

Alternatives **for** **N**on Violent  
**Offenders**  
Task Force

Task Force Status Report  
Presentation to Joint Subcommittee on Public  
Safety

September 17, 2009

Alternatives **for** **N**on Violent **Offenders** Task Force

**Item 387: G.1**

*"The Secretary of Public Safety, in cooperation with the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, the Virginia Association of Regional Jails, the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys and the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission, shall form a task force to develop recommendations to expand the utilization of alternative methods of punishment for nonviolent, lower-risk offenders who have been sentenced by a court to a term of incarceration. The Departments of Planning and Budget, Corrections, and Criminal Justice Services, the Compensation Board, and the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission shall provide such assistance as may be necessary."*

Alternatives **for Non Violent Offenders** Task Force

John W. Marshall, Secretary of Public Safety, Chair

Marilyn P. Harris, Deputy Secretary of Public Safety

The Honorable Jerrauld Jones, Norfolk Circuit Court

The Honorable Catherine Hammond, Henrico County Circuit Court

The Honorable Don Caldwell, Roanoke Commonwealth's Attorney

The Honorable Neil Vener, Campbell County Commonwealth's Attorney

The Honorable Michael Herring, Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney

The Honorable Thomas Jones, Charlotte County Sheriff

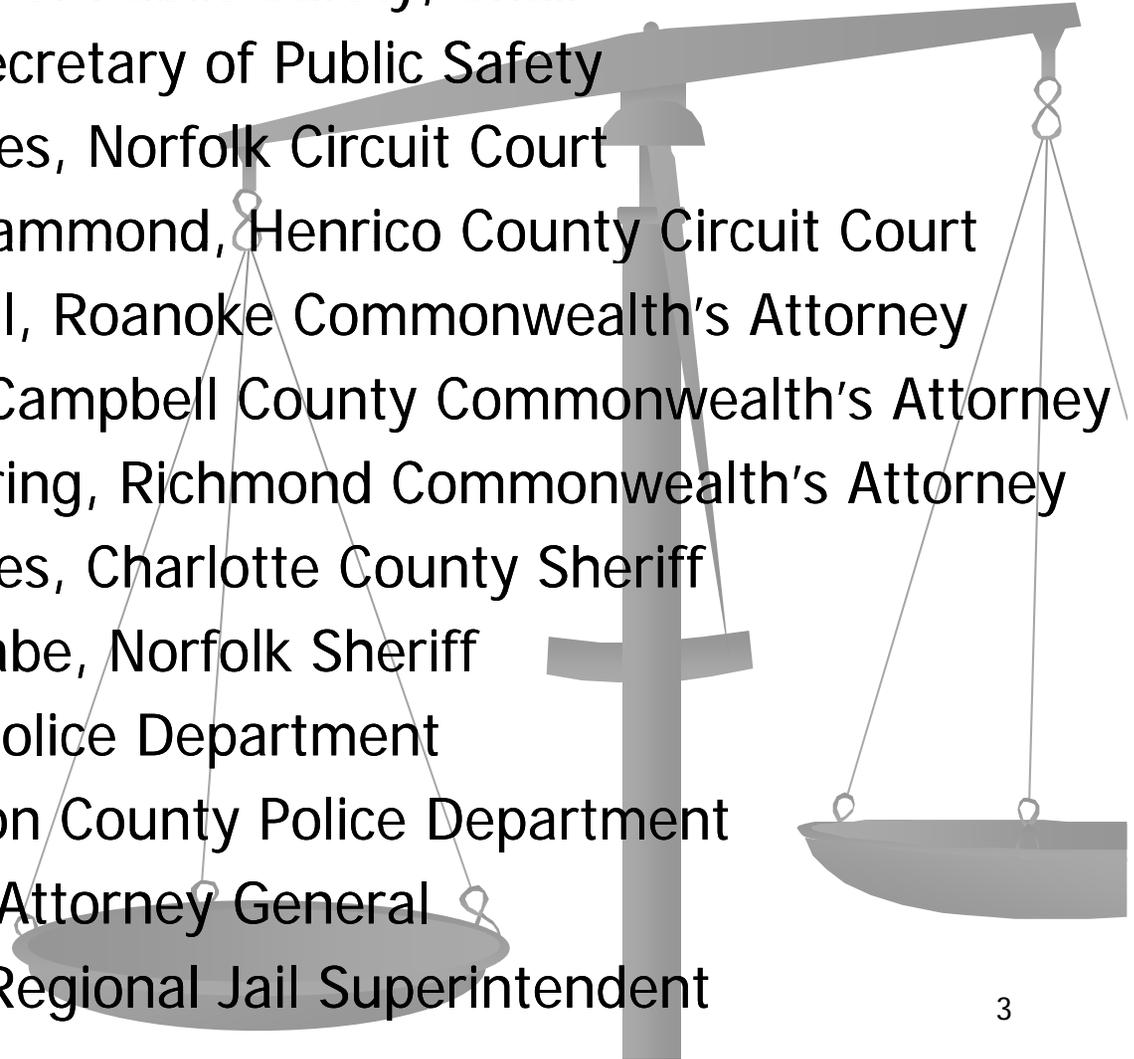
The Honorable Robert McCabe, Norfolk Sheriff

Chief Richard Clark, Galax Police Department

Chief Michael Scott, Arlington County Police Department

Marla Decker, Office of the Attorney General

Lance Forsythe, Southside Regional Jail Superintendent



Alternatives **for Non Violent Offenders** Task Force

Jeffrey Frazier, Northern Neck Regional Jail Superintendent

Peter Meletis, Prince William/Manassas Regional Jail Superintendent

Gene Johnson, Virginia Department of Corrections Director

Michael Maul, Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

Helen Fahey, Virginia Parole Board Chair

Robyn deSocio, Virginia Compensation Board

Dr. Richard Kern, Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission Director

Conaway Haskins III, Office of U.S. Senator Jim Webb

George Keiser, National Institute of Corrections

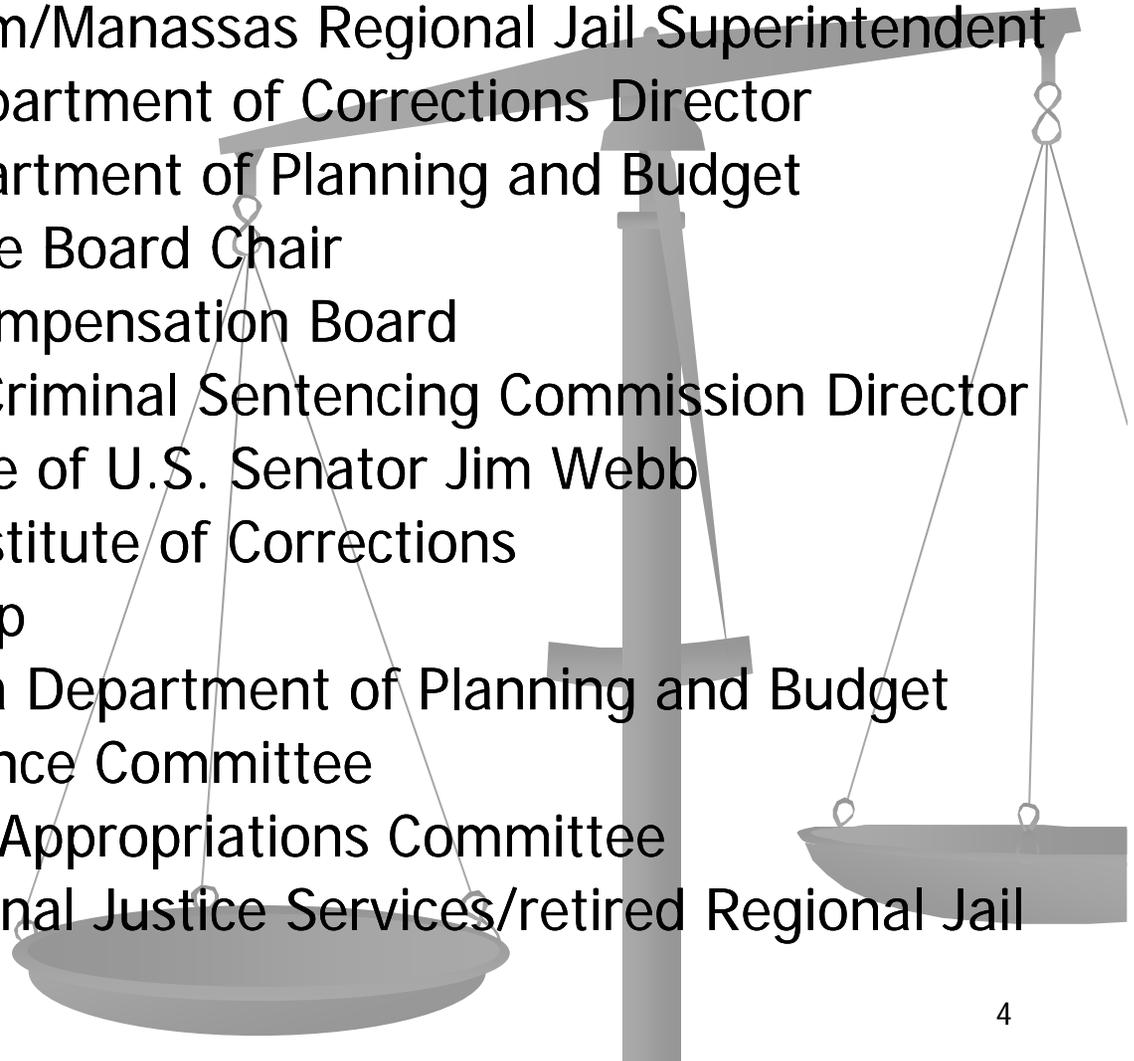
Pat Nolan, Prison Fellowship

Dick Hall-Sizemore, Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

Dick Hickman, Senate Finance Committee

Paul Van Lenten Jr, House Appropriations Committee

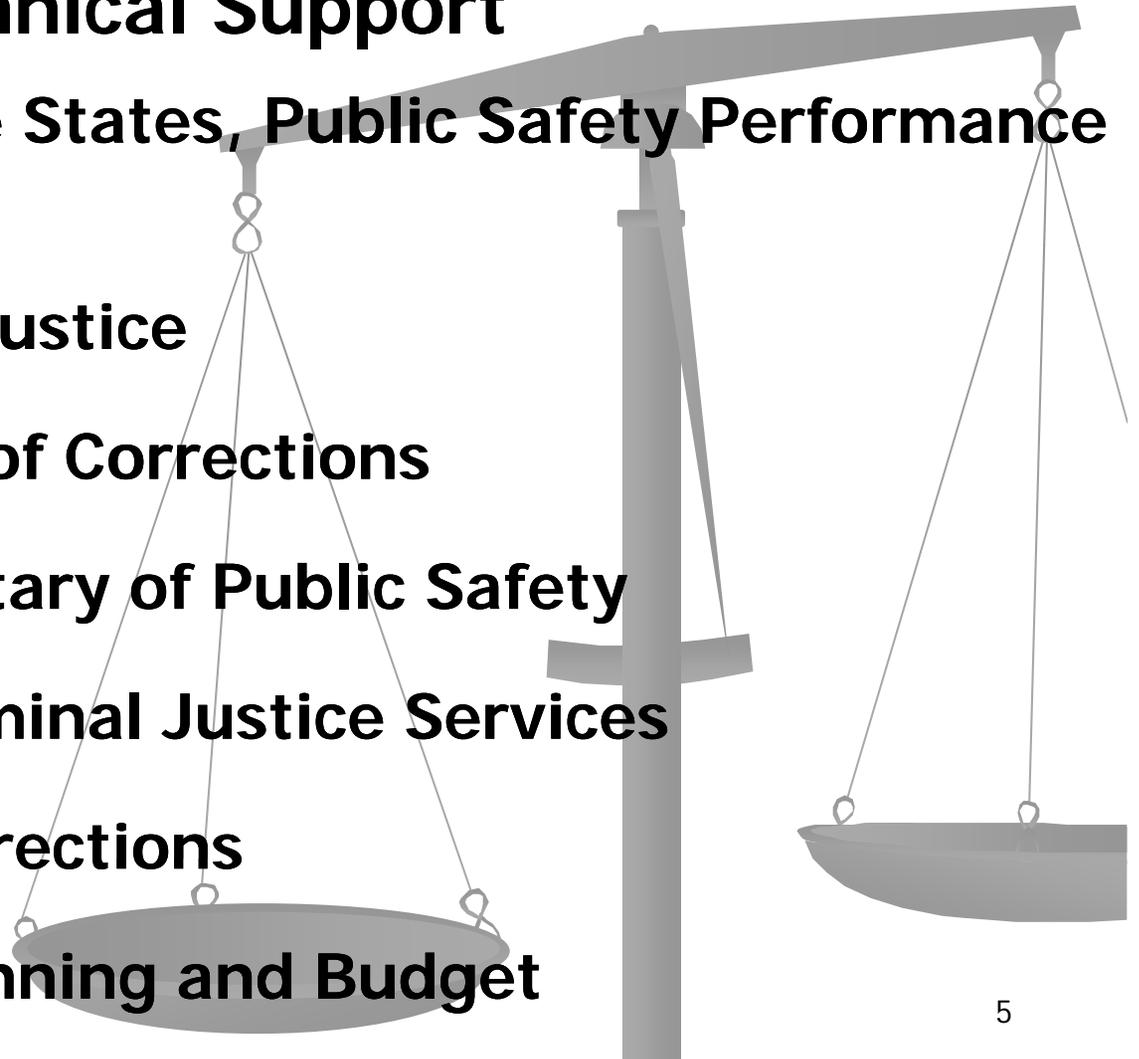
Chris Webb, Board of Criminal Justice Services/retired Regional Jail Superintendent



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## Technical Support

- PEW Center for the States, Public Safety Performance Project
- VERA Institute of Justice
- National Institute of Corrections
- Office of the Secretary of Public Safety
- Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Planning and Budget



## Goal

*Develop short and long-term data-driven policies and practices for non-violent offenders in sentencing and corrections that protect public safety, hold offenders accountable and control corrections costs.*



## Approach

**May 28 – Governor’s Cabinet Conference Room,  
Richmond**

**June 17 – East Reading Room, Richmond**

**July 23 – DOC’s Training Academy, Goochland  
County**

**August 20 – Capitol of Virginia, Richmond**

**October 19 – Provide Report to Joint Public Safety  
Committee, Richmond**



# Alternatives **for** **N**on Violent **Offenders** Task Force

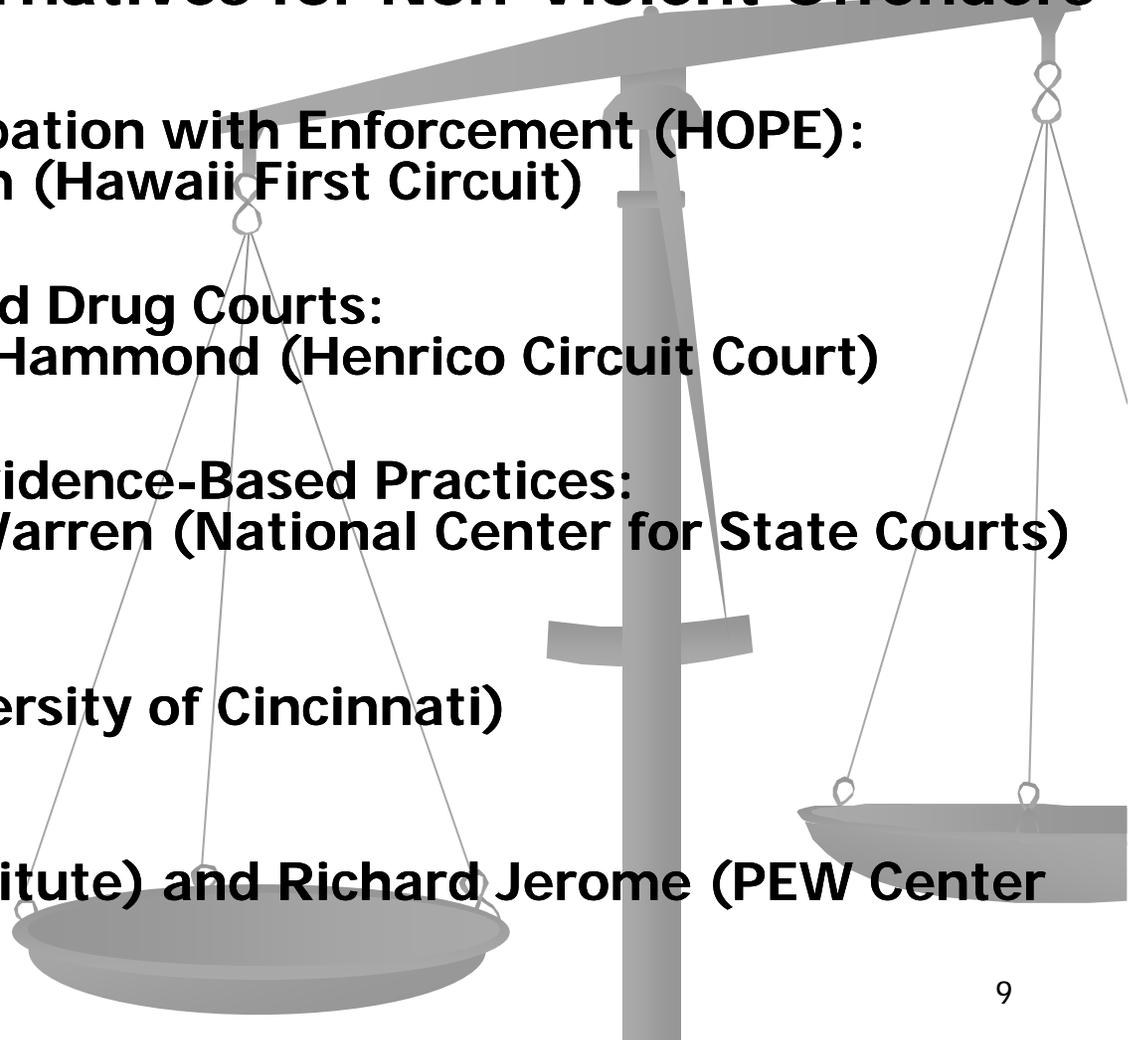
## **May 28: Overview of Virginia's Criminal Justice System as it relates to Non-Violent and Lower-Risk Offenders**

- **State's Current Fiscal Picture:  
Dick Hall-Sizemore (Dept. Planning and Budget)**
- **State's Current Sentencing Practice and Alternatives Overview:  
Dr. Rick Kern (Sentencing Commission)**
- **Community Corrections: Probation & Parole Overview:  
Jim Camache (Dept. of Corrections)**
- **Current Non-Violent and Lower-Risk Population Overview:  
John Britton (Dept. of Corrections)**
- **Current Corrections/Jail Forecast Trends:  
Meredith Farrar-Owens (Sentencing Commission)**
- **Pre-Trial/Community Corrections Population Overview:  
Dan Catley (Dept. of Criminal Justice Services)**

# Alternatives for **N**on Violent **Offenders** Task Force

## June 17: Exploring Alternatives for Non-Violent Offenders

- **Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE):  
The Honorable Steven Alm (Hawaii First Circuit)**
- **Alternative Sentencing and Drug Courts:  
The Honorable Catherine Hammond (Henrico Circuit Court)**
- **Sentencing Polices and Evidence-Based Practices:  
The Honorable Roger K. Warren (National Center for State Courts)**
- **Alternatives that Work:  
Dr. Edward Latessa (University of Cincinnati)**
- **National Perspective:  
Allison Shames (Vera Institute) and Richard Jerome (PEW Center  
for States)**



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**July 23: Discussion in Facilitated Work Groups**

- **Eligibility for Offenders**
- **Effective Alternative Sanctions**
- **Addressing Technical Violations**
- **Addressing Special Needs Offenders**

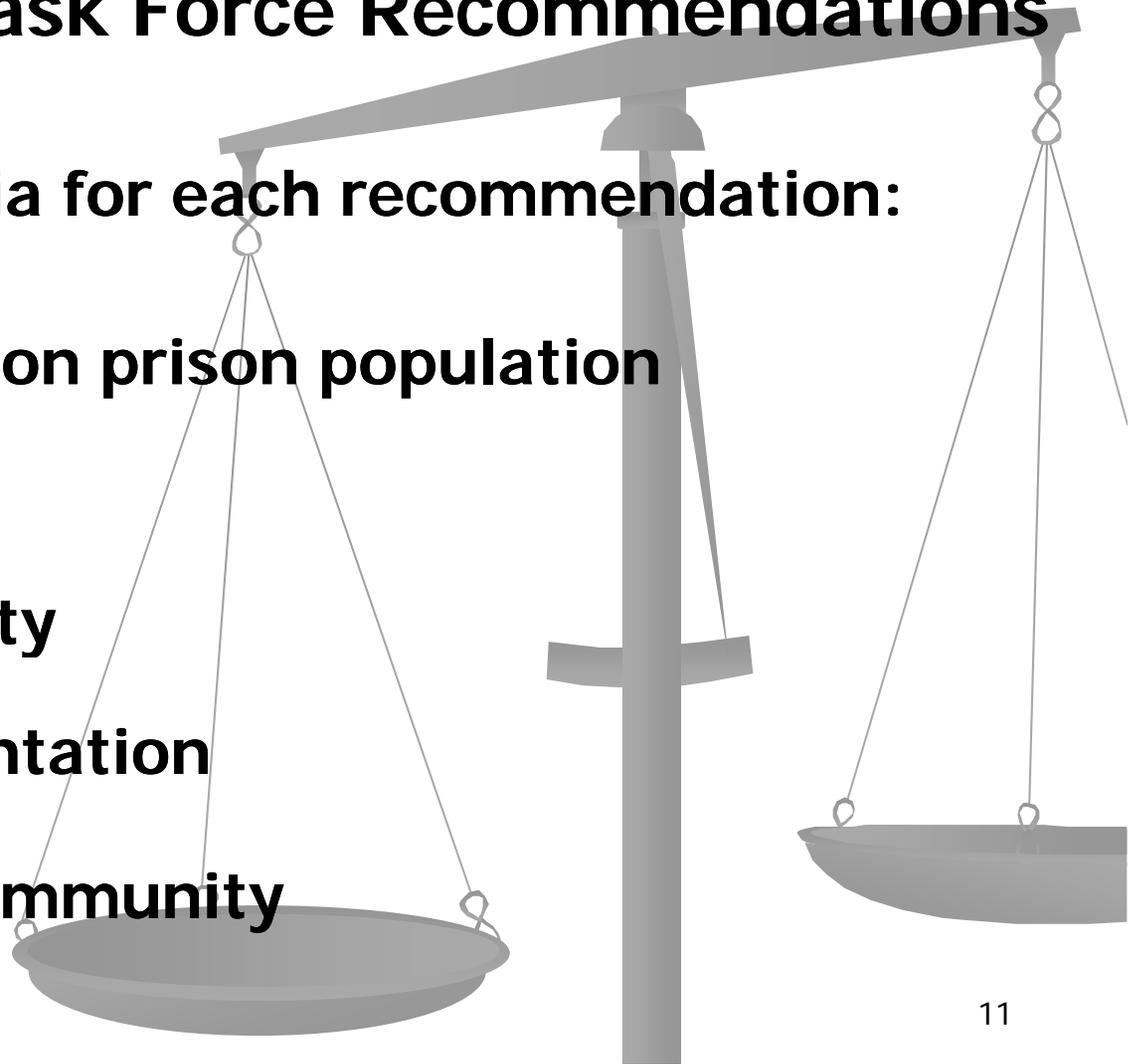


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## August 20: Draft Task Force Recommendations

Considered five criteria for each recommendation:

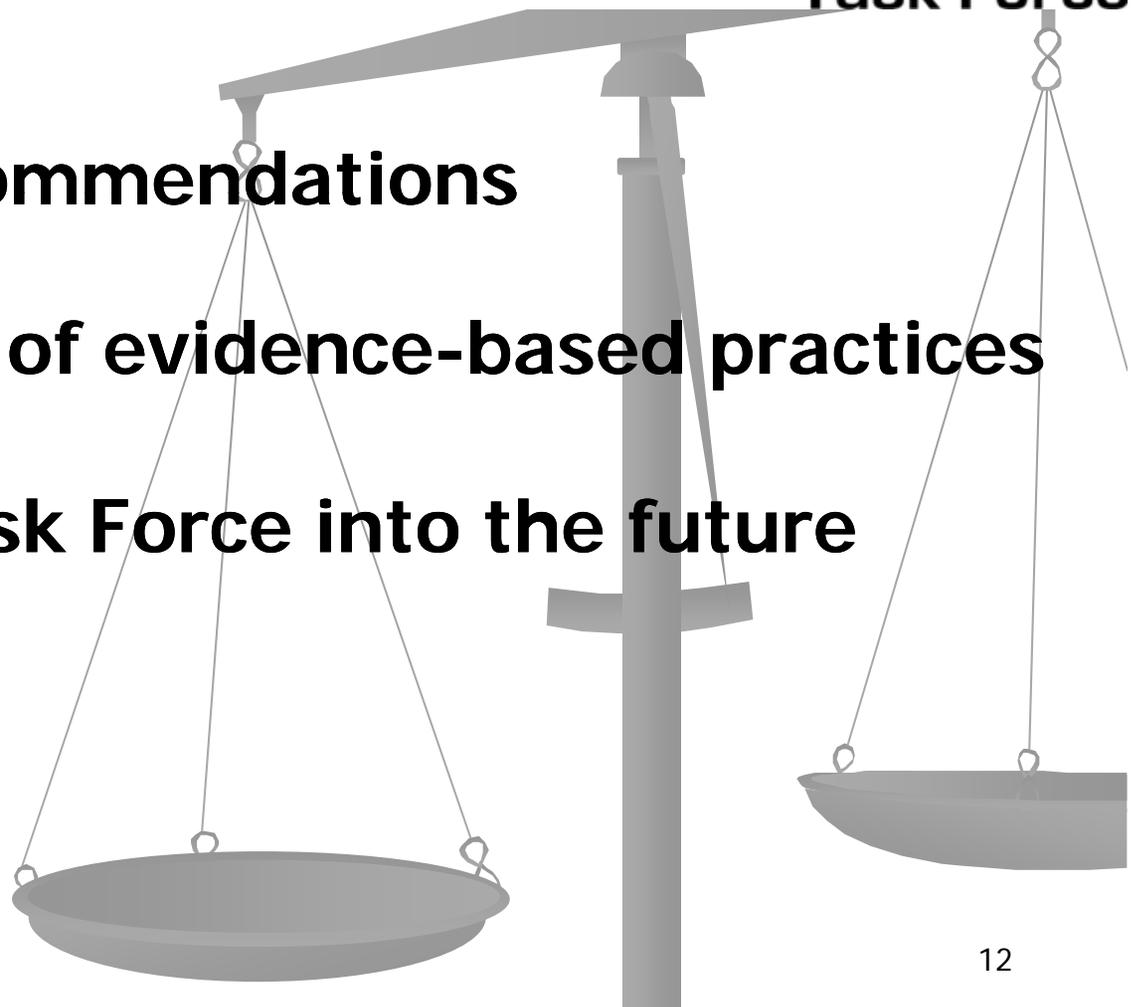
- Potential impact on prison population
- Fiscal Impact
- Political Feasibility
- Ease of implementation
- Impact on the community



Alternatives **for** **N**on Violent **Offenders** Task Force

**Recommendations**

- **Support the use of evidence-based practices**
- **Continue the Task Force into the future**



## Next Steps

- **Expand and refine Task Force recommendations**
- **Provide national perspective**
- **Determine the fiscal impact of each recommendation**
- **Allow for Task Force members to review the report**
- **Finalize report for presentation on October 19**

