



COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

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February 16, 2022

Dear Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee,

I would like to testify in support of HB 2654 which provides guidance to eliminate instances of people being supervised by more than one agency (“dual supervision”).

I served for the last two and a half years on the Kansas Criminal Justice Reform Commission (the “Commission) and during our work to understand and develop ways to improve community supervision in the state, we identified this issue. Having two separate agencies supervise one person is an inefficient use of resources and time, makes community supervision unnecessarily complicated, and increases the likelihood that people will make mistakes while trying to be compliant.

To help Kansas move forward productively, members of the Commission worked closely with national experts, examined policies from other states, reviewed reports and research on best practices, and heard from various practitioners working in the criminal justice system.

Problem Statement:

In Kansas, it is estimated that 5 to 10 percent of the supervision population—1,500–3,600 people—are on supervision with more than one supervision officer.

Individuals may be on active supervision with Community Corrections, Court Services, and/or the Kansas Department of Corrections simultaneously.

There is no consistent process for how dual supervision cases are handled. And no formal process exists to ensure coordination between supervision entities. This results in a lack of coordination, duplication of assessments, unnecessary or multiple drug and alcohol testing, conflicting conditions of supervision, multiple supervision entity fees, and duplicative case planning and supervision meetings. Duplication of supervision efforts expends unnecessary state resources. Reporting to multiple supervising officers can also interfere in a person’s ability to maintain steady employment. This can have a cascading effect of negatively impacting housing and increasing the risk of recidivism.

This Bill:

The goal of this bill is to provide a framework for Kansas to ensure that people are supervised by only one agency. This bill is intended to improve outcomes for people under supervision and communities, with the expectation that by reducing duplication of services and expenditure of resources, there will also be a budgetary benefit.

This bill requires supervision entities to establish policies so that people on dual supervision are reporting to only one supervising officer. The supervising entity would oversee applicable terms of all cases for which the person under supervision is being supervised. For this to occur, agencies will establish standards to determine which supervising entity will supervise the individual, and address issues surrounding jurisdiction, enforcement

of sentence provisions, and collection of fees. In addition, standards will be established to improve communication between entities and to facilitate a ready means of sharing information about people under supervision.

I would like to request that the legislature pass HB 2654 and support the Commission's work to make Kansas safer.

Sincerely,

[Shelly Williams](#)

Shelly Williams, Director, Dual Supervision Subcommittee Member
Riley County Community Corrections

Dual Supervision Subcommittee Members Listed Below:

Bill Carr, Sheriff

Ford County

John Francis, Committee Chair, Associate Dean

Washburn University School of Law

David Haley, Senator

District 4, Kansas Senate

Spence Koehn, Court Services Specialist

Office of Judicial Administration

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary of Corrections

Kansas Department of Corrections

Hope Cooper, Deputy Secretary

Kansas Department of Corrections