

THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION KEY ISSUES

Vol XXIV, No. 3

Summer 2020



Summer 2020 Edition

Past President's Passage



Texas Jail Association Members,

I had the unique opportunity to swear in our new President Dan Corbin via a virtual video gathering. I was very disappointed that we were unable to hold our Annual Conference this year. I would have loved to pass the gavel to him in person and it is one of the highlights of my year to get to see you all at the conference. But, I know that this adjustment was only a minor inconvenience compared to what each of you have been enduring every day during this COVID- 19 pandemic. All of you who work in and in support of Texas jails are the best in this country. I am proud of the work you do and I am proud to be a part of this family.

As if a pandemic was not enough, we are now seeing protests across the country. Please remember that those frustrations are not aimed at us. Those of us who pin on a badge are often grouped together as having the same motivations and attitudes; especially, when someone acts inappropriately. But we, as members of the Texas Jail Association, have decided to rise above and to better ourselves and our organizations, always striving to be more professional. It has never been more important to be proactive in our approach to serving our communities. That is what the Texas Jail Association is all about and the communities we live and work in recognize that.

Thank you all for what you do. Please stay safe. Please continue to share ideas and help one another. I look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

God bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Stuart'.

Lieutenant Kevin Stuart, CJM
Brazos County Sheriff's Office
TJA Past President

Message from the President



Greeting TJA Members,

I would like to thank the TJA membership for the honor of serving as your President. While we had to unfortunately cancel our 34th Annual Conference, we are already working on a bigger and better Jail Management Issues Conference for September. Work has already begun to modify the JMI calendar to incorporate our Courtroom Challenge, Prayer Breakfast and other key events from our May Conference. I hope to see you there. I would like to thank our Immediate Past President Kevin Stuart and our Executive Director, Sharese Hurst for their unwavering leadership through this very unusual past year.

I would like to congratulate Edwardo Jackson on his election to 3rd Vice President and Levi Vance for his election as a Director. They both are hard workers that I am sure will continue their dedicated service to the Association in their new roles. I have also made the following appointments to the Board: Treasurer Abby Belangeri (Brazos County), Director Greg Pilkington (Tarrant County), Secretary Jaime Rios (Bexar County), Sergeant-at-Arms Johnny Jaquess (Lubbock County), Sheriff Representative Sheriff Ray Scifres (Hockley County), Vendor Representative Kevin Johnson (Correct Commissary), Private Correctional Facility Representative Rodney Cooper (LaSalle Corrections), Historian Carla Stone (LaSalle Corrections), Parliamentarian Eric Hensley (Washington County) and our Chaplain Lynette Anderson (Harris County). I believe we have a group of highly qualified and motivated individuals assembled to lead the Association through these challenging times.

I would like to thank 1st Vice President Ricky Armstrong for his leadership of the training committee over this past year. This group put together a great program for JMI 2019, as well as our May Conference and the regional trainings. I am confident 2nd Vice President Becky Caffey and her new training committee will have another great year for us beginning with JMI.

Next, I would like to extend a thank you to the many vendors who have supported us through the difficult decision of canceling our May Conference. It is a result of your strong support of our Association that we are able to keep our registration fees and dues so reasonable.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected one of our primary missions, which is to provide training. Our Association will continue to assist our members through the list serve and other networking venues in dealing with this pandemic, as well as the normal day-to-day issues that continue to pop up in managing and operating our jails. Assistance from YOUR entire board is just a phone call or e-mail away. Through this all, our Association remains strong.

Stay Safe and God Bless you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Corbin".

Dan Corbin
President, Texas Jail Association



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JOIN TJA AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER 2020!

2020 JAIL MANAGEMENT ISSUES
September 14-18, 2020 | Galveston, TX



MARK YOUR CALENDARS EARLY!

INFORMATION ONLINE AT TEXASJAILASSOCIATION.COM

Membership Report

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the existing membership. It is the goal of the Membership Committee to continue expanding the membership of the Association. In order to achieve this goal, we need your assistance in recruiting interested individuals you may know; a twelve month membership is \$30.00. Adding to our membership not only adds numbers it adds knowledge and experience! Some benefits of the Association are quality training and conferences, access to the list serve for easy dissemination of information and ideas, and promotion of professionalism and leadership.

As a Committee we encourage each of you to reach out to us to let us know what kind of training you would like to see in the future. We strive to bring you the best and most up to date training to all regionals and conferences.

Edwardo Jackson, 3rd Vice President Travis County 512-854-5214	Jason Davis, Director McLennan County 254-759-7535
Levi Vance, Secretary Tom Green County 325-659-6597	Tameika Middleton, Member at Large Travis County 512-854-5370
Frances Dembowski, Director Travis County 512-854-5391	Jaime Rios, Secretary Bexar County 830-513-6371

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

PROFESSIONAL – 1012

ASSOCIATE – 35

BUSINESS – 24

8TH ANNUAL

BLOOD DRIVE

HOSTED BY THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION & SOUTHERN HEALTH PARTNERS

September 15th | 12:30pm – 5:00pm

The Blood Drive will take place at the Galveston Island Convention Center. **All Donors are entered in a drawing for a \$100 Gift Card.**



TEXANS HELPING TEXANS



Training Report

First of all, I would like to say thank you to all of our members for their patience and understanding during the last few months. Our TJA Regional Training came to a screeching halt in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I do want to thank the agencies that hosted our regional trainings and to everyone that helped instruct at various sites. We have met a lot of great people across the State and appreciate the help and support to put on these classes.

Since the conference in May was cancelled, we hope that everyone will register for the Jail Management Issues (JMI) Conference in Galveston, September 14 – 18, 2020. Ricky Armstrong and Sharese Hurst put a lot of work into planning the 34th Annual Conference in May and they were able to reschedule most of the instructors to the JMI Conference. I am excited to work with the new 2020-2021 training committee as we plan next year's regional training and conferences. We have a lot of talent and some big resources to help us bring you some of the best training around.

Registration and hotel information for various training being held around the state, can be found on the Texas Jail Association website, www.texasjailassociation.com. Thank you to all of the Jail staff who keep our jails running day and night. Stay healthy and stay safe.

Becky Caffey, 2nd Vice President Brown County becky.caffey@browncountytexas.org 325-203-3330	Jason Davis, Director McLennan County Jason.Davis@co.mclennan.tx.us 254-759-7532
Abby Belangeri, Treasurer Brazos County abelangeri@brazoscountytexas.org 979-361-4818	Edwardo Jackson, 3rd Vice President Travis County edwardo.jackson@traviscountytexas.org 512-854-5214
Johnny Jaquess, Sergeant-at-Arms Lubbock County 806-549-8001 jjaquess@lubbock.tx.us	Francis Dembowski, Director Travis County 512-854-5391 frances.dembowski@traviscountytexas.org
Jackie Benningfield, Member-at-Large Burnet County jbenningfield@burnetsheriff.com 512-715-8600	Marivette Garcia Brooks County mmirelez@co.brooks.tx.us 361-325-3696



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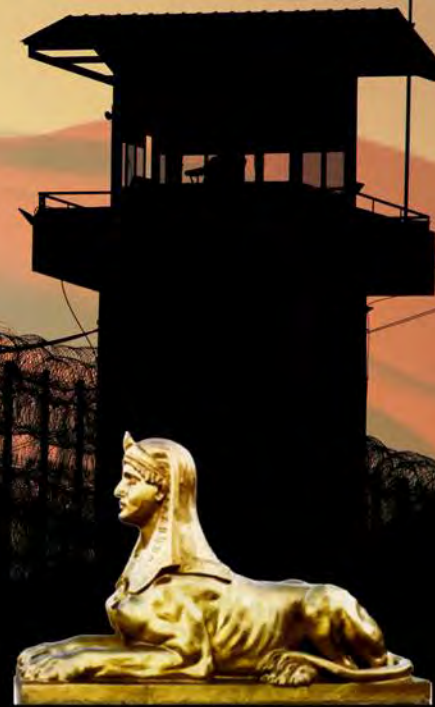
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Get Ready for the 35th Annual TJA Conference in May 2021

By Carla Stone, Historian

As we look toward 2021, the Training Committee is already planning the 35th Annual Texas Jail Association Conference. President Dan Corbin has chosen a conference theme to honor the Association's Past Presidents.

The Exhibit Hall game will feature pictures of our Past President's and several members will win CASH PRIZES! Proceeds from the Exhibit Hall Game go to the Jerry Baggs Memorial Scholarship Fund. We appreciate the vendors who support TJA year after year, and a special "Thank You" to those that donate and participate in the game.

You better start learning about the history of our great Association! We will have a number of opportunities to win prizes during the conference. Each chance to win will involve a piece of TJA history. It might be identifying a picture of a Past President, or naming the Past President when given the year he/she served. There will be several variations of clues, so come join us in Austin next May!



OSS Academy[®]

Law Enforcement & Corrections Training

OSS Academy is proud to announce our partnership with the Texas Jail Association [TJA]. Adding to the many TJA member benefits, OSS is now offering discounted access to our catalog of online TCOLE courses, thereby supporting TJA's longstanding mission to advance professionalism through training. Working in concert with the numerous opportunities TJA has provided since its formation in 1986, the courses at OSS Academy draw upon an equally storied well of experience and expertise.

OSS Academy and OSS Law Enforcement Advisors apply more than 110 years of combined professional experience in law enforcement, jail, security, correctional care, and criminal justice fields to provide quality services to meet our client's needs. Drawing from a wide range of backgrounds, our Subject Matter Experts [SME's] infuse our services with their wealth of educational credentials, related training, and real-world experience.

Building on the foundation of a three-generation U.S. Army and instructor tradition, David Salmon II serves as OSS's Training Coordinator, overseeing the design and presentation of 1,000s of law enforcement, corrections, and counter-terrorist courses to meet TCOLE training requirements and for professionals worldwide.

Since 1974, OSS has utilized and expanded the knowledge of our experts through our expert witness con-

sulting services, policy & procedures development, risk assessments, and online training, with each facet of the company feeding the improvement of other services.

Recognizing the importance of easily accessible and informative training for the busy officer, jailer, and telecommunicator, OSS provides an ever-expanding catalog of TCOLE certified corrections and jailer courses through our online platform, presenting self-paced training and no-hassle TCOLE reporting. These include required courses for advanced TCOLE certification and continuing education and a wide range of TCOLE electives, such as Jail & Lock-up Liability and Inmate Rights & Privileges #3502.

In working with the TJA, OSS intends to further facilitate and simplify the training experience of the TJA members. Through the TJA training portal at www.TJA.ossfirst.com, members can access a large selection of OSS courses at a discounted rate, along with periodic sales, promotions, and new course offerings.

Here at OSS, we truly consider it an honor to have the opportunity to work with TJA and its members. Whether it be a training-related question, an inquiry into our other services, or a general question about mitigating risk within your facility, feel free to contact us at **(281) 288-9190 (Ext. 205)** or **customer.service@police-trainingcenter.com**.

The OSS Academy training discount will be available to active TJA members. The discount code will be emailed to the address TJA has on record. If you have an active TJA membership and do not receive your code please contact Sharese Hurst at sharese@shsu.edu to confirm your membership status and the email address on record.



Texas Jail Association's Key Issues

Call for Articles!

Key Issues invites ALL MEMBERS to send articles, photographs, presentations, papers, announcements, challenges, creative solutions or any submission that may be of interest to the TJA membership.

**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION IN THE FALL ISSUE
OCTOBER 1ST, 2020**

**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION IN THE WINTER ISSUE
DECEMBER 1ST, 2020**

**SEND SUBMISSIONS OR QUESTIONS TO:
SHARESE@SHSU.EDU**

ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME FOR CONSIDERATION!



COVID-19 Brazos County Action Plan Review

by Abby Belangeri, Sergeant, Brazos County Sheriff's Office

To say 2020 has been an unprecedented year in our world's history is an understatement. As the year began, the world became increasingly familiar with the now infamous COVID-19 virus as many health organizations feared a global pandemic. By mid-march, the US was in the throes of implementing measures to reduce exposure to the COVID-19 virus at various levels of community engagement.

A major concern for many in the criminal justice field has been the impact that COVID-19 could have if able to infiltrate the jail population. Jails are constantly moving and changing. Not one is exactly like another and there are many points of access between staff, visitors, and constantly changing populations opening the door for the virus to come into our jails. Many panicked criminal justice administrators reached out via various networking media outlets in an effort to ascertain best practices on how to keep their facilities safe and virus free. Although we have been facing this challenge head on for over four months, the threat of COVID-19 and other easily spread viruses are far from over. In this article, I will review the procedures we have implemented in Brazos County in an effort to limit the potential for virus exposure to jail staff and population as well as ensure our daily operations are minimally impacted.

As the threat of COVID-19 became a reality in Brazos County, an initial assessment of our population was reviewed. Inmates in jail on child support warrants, minor misdemeanor pre-trial offenders with insignificant criminal histories, and work release inmates were all reviewed for release back to the community if they presented minimal risk to community safety. High risk inmates such as immunocompromised and the elderly were reviewed with a community safety perspective

and those whom presented minimal threat to the community were released through the proper authorities. Arrest on misdemeanor class C offenses and warrants through local municipal agencies were limited to those that were necessary to maintain the safety of the community. Local agencies collaborated to ensure that only those offenders from the community that presented a threat to the community were arrested and brought to jail. A standing order for PR bonds on non-violent misdemeanor A & B offenses was implemented as well as long as the offenders criminal history did not present a concern for community safety as well. These were critical initial steps to reduce our jail population and work to protect our remaining inmate population and staff.

We already had a communicable disease screening in place as standard procedure, but we ultimately increased precautions by conducting temperature screenings and the communicable disease screenings on intakes in the sally port as opposed to permitting access to the facility and then completing the screening. Any arrestee presenting with signs or symptoms of illness were rejected for medical clearance prior to acceptance. As CDC guidelines changed, new intakes and staff were required to wear masks at all times in an effort to reduce the spread of germs. Facility sanitation protocols were enhanced and executed on a constant basis to ensure a clean and sanitized environment. We established population cohorts and assigned them to housing on a 14 day quarantine protocol to ensure that our new incoming population did not expose our existing population to the virus.

The population cohorts were established by reviewing our housing plan and identifying appropriate housing locations for new intakes that could maintain separation

from the existing population as well as separation into new groups every three days. Each group was assigned to sequential cells and permitted contact with jail staff only for a period of 14 days. Each group was permitted day room, recreation and court access for specified time frames each day according to their group assignment. Cleaning procedures were implemented to ensure sanitation of shared spaces between each group use. Magistrate court was conducted in multiple groups daily to ensure that no crossover contact occurred. Trustees were not permitted contact with the quarantine population. As the community has opened up from shelter in place orders, our intake population has increased. Increases in our daily intakes has presented challenges in maintaining our cohort housing plan as it was initially designed, but we have been able to continually review and revise the housing plan to ensure no contact between new intakes and the existing inmate population for a period of 14 days. Daily temperature checks for all staff and inmates in the facility were implemented. Facility visitation was modified to online video visitation only, permitting one free visit per inmate per week. Probation, parole and attorney visits were mandated to be video only and facility staff took on attending to paperwork dissemination as needed. All visitor access to the secured facility including professional and programming visitors, was suspended and replaced by video services as they became available.

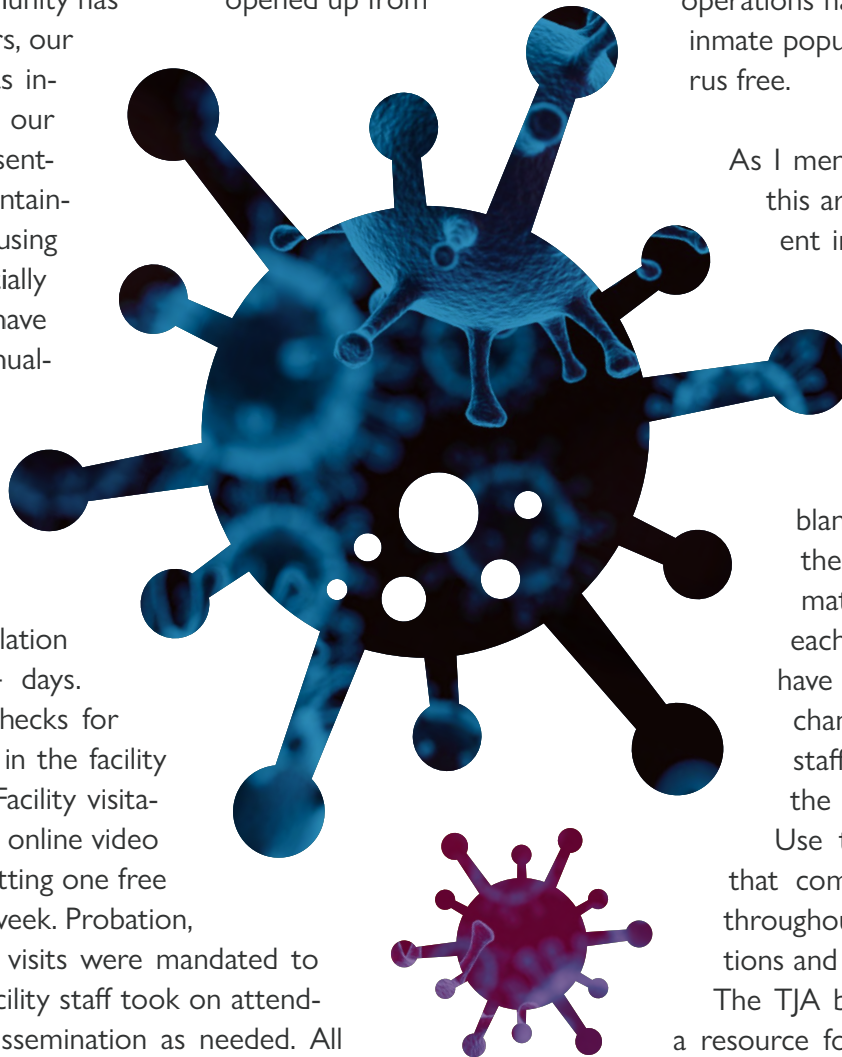
Inmate transportation in and out of the facility was minimized by implementing video arraignment for all magistrate, county and district courts. Only necessary medical transports were permitted and any inmate leaving

the secured facility was required to quarantine for a 14 day period following community exposure. Records and non-essential facility staff were assigned to work modified schedules to limit exposure to staff and inmates in the facility. As time has progressed, we have been able to reintroduce some inmate programming with modifications to limit person to person interaction. Our staff have been diligent to report any potential exposure and ensure they protect themselves and the vulnerable population we serve by self-quarantining when warranted.

To this point, these modifications in facility operations have aided us in keeping our inmate population and staff safe and virus free.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, every facility is different in its composition, resources and operations. The precautions taken by one facility may not be an effective fit for another. Although we cannot all implement blanket practices to ensure the safety of our staff and inmate populations, we can use each other as resources. If you have questions on how to make changes to protect your jail staff and populations, seek out the help of others in the field.

Use the wealth of information that comes from jail professionals throughout the state by posing questions and ideas via the TJA list serve. The TJA board members are always a resource for information as well and will assist in any way we can to help you execute your job at the highest level as a corrections professional.



Galveston

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The Chaplain's Corner

Lynette Anderson, Harris County Sheriff's Office

Hello everyone! I would first like to introduce myself as your newly appointed Chaplain for the Texas Jail Association. My name is Lynette Anderson and I am a Detention Lieutenant with the Harris County Sheriff's Office. I have been employed with Harris County since September 16, 1991. I am a graduate of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy (NJLCA), Class #12. I have mentored NJLCA Classes #14, #17, and #29. I am a widow whose husband was a proud Harris County Sheriff's Office Deputy. He served Harris County for 32 years and passed away five months after retiring. I have two children and three grandchildren.

As I write my first article, the world as we knew it before March 23, 2020 has changed. So much has happened since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The way we live and work has changed. I believe the one thing we took for granted was our everyday lives. Before COVID-19 we worked, sent our kids to school, went to church, vacationed, and got our hair and nails done without giving our freedom to do so much thought. Once COVID-19 happened, and the United States began to lock down, we realized that this virus was not something that would go away easily. We had to think of new ways to school our children, many lost jobs, while others had to do their jobs differently. Law enforcement, especially detention facilities, had to figure out a way to not only protect our officers on the streets, but also the ones working in the jails and prisons. We also had to protect the inmates

that were in our care, custody, and control.

We have seen many of our friends, family, and co-workers not only test positive for COVID-19, but also die from this horrible virus. This disease has shown us that it does not matter what your race, gender, or economic class, no one is immune. For many of us working in the jail, the greatest concern was taking COVID-19 home to our family. How do you tell your little one to wait on giving you that hug and kiss until you have showered? Or, when they ask if they can go visit their friends because seeing them on ZOOM is not enough. As we continue to move toward opening our States, my prayer is that we keep not only our family safe, but others as well. We can do this by staying home if we are not feeling well and continue to social distance. If you listen to the experts on COVID-19, another wave of this disease is expected to appear sometime in the winter. Pray this does not come to pass.

In closing, I would like to ask that you keep the families and co-workers of fallen officers in your prayers. The Harris County Sheriff's Office has lost two officers to COVID-19. Sergeant **Raymond Scholwinski** and Deputy **Juan Menchaca** passed away after a courageous battle against the virus. Also, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Correction Officers **Jesse Bolton** and **Maria Mendez** lost their lives after contracting the virus. My prayer for all of you is to stay safe, strong and resilient in these trying times.

LICE PROBLEMS?

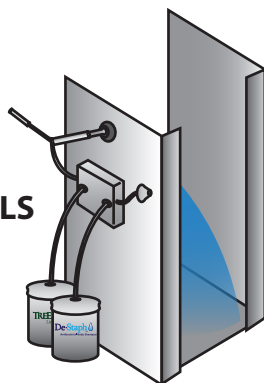
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STAPH INFECTIONS?

Staphylococcus Aureas (MRSA) is a common bacterium found on the skin of healthy individuals. MRSA is highly contagious and presents itself as a pimple like sore that can develop into an open wound. These bacterium can become hard to treat and can become resistant to antibiotic treatment.

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It Takes A Special Person To Do Your Job...

Ray Scifres, Hockley County Sheriff

Earlier today I was completing daily and weekly routines, such as going over inmate rosters and law enforcement calls for service. Sitting on the desk was the budget for next year that I have been unexcitedly working on over the last few weeks, as well as COVID-19 reimbursement grant documentation that needed to go to the auditor. As I sat in my office dealing with my own tasks, there was a glance at the computer monitor displaying the jail video cameras. It was installed about a year ago and is out of my line of sight, but occasionally catches my attention. Today it was nothing specific that caught my eye, but I just glanced over and saw the activity and goings-on in multiple parts of our small, rural detention center.

I watched as an officer was making rounds and speaking with inmates as he conducted cell checks. He did so with

a friendly demeanor and visited with multiple inmates even if only for a minute. Another officer was observed as she oversaw meal preparations for mid-day chow, not as a simple observer, but as an active participant. A shift sergeant was completing the release process for an inmate that received probation during a court hearing this morning all while answering a host of questions with a smile, and a bailiff was aiding in a “Zoom” hearing (that we are all now accustomed to taking part in) for another inmate about to receive a prison sentence. Seemingly mundane and routine activities were occurring in every part of our jail, and I had to smile.

Why a smile? It wasn't what the officers were doing, but how they were doing it. They showed a genuine heart for service to others. They displayed the pride they have in their chosen profession. They exuded confidence that comes from their training and knowledge and showed that same confidence in their fellow detention professionals.

So, why is this important? Around the clock, all day every day, and across our great state, dedicated professionals secure our jails, protect our inmates, respond to mental health emergencies, and serve others in a manner that is unfortunately too often viewed as routine. Anyone that has ever sat in a control room, booked an inmate, talked one out of harming himself during a mental health crisis, or prevented a fight in a cell area knows there is nothing routine about your job. You, our detention officers, whether in a 9-bed jail or a 3000-bed facility, play a vital role in the safety and security of our communities. I have said this during my entire career, and I continue to believe it to this day: it takes a special person to choose to work in detention.

During the week of May 3-9, 2020, we celebrated National Correctional Officers' Week in order to let those who work inside of jails and prisons know how much they are appreciated and how important they are to our criminal justice system. While not as visible as other aspects of the system, your role as a public servant is equally as important. As an administrator and a sheriff, let me assure you that you are visible, and your contributions are noticed. For your professionalism, integrity, and especially your heart for service, I say “Thank You.”

Spots are filling up quick in the 2020 JMI Exhibit Hall!

Grab a vendor booth in Galveston, TX this September!

For more information or to reserve a booth
visit www.texasjailassociation.com

Vendor Report

As the summer quickly approaches, we are preparing for the 2020 Jail Management Issues (JMI) Conference. We regret that the 34th Annual Texas Jail Association Conference was canceled, nonetheless, we are excited that the exhibit hall is almost sold out for JMI and we have over 250 registered participants.

The 2020 Jail Management Issues Conference, September 14-18, 2020, will be held at the Galveston Island Convention Center in Galveston, Texas. The San Luis Resort and the Hilton Galveston are host hotels this year. REGISTRATION IS OPEN and spots are filling up quick, so go to www.texasjailassociation.com to find all needed information, such as, class topics, exhibitor packets, registration forms, schedules, hotel blocks, and sponsorship opportunities.

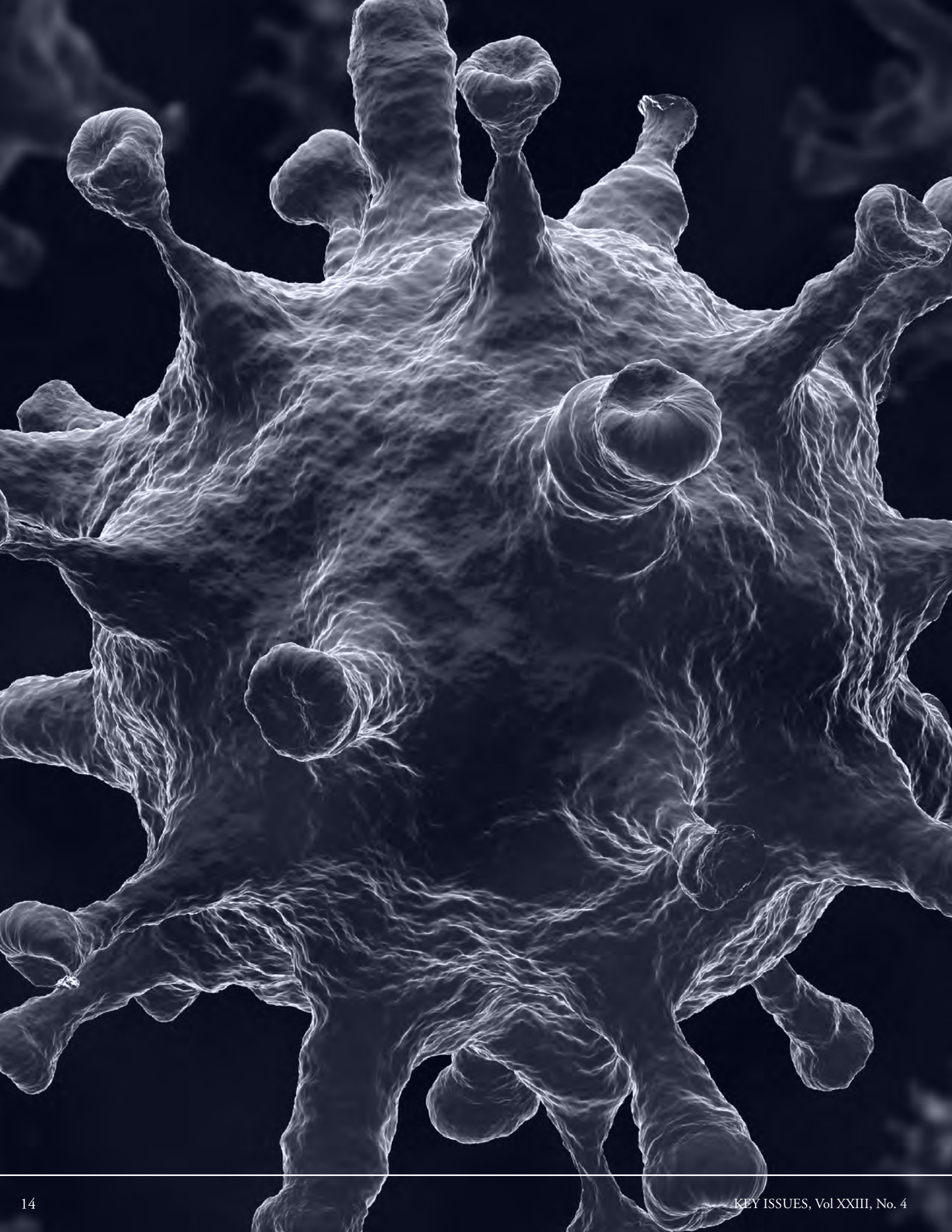
At the upcoming JMI conference there will be many opportunities to meet and congratulate the newly elected President, Dan Corbin, and members of the TJA Board. The swearing in of the Board took place virtually on May 18th, since the Annual Business Meeting and Awards Banquet was canceled due to COVID-19.

As the vendor representatives, please use us as a resource with any questions, or concerns, for the upcoming JMI Conference. Your experience with the Texas Jail Association is our ultimate priority, and we are here to fulfill your needs!

We hope everyone has a great summer and we look forward to an outstanding conference in September!

Grant Oakley
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grant@citytelecoin.com

Kevin Johnson
Correct Commissary
281-686-4055
wkjohnson@correctcommissary.com



How COVID-19 In Jails And Prisons Threatens Nearby Communities

by Michael Ollove

COVID-19 has raged throughout U. S. jails and prisons, where people live together in close quarters and there is little opportunity for social distancing, a lack of basic sanitary supplies, and high rates of chronic disease.

While inmates mostly stay behind concrete walls and barbed wire, those barriers can't contain an infectious disease like COVID-19. Not only can the virus be brought into jails and prisons, but it also can leave those facilities and spread widely into surrounding communities and beyond.

The effect may be most pronounced in jails, which mainly house those who are awaiting trial or inmates serving short sentences. Those facilities tend to have more churn than state and federal penitentiaries, with greater numbers of people entering and leaving, thereby increasing opportunities for the disease to disseminate.

Two new studies show that jails can contribute enormously to coronavirus case totals outside their walls. While COVID-19's spread inside the facilities has been widely reported, the research demonstrates just how great an impact it can have in communities outside.

Depending on the social distancing measures put in place, community spread from infections in jails could add between 99,000 and 188,000 people to the virus' U. S. death toll, according to a modeling study recently published by the American Civil Liberties Union in conjunction with researchers from the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Tennessee, and Washington State University.

The report was released in April, when some experts were predicting that the U. S. death toll would remain below 100,000. As of June 30, more than 125,800 people have died of COVID-19 in the United States.

COVID-19 in Jails Threatens Surrounding Communities

Projections from data collected in mid-April show how failure to stem COVID-19 in the nation's 10 largest jail systems would increase the number of cases in the surrounding communities within six months.

Jail system	Projected deaths in community, not accounting for jails	Projected deaths, accounting for jails	Projected increase in deaths in community without mitigation efforts in jails
Los Angeles County	2,591	731 in jail; 3,322 in community	1,462 (56% increase)
Harris County, TX	1,696	427 in jail; 2,074 in community	805 (47% increase)
Maricopa County, AZ	1,384	358 in jail; 1,984 in community	958 (69% increase)
New York City	4,193	364 in jail; 4,362 in community	533 (13% increase)
San Bernardino, CA	410	278 in jail; 1,080 in community	949 (232% increase)
Dallas County	1,115	308 in jail; 1,545 in community	738 (66% increase)
San Diego County	673	306 in jail; 1,684 in community	1,317 (196% increase)
Cook County, IL	1,857	256 in jail; 2,056 in community	455 (24% increase)
Orange County, CA	524	274 in jail; 1,330 in community	1,080 (206% increase)
Philadelphia County	570	174 in jail; 591 in community	195 (34% increase)

Source: ACLU Analytics and researchers from University of Pennsylvania, University of Tennessee and Washington State University.
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A peer-reviewed study set to appear in the health policy journal Health Affairs echoes that finding. The researchers found that cycling through Cook County Jail was associated with 15.9% of COVID-19 cases in Chicago and 15.7% in Illinois as of late April.

“Although currently available data are inadequate to establish a clear causal relation,” the study’s authors write, “these provisional findings are consistent with the hypothesis that arrest and jailing practices are augmenting infection rates in highly policed neighborhoods.”

Cook County officials, including officials from the Chicago

Department of Public Health, have pushed back hard on the report, calling it a “fantasy filled with assumptions bordering on lies.” They say it is based on old data that did not account for changes the jail had made to stop the spread of the virus, including testing and allowing for quarantining.

According to the county sheriff’s office, as of last week, 778 inmates at the county jail and 362 of its workers tested positive for the virus. Seven inmates and three employees have died. The authors of the Health Affairs paper said they stand by their conclusions.

Correctional Health is Public Health

COVID-19 already has infected about 60,000 prisoners and correctional staff and killed more than 600 of them, according to the Marshall Project, which tracks the virus’ toll in correctional facilities. Many jails and prisons have reduced their inmate populations to reduce exposures.

The results of the ACLU and Health Affairs studies underline a point that many in public health have long advanced: Public health in the wider world is tethered to the health of those who are incarcerated.

“This is why public health officials say correctional health is public health,” said Dr. Brie Williams, a professor and researcher at the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine and director of Amend, a group that works to improve inmate health.

It’s not only released inmates, many of whom end up in crowded homeless shelters, who might carry the virus into communities. There are also risks of infection from inmates making court appearances or receiving medical care at hospitals in the community.

Infectious diseases move back and forth between communities and prisons. That was the case with tuberculosis in the 19th and 20th centuries and with HIV/AIDS in the 1980s and beyond.

In recent years, that point was made again in relation to hepatitis C, a communicable disease with high rates of infection in prisons because of the large numbers of incarcerated intravenous drug users. Sharing needles is

one of the primary means of hepatitis C transmission.

One of the arguments public health experts used to urge local, state and federal governments to treat inmates with hepatitis C with highly effective but expensive medications was that knocking out the infection in prisons would prevent its spread beyond those walls. The difference between this pandemic and those other diseases, epidemiologists say, is that because COVID-19 is transmitted through respiratory droplets in the air, it spreads much more easily.

The Other U. S. Epidemic

The United States is particularly vulnerable to diseases spreading near correctional institutions. Its incarceration rate is the highest in the world, at 655 people out of every 100,000, according to World Prison Brief. With 2.1 million inmates, the United States also imprisons more people than any other country, nearly 412,000 more than China, which ranks second.

About 738,000 of those prisoners are in local jails, according to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics. But that number is just a point-in-time snapshot. During the course of a year, 4.9 million people cycle through local jails, according to the Prison Policy Initiative, a Massachusetts think tank.

Additionally, federal labor statistics show that jails employ about 151,000 correctional officers who can bring infections into facilities or take them home.

Most cases in jails have not originated with inmates, said Dr. Alysse Wurcel, an infectious disease physician at Tufts Medical Center who sees patients at six area jails and is a consultant to the Massachusetts Sheriffs’ Association. “We’ve discussed with the sheriffs’ association that early on, clusters were initiated by people working in the jails, not by those newly incarcerated.”

There is a racial component to the concern about prisons and the pandemic. Disproportionate numbers of inmates are people of color, and the coronavirus is killing Black and Hispanic people at higher rates than their shares of the overall population. Those two data points have not escaped the notice of public health experts. “We’re in an epidemic of mass incarceration of Black peo-

ple at the same time as a disease epidemic that is disproportionately affecting minorities,” said Dr. Liz Barnert, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, who studies correctional health.

The pandemic has lent impetus to the growing movement to depopulate jails and prisons. Since the pandemic began, many states and local jurisdictions have taken steps to reduce inmate populations, releasing nonviolent offenders, granting more compassionate releases and issuing citations rather than arresting alleged offenders.

Jails in California, Michigan, Massachusetts and North Dakota have released hundreds of prisoners. So have

state prisons in those and other states. Many jurisdictions report large decreases in arrests.

Other states have done relatively little. Just last week, the Omaha World-Herald reported that the Nebraska prison system is 51% above capacity.

Public health experts insist that reducing jail and prison populations must continue, for the greater good of all.

“Decreasing the risk of spread of COVID-19 in jails and prisons decreases the risk of spread out in communities,” Dr. Williams said. “And increasing the spread in jails and prisons increases the risk of spread in communities.”

Michael Ollove covers health care for Stateline. He worked for many years at the Baltimore Sun, first as an enterprise reporter and then as the paper's enterprise-narrative editor. He has won national awards as both a reporter and an editor. Mr. Ollove has written profiles of John Waters, Joseph Heller, the inventor of the infamous Dalkon Shield, a family of violent racketeers, and many other high achievers, eccentrics, criminals, zealots, and dreamers. Born and raised in Bangor, Maine, he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. This article, approved for reprinting, appeared in the July 1, 2020, issue of Stateline, an initiative of The Pew Charitable Trusts.

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COURTROOM CHALLENGE

Different variations of the Courtroom Challenge have been a staple at the TJA Annual Conference for many years. With the unfortunate cancellation of the Annual Conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the staff at the Texas Commission on Jail Standards are excited to present the Courtroom Challenge: Quick Draw at the Jail Management Issues Conference in Galveston, Texas, September 14-18, 2020. This will be the third year of the Courtroom Challenge: Quick Draw game testing your knowledge of minimum jail standards.

Last year, we had several teams compete from across the state. First place went to Alexander Nares and Yeisen Olivas-Chavez from Travis County. Right behind in second place was Tracie Sasin and Wade Goolsby from Lubbock County. Rounding out the top three, Kristene Crockett and Eileen Russell from McLennan County. We will have registration on-site the morning of the competition. We welcome as many teams that want to enter. This is an incredible learning environment as well as a competitive setting that everyone enjoys.

In case you did not compete, spectate, or even hear how the game was played last year, here is the format:

Teams are composed of two individuals. Then, by random draw, two teams compete against each other in the round. During the round, questions are projected onto the wall. Teams then respond by selecting their choice with the corresponding color/shape on the computer in front of them within a set time limit. Points are earned for correct answers only. However, more points are earned the quicker your team responds with the correct answer. After a set amount of questions, the round is completed and the team with the most points is declared the winner. As teams progress to the finals, the question time limit for teams to respond is shortened as the stakes become higher.

In the end, you have two teams in a very fast paced final round to be crowned the winner of the Courtroom Challenge: Quick Draw. Team trophies will be provided to the first, second and third place teams. Get your two-person teams ready to compete to test your knowledge of minimum jail standards!



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Two (2) Person Teams

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Test Your Knowledge Of Minimum Standards

Team Trophies Awarded To First, Second, And Third Place



Signup will be at the 2020 Jail Management Issues Conference



I would like to thank you, the TJA membership, for your time and consideration in voting for me this year as I ran for a director position on the TJA board of directors. Although I accepted an appointment for Treasurer instead of the Director position, I am ever so thankful for your confidence in me and vote to serve on the TJA Board. The role that we play in the professionalization for the field of corrections is crucial to maintain the safety and security of Texas jails and communities. Please know that I appreciate your confidence in me to serve in this capacity. I am always available to you as resource for information. If I do not know the answer, I will seek it out through the extensive network of jail professionals available through this awesome association. I look forward to my continued service with TJA and helping to make Texas jails a better place to serve.

Thank You,

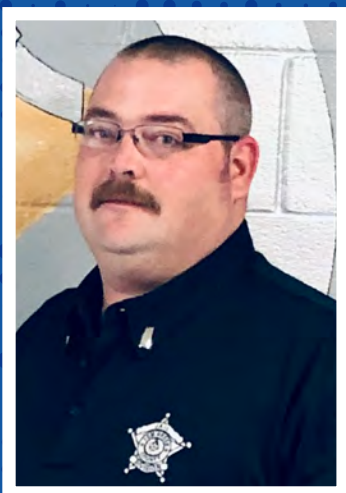
Sergeant Abby Belangeri, Custodian of Records / NJLCA Class #28 / 979-361-4871



I would like to formally thank you for electing me to serve in the position of 3rd Vice President. During my time as the Association's Secretary and also Director, I have given my all. I promise to continue this same hard work and dedication for years to come.

As I stated in my campaign emails, my commitment to you as your 3rd Vice President is to continue providing training across the state, increasing our funds for scholarships, and additional networking opportunities. Specific training focuses will be on jail leadership, mental health topics related to our profession, and preparing yourselves for advancement in your career as a Corrections Professional. If there is anything I can do to assist you, or your agency, in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me via the TJA website.

**Thank you all and God bless,
Edwardo Jackson**



I would like to thank you for electing me to the Texas Jail Association Board of Directors. I look forward to serving everyone in the corrections profession. It is an honor to be a part of a great organization such as the TJA. I will continue to serve the membership in any way I can. If you ever need anything at all, feel free to contact me.

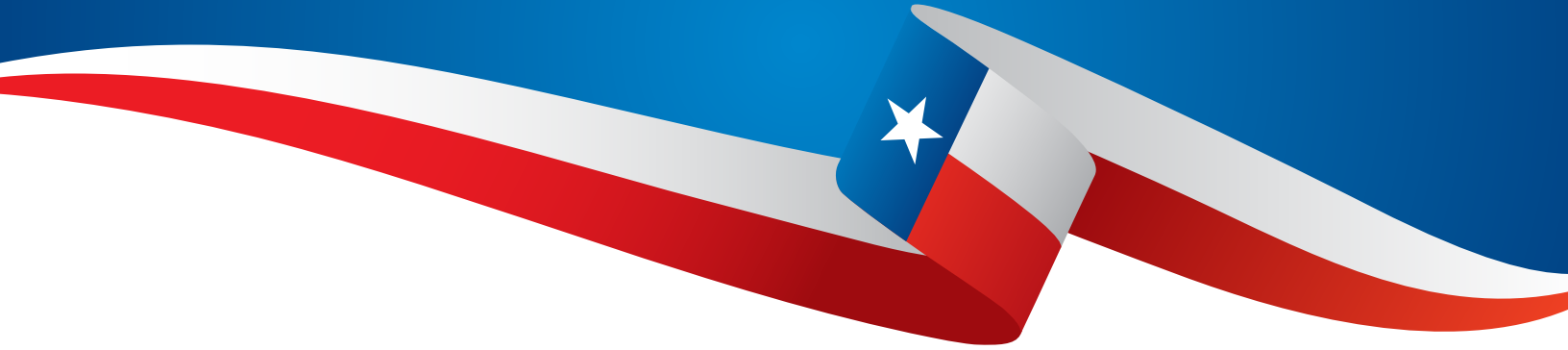
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What's Happening Around the State?

Bexar County

Civics Classes for Inmates

The Bexar County Sheriff's Office is one of the first of a few jails in Texas, to provide civics classes for inmates, which helps them learn about local, state, and federal government, but more importantly teaches inmates what voting rights they have while incarcerated. In partnership with MOVE Texas and Texas Organizing Project (TOP), Sheriff Javier Salazar identified that many inmates incarcerated at the Bexar County Jail did not know what voting rights they still had, but also identified that many of the inmates truly did not understand the electoral process. This course has been such a success that it was recently highlighted by CNN to help get the story out on the importance of teaching civics to the incarcerated.

Dealing with COVID-19

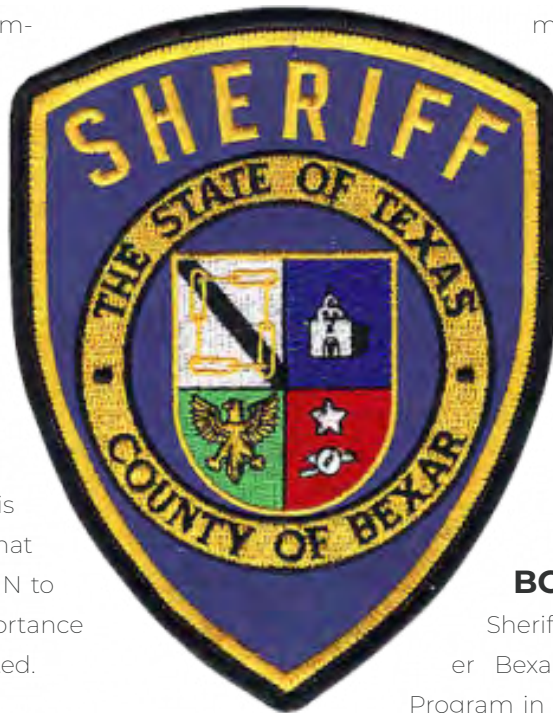
The Bexar County Jail has taken on the task of mass testing 100% of inmates and staff for COVID-19. Currently, we have begun to see a slight decline in the number of positive cases on both officers and inmates alike. This has been a task considering the population of nearly 3,500 inmates. These initiatives have proven to be effective in the containment and preventing the spread of the virus within the facility and staff. Once again the Bexar County Sheriff's Office has stepped up to the challenge and took it head on.

Safety Bumper Stickers

Sheriff Javier Salazar created the Bexar County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Safety Bumper Stickers. These BCSO Safety Stickers are geared to assist people with special needs and specific medical conditions, these safety stickers which are of free cost to the community are intended to assist law enforcement to better understand

that the individual they are interacting with may have one of the following conditions: autism or special needs, diabetes, deaf, or Alzheimer's. As we have seen throughout the nation and here locally, oftentimes a medical condition can give the im-

pression that the person they are interacting with may be under the influence, when in fact the person is actually suffering from a diabetic episode. Here in Bexar County, the safety sticker program has been an absolute success, so much so, that agencies throughout the United States have begun to adopt the same type of safety program for their department.



BCSO Liaison Program

Sheriff Javier Salazar created the first-ever Bexar County Sheriff's Office Liaison Program in 2017, and it is now the biggest law enforcement liaison program in Texas. The BCSO currently has liaisons for the following communities: LGBTQ, Asian, Muslim, Hispanic, African American, Jewish, Faith-based, Military, Indian, Autism and Special Needs, and Deaf liaisons. Through the diversity of the liaison program, the Bexar County Sheriff's Office is able to create unique relationships with each community, to include having the ability to successfully recruit members from those community to the Sheriff's Office. Several of the liaisons have been featured by local media due to the success they have had in their communities and the diversity they add to the Sheriff's Office.

What's Happening Around the State?

Houston County

On April 1, 2020 **Justin Killough** was sworn in as Sheriff of Houston County. He was sworn in by Houston County Judge Jim Lovell. Prior to becoming sheriff, Killough served as Chief Deputy. He began his law enforcement in 1995 and has been with the Houston County Sheriff's Office since 1997. Killough began as a deputy, working in the capacity of a sergeant and a lieutenant.



On April 2, 2020 Investigator **Jerry Kaelin** took the position as Chief Deputy. He has been with the Houston County Sheriff's Office since 2014. Kaelin began his law enforcement career in 1995 also, retiring from Texas Department of Public Safety before coming to the Sheriff's Office.

Kendall County

Emmanuel Cerda was promoted to Corporal this week. Cerda has been with the Kendall County Sheriff's Office for two years. Prior to his employment with Kendall County, Cerda was a Detention Officer with the San Patricio County Sheriff's Office for 10 years where he attained the rank of Sergeant. Pictured are Corporal Cerda and Sheriff Al Auxier.



What's Happening Around the State?

Lubbock County

Following the Covid-19 guidelines, inmates worked diligently to make face masks for anyone entering the Lubbock County Detention Center, under the guidance of **Tammy Smith**, the Education Coordinator.



Lubbock County Detention staff enjoyed hamburgers and hotdogs in appreciation for their hard work and dedication during Correctional Officer week. In addition to the meal, Monster Energy Drinks donated drinks, Chick-Fil-A donated gift cards and Keefe Commissary donated chips and candy. The staff in Programs raised money throughout the year to stock goody bags full of treats for each officer.



Lubbock County

Lubbock County Sheriff **Kelly Rowe** promoted Corporal **Tanner Jasper** to Sergeant in the Detention Center. Sergeant Jasper has been with the Sheriff's Office since August of 2013.



**Have a story or updates
about your county? LET US KNOW!**

Submission Deadlines

Summer Issue

June 1st, 2020

Fall Issue

October 1st, 2020

Winter Issue

December 1st, 2020

Spring Issue

March 1st, 2021

Send submissions to Sharese Hurst
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Past President's Scholarship

The Texas Jail Association offers scholarships to eligible students pursuing an academic degree at a college or university. These scholarships are provided in honor of all Past Presidents of the Texas Jail Association. The scholarships are awarded for the Spring semester and Fall semester of each year.

Deadlines

Spring 2021 Semester - December 1, 2020

Fall 2021 Semester - July 1, 2021

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Jerry Baggs Memorial Scholarship

The Jerry Baggs Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to an active member of the association that is serving his or her county in a mid-management position up to Assistant Jail Administrator.

The scholarship is for tuition to a class of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy (NJLCA). Tuition includes all class materials, lodging, and all meals/snacks). The sending agency will be required to provide transportation for the selected participant to Huntsville.

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