

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I come to you this afternoon as former city finance director in California during the proposition 13 days. We issued certificates of participation to have enough money to complete some major street projects and borrow on anticipated revenues. That was a success, but borrowing against state anticipated revenues to finance a prison that went over budget by 62% and that you now cannot afford to open or operate at \$16M per year, is a waste of our money. CSP II will have one person cells at a cost of construction of over \$500,000 per cell, \$162M construction cost, and a proposed bed cost of \$100 per day.

My main point today is to bring to your attention that you are contracting out \$150M for correctional prisons to private contractors where there is little transparency to what they do with the money. There are 6 private prisons today in Colorado. Their "bed rate" might sound good to you, as the contract bed rate is less than the full cost of a DOC bed. However, you were given a study in 2004, when we had 4 private prisons, which clearly points out that there is an overhead cost to us of some 36% higher than the contract bed cost due to factors such as DOC supervision, legal access, transportation, offender services for calculation of sentences, for example, Parole Board, security, medical, mental health, and staff training.

I have been dealing with some small example private community correctional facility issues for the past two years, which should raise a red flag to you.

You might ask yourself, where is this guy coming from? On December 20, 2007 I found my friend Dan dead in my apartment less than 2 miles from here from an overdose. He had been removed from the Alamosa drug treatment center IRT because he had broken his hand. The private contractor refused to treat him. More recently, his friend Dale was sent to a "for profit" program called ICCS in Weld County, where he had to sign an "agreement". This agreement said that if he failed the program that the ICCS would keep all the monies that they had collected from him, no forwarding back to his prison account, just STOLEN.

Points about Colorado Private Prisons and half way houses:

The motive of any private corporation with stock holders is to make money

Hire only the lowest qualified persons at minimum wages.

They will only do the minimum required by the county community corrections board, who are well meaning, but lack the expertise to do an adequate supervision of a private contractor. The DOC tells me that once they go to community corrections, they wash their hands of the inmate.

We all know of community corrections two years ago in Weld County.

The bottom line is that we have to migrate as soon as possible to publicly run and financed rehabilitation centers, along the lines recommended in the CCJRC study AND the 65 recommendations that the Governor's Blue ribbon committee forwarded to you last fall and that you failed to act on this past legislative session.

I believe that now is the right time to start saving money and stopping recidivism.

My final thought is that those that run the DOC and Parole Board are well meaning men and have done great service to the community for many years, but let them enjoy retirement and put persons in charge who know and can use proper "evidence based correctional practices".