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.