

# The MASCA Connection

Volume 4 Issue 4

July, 2015

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THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION

**“Creating Connections - Building Bridges Together”**

2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND TRAINING EVENT

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\$300 - Beginning May 13, 2016

### Exhibitor Registration

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### Clarion Hotel Rates

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For more information, visit us at [www.masca.us](http://www.masca.us)



## 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

**Policy & Procedure Committee**  
Chair: William Payne  
wpayne@hvc.rr.com

**Membership Committee**  
Chair: LaVonya Douglas  
lavonya.douglas@cscosa.gov

**Publications & Communications Committee**  
Chair: Dawn Pearson  
Dawnpearson.masca@gmail.com



Visit us on the web at [www.masca.us](http://www.masca.us)

“Join MASCA”

## MASCA Who We Are

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

[MASCA Membership](#)





## Connecticut

### Connecticut Correction Dept. to close part of Bridgeport prison

By The Associated Press  
Posted: 07/10/15, 3:04 PM EDT | Updated: 2 hrs ago

HARTFORD >> Connecticut's Department of Correction says it is closing part of a prison in Bridgeport in response to a decline in the inmate population.

The 204-bed unit known as the Fairmont Building is expected to be closed by

the end of this month. It is part of the Bridgeport Correctional Center, a high-security facility that houses about 950 inmates. It opened in 1958 and houses people awaiting trial in addition to convicted offenders.

The Correction Department said Friday it has enough open beds elsewhere to distribute inmates to other prisons around the state. The department says there are 16,064 people incarcerated in the state system, a number that is down more than 360 from this time last year.

(Story from: <http://www.nhregister.com/general-news/20150710/connecticut-correction-dept-to-close-part-of-bridgeport-prison>)

#### Additional Connecticut News

[Connecticut Eases Penalties for Most Drug Possession Crimes](#)

[Connecticut moves to address problem of rape in prison](#)

[In Connecticut juvenile justice, children get many second chances](#)

## Join us for ACA's 145th Congress of Correction!

August 14-19, 2015  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Our Congress of Correction is an engaging, thought-provoking, six-day event offering multiple ways to network with industry professionals, find a mentor, get a sneak peek at emerging technology, and hone your leadership skills.

For more information, visit ACA's website at: [http://register.aca.org/aca\\_prod\\_imis/conference\\_prod](http://register.aca.org/aca_prod_imis/conference_prod)



## Delaware

### Delaware governor signs marijuana decriminalization bill into law

by Taylor Gillan



© Wikimedia (United States Fish and Wildlife Service)

[JURIST] Delaware Governor Jack Markell [official website] on Thursday signed into law House Bill 39 [materials], a measure that decriminalizes the possession and use of small amounts of marijuana. The bill, which was given final legislative approval [Delaware Online report] by the state's senate Thursday and signed by the governor quickly after, will allow people in Delaware to possess up to one ounce of marijuana and use it privately without facing criminal sanctions. Police may still confiscate the drugs, however. The penalty for marijuana use in a public place is reduced to a \$100 civil fine under the law. Selling mari-

juana will remain a criminal offense. Prior to this new legislation, simple marijuana possession in Delaware was a misdemeanor for which one could be sentenced [Reuters report] to up to six months in jail and as much as a \$1,150 fine. Governor spokesperson Kelly Bachman in a statement on the signing said, "The governor remains committed to reducing the number of people entering the criminal justice system and refocusing resources where they are needed most and House Bill 39 supports these efforts." The law will take effect in six months.

Delaware joins 19 other states and the District of Columbia in no longer charging its citizens criminally for possessing marijuana in small amounts. The legalization of medical marijuana [JURIST backgrounder] has also gained support in recent years. However, marijuana remains illegal under federal law, creating conflicts. Earlier this week the Colorado Supreme Court unanimously affirmed [JURIST report] a lower court decision that employers' zero tolerance

drug policies are not preempted by Colorado's legalization of medical marijuana. The court in its opinion emphasized that "employees who engage in an activity, such as medical marijuana use, that is permitted by state law but unlawful under federal law are not protected by the [state's lawful off duty activities] statute." In early March a bipartisan group of three US Senators introduced a bill [JURIST report] that would reclassify marijuana as a Schedule II drug, which would loosen governmental regulation, and notably, allow states to enact their own medical marijuana statutes without federal interference. A few days later, an identical companion bill was introduced [JURIST report] in the US House of Representatives.

(Story from: <http://jurist.org/paperchase/2015/06/delaware-governor-signs-marijuana-decriminalization-bill-into-law.php>)



## 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](mailto:masca.connection@gmail.com).

## MASCA Connection Schedule

The MASCA Connection is the Newsletter for the Middle Atlantic Sates 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](mailto: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](mailto:masca.connection@gmail.com).

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

Month of Newsletter	Content Due Date
October	09/01/15
January	12/01/15
April	03/01/16
July	06/01/16



## District of Columbia

### 2015 Youth Summit

### The Time is Now: Creating Change with Young Emerging Leaders

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) are excited to announce they will be co-hosting the 2015 Juvenile Justice Youth Summit, "The Time is Now: Creating Change with Young Emerging Leaders." The Summit will take place July 23-24, 2015 at the 20 F Street Conference Center in Washington, DC.

The Youth Summit brings together emerging leaders (ages 17-25) interested in juvenile justice reform. Over two days, these next generation leaders gain a better understanding of the current juvenile justice system, examine trending reform topics, and participate in various skill-building, hands-on activities. CJJ and OJJDP are committed to increasing youth participation and engagement in juvenile justice reform and advocacy. We are excited to welcome youth from across the nation and U.S. territories to participate in this annual event.

Click [here](#) to see the agenda.

#### Accommodations

CJJ has a room block reserved at [The Liaison Hotel](#) for \$189/night. To make your reservation you can call (866) 233-4642 or click [here](#). Please reference the "Coalition for Juvenile Justice" group when making reservations or provide the following Reservation ID: 15CJJ.

#### Youth Summit Sessions

Participants will engage in content sessions on:

Juvenile Justice 101

Keeping young people out of adult courts, jails, and prisons

Positive youth development

And more!

We will be hosting two exciting activities:

**Hill Day** on July 23, 1:30pm - 3:30pm ET - Attendees receive training on legislative advocacy, develop talking points, and visit their members of Congress or their staff to discuss juvenile justice reform and urge them to act on the issue.

**Job Shadowing** on July 24, 1:50pm - 3:50pm ET - Attendees will be matched with a juvenile justice professional who is working in a role/issue of their interest. Attendees will shadow the professional for a few hours to get a sense of what a career might look like in that field.

Upon registration, participants will be asked if they are interested in attending these activities. These RSVPs will help us to gauge participation for planning purposes, so that we can give attendees the best possible experience.

#### Scholarship Fund

CJJ is excited to announce the launch of a new Emerging Leaders Scholarship Fund, which will offer a limited number of scholarships to participate in the Youth Summit. Click [here](#) if you would like to contribute to the Scholarship Fund.

#### Questions?

Contact Jonathan Litt, CJJ's Field Relations Associate, at [litt@juvjustice.org](mailto:litt@juvjustice.org).

(Story from: <http://www.juvjustice.org/2015-youth-summit>)



## Maryland

### Detention Center Hosts 3rd Annual Reentry Fair for Inmates



The Charles County Detention Center hosted their 3rd Annual Reentry Fair on Friday, June 26. More than 50 volunteers representing about 25 organizations from the community set up booths in the gymnasium at the Detention Center to share information with inmates that may assist them upon their release.

While the primary responsibility at the Detention Center is to keep inmates secure, Corrections staff members also offer inmates access to many organizations geared toward helping them improve their lives. Master Sergeant Tracy Williams, Classification/Transitioning Supervisor for the CCDC, said "Our Reentry Fair brings together a variety of resources and serves as an opportunity for inmates to explore options for assistance with transitioning back into the community, with the ultimate goal being to reduce recidivism".

The Reentry Fair was initiated three years ago by

then Cpl. Ryan Taylor, a Classification Officer at the CCDC, whose vision was to have vendors meet at one time at the jail to talk with inmates about important services that could enable them to make better choices upon their return to the community. Cpl. Taylor has since been promoted to Sergeant while Cpl. Chris Clemons has taken on the responsibility of organizing the Reentry Fair. "We have received very positive feedback from the 112 inmates who participated this year," said Cpl. Clemons. "They enjoyed the event and found it very helpful."

"We are very proud of the work we do here at the Charles County Detention Center," said Director Susan Rice. "While our main objective is the safety of our inmates while they are here, it is vital that we educate them about the tools that are available upon their release."

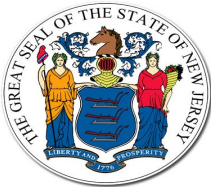
Sheriff Troy Berry, who attended the event, said "It was fantastic to see these organizations from within our community as well as officers come together to create a positive environment to share information with inmates. It is important that they know that when they are done serving their sentence, they have the support of people who want them to succeed."

**Participating vendors included:** Catholic Charities – Welcome Home Program;

Charles County Literacy Council; Natural Innovation and Solution Services; Human Capital Investment Services; Salvation Army; Charles County Department of Health; Charles County Department of Social Services; Charles County Government Department of Community Services; Charles County Public Schools Lifelong Learning Center; Connect Southern Maryland/Health Partners; Anathoth House, Inc.; Department of Veterans Affairs; Veterans Affairs Medical Center; SLS Ministries, Inc.; Fort Washington Baptist Church; Grace Lutheran Church & School; Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services - Parole and Probation; Health Partners, Inc.; Lifestyles of Maryland Foundation, Inc./Robert J. Fuller House; Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation (DLLR); Pathways Inc.; Point of Change Jail & Street Ministry; QCI Behavioral Health; Southern Maryland Community Network, Inc.; and Walden Behavioral Health.

(Story from: <http://www.thebaynet.com/articles/0715/detentioncenter-hosts3rdannualreentryfairorinmates.html>)

**More Maryland News**  
[Former Inmates Join Service Center as Auto Mechanics](#)



## New Jersey

### N.J. corrections officers demand same off-duty protections as police



Cumberland County Jail, in Bridgeton, N.J. (*File Photo*)  
By [Spencer Kent | For NJ.com](#) The News of Cumberland County

Should the law provide corrections officers the same protections as police officers when it comes to being assaulted while off duty and out of uniform?

In August 2012, three assailants [assaulted a Cumberland County corrections officer inside a 7-Eleven in Bridgeton](#), according to a previous NJ.com article.

Victor Bermudez, a corrections officer at the Cumberland County Jail and state delegate for PBA Local 231, claimed that the assailants had recognized the officer from jail.

But according to Bermudez, the three assailants were not prosecuted on the aggravated assault charges because the corrections officer had not been in the performance of his duty.

"And when it got sent to court, that got downgraded from simple assault to a city ordinance ... he did no time for it, even though he knew who my officer was," Bermudez said.

Since then, Bermudez has been spearheading a bill to address this type of situation. The New Jersey Senate on Monday is scheduled to vote on a bill to upgrade simple assault to aggravated assault if it's committed against corrections officers and certain law enforcement officers because of job status.

Though New Jersey law already affords police officers this provision, corrections officers are required to be in uniform and on duty.

"We take the same oath as police officers, we are under the same ethical code and held to the same standards, yet we don't have the same protections," Bermudez said.

Richard Brown, chairman of the New Jersey State PBA Corrections Committee, said it can be scary when inmates are released from jail because they often live in the same communities as corrections officers.

(Story from:  
[http://www.nj.com/cumberland/index.ssf/2015/05/nj\\_corrections\\_officers\\_demand\\_same\\_off-duty\\_prote.html](http://www.nj.com/cumberland/index.ssf/2015/05/nj_corrections_officers_demand_same_off-duty_prote.html))

(Story continued on page 10)



## National News

## House Boosts MIOTCRA Funding within \$51.4 Billion Appropriations Bill



The U.S. House of Representatives allotted \$13 million for the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment Crime and Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) within the larger \$51.4 billion FY2016 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill it passed June 3.

MIOTCRA, which received \$8.5 million in federal funding in FY2015, is the act that created the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHC) in 2004 and seeks to help people who have mental disorders and are involved in the criminal justice system by paying for programs such as mental health courts and crisis intervention teams.

MIOTCRA was originally allotted \$7 million in the House's FY2016 bill, but the three amendments described below, all of which passed, increased MIOTCRA's final allocation to \$13 million.

One of these amendments—introduced by Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM), and Tim Murphy (R-PA)—designates an additional \$2 million for JMHC grants to law enforcement agencies. These grants will be used to pay for crisis intervention training for state and local law enforcement, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and rehabilitation and community reentry services. Another amendment, introduced by Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI), also increases MIOTCRA funding, by a further \$2 million, through JMHC grants for, as Moore said on the House floor, “the purpose of expanding and improving police training to safely and appropriately respond to mentally ill individuals.” And an amendment introduced by Reps. Doug Collins (R-GA) and Rich Nugent (R-FL) provides an additional \$2 million for mental health courts.

Video of Rep. Collins speaking on the U.S. House floor about men-

tal health courts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=UUgKTZXOJX2UwAdLNZ4MQdig&v=6kAeqh2SoJM>

(Story from: <http://csgjusticecenter.org/mental-health/announcements/house-boosts-miotcra-funding-within-51-4-billion-appropriations-bill>)

### More National News

[The Sentencing Project: New Analysis: U.S. Prison Population Trends](#)

A Force for Positive  
CHANGE.



## New York

### De Blasio Administration Announces Task Force On Behavioral Health And The Criminal Justice System

**NEW YORK**—The de Blasio administration announced the Task Force on Behavioral Health and the Criminal Justice System that will

develop a strategic, actionable plan to transform the city's criminal justice system, so that it addresses the needs of individuals with behavioral and mental health issues more appropriately and effectively. The task force will recommend and implement strategies to ensure proper diversion routes and treatment for people with mental illness or substance abuse within the criminal justice system, as well as before and after contact with the system.

[More](#)

Story from: (<http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/259-14/de-blasio-administration-task-force-behavioral-health-the-criminal-justice-system>)

More New York News

[Report: America's Mentally Ill Inmates Face Grim Abuse](#)

## New Jersey

### N.J. corrections officers demand same off-duty protections as police

(Continued from page 8)

"Most of them live in your community, and when you're with your family ... It's scary," Brown said. "This lets it be known that corrections officers aren't going to be sitting ducks."

Patrick Colligan, president of the New Jersey State PBA, said, "You are living with these guys, they really know you. And ... some people might see a chance on the street because of something that might have happened in the jail." Collegian said he was hopeful the bill — S-2583 — would be passed. The legislation was introduced in December 2014.

"It's really giving corrections officers parity with police officers ... they certainly deserve it," he added. Rob Nixon, director of government affairs for the New Jersey State PBA, also believes corrections officers should be provided equal protection as police officers when both on duty and off duty.

"Just because (corrections officers) work behind a wall, that doesn't mean they don't deserve the same protections," Nixon said.

He added: "If you get recognized on the street after someone gets out, and you get assaulted, it is the same exact circumstance as a police officer — they wear a uniform for a living and so do corrections officers."

(Story from: [http://www.nj.com/cumberland/index.ssf/2015/05/nj\\_corrections\\_officers\\_demand\\_same\\_off-duty\\_prote.html](http://www.nj.com/cumberland/index.ssf/2015/05/nj_corrections_officers_demand_same_off-duty_prote.html))

More New Jersey News

[New Jersey residents want criminal justice reform, poll shows](#)  
[The simple idea that could transform US criminal justice](#)  
[New Jersey Moves to Keep Kids Under 15 From Adult Court](#)

### MASCA 2015 Conference Photographs



### MASCA—Find Us on Social Media



## MASCA 2015 Conference Summary—By Thaddeus Caldwell



### MASCA/NJACA 2015 Conference

On behalf of the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association and the New Jersey Chapter of the American Correctional Association we would like to thank everyone who attended and participated in this year's annual conference "Collaborating for Success in Criminal Justice" making it a smashing success with over 300 attendees. The venue for the conference, the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City New Jersey is a wonderful establishment and great place to showcase this year's conference. The conference featured enlightening guest speakers, highly informative workshops along with social events and networking opportunities. The conference itinerary provided something for everyone across the criminal justice spectrum and there were good times to be had by all.

So again, we thank you and look forward to seeing you at our next event

MASCA/NJACA 2015 Conference planning committee



## Pennsylvania

### SCI Graterford Recognized for Project Involving Brain Injury Assess- ment in Offenders

HARRISBURG, Pa., June 29, 2015 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ --

Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel announced that his agency, earlier today, received The Organization Award from the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania at their 2015 annual conference, which was held in Lancaster.

The award is presented to an organization or group of individuals whose efforts to focus on needs and to improve the lives of persons with brain injury have been clearly evident and have positively impacted lives.

"This is yet another example of Gov. Tom Wolf's deliberate work in the area of multi-agency cooperation," Corrections Secretary John Wetzel said. "Government that Works' means agencies working together to identify areas that need addressed and successfully working to meet those needs in a way that benefits individuals and the community as a whole."

Employees from the State Correctional Institution at Graterford were recognized for being instrumental partners with the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency

(PCCD) and the Brain Injury Association of PA (BIAPA) in demonstrating the problem of brain injury in prisons.

"Our partnership with PCCD and BIAPA has allowed SCI Graterford staff to screen inmates for brain injuries to determine what impact those impairments may have on an offender's reentry," said DOC's Acting Regional Deputy Secretary (and former SCI Graterford Superintendent) Michael Wenerowicz. "New needs have been identified as a result of this work, and we are working with community resources to connect offenders with services specific to this unique need."

"We are proud to have been a partner in this project. Every day we learn more about the impact that brain injuries have and the importance of treating them appropriately. This is also a great example of government agencies working collaboratively to identify an issue and address it. I congratulate Secretary Wetzel and SCI Graterford on receiving recognition for their hard work," said PCCD Chairman Josh Shapiro.

The award nomination was submitted by Dr. Drew Nagele, who works with Woods, a leading advocacy and service organization for people with exceptional challenges, disabilities and complex needs. He also serves as the treasurer for BIAPA. In his nomination, Dr. Nagele highlighted work SCI Graterford,

PCCD and BIAPA officials have done on a joint project, entitled "NeuroResource for Prison Inmates with Brain Injury to Improve Re-Entry."

The project involved screening Graterford inmates for brain injury and further assessments of those with positive screens to determine cognitive impairments that will impact re-entry into the community. The work also identified inmates who require Neuro-Resource Facilitation.

Neuro-Resource Facilitation is a community service provided to individuals living with brain injuries and their families. Services provided include support in coping with the issues of living with brain injury and transition back to work and the community. Neuro-Resource Facilitation helps individuals find and apply for the most relevant programs and services to meet their needs and attain their goals and help them problem-solve any barriers that may arise.

**(Story continued on page 14)**

(Story from <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/sci-graterford-recognized-for-project-involving-brain-injury-assessment-in-offenders-300106392.html>)



## Pennsylvania

### SCI Graterford Recognized for Project Involving Brain Injury Assessment in Offenders

(Continued from page 13)

In his nomination, Nagele wrote:

"Through countless organizational meetings over the last two years, SCI staff has worked with us to discover that 73 percent of those referred to us who were leaving the prison after completing their sentence had evidence of an event that could have produced a brain injury. Furthermore, 75 percent of them demonstrated evidence of cognitive impairment severe enough to cause difficulty being successful in everyday living or work. Those inmates were then worked with to connect them into brain injury services and supports, and were then followed into the community to ensure that they did in fact get these services and supports. The staff at Graterford has been trained to do the brain injury

screening and NeuroCognitive assessment. In fact, we believe that SCI Graterford is the first prison in the country to have two of their employees become certified brain injury specialists through the BIAA Academy for the Certification of Brain Injury Specialists.

Wenerowicz said that this was a cooperative initiative that involved more than just the state prison. "We also need to give recognition to the PCCD, BIAPA, DOC's Bureau of Community Corrections, the PA Board of Probation and Parole and the PA Department of Labor & Industry's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Many individuals worked together to make this a successful venture and to make a positive impact on an individual's life."

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Susan McNaughton (717) 728-4025

(Story from <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/sci-graterford-recognized-for-project-involving-brain-injury-assessment-in-offenders-300106392.html>)

#### Additional Pennsylvania News

[Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Announces Funding to Address Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System](#)

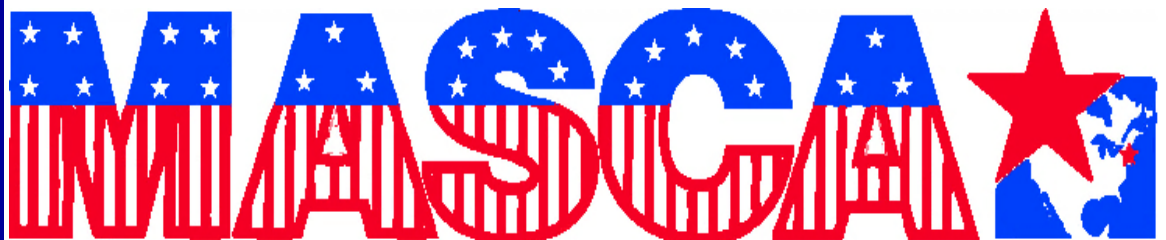
[SCI Albion Graduates 18 Certified Peer Support Specialists](#)

[SCI Cambridge Springs Employees Making a Difference Across the Globe](#)

[Recidivism Rates Drop in Pennsylvania State Prison System](#)

[Corrections Department to Receive Recognition - Better Government Competition](#)

[Governor ties early childhood education to crime prevention](#)



*16th Bi-Annual : Adult and Juvenile Female Offenders*



# AJFO Conference

## Justice Involved Women and Girls: New Paths to Resiliency

**October 13-15, 2015** *Columbus Day Week*



## Hartford, Connecticut

*Hartford Marriott Downtown*

[www.ajfo.org](http://www.ajfo.org)



Hosted by  
The Connecticut  
Women's Consortium



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