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SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN OUR NATION'S JAILS

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

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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.