

## Issue Brief – Drug Offenders Reform Act

DRUG OFFENDERS REFORM ACT

NUMBER DHS-07-04

### **DRUG OFFENDERS REFORM ACT**

The Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) is requesting one-time General Funds for FY 2007 of \$647,000 for years two and three of the three-year Drug Offenders Reform Act (DORA) pilot program.

### **OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of this program is to reduce substance abuse.

### **DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

Passage of S.B. 1004, “Drug Offender Reform Act – Pilot Program, during the 2005 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session created a 3-year pilot program called DORA in Salt Lake County for convicted felony drug offenders. Offenders are screened and assessed prior to sentencing and a recommendation is made to the judge. The program can accept up to 250 persons at an average cost of \$3,500.

DORA is similar to Drug Courts except for the level of supervision. In the Drug Court, the individual receives substance abuse treatment and is supervised by the court, case manager, and treatment provider. With DORA, the individual also receives substance abuse treatment and is supervised by an Adult Probation & Parole (AP&P) officer.

The total cost of the pilot program is \$1,417,400. In FY 2006, the Legislature appropriated \$500,000 of one-time funding as follows leaving a balance of \$917,400:

- Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice - \$75,000
- Administrative Offices of the Courts - \$10,000
- Department of Corrections - \$100,000
- Department of Human Services - \$315,000

Based on the provisions of the legislation, the Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council “shall evaluate the progress of the study and shall provide a written report to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee and the Health and Human Services Interim Committee annually on or before November 1, (of each year of the pilot) and shall provide to these interim committees a final written report on the impact and results of the study on or before November 1, 2008.” The first report was

submitted by November 1 of 2005. The Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council developed an implementation plan and guidelines for the pilot study. The report is in Appendix A.

Based on the fiscal note, the remaining balance of \$917,400 from one-time General Funds is being requested by state agencies involved with the pilot study for FY 2007. The following departments are requesting one-time General Funds totaling \$917,400 for FY 2007 which will cover years two and three of the three year pilot:

- Administrative Offices of the Courts - \$19,900
- Department of Corrections - \$250,500
- Department of Human Services - \$647,000

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is the recommendation of the Analyst that the Department of Human Services receive an appropriation from one-time General Funds of \$647,000 for FY 2007 for the Drug Offenders Reform Act. It is further the recommendation of the Analyst that the department be allowed non-lapsing authority for FY 2007 to cover expenditures in year three of this pilot.