DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Office of the Commissioner

**Date:** **October 25, 2024**

**To:** **Community Supervision Advisory Committee (CSAC)**

**From:** **Paul Schnell, Commissioner**
**Minnesota Department of Corrections**

**Re:** **Commissioner's Response for ISR Recommendations – Deliverable 1**

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## Commissioner's Response for ISR Recommendations

Dear Community Supervision Advisory Committee,

Thank you for your comprehensive and thoughtful recommendations regarding the transformation of Intensive Supervised Release (ISR). After careful review of the proposed changes outlined by the Community Supervision Advisory Committee (CSAC), I am pleased to provide the Department of Corrections' response, as required under Minnesota Statutes 2023, section 401.17, subdivision 6.

## Adoption of Policy Changes

CSAC was tasked with providing written advice and recommendations on developing policy on statewide supervision standards to be applied to community supervision provided by CCA and non-CCA jurisdictions. Minn. Stat. § 401.17, subd. 3(1). The Department of Corrections will work to adopt policy changes to support ISR Transformation as one component in the ongoing development of statewide supervision standards. These changes, particularly the shift towards a person-centered supervision model, the focus on client engagement and case planning, and the standardization of practices across all seven agencies administering ISR, align with the department's strategic goals and evidence-based practices for reducing recidivism.

## Timeline for Policy Adoption

The following timeline will guide the adoption and implementation of the ISR Transformation recommendations:

- **Now through end of 2024**: The ISR Implementation Work Group, in consultation with the MRRA Team, will draft policies based on the recommendations provided by the committee.
- **January through March 2025**: ISR policies will be presented to the CSAC for review and vetting with stakeholders.
- **April 2025**: Policy presented to DOC Executive Council for approval (April 15th).

- **May 2025:** ISR Conference held at Camp Ripley- Training to all ISR agents and supervisors around ISR standards and Case Planning booster.
- **June 2025:** Initial implementation of ISR standards.
- **July-November 2025**: Conduct an initial review of the implementation process, allowing for adjustments. Review standards are applied effectively and equitably across all seven agencies.

**Rationale for Adoption**

The decision to adopt these policy changes is based on the clear need for a more standardized, flexible, and client-centered approach to ISR supervision. The data collected from focus groups, feedback from stakeholders, and the supporting evidence outlined in the Duwe and McNeely study strongly suggest that the current ISR model is not achieving optimal outcomes. The proposed changes, including the shift to behavior-based supervision, more frequent case plan reviews, and consistent use of risk and needs assessments, offer a clear pathway to improving re-entry success and reducing recidivism across Minnesota.

**Submission to Legislative Committees**

As required by statute, the department will submit the committee's recommendations and this response to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over public safety finance and policy. We will include this information in the annual report, aligning it with the department's broader efforts to transform community supervision.

We appreciate the hard work of the Community Supervision Advisory Committee in developing these recommendations and look forward to continued collaboration as we move toward implementation. Thank you again for your ongoing commitment to improving the state's community supervision systems.