

New Mexico Women's Justice Project  
April 23, 2014  
Presentation to the Criminal Justice Reform Subcommittee  
of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee

Legislative Action Requested

1. Amend NMSA 1978, § 31-20-3(C) to encourage district judges to order presentence diagnostic evaluations be done locally rather than at New Mexico Women's Correctional Facility(NMWCF). (LFC)
2. Change the law so that a woman will be committed to NMWCF only if the woman will serve one year or more after deducting from the sentence any portions of the sentence that are suspended or deferred and any deduction for presentence confinement credit. (LFC)
3. Require mandatory probation with mandatory drug or alcohol treatment for nonviolent, first-time offenders with substance abuse problems.
4. Greatly expand funding for drug and alcohol courts.
5. Find better ways to deal with the mentally ill.
6. Fine private prisons for each day that a woman who is on parole remains incarcerated.
7. Evaluate the parole system. Is it effective? Are there ways to improve it? Should it be substantially reformed or even eliminated for some crimes?
8. Require the New Mexico Corrections Department to pay the cost of halfway house placement or the first few months of rent for inmates in situation where it can be demonstrated that the inmate does not have the funds. (LFC)
9. Amend the New Mexico Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination against felons in housing.