

The MASCA Connection

Volume 4 Issue 1

October, 2014

MASCA'S Message

SAVE THE DATE



NEW
JERSEY **NJ** AMERICAN
CHAPTER CORRECTIONAL
ASSOCIATION

JUNE 16-19, 2015

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ

**"Collaborating for Success
in Criminal Justice "**

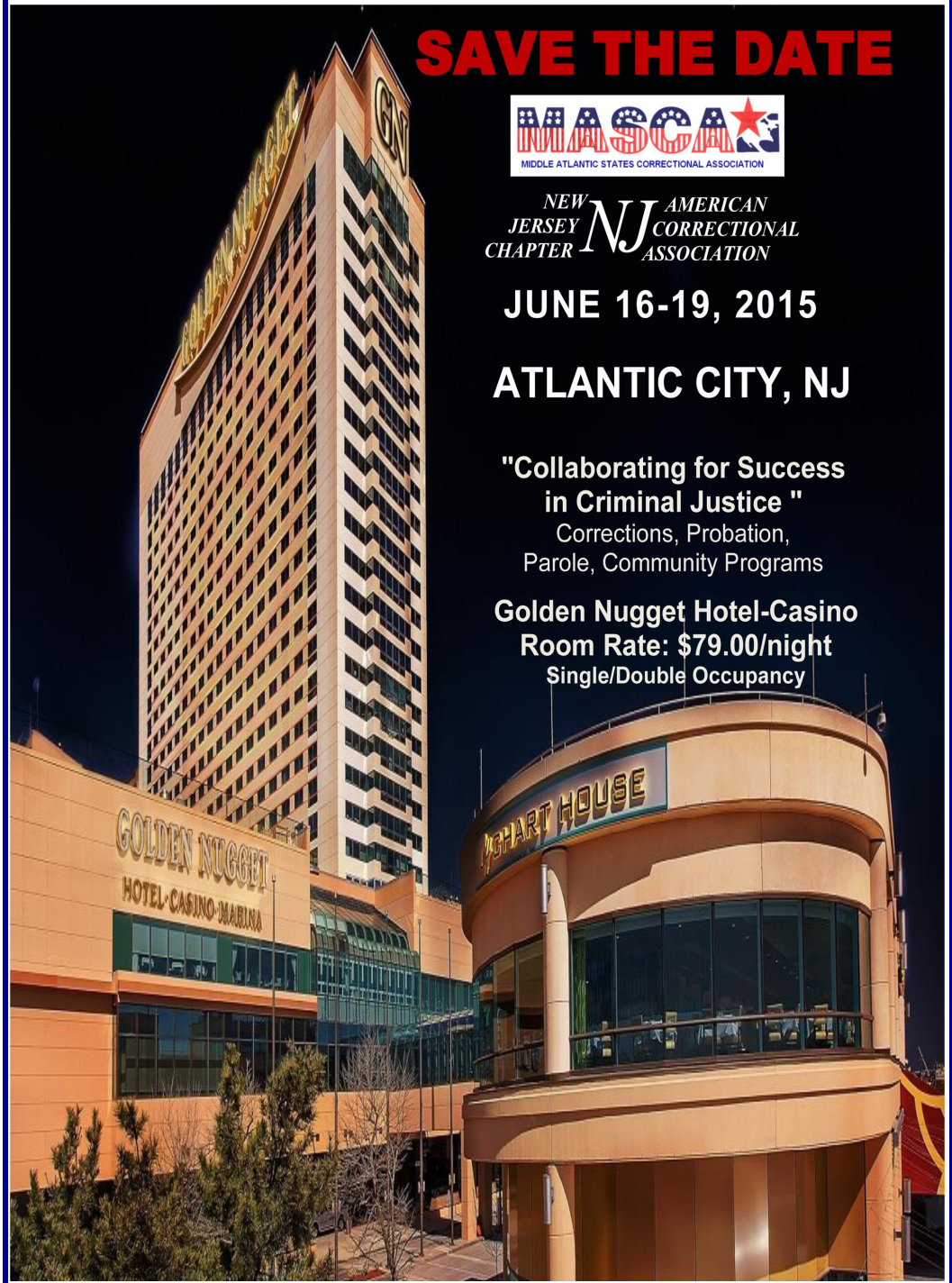
Corrections, Probation,
Parole, Community Programs

Golden Nugget Hotel-Casino

Room Rate: \$79.00/night
Single/Double Occupancy

Inside this issue:

Get Involved	2
Who We Are	2
Join MASCA	2
Connecticut	3
Delaware	4
Advertise in MASCA Connection	5
Newsletter Schedule	5
District of Columbia	6
Maryland	7
MASCSA'S 2014 Conference	8
New Jersey	9
New York	10
Word Find Puzzle	11
Pennsylvania	13



Get Involved—MASCA Committees



The Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association (MASCA) is looking for talented members to share their knowledge, skills, and abilities by volunteering to participate on one or more of our committees. For more information, please contact the committee chairperson for the committee of interest. The MASCA

Committees and Chairpersons are:

Finance & Audit Committee

Chair: Larry Glover
glover200v@gmail.com

Membership Committee

Chair: LaVonya Douglas
lavonya.douglas@cscosa.gov

Policy & Procedure Committee

Chair: William Payne
wpayne@hvc.rr.com

Publications & Communications Committee

Chair: Dawn Pearson
masca.connecton@gmail.com



MASCA Who We Are

Visit us on the web at www.masca.us

MASCA is the leading regional interdisciplinary organization for professionals in the related fields of institutional corrections, community corrections, and juvenile services. We are your regional affiliate for both the American Correc-

tional Association and the American Probation and Parole Association.

Our membership includes professionals at the state, county, and federal levels, primarily in the seven member jurisdictions, but we

welcome criminal justice professionals and students from anywhere in North America. We are committed to providing the best training opportunities in our region and are looking for other ways to serve our membership as well.

Join the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association

For more information, visit us on the web at <http://masca.corrections.com/>
For membership, visit us at:

Or apply using your smartphone

“Join MASCA”

[MASCA Membership](#)



Connecticut

Ailey II Dancers Ignite for Family ReEntry

*Electrifying performance at
Greenwich Academy a Smash
Hit for Family ReEntry*

By Phillips Communica-
tions (Open Post) Updated
September 19, 2014 at
8:58 am

With two brilliantly choreographed works from their repertoire, the young dancers from AILEY II in New York brought the audience to its feet at Greenwich Academy with their energy, focus and artistry. Three of the young dancers, Gabriel Hyman, Riccardo Battaglia and Samantha Barriento, gave a 90 minute master class to dance students at Greenwich Academy before the evening performance, watched by Marcia Brooks, Director of the Upper School Dance companies. The student participants were excited and elated, dancing to "The Story of My Life."

This year's Family ReEntry benefit moved from outdoor tent to indoor "intense", as the important agency celebrated its program and its work, particularly its outreach with youth, after 15 years of music in the garden at Bydale, Joan Warburg's estate in Greenwich. Mrs. Warburg was Honorary Chair of this event, which was in honor of the late

Elizabeth "Beth" Bush, a great supporter of the agency's work and a volunteer at The Carver Center, Greenwich. She also loved to dance.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres preceded the night's performance, which was introduced by Co-chair Susan Ness, who talked about both groups' shaping of young lives, Ronda Muir, Chairman of the Board, who spoke movingly about a son incarcerated, and Executive Director Steve Lanza, who detailed the work and successes of the agency's programs, and their financial efficacy to taxpayers. "We give better treatment, have better outcome, and are cost effective to taxpayers." Family ReEntry previewed its new video, which summarized its programs in action.

The opening work, Wings, by Jennifer Archibald, was a profound, experiential evocation of the human condition, done on a bare stage with shadows thrown by gobos behind, the dancers in white costumes, with a shade of lavender. All the angst, anguish, conflicts, relationships - in short, everything about being human - was shown through movement and energy. The music was spare and thoughtful, throbbing, backing up a couple who tangles and entangles, men who interreact, groups, with analogies hovering everywhere. The dance was about being

human, the message, we are all one.

The audience was awestruck. The second part of the program was a cultural experience, Revelations, a signature Ailey work, choreographed in 1960, set to the music of spirituals, choruses telling the story. Programmatic, explicating, the formations themselves were fascinating, the athleticism stunning. Some of the songs were "Fix Me, Jesus", "Wade in the Water", and "I Wanna Be Ready". Male dancers were highlighted in individual, soaring turns, and a Caribbean style song featured women in yellow strutting with parasols. The closing number, "Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham", had the audience clapping along, and the dancers answered the applause with an encore, and then took four curtain calls to a standing ovation. A VIP reception honored the dancers post-performance.

##

For information on The Ailey II Dance Troupe, go to www.AlvinAiley.org

For information on Greenwich Academy, go to www.GreenwichAcademy.org

(Story is from: <http://patch.com/connecticut/greenwich/ailey-ii-dancers-ignite-family-reentry-1#.VDsxjv9OXIU>)





Delaware

Evans Named Warden of New Castle County Community Corrections

Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) Commissioner Robert M. Coupe today announced that Carole Evans has been named Warden of New Castle Community Corrections in Wilmington. The appointment becomes effective August 25, 2014. Evans replaces Steven Wesley, who recently was named Warden of Howard R. Young Correctional Institution.

New Castle County Community Corrections includes Plummer Community Corrections Center, Webb Community Corrections Center and the Hazel D. Plant Women's Treatment Facility.

Evans has been the Deputy Warden of New Castle Community Corrections since 2009. Evans began her career with the DOC in 2006 as a Correctional Counselor Supervisor. Prior to coming to the DOC, Evans worked as a Treatment Specialist with the Delaware Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS).

"Much of Warden Evans professional career has been in the treatment field and should prove to be

beneficial as the Department continues on its current path to properly assess and address offender's needs," said Commissioner Coupe. "Warden Evans' training, knowledge and experience will be an asset to the Bureau of Community Corrections' leadership team and I am honored to name her Warden."

Evans earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Spelman College, a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Georgia State University, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Delaware.

(Story is from: <http://www.doc.delaware.gov/news/pdfs/14press0825.pdf>)



Durkee Named Bureau Chief of Administrative Services

Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) Commissioner Robert M. Coupe today announced that Janet Durkee has been named Bureau Chief of Administrative Services at the Central Administration Building in Dover. The appointment becomes effective October 05, 2014. The Bureau Chief of Administrative Services will be responsible for overseeing the Departments \$270.0 million dollar budget, Cen-

tral Business Office, Human Resources Section, and the Employee Development Center.

Chief Durkee was previously The Director of Human Resources for the Department of Correction and has held that position for the past three years.

Chief Durkee has been with the DOC since 1993 and started in state government in 1991 with the Department of Health and Social Services. Durkee served in the United States Army active duty from 1979 to 1990 and with the Delaware Army National Guard from 1995 until her retirement in 2007, as a Lieutenant Colonel.

"I am grateful for the leadership, knowledge and experience that Chief Durkee will bring to the Bureau of Administrative Services. Her 21 years of dedicated service to the Department of Correction and passion for the mission of public service will make her a valuable member of our leadership team." said Commissioner Coupe. "I look forward to working with Chief Durkee in her new capacity as we continue to move the Department of Correction forward."

(Story is from: <http://www.doc.delaware.gov/news/pdfs/14press1001.pdf>)

Interested in Advertising in the MASCA Connection?

Advertising will be accepted for the MASCA Connection from organizations.

The size of the ad will be:

Full page,
Half page, or
Quarter Page



Costs for four consecutive issues:

Full Page – \$400.00
Half Page – \$200.00
Quarter Page – \$100.00

Costs for a single issue:

Full Page – \$125.00
Half Page – \$75.00
Quarter Page – \$50.00

It will be the responsibility of the advertiser for submitting quality proofs in the proper electronic format.

For additional information, please contact Dawn Pearson at masca.connection@gmail.com.

MASCA Connection Schedule

The MASCA Connection is the Newsletter for the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association.

We invite you to share your stories. If you have a story you are interested including in our publication,

please forward it to masca.connection@gmail.com. All submissions should be in word format.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

masca.connection@gmail.com.

Please see MASCA's schedule for specific dates regarding newsletter submissions.

Month of Newsletter	Content Due Date
January	12/01/14
April	03/01/15
July	06/01/15
October	09/01/15



District of Columbia

Mayor Gray Opens Carolyn A. Cross Inmate Reception Center

New Center at DC Jail Streamlines Inmate Processing

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Mayor Vincent C. Gray today announced the opening of the DC Department of Corrections' (DOC) new Inmate Processing Center at the Central Detention Facility (DC Jail). Mayor Gray was joined by Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice Paul A. Quander Jr., Department of Corrections Director Thomas Faust, Department of General Services (DGS) Deputy Director of Capital Construction Services June Locker, members of the Council of the District of Columbia and DOC staff in a ribbon cutting ceremony. The ceremony also included the Mayor's announcement that the facility is officially named "The Carolyn A. Cross Inmate Reception Center" in honor of the late DOC Deputy Director. Deputy Director Cross was found slain in her home on Sunday, September 7, 2014.

"I'm excited to announce the opening of this new state-of-the-art facility which through the co-location of critical services, will streamline the Department's intake and release protocols and enable more efficient processing of the offender population," said Mayor Gray. *"And in tribute to Deputy Director Cross, the Inmate Pro-*

cessing Center is being officially named in her honor. With the naming of this facility, we preserve her legacy and honor her memory forever."

The Inmate Reception Center is the centralized point of entry and exit for male and female inmates remanded to the custody of the DOC. The new Center facilitates the timely movement of incoming and outgoing inmates through a "one stop" service delivery model. The co-location of functions, including the required front- and back-end records review and identification processing, case management, and medical triage will increase operational efficiencies, eliminate redundancy and enhance the population's understanding of facility processes and procedures. On an annual basis, the facility processes over 12,500 intakes and releases.

The new Center features new iris scanning and digital fingerprinting technologies, an automated property storage system, designated space for secure storage, a closed circuit television surveillance system, and safe cells for housing inmates with special needs.

"The facility provides a mission critical function to the DOC and with its state-of-the-art features showcases the Department's operational best practices", said DOC Director Thomas Faust.

"Our new Inmate Reception Center was designed to maximize resources and ensure that vitally important ser-

VICES are provided in the most productive way possible," said Director Faust. "Construction of this center has been a long time in the making. The project was a massive undertaking that involved the collective dedication of staff from both DOC and the Department of General Services, and we are very proud that in working together, we made this vision for change a reality," he said.

"With the new design and technology features, the Inmate Reception Center provides our sister agency with a streamlined, state-of-the-art, and safe facility for everyone," said DGS Deputy Director of Capital Construction Services June Locker.

The new Inmate Reception Center will begin officially processing inmates in the next several weeks.

(Story from <http://mayor.dc.gov/release/mayor-gray-opens-carolyn-cross-inmate-reception-center>)

A Force for Positive
CHANGE.

Maryland

MASCA Supports Fundraiser in Baltimore submitted by Henry Alexander

Candace Hurt was a Maryland Parole and Probation Agent who died tragically in 2013. She left behind a son, Ricky Lancaster, who will be 14 years old in December. A scholarship fund has been established for Ricky and money is being raised through individual donations and fundraising events.

One event, the First Annual Agent Candace Hurt Memorial Crab Feast was held on September 13th, 2014, at Jimmy's Famous Seafood in Dundalk, Maryland. The venue seated 200 guests and tickets sold out three weeks prior to the event date. MASCA donated \$300.00 to this event to help offset expenses and allow more of the proceeds to go to the scholarship fund. AFSCME also donated \$500.00 toward event

expenses. The committee raised \$3,200 for Ricky Lancaster's Scholarship Fund. He was presented with a check in that amount at the crab feast. He was also presented with a gift card for \$500 from AFSCME. A 50/50 raffle at the event raised another \$167 in cash which Ricky took home. Agent Hurt's family traveled from New Jersey, Virginia and South Carolina for the crab feast. Approximately 50 family members and friends were in attendance including her parents, step-parents, son, and brother. Many members of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services were also in attendance. The Hurt family was incredibly appreciative of the efforts in Agent Hurt's memory. Ricky took the time to thank all involved and in attendance and stated that he is looking forward to seeing us again next year.

As part of the event, Candace Hurt's Parole and Probation badge was presented to her parents by

Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Central Region Director of Community Supervision Joe Clocker and Field Supervisor I Cynthia Lewis-Williams.

MASCA is happy to have assisted in making this event a huge success. Events like this fundraiser are examples of how MASCA supports our members and colleagues in all areas of the correctional fields. To join MASCA, see the membership information in this newsletter. To make a personal donation to the eRicky Lancaster Scholarship Fund, mail your donation to:

Ricky L. Lancaster
Scholarship Fund
Account # 020539820
Provident Bank
350 Communipaw Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
07304
ABA # (Routing #
221272307)



The 2015 MSP Polar Bear Plunge!

The 19th Annual Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge - an event that has been keeping Maryland COOL since 1997! Let the fun begin and be a part of all the chills and thrills of PlungeFest 2015 on January 24th at Sandy Point State Park.

It's not just an event - it's an experience that has become a winter-time tradition for thousands of warm-hearted Plungers! And it all benefits Maryland's children and adults with intellectual disabilities, as they enjoy the life-changing benefits of participating

with Special Olympics Maryland.

(Story is from <http://www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1113288>)



MASCA's 2014 Annual Conference and Training Institute



The Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association (MASCA) held its 2014 Annual Conference and Training Institute from Wednesday, June 11, 2014 through Saturday, June 14, 2014 in at the Kellogg Conference Center and Hotel on the grounds of Gallaudet University. The theme of this year's event was *"Integrating Corrections: Sharing the Resources, Responsibility, and Power."*

MASCA's 2014 annual conference included 37 training workshops and three plenary sessions, which featured the following presenters:

- Adam Gelb, Pew Charitable Trust,
- The late Carolyn Cross, Deputy Director, D.C. Department of Corrections (DOC), and
- Issac Fulwood, Chairman of the United States Parole Commission.
- MASCA honored several award recipients during its 2014 Annual Conference and Training Institute in Washington, DC.
- The late Carolyn Cross, Deputy Director with the D.C. Department of Corrections (Carl Robinson Award),
- P. Elizabeth Taylor, Correctional Program Specialist with the National Institute of Corrections, (Sal Russoniello Service Award),
- Tony Lewis, Vocational Development Specialist with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (Harold Miller Community Service Award), and
- Nancy Ware, Director with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (MASCA Founders Award).

MASCA's Silent Auction raised \$1000. The proceeds were donated to Heaven's Helpers Ministry (MHM).

MASCA'S 2015 Annual Conference and Training Institute will be held at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey from June 16, 2015 through June 19, 2015. Please visit our website at www.masca.us for conference announcements and make plans now to attend!

Middle Atlantic States
Correctional Association



More News

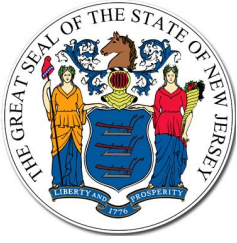
[Bridge the Gaps in Generations Today](#)

[Second Chance Proves Its Worth](#)

[Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2011](#)

[Fewer Prisoners, Less Crime: A Tale of Three States](#)

[2nd World Congress on Community Corrections - Call for Papers/Presenters](#)



New Jersey

30 New Jersey COs honored for heroism

NJDOC commissioner recognized 30 staff members who went above and beyond the call of duty in a ceremony

By C1 Staff

TRENTON, NJ — The NJDOC commissioner recognized 30 staff members who went above and beyond the call of duty in a ceremony at the Harris Auditorium.

Awards presented includ-

ed the Blue Heart, awarded to an officer who becomes permanently disabled or seriously injured in the line of duty; the Medal of Valor, given to an employee for exemplary bravery; the Meritorious Service Award, for acts of heroism and distinguished accomplishment; the Distinguished Service Award, for distinguished service to either the department or the community; and the Commissioner’s Commendation, presented for highly intelligent and valuable acts of service.

“By their actions, both on the job and off, our hon-

orees demonstrated an unyielding commitment to keep the citizens of the Garden State safe,” stated Commissioner Gary M. Lanigan.

“Dedication, honor and integrity. These are the core values that our honorees possess, and it is an honor to recognize them,” Lanigan continued.

(Story from <http://www.correctionsone.com/corrections/articles/7587429-30-New-Jersey-COs-honored-for-heroism/>)

Newark Residential Reentry Service Center Opens



October 1st 2014 Jeff Anderson, Thaddeus Caldwell, Paul Lagana and Larry Glover of MASCA were on hand for GEO’s Grand Opening of the new “Newark Residential Reentry Service Center.” MASCA Congratulates Paul Lagana the Facility Administrator.

New York

Freeing Youths From Solitary Isn't Enough

October 7, 2014 08:29:31 am

By Angelo R. Pinto

It came as a surprise to many that the New York City Department of Correction [announced](#) an end to the practice of using solitary confinement on 16- and 17-year-olds jailed at Rikers Island, the country's second largest jail complex.

Solitary confinement amounts to government-sponsored torture. Individuals in solitary confinement are held for 23 hours a day, for months and even years. They are denied the most basic human contact, fed through a slot in a door, and suffer from a lack of therapeutic and educational services.

What is particularly startling is that children, people with mental illness, pregnant women and other vulnerable populations are subject to such isolated confinement. Equally alarming is the length of time, often months and even years, that these individuals endure in extreme isolation.

The United Nations has [declared](#) that these specific vulnerable populations should not be subject to

solitary confinement under any conditions, and that 15 days of solitary confinement is torture for any human being.

While the announcement that children will no longer be subject to solitary confinement on Rikers Island signaled a clear administrative change—likely due to negative press and not from any sense of conscientious obligation—a great deal more needs to be done.

Even with the level of press Rikers has received in recent weeks, the [underlying systemic causes](#) of many of the ills at the facility continue to be ignored. And further changes are not likely until another dehumanizing event attracts enough public attention to drive another piecemeal reform.

Ending solitary for children is clearly an acknowledgment that the practice of isolated confinement is inappropriate. But it does not address the fact that New York is one of two remaining states that automatically prosecute 16- and 17-year-olds as adults, subjecting them to being housed in adult jails and prisons.

The bottom line is that children do not belong in jail or prison at all.

And if we are going to lock kids up, at a bare minimum, they must be housed in youth facilities, where

they are more likely to receive the kinds of developmentally appropriate services proven to work.

Also, all players in the systems, from police officers to judges to facility staff, must be trained to competently work with young people. That includes recognizing and responding to the trauma that often drives their behavior. And we must do more to stop the pipeline of kids entering the system as a result of “broken windows” policing, stop and frisk, and school-based arrests.

For many children under 16, New York State has made tremendous strides in improving youth justice. New York has dramatically reduced the number of youth who spend time in pre-trial detention and placement by expanding the range of community-based programs that keep kids home with the help and services they need. Since 2009, the state has been able to close 28 youth facilities, improving outcomes while saving money. The [Close to Home](#)

(Continued on page 12)

(Story from <http://www.thecrimereport.org/viewpoints/2014-10-freeing-youths-from-solitary-isnt-enough>)



MASCA 2015 Annual Conference-Word Find

C X S H O H S L C N S L V N L S P B Z N
 Y O S T R T A K D O C W C N R L E F I E
 N J N X N U N N O I S S E S E L A N H E
 I U V F N E X E T T U C D N G F E G K T
 E R G N E G D J V P U S A Y B T T J A F
 X M A G K R T I M E G R J L E F R E C I
 H A W F E W E N S C Y D M E L H A R S F
 I V O Y P T L N K E C N N S T Q I S A M
 B R F Q D D A A C R R T O N S H N E M Y
 I J L E G W F K D E H P E I L U I Y B Q
 T W O R K S H O P S A E B Y T X N F B A
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 R J I C H A T E J X B C L R L E U Y X N
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 G B Q H U O I N C I T Y H D V O Z C F M
 P R E S E N T E R S G N I K R O W T E N
 N Q V J B V D U S D S B J G F U N Z R W

ANNUAL
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GOLDEN
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 JUNE
 MASCA
 NETWORKING
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 NIGHT
 NINETEENTH
 NUGGET
 PLENARY

PRESENTERS
 PRESIDENTS
 RECEPTION
 SESSION
 SILENT
 SIXTEENTH
 TRAINING
 TWENTY
 WORKSHOPS



New York

Freeing Youths From Solitary Isn't Enough

(Continued from page 10)

initiative means that many New York City youth are no longer being sent to facilities far upstate. Instead they are being served in programs and facilities closer to family and community support networks, making it more likely they will succeed upon release.

All of these reforms have been accomplished without compromising public safety: youth crime in New York continues to decline.

But none of these reforms impact the 16- and 17-year-olds our state treats as adults.

While ending solitary confinement for children will likely put an end to some of the most severe psychological trauma caused to these young people, it will not change the everyday brutality inside jails and prisons. Nor will it change the lifelong consequences of an adult criminal record, which include barriers to employment, education and housing.

And this reform will likely not reduce violence among youth on Rikers.

Jail is a hyper-violent set-

ting that increases the propensity for violence of staff and individuals who are incarcerated.

The prison culture of “get before got” pushes many men and women caught behind bars into patterns of verbal and physical violence just in order to survive a brutal unforgiving environment. And staff brutality on Rikers is, as the federal government found, an ingrained part of everyday culture.

Where does this new change leave us?

The end of solitary confinement for children will alleviate some of the most extreme trauma young people face in jails. However, young people will still be forced to endure the dehumanizing nature of jail in their most formative years. They will be subject to levels of violence many thought had been rendered obsolete with the end of the “peculiar institution” of slavery.

And they will suffer conditions as egregious as the infamous mental institutions of yesteryear. More frightening is that many of these young people will endure this fate in obscurity— out of sight of those who may care, and out of reach of the hands that may help.

While it is important to acknowledge that the decision is significant, we must

now address some of the underlying problems of incarceration in black and brown communities, particularly for children prosecuted as adults.

It is past time for New York to raise the age of criminal responsibility for all youth, to get all kids out of adult jails and prisons, and to trade its investment in torture and violence for one in prevention and treatment.

Angelo R. Pinto is Raise the Age Campaign Manager of the Juvenile Justice Project at The Correctional Association of New York. He welcomes comments from readers.

(Story from <http://www.thecrimereport.org/viewpoints/2014-10-freeing-youths-from-solitary-isnt-enough>)





Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's Criminal Justice Reforms Highlighted at National Meeting

HARRISBURG, Pa., Sept. 18, 2014 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ --

Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel joined state and local leaders from across the nation this week to participate in the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center board of directors meeting.

The meeting focused on complex criminal justice policies with officials discussing the best ways to advance the latest evidence-based strategies on issues such as:

- lowering recidivism rates among people who were formerly incarcerated;
- improving law enforcement's response to people with mental disorders; and,
- reducing schools' dependence on suspension and expulsion in response to student misconduct.

"Through our efforts with the CSG Justice Center, and under the direction of Governor Tom Corbett, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' inmate population has averaged a decline of 320 inmates per year since the passage of our Justice Reinvestment legislation in 2012 – a level not seen since the mid-1960's," Wetzel said.

Wetzel said the CSG Justice Center remains at the forefront of advancing data-

driven, consensus-based approaches, which increase public safety and help to fund critical local law enforcement, county probation and parole, and victim services.

"We continue our work in this area, while sharing our experiences with other states, in an effort to help leading policymakers in their states across the U.S.," said Secretary Wetzel.

The past year has been the CSG Justice Center's busiest and most productive since its inception, working with state and local leaders on a variety of projects, including:

- working to pass justice reinvestment legislation in Idaho and Michigan while also launching new justice reinvestment projects in Alabama, Nebraska and Washington;
- collaborating with the White House to ignite a public dialogue between government officials and business leaders to address employment challenges for people with criminal records; and
- launching the organization's juvenile justice work with the release of a 50-state survey ("Measuring and Using Juvenile Recidivism Data to Inform Policy, Practice, and Resource Allocation") and a white paper (Core Principles for Reducing Recidivism and Improving Other Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System).

In addition to reviewing the status of these respective projects, board members provided input to help shape the Justice Center's future priorities. In planning for the upcoming year, the group examined options for helping state and local leaders undertake issues related to employment challenges for

people with criminal records; reducing the prevalence of mental and substance use disorders in jails; and, improving data collection in states' juvenile justice systems.

Participants in the discussions included respected legislators, court and law enforcement officials and cabinet secretaries

"I greatly appreciate the unique perspective provided by Secretary Wetzel," said Michael D. Thompson, director of the CSG Justice Center. "We are fortunate to have the secretary as a part of the dedicated group of talented experts represented on our board."

ABOUT THE CSG JUSTICE CENTER

The Council of State Governments Justice Center is a national nonprofit organization that serves policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels from all branches of government. It provides practical, nonpartisan advice and evidence-based, consensus-driven strategies to increase public safety and strengthen communities. For more information about the Justice Center, visit www.csjusticecenter.org.

SOURCE Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

(Story from <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/pennsylvanias-criminal-justice-reforms-highlighted-at-national-meeting-275655081.html>)