Legislation introduced in January 2010 (Senate Bill 3X 18 and Penal Code Section 3000.03) changed parole in California in significant ways, including the placement of eligible ‘lower risk, lower stakes’ offenders onto a system of Non-Revocable Parole (NRP). Offenders found eligible for NRP were not required to be under the active supervision of parole agents, although they were still subject to search by law enforcement officers during their parole period. The introduction of NRP thus removed from parole caseloads a proportion of non-serious, non-violent, non-sex offenders, and as a consequence focused parole resources on offenders most likely to reoffend who are also the offenders most likely to benefit from services.

At around the time that NRP was introduced, DAPO constructed a Task Force to consider ways of reforming parole to incorporate evidence-based practices of ‘what works’ in supervision. The Task Force developed a new model of parole supervision called the California Parole Supervision and Reintegration Model (CPSRM). This new parole model was implemented at four pilot parole units across the State in August 2010, and involved reduced caseload sizes and a much greater emphasis on identifying, and addressing, the criminogenic needs of offenders.

The Center for Evidence-Based Corrections (CEBC) has agreed to conduct an evaluation of the CPSRM to examine its impact on public safety and recidivism. This outcome evaluation will examine the rates of parole violations, referrals to treatment/services, re-arrest, reconviction, and return to custody (RTC) of parolees supervised under the new parole model at the four pilot sites compared with two control groups: (1) parolees under regular supervision at four comparable non-pilot sites, and (2) parolees supervised at the four pilot sites prior to the new model being introduced.