental Health Center of Denver*
- *Colorado Department of Corrections Division of Adult Parole*
- *Denver District and County Probation*
- *University of Denver - Psychology Department Graduate School*
- *Phoenix Multi-sport*
- *Office of Behavioral Health Strategies*

Participants:

- Under probation or parole supervision; medium or high risk
- Mental health/substance abuse needs; not engaged in treatment
- Generally homeless

Staffing:

- Licensed Mental Health Clinician with addiction and trauma treatment certification
- 2 DU Forensic Graduate Students

Operations:

- 3 mornings/week: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy group sessions, yoga, and boxing at a “recovery gym”
- 5 afternoons /week staff support probation and parole in court and office and see clients individually; dedicated office

Different Action Different Outcomes

“Phoenix allows my clients to view me and probation in a new way and gives me a space to meet with clients hesitant to report to probation due to their mental health issues.”

W. Zuber, District Probation Officer



- Clients and staff see each other in a different light
- Changing the environment and treatment focus challenges the perception of treatment and self
- Immediate enrollment into ongoing treatment and Medicaid
- Connects and supports individuals with the appropriate employment, housing, education and other providers in the community.

“One particular client (elderly man) had spent a big portion of his life in prison. Every visit was a battle with the client because he was very institutionalized. He asked my supervisor for a new PO.

I began meeting him at Phoenix Multisport and his impression of me changed completely. I was not able to get him to do yoga but seeing me do it with other clients helped him realize I was only trying to help him. He became one of my biggest advocates in substance abuse groups. This client has successfully completed probation.”

W. Zuber

“A client was not trusting of any form of law enforcement and refused to report to the probation building. His mental health issues also involved distrust towards drug screenings because he did not want to give anyone his body fluids. I am able to meet the client at the gym rather than the office. This client has not missed an appointment since the move to the gym and he has taken nearly all of his UAs.”



Downward Dog Means Upward Change

- A total of 377 individuals participated in the PHASE program
- A total of 210 individuals have successfully completed the program
- 16% recidivation on a technical violation during the reporting period (n=165)
- 7% recidivation with a new charge during the reporting period (n=165)

“Through my participation in the phase program and my involvement at Phoenix Multisport I relearned how to manage myself and my emotions and navigate life clean, using physical activity and exercise as an anchor point in my life and my sobriety. The groups I participated in helped me to communicate through my anxiety and the structure of my probation agreement helped me to stay on my medications, off heroin, and on track in life.” KF

