



PERFORMANCE REPORT – CONTINUED HEARINGS

The Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB), like all agencies of Washington State government, is using data and information to guide performance management. There are four types of performance measurements being reported on by the ISRB:

- Caseload measures
- Workload measures
- Efficiency measures
- Effectiveness or Outcome measures

Continued hearings is an efficiency measure that has workload and financial implications. Each hearing that is set up takes both ISRB and Department of Corrections (DOC) staff time. When a hearing is continued, it must be rescheduled by ISRB. ISRB and DOC staff must then attend another hearing for the same offender.

In addition, continued hearings extend time in prison for offenders the Board will make an “okay to release” decision.

Continued Hearings Are Costly:

Additional ISRB and DOC staff time is taken up by for more than one hearing.

Delayed release of offenders uses additional prison bed-days.

It is important, however, to understand that there are times when continued hearings are appropriate. It is good practice to continue a hearing if:

- The offender is not prepared.
- Information that needs to be considered will not be available until later.
- Language or communication problems prevent an adequate flow of information.

Board flexibility and sensitivity to offender and staff needs are reflected in a willingness to continue hearings when warranted. A target of no more than 18 percent of hearing that are continued has been set by the ISRB.

A preliminary investigation was conducted in Spring 2006, of all of the CCB release hearings that had been held by the Board. Then, beginning in June 2006, the ISRB began routinely collecting data on all continued hearings in June 2006. This following table presents those data.

Time Period	Number of Hearings Scheduled	Number Continued	Percent Continued
1/1/02-6/30/06	145	25	17.2%
7/1/06-6/30/07	301	73	24.3%
7/1/07-6/30/08	336	70	20.8%

In order to influence the number of hearings that are continued, the ISRB must know why hearings are continued. This information has also been tracked. The following graph shows which reasons were most common in the three time periods. The “codes” used in this graph are:

- A. Offender needed more time to review documents being considered by the Board.
- B. Offender needed a lawyer appointed, or the lawyer needed more time to prepare.
- C. Facility staff was unavailable or unable to fully respond to Board questions.
- D. Offender refused to participate in the hearing.
- E. A psychological evaluation need to be done.
- F. New information came to light that needed to be reviewed by offender or Board.
- G. Offender asked to complete sex offender treatment to help shape Board decision
- H. Interpreters were unavailable or unsuitable for the hearing.

In each time period, a common reason for continuing a hearing is to give the offender more time to review materials. The numbers of offenders who need counsel jump from being less than 10 percent of the reasons to being 40 percent.

Rescheduling hearings prior to the day the hearing is due to be held is similar to continuing a hearing. This has less work-load and fiscal impact, however. This will be tracked and reported, along with data on continued hearing, for 7/1/08-6/30/09.

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