

# Resolutions of the American Jail Association

Revised January 13, 2017



## AMERICAN JAIL ASSOCIATION

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*The American Jail Association (AJA) is the leading industry organization exclusively focused on supporting the professionals who staff and operate our nation's jails. Through networking, training, education, and leadership opportunities, AJA helps develop career corrections professionals—and raises the standard for all corrections employees, management, and facilities nationwide.*



# AMERICAN JAIL ASSOCIATION

## RESOLUTIONS

Accreditation	5
Adult Local Detention Facility Standards <b>[REPEALED]</b>	6
Adult/Juvenile Offender Access to Telephones	7
AIDS	8–9
Breathing Emergencies Connected to Restraint	10
Code of Ethics for Jail Officers	11–12
Core Jail Standards	13
Correctional Industries	14
Correctional Officers’ Week	15
Continuing Partnership Between Sam Houston State University, the Correctional Management Institute of Texas, and the American Jail Association’s National Jail Leadership Command Academy	16
Deaths in Custody Reporting Act of 2007	17
Direct Supervision Jails [Principles of Direct Supervision]	18–19
End-of-Life Care in Local Detention Facilities	20
Gender-Specific Recruitment Utilizing Bona Fide Occupational Qualification (BFOQ)	21
Greening of Local Detention Facilities	22
Handgun Control <b>[REPEALED]</b>	23
Housing of Individuals with Mental Illness in America’s Jails	24–25
Humane Interstate Transportation of Inmates	26
Intermediate Punishments	27
Just, Reasonable, and Fair Rates for Inmate Calling Services (ICS)	28
Juveniles in Jails	29
Literacy	30
Mandatory Inclusion of Public Employees into the National Social Security System	31
Mandatory Sanctions for DUI	32
Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act	33
National Academy of Corrections Funding	34

*Continued*

National Commission on Correctional Health Care	35
National Institute of Corrections Budget	36
Nonsmoking Jails	37
Pay Parity for Jail Officers/Deputies	38
Practice of Strip Searches	39
Pretrial Justice	40
Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)	41
Privatization of Jails	42
Psychological Screening of Applicants	43
Public Correctional Policy on Correctional Mental Health Care	44–45
Reentry of Offenders	46
Staff Sexual Misconduct	47
Staffing of Jails	48
Standards and Inspections	49
State Yearly Jail Conferences	50
Supporting a Respectful Workplace	51
Use of Restraints on Pregnant Inmates	52
Use of Restrictive Housing	53–54
Use of the Term “Guard”	55



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## American Jail Association Resolution Accreditation

**WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association has consistently supported the concept of professionalism of jail operations, and

**WHEREAS,** the accreditation of jail operations through the Commission on Accreditation is a significant step in this direction, and

**WHEREAS,** only a small proportion of jails have been accredited;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association urge that all jails become involved in the accreditation process.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on April 29, 1986.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution Adult Local Detention Facility Standards

- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association is representative of individuals with the responsibility for the management, operation, design, construction, and maintenance of municipal and county correctional facilities, and
- WHEREAS,** the American Correctional Association has developed the minimum standards for the design and operation of municipal and county jail facilities, and
- WHEREAS,** the American Correctional Association has followed a process for the preparation of new Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) Standards for Federal and State correctional facilities, and
- WHEREAS,** there are distinct differences between the management, operation, design, and construction of prisons from jails, and
- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association believes that a process of developing jail standards with substantial individuals directly involved in the management, operation, and design of local detention facilities should be developed;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association establish a deliberate development and review process through the American Jail Association Standards Committee, including seeking resources to support the standards development and review process.

*Adopted by the AJA Board of Directors on May 20, 1990.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*

*Repealed by the AJA Board of Directors on January 13, 2017.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution Adult/Juvenile Offender Access to Telephones

- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association recognizes there is no constitutional right for adult/juvenile offenders to have access to telephones, nonetheless consistent with the requirements of sound correctional management, adult/juvenile offenders should have access to a range of telecommunications services.
- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association fully supports programs that encourage offenders to maintain contact with friends and family and that access should be reasonably priced;
- THEREFORE,** the American Jail Association believes correctional agencies should ensure that:
1. Contracts involving telecommunications services for adult/juvenile offenders comply with all applicable State and Federal regulations;
  2. Contracts are based on rates and surcharges that are commensurate with those charged to the general public for like services. Any deviation from ordinary consumer rates should reflect actual costs associated with the provision of services in a correctional setting; and
  3. Contracts for adult/juvenile offender telecommunications services provide the broadest range of calling options determined to be consistent with the requirements of sound correctional management.

*Adopted on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### AIDS

- WHEREAS,** AIDS is recognized as a serious health problem, and
- WHEREAS,** AIDS poses significant and special problems in a jail setting, and
- WHEREAS,** it is recognized that health care screening, specific treatment methods, procedures, and education related to AIDS are subject to constant change;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association support the following guidelines and procedures with respect to AIDS in all jail settings:
1. Infection control and health precaution should follow the U.S. Public Health Service/Centers for Disease Control "universal precaution" infection control procedures. These guidelines are based on an assumption that no person's blood or body fluids are safe.
  2. Training of all corrections staff and inmates is a critical, essential part of the management of health care. Training should be updated with current knowledge and should be recurring for staff and inmates. Ordinarily, training should be provided to prisoners upon admission and/or release from custody. Training should be varied, with the opportunity for questions to be asked by knowledgeable staff.
  3. Jails should adopt procedures for HIV screening. Such procedures should reflect current public standards and legal constraints. Procedures may be adopted to pursue effective medical management goals and to pursue inquiries into management questions about prevalence of the disease in the population. Confidentiality of results must follow current public health and legal standards. Ordinarily, a disclosure of test results is limited to those with a need-to-know, based on medical, legal, and security concerns.
  4. Referral to counseling or treatment for patients, and in appropriate circumstances for those in close relationship to them, is an important part of any AIDS program.
  5. Management of AIDS requires a policy for housing those inmates who are symptomatic and those who are asymptomatic. Inmates who are HIV positive need not be separated unless medically indicated or unless there is a security or health threat justification. Jails should have procedures and

*Continued*



practices established to handle risk-situations such as body-fluid spill, altercations, CPR, and biting incidents. In addition to training, these may require special equipment and precise directions for handling these situations.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on April 30, 1989.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution Breathing Emergencies Connected to Restraint

**WHEREAS,** Subjects with one or more predisposed or debilitated health conditions have died as a result of being restrained in the hog-tie position, and

**WHEREAS,** the hog-tie or hobble restraint position is dangerous for individuals with diminished capacity to exert strong respirations or in excitatory states, and

**WHEREAS,** there are situations requiring immediate control and restraint of agitated or aggressive individuals who do not allow for screening of pre-existing medical conditions or risk factors, and

**WHEREAS,** individuals exhibiting such behavior are more likely to be under the influence of alcohol, or other drugs, and

**WHEREAS,** subjects who have these interactions with custody staff, either during or after an encounter, may, on infrequent occasions, experience a breathing emergency.

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT,**

The hog-tie or hobble position should be considered an unsafe practice and should be avoided.

Due diligence should be used when determining the arrestee's position, no matter how the individual is restrained.

In cases where force and restraints have been used, monitoring of respirations, circulation, and consciousness are important.

Staff should be trained to identify breathing difficulties and medical emergencies in addition to cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and the use automated electronic defibrillator equipment.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on Saturday, April 21, 2001.  
Re-affirmed May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.  
Replaced "Restraint Asphyxia" by the AJA Board of Directors on November 17, 2016.*



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## American Jail Association Code of Ethics for Jail Officers

As an officer employed in a detention/correctional capacity, I swear (or affirm) to be a good citizen and a credit to my community, State, and Nation at all times. I will abstain from questionable behavior which might bring disrepute to the agency for which I work, my family, my community, and my associates. My lifestyle will be above and beyond reproach, and I will constantly strive to set an example of a professional who performs his/her duties according to the laws of our country, State, and community, and the policies, procedures, written and verbal orders, and regulations of the agency for which I work.

On the job I promise to:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>KEEP</b>        | the institution secure so as to safeguard my community and the lives of the staff, inmates, and visitors on the premises.   |
| <b>WORK</b>        | with each individual firmly and fairly without regard to rank, status, or condition.  |
| <b>MAINTAIN</b>    | a positive demeanor when confronted with stressful situations of scorn, ridicule, danger, and/or chaos.   |
| <b>REPORT</b>      | either in writing or by word of mouth to the proper authorities those things which should be reported, and keep silent about matters which are to remain confidential according to the laws and rules of the agency and government. |
| <b>MANAGE</b>      | and supervise the inmates in an evenhanded and courteous manner.  |
| <b>REFRAIN</b>     | at all times from becoming personally involved in the lives of the inmates and their families.  |
| <b>TREAT</b>       | all visitors to the jail with politeness and respect and do my utmost to ensure that they observe the jail regulations.   |
| <b>TAKE</b>        | advantage of all education and training opportunities designed to assist me to become a more competent officer.   |
| <b>COMMUNICATE</b> | with people in or outside of the jail, whether by phone, written work, or word of mouth, in such a way so as not to reflect in a negative manner upon my agency.  |
| <b>CONTRIBUTE</b>  | to a jail environment which will keep the inmate involved in activities designed to improve his/her attitude and character.   |

*Continued*

**SUPPORT** all activities of a professional nature through membership and participation that will continue to elevate the status of those who operate our nation's jails. Do my best through word and deed to present an image to the public at large of a jail professional, committed to progress for an improved and enlightened criminal justice system.

The American Jail Association's Board of Directors has approved the AJA Code of Ethics as part of an integral program to achieve a high standard of professional conduct among those officers employed in our Nation's jails.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on November 10, 1991.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Core Jail Standards

- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association is dedicated to providing leadership in the development of professional standards, pertinent legislation, management practices, programs, and services, and
- WHEREAS,** the American Correctional Association has developed a comprehensive set of minimum "Core Jail Standards," and
- WHEREAS,** the Core Jail Standards were developed to enable jails of all sizes to improve operational effectiveness and efficiency as well as improve jail safety for communities, staff, and inmates, and
- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association, National Sheriff's Association, National Institute of Corrections, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons participated in the development of these national set of core jail standards, and
- WHEREAS,** the Core Jail Standards supports a component of the American Jail Association's mission to improve the conditions and systems under which persons awaiting trial, serving sentences, or otherwise are locally confined;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association support the Core Jail Standards that provide for the improvement of jail operations, programs, and services for jails of all sizes and throughout all jurisdictions.

*Adopted on October 29, 2011, by the AJA Board of Directors in Baltimore, Maryland.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution Correctional Industries

- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association (AJA) has been on record for many years in support of correctional industry programs, and
- WHEREAS,** AJA recognizes that industry programs provide valuable job skills and an opportunity to instill a sense of work ethic in those who are incarcerated in our nation's jails and prisons, and
- WHEREAS,** AJA recognizes that warehousing inmates is detrimental to the well-being of a society and that providing meaningful, productive programs to inmates during incarceration is of tremendous societal benefit, and
- WHEREAS,** it is well-known and documented that inmate idleness can result in significant institutional security concerns and correctional industries are meaningful, productive programs that can be used to alleviate such idleness, and
- WHEREAS,** correctional industry programs produce viable, quality products and services, which in turn, generate revenues that can be used to offset institutional operating costs that would normally be at the expense of taxpayers;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the AJA Board of Directors hereby proclaim AJA's formal support for correctional industry programs.
- BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED  
THAT** AJA encourage those in demand of products and services to consider correctional industry programs in their options for procurement.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on May 3, 2003.*

*Revised on October 25, 2003.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution Correctional Officers' Week

**WHEREAS,** one week each May is officially designated as Correctional Officers' Week, and

**WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association has always supported the proposition that the men and women who perform the infinitely difficult task of supervising the Nation's inmates are deserving of this recognition, and

**WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association recognizes that jail and correctional officers are professionals equal in status and importance to other professionals in the effective administration of justice;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association honor these dedicated professionals who supervise the many thousands of inmates in our Nation's jails and prisons and give special recognition during Correctional Officers' Week.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on April 29, 1986.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Re-affirmed May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Continuing Partnership Between Sam Houston State University, the Correctional Management Institute of Texas, and the American Jail Association's National Jail Leadership Command Academy

- WHEREAS,** maintaining public safety and operating a safe local detention facility depend upon the effective leadership, and
- WHEREAS,** training, education and experience is essential in providing the foundation upon which leadership is built, and
- WHEREAS,** the Sam Houston State University and the Correctional Management Institute of Texas has entered into a mutually enhancing partnership with the American Jail Association by hosting and supporting the National Jail Leadership Command Academy, and
- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association intends to grow this partnership, providing an infrastructure of correctional leaders for the jails of tomorrow;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association commend, appreciate, and praise the Sam Houston State University and the Correctional Management Institute of Texas for their effort in making this endeavor successful.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on May 24, 2010, Portland, Oregon.*





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## American Jail Association Resolution Deaths in Custody Reporting Act of 2007

- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association recognizes there is a need to provide the community with data and information relating to the welfare of offenders in our Nation's jails, and
- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association fully supports the reporting of data and information relating to the welfare of those offenders in our Nation's jails, and
- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association recognizes the Bureau of Justice Statistics as the optimal repository for data relating to the welfare of those offenders in our Nation's jails;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association fully supports the reporting of data and information relating to the welfare of those offenders in our Nation's jails;
- BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association support the passage of House Resolution 3971 "Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2007."

*Adopted on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Direct Supervision Jails

#### [Principles of Direct Supervision]

**WHEREAS,** it has been shown that direct supervision jails offer a safe environment for inmates and staff, and

**WHEREAS,** direct supervision jails allow for a proactive rather than a reactive approach to inmate management, and

**WHEREAS,** direct supervision jails are generally economical to build and to operate, and

**WHEREAS,** direct supervision is defined as a method of inmate management, which ensures continuing direct contact between inmates and staff by posting an officer(s) inside each housing unit, and further a housing unit contains sleeping areas, dayroom space, all necessary personal hygiene fixtures, and sufficient tables and seats to accommodate unit capacity, and

**WHEREAS,** direct supervision jails are managed in accordance with the Principles of Direct Supervision (attached);

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association support the concept of direct supervision in planning, designing, constructing, and managing jails.

*Adopted by the Board of Directors on November 14, 1992.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*

*Amended on October 17, 2013, by the AJA Board of Directors in St. Louis, Missouri.*

*Continued*

### **PRINCIPLES OF DIRECT SUPERVISION**

PRINCIPLE I	EFFECTIVE CONTROL
PRINCIPLE II	EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION
PRINCIPLE III	COMPETENT STAFF
PRINCIPLE IV	SAFETY OF STAFF AND INMATES
PRINCIPLE V	MANAGEABLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS
PRINCIPLE VI	EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION
PRINCIPLE VII	CLASSIFICATION AND ORIENTATION
PRINCIPLE VIII	JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS
PRINCIPLE IX	OWNERSHIP OF OPERATION



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## American Jail Association Resolution End-of-Life Care in Local Detention Facilities

- WHEREAS,** with the changes in sentencing laws, there is a growing number of elderly and terminally ill inmates in local detention systems,
- WHEREAS,** a number of correctional/detention systems along with recognized experts are studying and trying to improve end-of-life care, and
- WHEREAS,** the ultimate goal is to achieve quality hospice care, specialized education and training for detention personnel, as well as effective care of the seriously and chronically ill as they approach the end of life;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association encourage legislatures and the judiciary to develop mechanisms for the release of terminally ill inmates from confinement who do not pose a risk to public safety, and
- THEREFORE BE  
IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED THAT** the American Jail Association urge all detention systems to take steps to address the needs of this population in a way that respects human dignity.

*Adopted on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Gender-Specific Recruitment Utilizing Bona Fide Occupational Qualification (BFOQ)

- WHEREAS,** Gender may be a BFOQ for jail correctional officer positions due to gender-specific supervision being a factor in increasing security, decrease sexual abuse, and protect the privacy rights of inmates, and
- WHEREAS,** Jails may be required by individual State law and local institutional policies to hire and retain gender-specific staff to—at times—supervise inmates of the same sex, whether male or female, and
- WHEREAS,** The United States Department of Justice Final Rule of the National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape Under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requires gender-specific supervision of inmates in specified circumstances to meet the standards as set forth by the Federal Government, and
- WHEREAS,** Jails not only vary in size and population, but many are located in rural or suburban communities where finding qualified applicants may be limited, and
- WHEREAS,** BFOQ's are employment qualifications that employers may consider when making decisions about hiring and retention of employees, and
- WHEREAS,** a BFOQ, when lawfully permitted, is an exception and complete defense to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which protects employees from discrimination based on religion, sex, age, national origin, race, and color at the workplace.
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** The American Jail Association supports efforts by our Nation's jails to evaluate whether a BFOQ exists for gender-specific recruitment for the privacy, safety, and security of staff and inmates.

*Adopted by the AJA Board of Directors on January 13, 2017.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution Greening of Local Detention Facilities

- WHEREAS,** State and local governments are evaluating the long-term impacts of their buildings, operations, and programs on the environment, community, and economy, and
- WHEREAS,** State and local governments are making decisions on management, resource allocation, and programming based on “green” principles and practices,
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association supports the creation of more efficient, resilient, and sustainable jails through reduced energy and resource consumption in vehicle use, purchase of goods and services, recycling, and facility construction, modification, operation and maintenance to the end that local facilities will, over the short and long term, consume fewer resources, create less pollution, and provide a healthier environment for the inmates, staff, visitors, and the general public.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on October 19, 2012 in St. Louis, Missouri.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution Handgun Control

**WHEREAS,** Americans die annually in handgun suicides, handgun homicides, and handgun accidents, and

**WHEREAS,** young children are killed yearly with handguns, and

**WHEREAS,** the easy availability of handguns often escalates the seriousness of domestic altercations and also crimes committed by young people and thereby contributes to jail and prison crowding, and

**WHEREAS,** homicide, often with a handgun, is now the leading cause of death among young minority Americans;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT**

the American Jail Association join with law enforcement and correctional organizations, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the American Correctional Association in calling for tougher handgun control at the Federal, State, and local levels.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on April 30, 1989.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*

***REPEALED on October 17, 2014, by the AJA Board of Directors in St. Louis, Missouri.***



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Housing of Individuals with Mental Illness in America's Jails

- WHEREAS,** a report issued by the U.S. Department of Justice (1999) found that approximately 16 percent of our incarcerated population are mentally ill;
- WHEREAS,** many of the individuals with mental illness who are arrested are/were clients of the mental health system and failed to gain access to effective mental health treatment.
- WHEREAS,** criminal justice officials are concerned about the increasing percentage of calls for assistance involving untreated/non-medicated mental health clients, and corresponding decreases in available community and State treatment resources.
- WHEREAS,** court officials, already overwhelmed by crowded dockets, struggle to respond appropriately to defendants with mental illness. Defendants often cycle through the courts repeatedly with the outcome failing to address long-term placement and treatment issues.
- WHEREAS,** the growing number of inmates with mental illness and the lack of appropriate resources in jails to screen, treat, and properly house these individuals strain daily jail operations and weaken staff morale. Additionally, the problem compromises the safety of staff and inmates alike, exacerbates crowding, and increases the cost of operating our Nation's jails.
- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association feels strongly that the jail setting is not the proper therapeutic milieu for effective, long-term treatment of mental illness and recognizes that steps by State and local governments can improve the response to people with mental illness who come into contact with the criminal justice system;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association urge its members to improve the response to people with mental illness who come in contact with the criminal justice system by developing and promoting programs, policies, and legislation that accomplish the following goals:
- Improve collaboration among stakeholders in the criminal justice and mental health systems;
  - Integrate mental health and substance abuse services to more effectively address the needs of individuals who have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders;
  - Focus efforts toward providing the mental health system with resources and training regarding the criminal justice system;

*Continued*



- Recognize that the solution to this complex problem depends on an effective and accessible community mental health system;
- Support efforts to establish mental health courts that would effectively divert non-violent offenders from the criminal justice system into appropriate treatment and/or supporting social services;

**AND, BE IT  
FURTHER  
RESOLVED  
THAT**

the American Jail Association recommend that Congress and officials from the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services work with State and local government officials across ideological and partisan lines to accomplish the following:

- Assist with funding State and local governmental treatment agencies interested in developing solutions to the complex problem of people with mental illness who come in contact with the criminal justice system,
- Increase the flexibility of grant programs which enable states to obtain funds for efforts that target individuals with co-occurring disorders who are in contact with the criminal justice system,
- Collect information and improve research regarding individuals with mental illness who come into contact with the criminal justice system, and
- Facilitate partnerships between criminal justice and mental health agencies and organizations.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on May 3, 2003.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Humane Interstate Transportation of Inmates

**WHEREAS,** the extradition and interstate transportation of fugitive inmates by local jurisdictions is a necessary function of the criminal justice system nationwide, and

**WHEREAS,** the responsibility for maintaining an inmate's constitutional rights to fair and humane treatment while under extradition transport resides with the demanding local jurisdiction, and

**WHEREAS,** private transportation providers are not held to the same high standards of humane treatment as are local jurisdictions, and that the provisions for such treatment are notably absent from existing relevant Federal, and state statutes;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT**

the American Jail Association encourage legislatures at both the Federal and State level to modify their existing legislation so as to provide for the humane treatment of all persons who are being transported interstate as a function of a criminal proceedings and that these modifications include:

- Changing the name from "prisoners" to "inmates," as to cover not only those in custody of State or Federal correctional systems, but also those in custody of local, city and/or county jails. The title "inmate" is all encompassing, whereas "prisoner" generally refers to only those in the State or Federal correctional system.
- Expand law to cover transport of all inmates, not just violent inmates.
- Expand law to clearly outline treatment of inmates while in custody of transport companies.
- Expand law to clearly outline enforcement and consequences for violation of law.

**AND BE IT  
FURTHER**

**RESOLVED THAT** the American Jail Association encourage all local jails to insist that private transportation companies be held contractually responsible for the care and treatment of those persons including the length of time spent in transport, the number of meals that inmates are required to eat and the length of time that inmates may be confined in a transport vehicle without the use of toilet facilities, the use of showers, and sleep in a bed.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on May 24, 2010, Portland, Oregon.*



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SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN OUR NATION'S JAILS

## American Jail Association Resolution Intermediate Sanctions

**WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association recognizes the detrimental impact that crowding places on local jails, and

**WHEREAS,** many of those who are incarcerated in jails do not pose a known danger to themselves or to society;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association support the expansion of intermediate sanctions in states and localities throughout America for offenders who do not pose a known danger to public safety. The American Jail Association believes that intermediate sanctions address real concerns of constituents.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on November 14, 1992.  
Re-affirmed May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.  
Revised October 17, 2013, by the AJA Board of Directors in St. Louis, Missouri.*



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SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN OUR NATION'S JAILS

## American Jail Association Resolution

### Just, Reasonable, and Fair Rates for Inmate Calling Services (ICS)

- WHEREAS,** the use of inmate calling services is a key component of jails providing a safe environment for both the inmate population and correctional staff, and
- WHEREAS,** access to communications between inmates and their families is an effective tool in reducing the effects of prolonged separation, and
- WHEREAS,** in its current state, these services provide intelligence to the law enforcement community to solve crimes, reduce contraband, monitor gang activity, and prevent illegal contact with victims and witnesses, while keeping the community safe from unwanted harassment, and
- WHEREAS,** the tools that provide law enforcement with the necessary intelligence and monitoring capabilities to protect the public, as well as the jail environment, have a cost associated with them;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association support efforts to ensure just, reasonable, and fair calling rates for all parties that can attract and sustain quality inmate calling services in our Nation's jails.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on August 22, 2014. (Electronic vote)*



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SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN OUR NATION'S JAILS

## American Jail Association Resolution

### Juveniles in Jails

- WHEREAS,** juveniles charged with certain major crimes in most States may be legally housed in jails, and
- WHEREAS,** juveniles certified to stand trial as an adult in most States may be legally housed in jails, and
- WHEREAS,** according to law in most States, juveniles must be housed separately from adult inmates and this may result in costly additional expenditures for staff and training, and
- WHEREAS,** juveniles, if housed with adult criminals, may fall victim to homosexual rape and other violence, and
- WHEREAS,** juveniles, while they may meet the requirements to stand trial as adults, may be found innocent of the crime, and
- WHEREAS,** juveniles housed in adult jails may use the experience to escalate their criminal standing with peers when returned to society, and
- WHEREAS,** the care and legal requirements of housing juveniles are not a part of an adult jail facility's responsibilities, and require specially trained staff and specially designed programming which are not readily available in an adult facility, and
- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association is dedicated to the safe, secure, and humane care, and treatment of all prisoners in adult jail facilities through constitutionally managed jails;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association be opposed in concept to housing juveniles in any jail unless that facility is specifically designed for juvenile detention and staffed with specially trained personnel.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on May 22, 1990.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Literacy

**WHEREAS,** numerous studies have demonstrated that the literacy rate of offenders is significantly lower than the population at large, and

**WHEREAS,** literacy is a necessary skill to both getting and keeping a good job, and

**WHEREAS,** employment has consistently demonstrated a link to the reduction of criminal recidivism, and

**WHEREAS,** the education of all its citizens is a fundamental precept on which the United States of America was founded;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT**

the American Jail Association support the development and operation of literacy programs in this Nation's jails to ensure that illiterates may avail themselves of this necessary skill.

And be it further resolved that the American Jail Association support programs, which commit necessary resources toward teaching inmates basic reading and writing skills through various methods.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on April 30, 1990.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Re-affirmed May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN OUR NATION'S JAILS

## American Jail Association Resolution

### Mandatory Inclusion of Public Employees into the National Social Security System

- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association, Inc., (AJA) is an organization created to further the improvement of conditions of confinement of persons detained or sentenced in American jails; to advance professionalism in corrections; to provide leadership in the development of professional standards, management practices, programs and services; and to advance the interests, needs, concerns, and proficiency of the corrections profession as dictated by the association membership; and
- WHEREAS,** AJA has determined that one or more members of Congress may be considering legislation for the mandatory inclusion of all public employees into the national Social Security System, including correctional officers, managers, and support personnel who are currently participating in retirement programs approved by local and State authorities, and
- WHEREAS,** AJA believes that mandatory inclusion of all public employees, including correctional officers, managers, and support personnel into the national Social Security System at this point in time or in the future would be contrary to and inconsistent with amendments to the National Social Security Act as enacted in the 1950s, giving public employer and employees the right and option not to be included in the national Social Security System, and
- WHEREAS,** AJA finds that mandatory inclusion of all public employees into the national Social Security System will impose a substantial and adverse fiscal impact on local and State governments at a time when the cost of operating government is at an all time high, and
- WHEREAS,** AJA finds that current rules, regulations, and benefits available to contributors in the national Social Security System fail to take into consideration the unique stress and trauma factors associated with the corrections profession, requiring retirement from the profession prior to the effective date of benefits that would be available from Social Security, and
- WHEREAS,** AJA finds that additional payroll deductions from the income paid to public employees would have a negative impact on the morale of public employees and public service;
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** by the Board of Directors of the American Jail Association that the Association go on record with other criminal justice organizations and associations in opposition to any federal legislation that mandates involuntary inclusion of public employees, including correctional officer, managers, and support personnel into the national Social Security System, now or in the future.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors, October 23, 1999, Hagerstown, Maryland.  
Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Mandatory Sanctions for DUI

**WHEREAS,** there is a high incidence of death caused by drunk drivers, and

**WHEREAS,** our citizens have made it clear that the devastation and costs associated with drunk driving will not be tolerated, and

**WHEREAS,** deterrence of drunk driving can be achieved through well publicized, mandatory sanctions for first time and repeat offenders, and

**WHEREAS,** jail professionals throughout the country have developed specialized programs and facilities for these offenders, including education and community service components;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association go on record as supporting mandatory sanctions, accompanied by a treatment program, for offenders convicted of DUI.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on April 26, 1988.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*





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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act

- WHEREAS,** the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that more than 16 percent of adults incarcerated in U.S. jails and prisons have a mental illness, and
- WHEREAS,** the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reports that more than 20 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have serious mental health problems and many more have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders, and
- WHEREAS,** the majority of these individuals have illnesses or disorders that are responsive to treatment programs located in the community, and
- WHEREAS,** the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment & Crime Reduction Act was introduced in Congress to provide local communities the resources they need to develop innovative solutions to avoid the criminalization of those with mental illness, and
- WHEREAS,** the legislation creates planning and implementation grants for communities to offer treatment and other services—including housing, education and job placement—to mentally ill offenders, and
- WHEREAS,** grants under the legislation would allow for the establishment and expansion of community-based treatment programs, in adult and juvenile detention facilities, jail treatment programs, and transitional services, and
- WHEREAS,** grants under the legislation can be utilized to enhance training for criminal justice personnel and mental health system personnel who must understand how to respond appropriately to this population;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association urge Congress to adopt the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act, and
- BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association supports full funding of the provisions of the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act.

*Adopted on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution National Academy of Corrections Funding

**WHEREAS,** the local funding for correctional officer training is severely limited, and

**WHEREAS,** the National Institute of Corrections, through the National Academy [of Corrections], has consistently been a leader in providing quality training for correctional officers, supervisors, and managers, and

**WHEREAS,** proper training has been proved to reduce allegations of inmate abuse, litigation, and employee turnover;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association go on record as recommending to the United States Department of Justice that funding for the National Academy of Corrections be maintained at an adequate level to provide training to local corrections, and concerted efforts be made to continue the quality and quantity of training provided.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on April 29, 1986.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution National Commission on Correctional Health Care

**WHEREAS,** adequate and responsible medical care of prisoners in jails is one of the foremost responsibilities of a jail, and

**WHEREAS,** a poorly run or inadequate medical program creates the most opportunity for liability in a jail, an accredited medical program expedites responsible and medical care of prisoners in a jail, and

**WHEREAS,** the National Commission on Correctional Health Care is an agency whose only purpose is the accreditation of health care services and program in jails and prisons;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOVLED  
THAT**

the American Jail Association support the National Commission on Correctional Health Care's efforts to accredit the medical program in jails through voluntary compliance with NCCHC standards.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on April 30, 1990.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution National Institute of Corrections Budget

- WHEREAS,** the National Institute of Corrections, an agency of the Department of Justice, was created by Congress to provide assistance to State and local corrections nationwide, and
- WHEREAS,** the National Institute of Corrections has proven to be an invaluable source of information, training, and technical assistance to the Nation's jails and correctional professionals, and
- WHEREAS,** the Nation's jails, both large and small, could not hope to meet and maintain the professional standards of today without the assistance of a national agency such as the National Institute of Corrections, and
- WHEREAS,** the delivery of these services is now more important than ever given the tremendous pressures confronting the American jails and correctional systems;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association go on record as strongly opposing any cutback of the National Institute of Corrections' budget or the services it delivers, and recommends that a process for funding increases be developed which would increase their budget proportionately to the increase in the numbers of prisoners being held in the Nation's jails and corrections systems and adjusting for the inflation factors.
- FURTHER  
BE IT  
RESOLVED  
THAT** this resolution, upon adoption, be immediately forwarded to the President, Attorney General, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of the United States, and
- that the President and Board of Directors of the American Jail Association take actions annually as necessary to continue their support for the National Institute of Corrections.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on October 23, 1993.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution Nonsmoking Jails

**WHEREAS,** it has been found that many disabilities such as respiratory diseases, hypertension, and heart disease may be caused by smoking, and

**WHEREAS,** the United States Surgeon General and National Academy of Sciences scientists have stated that environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), caused by sidestream smoke coming off the burning end of cigarettes and exhaled smoke, is as dangerous to the nonsmoking population as it is to smokers because of the substances emitted, and

**WHEREAS,** correctional employees are exposed to passive smoke created by inmates, and

**WHEREAS,** fire safety is of ever-increasing concern in the correctional environment, and

**WHEREAS,** according to *Fire Safety in Correctional Facilities*, a study by the National Fire Protection Association, 85 percent of fires in correctional institutions were started by use of smoking materials, and

**WHEREAS,** smoking contributes to the deterioration of correctional facilities housing inmates by turning walls yellow from nicotine, clogging vents, creating cigarette burns on furnishings, and requiring high costs for maintenance and repair, and

**WHEREAS,** nonsmoking employees and prisoners have a right to work and live in a smoke-free environment;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association support the implementation of nonsmoking policies in jails.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on May 20, 1990.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Revised on May 3, 2003.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Pay Parity for Jail Officers/Deputies

**WHEREAS,** the National Sheriffs' Association study *The State of Our Nation's Jails—1982* cited a number of sheriffs' departments where jail officers/deputies are paid less than other members of the sheriffs' department, and

**WHEREAS,** the disparity between salaries is a contributing factor in job turnover among jail personnel and helps to defeat the purpose of developing a professionally trained jail cadre;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association go on record supporting the position of pay parity for jail officers/deputies with law enforcement counterparts.

(Guideline 039 A of the National Sheriffs' Association *Jail Audit Manual—A Systems Approach to Jail Evaluation* reads: "Are salary levels and employee benefits for jail officers comparable with those for law enforcement officers working in the same municipality?")

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on April 29, 1986.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution Practice of Strip Searches

**WHEREAS,** detention facilities have the obligation to provide a safe and secure environment for their inmates, and

**WHEREAS,** a strip search is any search that includes the viewing of a naked or partially clad body, and and

**WHEREAS,** the use of strip searches to prevent the introduction of contraband into the jail general population, identify gang affiliations of incoming arrestees by observing tattoos and other body markings, and prevent the spread of disease and identify injuries, has been validated by the United States Supreme Court;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT**

the American Jail Association endorses the creation of policy and procedure in local jails that ensures that strip searches are:

- Done in the least intrusive and professional fashion.
- Gender specific ( male observing male, female observing female).
- Never done in a group setting.
- Not performed on new arrests who have not yet entered into “general population” unless sufficient cause exists to require an earlier search in accordance with State and Federal law.

**BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED  
THAT**

the American Jail Association encourages all local jails to develop policy, procedures and training for the appropriate and constitutionally sound strip search of transsexual, transgender and intersex arrestees.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on April 26, 2013.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Pretrial Justice

- WHEREAS,** the jails are populated by a majority of individuals in a pretrial status;
- WHEREAS,** the purposes of bail are to assure appearance in court and protect community safety;
- WHEREAS,** pretrial services can provide neutral and objective information required to make an appropriate bail recommendation to the court by utilizing tools such as risk assessments and drug and mental health screening instruments;
- WHEREAS,** crowded jails present a safety concern for jail administration and officer safety;
- WHEREAS,** pretrial supervision can be a safe and cost effective alternative to jail for those awaiting trial;
- WHEREAS,** the bond industry provides little or no supervision of those individuals awaiting trial;
- WHEREAS,** pretrial supervision provides accountability for those awaiting trial resulting in improved public safety and integrity of the judicial process;
- WHEREAS,** pretrial supervision offers access to services such as substance abuse and mental health treatment, often resulting in diversion programs in lieu of prosecution and thereby decreasing jail populations, while commercial sureties do not;
- WHEREAS,** pretrial officers compile reports on those they supervise, noting compliance with conditions, while commercial sureties do not;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** that the Board of Directors of the American Jail Association recognize the value of high-functioning pretrial services agencies to enhance public and officer safety, safeguard the judicial process, and aid jail administrators in safely managing jail populations.

*Adopted on October 24, 2010, by the AJA Board of Directors in Baltimore, Maryland.*





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## American Jail Association Resolution Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

**WHEREAS,** the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, signed into law on September 3, 2003 (Public Law No: 108-79), was designed to study the prevalence of offender-on-offender and Staff-on-offender sexual assault in correctional institutions and,

**WHEREAS,** Correctional professionals, researchers, advocates, and survivors conducted extensive research to analyze the data collected and create a set of standards to address sexual abuse in correctional facilities and,

**WHEREAS,** in 2012, the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission implemented a set of national standards for the detection, prevention, reduction, and punishment of sexual assault and,

**WHEREAS,** the standards established zero-tolerance for sexual abuse while striking a balance between inmate's rights to be free from sexual abuse with the need for institutional security,

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association recognizes the importance of PREA, supports the implementation of the nationally recommended standards, and encourages U.S. jails to participate in PREA standards compliance.

*Adopted on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.  
Revised and approved on January 13, 2017 by the AJA Board of Directors.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution Privatization of Jails

**WHEREAS,** the jails have traditionally been operated by city, county, State, or Federal agents, and

**WHEREAS,** jail officials throughout this country are professional and proficient in discharging their duties, and

**WHEREAS,** responsibility and constitutional liability of jail operations rest squarely on the shoulders of the officials in charge of the jails and privatization does not relieve jail officials of responsibility or liability of private jail operations, and

**WHEREAS,** private providers often are not held to the same high standard of public disclosure as is government, thus diminishing the public's ability to know how their jail is operating;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the American Jail Association that the Association shall go on record as reaffirming its opposition to the privatization of jails—city, State, county, or Federal.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on November 2, 1996, revising and reaffirming the Association's original resolution of 1985.  
Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution Psychological Screening of Applicants

- WHEREAS,** psychological screening as part of minimum applicant standards for law enforcement and corrections positions is being required by more and more State governments and jail administrators, and
- WHEREAS,** there will be a continued rise in the prevalence of psychological screening programs for applicants for law enforcement and correctional positions as a result of Federal and State statutes, directives, court orders, and prudent jail management policy, and
- WHEREAS,** the failure to require psychological screening of applicants for law enforcement and correctional positions can result in serious consequences for jail administration and corrections personnel, inmates, related agencies, and public safety;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association encourage and support efforts and activities that will require appropriate psychological screening for law enforcement and correctional employee applicants in accordance with the provisions of current Federal and State statutes, case law, and related professional standards and guidelines.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on April 29, 1986.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Public Correctional Policy on Correctional Mental Health Care

- WHEREAS,** corrections professionals believe that offenders with mental illnesses should be treated by the mental health system, and
- WHEREAS,** the number of juvenile and adult offenders with mental illnesses has grown, and many are not being treated by public health/mental health agencies in the community, adult and juvenile correctional agencies should provide a continuum of mental health services, and
- WHEREAS,** these services must be made available to offenders on community supervision, in correctional facilities and upon release, and
- WHEREAS,** while in detention and correctional facilities, seriously mentally ill offenders may be provided special housing to reduce potential injury to themselves, other offenders and to staff, and
- WHEREAS,** mental health care should be consistent with the standard of community care and in compliance with American Correctional Association standards and accreditation guidelines, and
- WHEREAS,** comprehensive care, multidisciplinary treatment planning, addressing the individual differences of offenders with mental illnesses (including gender, cultural, and age issues), will be the goal of correctional mental health delivery systems;
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the American Jail Association support public policies that encourage comprehensive correctional mental health services for jails that shall include:
- A. Screening and comprehensive assessments, including the evaluation of co-occurring disorders, when indicated, to determine risk and level of impairment;
  - B. Crisis stabilization services for offenders suffering from acute episodes;
  - C. Policies on the prescription, distribution and administration of psychotropic medication;
  - D. Continued access to mental health services while housed in disciplinary or administrative segregation;
  - E. Coordination and collaboration among treatment service providers;
  - F. Establishment of a multidisciplinary treatment team in correctional facilities that includes correctional officers, and mental health and other treatment professionals to develop and monitor treatment plans, including medication monitoring. A mental health professional should have a lead role on the treatment team;

*Continued*

- G. Suicide prevention strategies, including a policy on recognition, prevention and treatment methods;
- H. Policies on restraint/seclusion and involuntary psychotropic medication use;
- I. Development of medical and legal guidelines that address:
  - 1. Informed consent;
  - 2. Confidentiality;
  - 3. Treatment refusal;
  - 4. Mental health commitments;
  - 5. Right to treatment;
  - 6. Guardianship issues;
  - 7. Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA); and
  - 8. Special needs housing.
- J. A holistic approach that emphasizes cognitive, social and coping skills development, relapse prevention and repayment and restoration to their victim(s);
- K. Specialized training on mental health issues on at least an annual basis, including training of mental health professionals on security issues; and
- L. Transition treatment planning in cooperation with parole and community mental health agencies and other service providers prior to release to ensure continuity of care.

*Adopted on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Reentry of Offenders

- WHEREAS,** reentry programs are in the best interest of society because they help prepare offenders for community life, help reduce future criminal behavior, remove the barriers that make it difficult for offenders to re-enter their communities and develop necessary community support; and
- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association fully supports reentry programs and encourages the elimination of any local, State Federal laws and policies that place barriers on the offender's successful re-entry;
- THEREFORE,** the American Jail Association supports and encourages public and private agencies at the Federal, State and local levels in:
1. Advocating for the review of existing laws and regulations that inhibit the successful reentry of offenders.
  2. Initiating transitional planning, consistent with the individual needs of the offender, during intake to the facility.
  3. Providing an expedited process to obtain appropriate legal identification prior to or upon release.
  4. Assisting the offender in accessing appropriate housing upon release.
  5. Providing sufficient staff to supervise offenders released to the community.
  6. Developing community partnerships and support networks for providing a seamless and timely connection between pre- and post-release programs and services.
  7. Providing information and assistance to address health care needs, such as obtaining Medicaid, medical, and substance abuse treatment, and other health and psychological services to offenders in the community upon release. Provide a sufficient supply of prescription medication upon release.
  8. Providing information and assistance to offenders to gain employment upon release, such as pre-employment readiness training, job identification and retention skills training, and job placement services.
  9. Providing prerelease counseling to help reunite offenders with their families and communities.

*Adopted on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN OUR NATION'S JAILS

## American Jail Association Resolution Staff Sexual Misconduct

**WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association has identified staff sexual misconduct as unethical and unprofessional, and

**WHEREAS,** this conduct threatens the safety and security of the institution, staff, and inmates, and

**WHEREAS,** inmates and staff have a right to a non-hostile workplace with no inappropriate sexual remarks, and

**WHEREAS,** sexual misconduct is most often not rape, but a range of behaviors including inappropriate remarks, sexualized name-calling, correspondence, fondling, inappropriate viewing, and sexual contact, and

**WHEREAS,** staff and inmates cannot engage in consensual sexual relations, and

**WHEREAS,** not all states have identified this conduct as criminal or have not prohibited this conduct, and

**WHEREAS,** not all jails have identified or prohibited this conduct, and

**WHEREAS,** inmates have a right to be free from staff sexual misconduct;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association support the implementation of policies that prohibit staff sexual misconduct and encourage the passage of laws that identify criminalization of this conduct.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on May 3, 2003.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Staffing of Jails

**WHEREAS,** many jails with only one staff person on duty, who also performs dispatching duties, and

**WHEREAS,** experience has demonstrated that while the officer is dispatching, he cannot give proper attention to supervision of inmates, and

**WHEREAS,** numerous lawsuits stem from this staffing arrangement;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association go on record as recommending to the American Correctional Association that its Standards for Adult Local Detention Facilities require jails to have a minimum of one jail officer on duty at all times, whose duties preclude dispatching activities.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on April 29, 1986.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*





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## American Jail Association Resolution Standards and Inspections

- WHEREAS,** there is a disturbing trend among some States in the United States to eliminate or otherwise diminish the positive impact of State jail inspections and uniform standards for the operation of county and municipal jails for the protection of the constitutional rights of inmates and the personal protection of correctional officers and support staff, and
- WHEREAS,** the elimination of minimum State standards for the operation of local jails and State-controlled jail inspection programs could result in the possible loss of professional liability insurance for jail programs, diminution of jail medical services and food services, potential staff reductions, labor disputes, concerns over administrative liability, and a substantial increase in constitutional tort liability, and
- WHEREAS,** it is well established that most lawsuits are founded on constitutional issues in States that do not have statewide mandated jail standards and inspection programs, but rely on varying forms of self-regulation;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the Board of Directors of the American Jail Association shall go on record in opposition to the elimination or diminution of existing State standards for the operation of local jails and the inspection of jails by State authorities.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on May 1996.  
Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution State Yearly Jail Conferences

**WHEREAS,** there has been much progress in the past few years in the development of the jail career as one worthy of professional status, and

**WHEREAS,** there are still areas at the local level where progress is not encouraged, and

**WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association encourages organization of jail staff at the State and local level and the joint efforts of professional associations;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** we encourage local Sheriff's Offices, State and national sheriffs' associations, State jail associations, and AJA State Chapters to cooperate in the development of statewide jail conferences on at least an annual basis, and on the development and support of professional training.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors in May 1985.  
Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution Supporting a Respectful Workplace

- WHEREAS,** there are federal, state, and local laws and regulations which protect individuals against discrimination, harassment and abuse on the basis of race, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin, sexual orientation or identity, and/or general workplace harassment or bullying and;
- WHEREAS,** sheriffs, jail administrators, detention and jail personnel have made conscientious efforts to comply with both the spirit and letter of these laws, and regulations, and;
- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association strongly believes the social and economic well-being of their member organizations is dependent on healthy and productive employees, and;
- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association recognizes the adverse impact harassment, discrimination, and bullying can have on the mental and physical health of member organizations and their employees, and;
- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association supports the protection of all detention and jail employees from abusive work environments;
- THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT** the American Jail Association calls upon all jail personnel, administrators, sheriffs, county and city boards/councils/commissioners to support and protect their employees through the prevention of conduct or behavior which creates an undesirable, intimidating, hostile, humiliating, or offensive working environment.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on October 22, 2015.*

*Revised and approved November 4, 2015.*

*Replaced the Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Resolution from November 14, 1992.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution Use of Restraints on Pregnant Inmates

- WHEREAS,** pregnancy and childbirth represents a significant life-safety risk to both mother and child, and
- WHEREAS,** restraint policies and operating procedures in some agencies/jurisdictions are silent with respect to pregnant women in custody, and
- WHEREAS,** some agencies/jurisdictions require or allow for the use of restraints during labor and delivery, and
- WHEREAS,** policy expectations that prohibit or restrict the use of restraints with pregnant women in custody are not always reflected in practice;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT**

the American Jail Association is committed to utilizing the least restrictive methods and restraints in transporting pregnant offenders to ensure their health and safety and protect the public. Such methods and restraints include:

- the utilization of wrist restraints applied in front of a pregnant offender;
- the non-use of leg irons or waist chains when transporting a pregnant offender;
- the non-use of restraints of any kind utilized on an offender in labor, during childbirth or post partum recovery;

**AND BE IT  
FURTHER**

**RESOLVED THAT** the American Jail Association support the above listed least restrictive restraint methods except in extraordinary circumstances, which are defined as preventing the pregnant offender from escape or injuring herself or others including medical or detention staff, and that no detention staff should be present in the room during labor or childbirth, unless specifically requested by medical personnel and in such case that detention staff are required to be present, the detention staff should be female.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on May 14, 2011, in Cincinnati, Ohio.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Use of Restrictive Housing

**WHEREAS,** the use of restrictive housing assignments in a detention facility are a valuable and necessary component of safe, secure, and orderly operations when it becomes necessary to separate an inmate from other inmates for his/her own safety and/or the safety of others, and

**WHEREAS,** restrictive housing in a detention facility may include many forms of segregation, including disciplinary segregation or administrative segregation for medical, mental health, protective custody, and/or administrative reasons, and

**WHEREAS,** restrictive housing is defined as a placement that requires an inmate to be confined to a cell at least 22 hours per day for the safe and secure operation of the facility,

**WHEREAS,** it is important to consider the special needs of inmates when placing them in restrictive housing and to recognize the unacceptable effects of prolonged solitary confinement that result from total isolation;

**THEREFORE BE  
IT RESOLVED  
THAT**

All detention facilities should develop a written policy or procedure that addresses restrictive housing of inmates stating confinement should be conducted in a just, humane, and constitutional manner and used only when no alternative housing assignment would be adequate to control the inmate's behavior, protect the inmate from harm, or to protect others, and

Assignment to restrictive housing for a prolonged duration must include a periodic review of the assignment to determine if less restrictive housing would be effective, and

Inmates who are confined in restrictive housing should be apprised of the duration of their confinement or the frequency of the assignment reviews and given an opportunity to appeal their housing assignment and,

A periodic review of the frequency of use, duration, and procedure should be conducted by facilities using restrictive housing for administrative segregation, and

Facility programs should be available, unless denied through a disciplinary action or participation would create an unsafe environment, and

Incentives for positive behavior should be provided within the disciplinary restrictive housing environment to encourage compliance with facility rules and encourage transition to less restrictive housing, and

*Continued*

Inmates in restrictive housing shall be provided appropriate and timely medical and mental health care, visiting opportunities, exercise opportunities, nutritional nourishment, and the ability to maintain proper levels of personal hygiene, and

When information is available indicating the inmate has mental illness, the review of the housing assignment should be more frequent and include a health care professional.

That the American Jail Association supports the use of restrictive housing in detention facilities in accordance with the principles stated above.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on May 21, 2016 in Austin, Texas.*



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## American Jail Association Resolution

### Use of the Term "Guard"

- WHEREAS,** such Associations as the American Jail Association, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the American Correctional Association have enacted resolutions regarding the use of inappropriate terms to describe the men and women who supervise the prisoners in our Nation's jails and prisons, and
- WHEREAS,** newspaper editors and writers for the television media still use the term "Guard" to describe people employed in local, State, and Federal correctional institutions; therefore, we now urge that all jail administrators, correctional staff, sheriffs, and other sympathetic people undertake to counter this practice and individually go on record in writing opposing the use of the term "Guard." It is suggested that the mail and contact by telephone begin whenever a journalist, reporter, feature writer, editor, or publisher uses "Guard" in describing the work of correctional staff and that the terms "Correctional Officer" or "Detention Officer" be substituted instead.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors in May 1985.*

*Revised on May 19, 1993.*

*Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008.*

