

THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION KEY ISSUES

Vol XXVII, No. 2

Summer 2023



Summer 2023 Edition

Past President's Passage



TJA Members,

The 37th Annual Conference is behind us, and what a fantastic job by the TJA Board of Directors and the CMIT staff. They all work so hard to make sure that everything is completed and done with such enthusiasm. They are a wonderful group of professionals.

This was one of the largest conferences with over 560 attendees. Johnny Jaquess and the Training Committee did an outstanding job scheduling new speakers and a variety of classes. Edwardo Jackson hit a homerun again with the Jerry Baggs Memorial Golf Tournament.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every vendor that supported the Texas Jail Association Annual Conference. Your support means so much to our Association.

The BBQ fundraiser, which supports the Jack Crump Scholarship, had an overwhelming turnout. We had a big crowd and expect an even larger one next May. Thank you to all who came out and supported this event.

I would also like to remind each one of the members that we appreciate your support and hope you all had a wonderful time at the conference. It is always so good to see everyone. The Jail Management Issues Conference will be September 11 – 15, 2023, in Galveston.

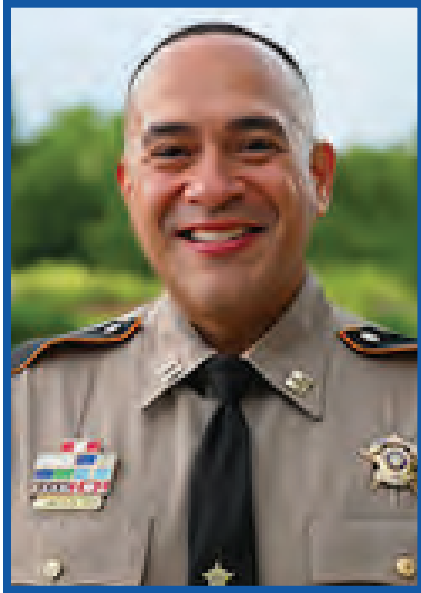
Congratulations to our President Edwardo Jackson! We wish him well.

I hope to see you all in September! Stay safe and God bless.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Becky Caffey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Becky Caffey
Immediate Past President, Texas Jail Association

Message from the President



TJA Members,

The 37th Annual Conference is now a memory, but what a great gathering it was! Whether renewing old friendships or making new ones, the networking opportunities abounded. Johnny Jaquess, and the Training Committee put together an awesome lineup of training classes with outstanding presenters to bring you the latest and greatest our profession has to offer.

To make the Conference even more exciting, we had a large slate of candidates for the Directors positions. Seven candidates campaigned for two available positions! A huge congratulations goes out to Jason Davis who was elected as your new 3rd Vice President, and congratula-

tions to Rowdee Edwards of Collin County and Elroy Holmes of Lubbock County who will be working hard for you during their terms as Directors.

As always, our conferences would not exist without the tireless efforts of our Executive Director, Sharese Hurst and her CMIT staff, and your Board who worked diligently behind the scenes to make the week a success. Special thanks goes out to my Sheriff, Sally Hernandez, and my Jail Administrator, Major Raul Banasco, for offering up their tremendous support once again. The highlight for me personally was the banquet and receiving the President's gavel from Becky Caffey, now your Immediate Past President. I had been asked for some time if my speech was ready, what would I talk about, etc. Standing before such a large number of our members really brought home to me why I was there, and what it meant to me personally and professionally. I am humbled and honored to be your President, and I look forward to serving you. So get ready for the ride ahead in 2023-2024! I promise you, I will work tirelessly on your behalf in the best tradition of TJA and the vision Jerry Baggs had for this organization. I will see you at the Jail Management Issues Conference in Galveston this September.

Be safe my TJA family and God bless!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Jackson'.

Edwardo Jackson
President, Texas Jail Association

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Nominations & ByLaws Report	1
Legislative Committee Report	3
Farewell to the Legendary Sheriff	7
Technology Report	9
The Chaplain's Corner	11
Combating Staffing & Recruiting Challenges in County Jails	13
Scholarship Report	17
He Made a Difference	18
Another Successful Blood Drive	23
The Positive Impact of Re-Entry Programs in Texas Jails: Empowering Change, Regardless of Size	24
Travis County Sheriff's Office - 2023 PREA Audit	29
National Corrections Week: Recognizing the Contributions of Unsung Heroes	32
Chosen for the Challenge	35
Akins High School Correctional Services Internship Program	37
What's Happening Around the State?	40

OSS Academy®

*Proud to partner with the Texas Jail Association [TJA]
to provide discounted access to quality TCOLE courses!*

- Corrections, Law Enforcement, & Telecommunications Training
- Flexible & Self-Paced
- Over 130 TCOLE Basic & Intermediate and Elective Courses

TJA.OSSFIRST.COM



Nominations & Bylaws Report

The 1st Vice President serves as the Chairman for both the Nomination and By-Laws Committees for the Texas Jail Association. Listed below are this year's selected committee members. I am sure you will agree that we have some outstanding correctional professionals on the list. I look forward to working with them as we serve you in that role. The Nominations Committee is charged with ensuring the candidacy of nominations for elected positions. The By-Laws Committee reviews the TJA By-Laws and petition the membership if modifications are necessary. If you wish to become familiar with the By-Laws or Nomination procedures, feel free to visit the TJA Website or contact me directly. As always, I commend you all for your continued service in corrections and I look forward to seeing everyone again at JMI!

— Johnny Jaquess, 1st Vice President
Collin Co. Sheriff's Office

Nominating Committee

Johnny Jaquess (Chairperson)
Frances Dembowski
Kevin Stuart (At-Large)

By-Laws Committee

Johnny Jaquess (Chairperson)
Rowdee Edwards
Billy Bryan (At-Large)

★ Tailored specifically for Texas Jail Administrators ★ Spaces are limited ★ Apply today! ★



Apply or get more information at www.cmitonline.org

November 12 – 17, 2023 ★ Huntsville, Texas

THE LEADING EXPERTS IN JUSTICE AND FACILITY SOLUTIONS

From operations experts with firsthand experience as wardens, administrators, and directors of justice facilities and systems, to internationally-recognized experts in sustainable justice practices and criminology, we are experienced in finding solutions for all of the issues Texas systems are facing including: Staffing, overcrowding, deferred maintenance, case backlog, and more.

WHAT WE DO

- Owner Representation/Program Management
- Operations and Management Consulting
- Planning and Design
- Facility Management and Maintenance

Learn More:



CGL has been serving
Texas Counties for
25+ years

45+ projects
completed in Texas

1,900+ projects
completed total

9 Million+ SF
Facilities Maintained
Nationwide

Sign-up for our 360 Justice Newsletter to stay up to date on our latest news and insights:



@CGLCompanies



WWW.CGLCOMPANIES.COM

• JOIN TJA IN 2024 •

38th Annual TJA Conference

May 6–10, 2024 | San Marcos, TX





Legislative Committee Report

by: Todd Allen, TJA Past President 2017-2018, Tom Green County

As the regular session of the 88th Texas Legislature comes to a close the Legislative Committee and I wanted to take a minute and update you on some of the bills we have been watching this session. First off, let me introduce the committee and our purpose. The TJA Legislative Committee members are Abby Belangeri, Shane Sowell and Todd Allen. Our purpose is only to provide input and information on bills that effect our profession. We do not argue for or against any bill, we are in place as the “subject matter experts” to provide relevant information so those that do have a presence at the Capitol can make informed decisions.

That being said, here are the bills that we have been following. The status of these bills often changes rapidly and I do not want to give false information on the status. To see the status of any particular bill you can go to TLO (texas.gov). In the search box you can type the name of the bill (HB 1435 or SB 318). Make sure you are in the 88(R) – 2003 session when conducting your search. If you have questions about any bill in particular, don’t hesitate to reach out to one of your committee members.

HB 1435 (Failed)
Family liaison officers county jails

HB 1563 (Failed)
Confinement county jail certain persons

HB 1751 (Failed)
Mental Health jail diversion

HB 1965 (Failed)
Jails provide ID docs to discharged inmates

HB 2044 (Failed)
Depression screenings for pregnant inmates in county jails

HB 2183 (signed by Governor, eff. 9-1-23)
Temporary appointment for county jailers

HB 2620 (signed by Governor, eff. immediately)
Confinement in county jail; TDCJ 45 day pickup

HB 2749 (Failed)
Verification of the veteran status of inmates

HB 3704 (Failed)
Notification of death by law enforcement

SB 318 (Failed)
Confinement in county jails of certain persons

SB 444 (Failed)
Depression screenings of pregnant inmates

HB 67 (Failed)
Repeal early absentee voting prohibitions

HB 241 (Failed)
Repeal early absentee voting prohibition

HB 476 (Failed)
Defendants detained pending trial

HB 479 (Failed)
21 days to transport for competency restoration

HB 502 (Failed)
Repeal early absentee voting prohibition

HB 592 (Failed)
Provision of telehealth service located outside of Texas

HB 819 (Failed)
Repeal of abortion laws

HB 944 (Failed)
Registering to vote while in jail

HB 1282 (Failed)
County Jailer training on interacting with veterans

HB 1428 (Failed)
Provide ID, SSI and birth certificate at discharge

HB 1728 (Failed)
Release on bail certain defendants

HB 2215 (Failed)
Exceptions to the abortion laws

HB 2733 (Failed)
Compensate counties for inmates found to be incompetent to stand trial

HB 2748 (Failed)
Jail family liaison officer

HB 3363 (Failed)
Confinement of certain persons in county jail; compensation to county

HB 3850 (Failed)
Construction of abortion statutes

HB 4247 (Failed)
Notify inmates of voting eligibility

HB 5088 (Failed)
Magistrate notification

HB 5238 (Failed)
Procedures for identifying MI/IDD defendants

SB 120 (Failed)
Repeal early absentee voting prohibitions

SB 725 (Failed)
Procedures for identifying MI/IDD defendants

SB 1124 (signed by the Governor, eff. 9-1-23)
Qualifications to hold the office of Sheriff

SB 1235 (Failed)
Temporary appointment of county jailers

SB 1313 (Failed)
Confinement in county jail of certain defendants

SB 2479 (signed by Governor, eff. 9-1-23)
Magistrate notifications (now includes Class C.)

SJR 44 (postponed)
Easing and restricting bail

HB 477 (Failed)
Private prison prohibition

HB 491 (Failed)
Age of criminal responsibility

HB 501 (Failed)
Raise juvenile age

Please understand that this is certainly not an exhaustive list, only ones that were identified as having some impact on our profession. I would like to thank the Texas Commission on Jail Standards for their assistance during this session in identifying the bills and helping with the tracking of them.



September 11, 2023 · Galveston, TX

2023 TJA Jail Management Issues Conference

Cost: \$1500 per boat (4 people)

Fee includes: Boat, Guide, Bait, Fishing Reels, Drinks, Shuttle, and Gratuity

Prizes: Grand Prize-Biggest Fish, Team Prize-Most Fish in Boat, Booby Prize-Smallest Fish

Time: 6:30am–11:30am

Location: Marina
Shuttle will be provided to and from hotel.

Tournament Regulations:
Rules will be explained the morning of tournament



Inmate Phone System

Web-Based Access
Monitoring and Recording
Secured Database
PIN System
PREA Hotlines
Broadcast Messages to Inmates
Voice Biometrics
Live, Bilingual Call Center
Network Redundancy with Dual Mirror Sites
Phone Debit Time
Collect to Mexico

Kiosks

User Friendly
Interface with Commissary
Secured Database
Debit Card Release



Tablets

Customized to Fit Your Facility Needs
Educational Content
Inmate Messaging
Video Visitation
Commissary Ordering
Secured Database

Video Visitation

Off-Site Video Visitation
On-Site Video Visitation
Secured Database
Live Monitoring and Recording
Web-Based Access

**The Most Advanced
Technology Platforms in
the Corrections Industry**



CONNECT
1.888.639.6789
305 W. 3rd Street
Clifton, TX 76634
www.crownphoneservice.com

Farewell to the **LEGENDARY SHERIFF**

by: Martin Gonzales, TJA Past President 2018-2019, Atascosa County

I was about 6 years old in 1984 and I stood outside of the County Courthouse. A big, brown car with a gold star pulled up and a large man with the shiniest boots stepped out of that car. He walked up to us and said "Hello, how are y'all doing?" He leaned over and waved down at me with his hand as he walked by. I was astounded by the sheer size of this man. Not only was he polite but he intimidated the be-jeezus out of me all at the same time. I asked my aunt who he was, and she said, "That's Sheriff Tommy Williams". That was the first time I remember seeing him. Meeting him will stick in your mind. You won't forget him. Everything about him screamed South Texas Sheriff. The high narrow hat, the aviator sunglasses, the confident sway of his walk and his great southern manners.



Sadly, we lost him this past April. He had been ill for quite some time, but it still doesn't soften the blow of his loss. Not only was he my boss from 1999 until his retirement in 2012 but he was the Atascosa County Sheriff since 1973. He was the Sheriff

before a lot of his employees were born. He is the longest serving Sheriff in Atascosa County history with a 40-year stint.

Sheriff Williams was Poteet born and bred. He was born on the very property he resided on. In his lifetime, he witnessed lots of progress and change. His



family were county pioneers, and he knew the history of them all. He would talk about riding on horseback from the family farm to the movie theater in downtown Poteet. He would tell the story about the Poteet Hospital and Dr. C.C. Shotts. Tommy reminisced about a boyhood injury he suffered once, and his father Wright took him to visit Dr. Shotts for stitches. He would get into Dr. Shott's character by deepening his voice and puffing out his chest, "You think you can hold him Wright?" He would then describe how his father held him down as Dr Shotts commenced to stitching him up. If you ever witnessed a storytelling session of Tommy Williams, you pictured what I just described.

"There's not a greater man in my eyes that's walked Atascosa County's land. He was here for everybody and if you needed anything, he was there. He was for every, man, woman and child in this county he served. We were fortunate to have him at the time period we had him back in the rough and tumble days. There were days that he put his life on the line



daily. He went to a lot of tragedies in his career. At the same time, he saw this county grow and get to the next era. The time I served with him was truly one of the greatest things ever in my life. He was in a situation where he had a true heart. He cared and had a passion for the citizens and taxpayers of this county that was so enormous and so presidential" said Atascosa County Judge Weldon Cude who was a close friend and mentor of Tommy.

Tommy Williams remembered that when he first took office in January of 1973, he had 2 prisoners in the old jail with 17 bunks on the third floor. He had 5 employees, 4 deputies and 1 secretary. At Tommy Williams' retirement, he had 88 employees and a 140-bed jail. He came from the fabric of lawman that took care of business quickly and efficiently without fuss or excuse.

He couldn't go anywhere without everyone recognizing him. This wasn't just a county thing, everyone at the state level knew him as well. He served the Sheriff's Association of Texas (SAT) on the Board of Directors and was the President in 1987-1988. In retirement, he continued his service to the SAT as he and Gillespie County Retired Sheriff Milton Jung would work the auction and raffle table. That table was the place to be as everyone stopped in to say hello and catch up with the two retired sheriffs. Gregg County Sheriff Maxey Ceriliano remembered "Tommy Williams was truly a great man of tremendous character. Tommy remained active in the Sheriff's Association of Texas following his retirement. He was always available to a young sheriff as he provided wisdom and guidance. Tommy was the person that I asked to swear me in as President of the Association in 2013. Tommy will be missed and we will keep his family in our prayers".

The SAT's current President, Gillespie County Sheriff Buddy Mills also shared the sentiment and sadness of us all. "I am saddened by the loss of Tommy Williams, he was a remarkable Sheriff and a Past President of the Sheriff's Association of Texas. Even after retirement, he continued to support and promote the Association. He will be deeply missed."

Current Atascosa County Sheriff David Soward remarked, "It was a great honor to work for Sheriff Tommy Williams for 36 years, 26 years as his Chief Deputy. He was a man of character and integrity, and he ran his Sheriff's Office under those principles. I owe a tremendous amount of my success as a law enforcement officer and as a Sheriff, to Sheriff Williams. I knew him for exactly 50 years, and it will be difficult not having him around. He served Atascosa County, the State of Texas, and our Country admirably. Our last words to each other on Thursday April 6th, were that we loved each other. He was a special person; he will be missed by so many."

Tommy and I shared a passion for county history. I would check in on him and call him to start a history conversation. He had a quick wit and sharp memory. I am grateful to have experienced him. I will vow that



history will not overlook him. During our last visit, I assured him of this, and he smiled. So, whether it was losing him inside of Bucee's, him calling me because I was "late" to pick him up 30 minutes before pick-up time or hearing him get "excited" at someone, I am grateful to God that I got to know Tommy Williams.

For all of us that have known him, he is a figure of lore. He's a character of Texas that will never be replicated. Tommy Williams will be spoken about, and he will remain relevant for generations. Our recollections of Tommy Williams will be known to our children and theirs. In time, our recounting tales of him will be unbelievable. Unbelievable, not for lack of proof but because his persona will be unfathomable to those that did not know him.

Technology Report

As your Technology Committee Chairperson, I am excited about our newest partnership with The Sheriff App. The 37th Annual Conference was a huge success and we have just scratched the surface of the capabilities of The Sheriff App. I will continue to make changes and make things readily available through the Texas Jail Association App. The following is the interaction numbers for the App at the 37th Annual Conference:

Engagements	Game Participants
31.6K	234

The Vendor Hall game was a massive success. We had a record number of participation in the vendor hall game and I am thankful to all who played during the 37th Annual. Our winner was Tifani Witherspoon of Robertson County.

Your technology committee is working hard for you to keep providing the best quality app for your best experience at our future conferences. If you have any questions, or suggestions, please contact me.

Thank you for your continued support.
Rowdee Edwards, TJA Director



Correctional officers have the difficult and often dangerous assignment of securing the custody, safety, and well-being of inmates. ICS would like to express our year round gratitude towards the brave men and women working in the correctional industry.

Thank You!



Larry Lynch

Business Development Consultant

TJA Vendor Representative

This past year, Larry was given the honor of being selected Vendor Representative for the TJA Board. We all consider this a great compliment to both Larry and ICS. It is very exciting to be given the privilege of working closely with TJA.

*A Texas company,
Owned by Texans,
for Texas Law Enforcement*

1-800-524-5427

www.icswaco.com



Save 10% by using coupon code **TJA523** at checkout during your next web store order.

Expires 6/30/23. Web orders only. Not valid with other offers or discounts. Excludes special order items, drop ship items, furniture, carts, and racks.



ARCHITECTURE ENGINEERING PLANNING INTERIORS

dlrgroup.com

The Chaplain's Corner

Veronica Mancias, Travis County Sheriff's Office



I want to thank President Edwardo Jackson, Board Members, and the Texas Jail Association for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving as TJA's Chaplain. I look forward to serving and representing our wonderful and courageous Corrections Officers in the state of Texas.

I am a Corrections Sergeant with the Travis

County Sheriff's Office and have been there for 5 years. I have a bachelor's degree in Social Work with a Minor in Human Development and Family Sciences from the University of Texas at Austin. I was a Pastor for 20 years prior to working with the Travis County Sheriff's Office. I have a total of 25 years experience giving supportive guidance counseling to people of all ages, all economic backgrounds, and all ethnicities. I have attended multiple Leadership Trainings and Conferences and have led hundreds throughout these years. I am on the STRIVE Board which is there to support, inspire and motivate the women of the Travis County Sheriff's Office. I am the Co-Treasurer for the Travis County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Association.

I pray that God blesses our physical and mental health, that He gives us His wisdom in every situation and that He keeps His hand of protection upon us all.



I appreciate your support and electing me for Board of Directors. I am humbled and honored to represent you as a Texas Jail Association Board member. I will work diligently to ensure we provide the best training, conferences, and representation for you, our valued members. Thank you for providing the highest level of correctional services to your communities and we appreciate you for being a member of the Texas Jail Association.

— **Elroy “The Straight Shooter” Holmes**

I would like to personally thank each and every member that voted for me. Your continued support is very humbling. I look forward to the future of our Association. Together, we can accomplish many great things. With our Association continuing to grow, I will strive to streamline your technology and make your app experience better with each passing year. I would encourage each of you to get involved with one of our great committees. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to continue serving.

— **Rowdee Edwards**



I would like to thank you for electing me as 3rd Vice President of your Texas Jail Association. I have served you as Director for the past 4 years, and have enjoyed bringing you quality training to help you better yourself in your career. I look forward to continuing serving you, and providing training on the latest topics affecting our profession. The field of corrections is very demanding, and staying up to date on training is crucial. I appreciate the confidence you have in me to serve you on the TJA Board.

— **Jason Davis**



Combating Staffing & Recruiting Challenges in County Jails

ABIGAIL BELANGERI,
TJA TREASURER, BRAZOS COUNTY

We are working in unprecedented times where staff recruitment and retention in county corrections has become one of the most significant challenges we face.

Failure to recruit and retain qualified staff compounds other challenges we already struggle to manage such as addressing overcrowding issues, effectively managing mental health populations, and effectively executing rehabilitation and reintegration programs. Some of the challenges we encounter contributing to our staff recruitment and retention issues are low wages, high stress levels, limitations in career advancement

opportunities, and the demanding nature of the job. Some of these obstacles are not fully within our control to address, but many are and with some creativity and collaboration, we can make changes to support improved recruitment and retention of qualified candidates.

The most common place to start is working to provide competitive compensation and benefits. Getting buy-in from our commissioners and communities in supporting salary increases for detention staff can be difficult due to the closed nature of our operations. It is important to be in-

formed on what a competitive wage is for your agency. The TJA list serve is a great resource for information and was instrumental in recent salary survey information which provided starting wages for many of our Texas county jails. This is an excellent resource to present to your county commissioners justifying a competitive wage. In addition to the focus on competitive pay, benefits have become a significant deciding factor for job seekers. What else does your county offer as a benefit to its employees? This can be in addition to the standard medical, dental and retirement benefits. Does your agency offer a wellness program? Do you have flexible scheduling available to accommodate a variety of lifestyle circumstances? Are there childcare options available? Each of these benefits translate to making your agency a more desirable place to work drawing in qualified candidates from the limited pool of those in the labor force today.

Professional development is another key component to consider when trying to recruit and retain staff. Compensation can help bring them in the door, but professional development will be a key factor in retention. Does your agency have a clear career path that provides opportunities for professional development and advancement within the correctional system? This doesn't necessarily mean expanding your rank structure to offer more promotable positions, rather it can be training programs, specialty divisions, and leadership development. Establish a plan for promotions based on performance, experience and engagement in the training and development opportunities offered through your agency. Creating this sense of growth and progression can increase job satisfaction and motivate staff to stay in their roles. Comprehensive training and ongoing support are critical to equip staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively perform their duties. Training should cover areas such as safety protocols, crisis management, conflict resolution and communication skills. Additionally, establishing mechanisms for ongoing support, such

as regular supervision, counseling services and peer support networks.

Improved working conditions is another area we can address to improve staff recruitment and retention. Working in a jail environment already has a negative connotation, but there are things we can do to improve the work conditions for our staff. Implementing a supportive work environment, addressing safety concerns, and implementing policies which promote staff well-being. Implementation of Strategic Inmate Management as developed by the National Institute of Corrections is a great place to start. This behavior management philosophy not only helps develop your staff to be more effective leaders, it also promotes a healthy culture of respect with the custodial population and contributes to a safer environment for all. Another consideration is to look at options for offering flexible work schedules and work-life balance initiatives which can contribute to higher staff retention rates.

Employee recognition and incentives is another area to focus on. Implementing employee recognition programs to acknowledge and reward staff for their hard work and dedication contributes to retention and a positive work environment. This can include performance-based incentives, commendation letters, public recognition events, or employee of the month/year programs. Recognizing staff contributions and providing positive reinforcement can enhance job satisfaction and encourage staff retention. There are also recruitment benefits as well because your current staff will be more likely to recruit candidates from their friends, family, and acquaintances. The benefit of staff recruitment is that your staff already know the qualities necessary for a candidate to be successful in your work environment. Your staff are your most valuable recruitment tool.

Transparent communication and feedback channels are critical for the success of any organization. This is an area we have a lot of control over

but can be very challenging to navigate. Establish open lines of communication between management and staff. Regularly solicit feedback from employees to identify areas for improvement and address concerns. Creating a culture of transparency and actively involving staff in decision-making processes can foster a sense of ownership and engagement. A great way to address both this aspect and a professional development track is implementation of a formal mentor program. Giving up and coming leaders the opportunity to work with senior leadership and experience some of what they do can open their eyes to the reality of how and why decisions are made while teaching them what all goes into the process which is not generally information gleaned from first line supervisor roles.

Collaboration is my last recommendation. The criminal justice system was intended to be a collaboration of systems to effect justice. The more

we collaborate and come together to compile resources, the more effectively we can serve our communities. Work to identify your community resources and identify potential partnership opportunities. Forging partnerships with local educational institutions to promote careers in corrections and establish internship or apprenticeship programs. This can help attract individuals who are interested in criminal justice careers and provide them with practical experience and exposure to the field.

Addressing staff recruitment and retention challenges in county corrections requires a multifaceted approach that considers the needs and aspirations of staff members. By implementing these recommendations, county jails can create a supportive and rewarding work environment, which in turn can improve staff morale, reduce turnover rates and enhance overall operational effectiveness.

Jail operations have evolved. Why settle for an outdated bail bonds process?

eBONDS
ELECTRONIC BAIL BONDS

**SHORTER
PROCESSING
TIME**



**DIGITIZE
YOUR
DOCUMENTS**



**MAXIMIZE
STAFF
EFFICIENCY**



**REDUCE
MISTAKES
& WASTE**

Find out more!

ebondstx.com | **ebonds@genesishworld.com**

Powered by **Genesis** 



Dennis
Operations

Proud to Support You

When you partner with Keefe Group, you will collaborate with a team of talented individuals dedicated to one common goal: providing the best solutions to your unique challenges and needs. Every member of our organization is ready and able to help you run a smooth, safe operation and ensure that you're completely satisfied with every service we offer.

Bulk & Outsourced Commissary | Care Package Programs | Direct-Debit Vending | Pod Kiosks | Cloud Banking | Education, Entertainment & Communication Tablets
End-to-End Money Management Solutions | Debit Release Cards | Email, Voice & Video Communication | Investigative Tools | Offender Management Software

keefegroup.com 800.325.8998

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

Visit the TJA Website for more info.

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 2024 Semester - December 1, 2023

Fall 2024 Semester - July 1, 2024

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.



KEEGAN HURST

Keegan Hurst, son of Lane and Sharese Hurst, was awarded the Past President's Scholarship by Treasurer Abby Belangeri. Keegan is a sophomore at Texas A&M.

HOPE DAVILA

Hope Davila received the Past President's scholarship to attend McLennan County Community College. Her grandpa, Johnny Mynar Jr., retired McLennan County Jail Administrator, presented her with the check.



He Made a Difference

By Billy Bryan, TJA Past President

Two years ago, the TJA Board began recognizing Jack Crump with a scholarship originally started back in 2000. In his always professional demeanor, he was very happy when I sent him pictures.

Sadly, Jack passed away on June 11, 2023. Although he was not known to many of our younger colleagues, Jack was Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards from 1988 through 2000 and the planner prior to that under Colonel Bob Viterna.

During those years, we witnessed massive overcrowding of county jails with a backlog of over 30,000 Texas Department of Criminal Justice inmates. We observed the development of private jails and the implementation of a State Jails system along with related sentencing changes. Jack worked tirelessly to update counties and protect them during this crisis. He worked with TJA to provide much of the early newsletter information about court cases and the state of the state. In fact, for his work with our Association, he was awarded the first Hall of Fame award.

Frankly, there was not enough space to keep on, but there was so much more to Jack. His professionalism and leadership during these times was well respected by all throughout the state and throughout six legislative ses-

sions and the many commission meetings.

So, to Jack Crump, my mentor and friend, "Thanks for all you did for Texas County Jails. You have earned eternal rest in peace."





PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE
Texas Jail
Association



**INMATE
KIOSKS**



**REMOTE
VISITATION**



**INMATE MAIL
SCANNING**



**INMATE
MESSAGING**



**INMATE
PHONE CALLS**

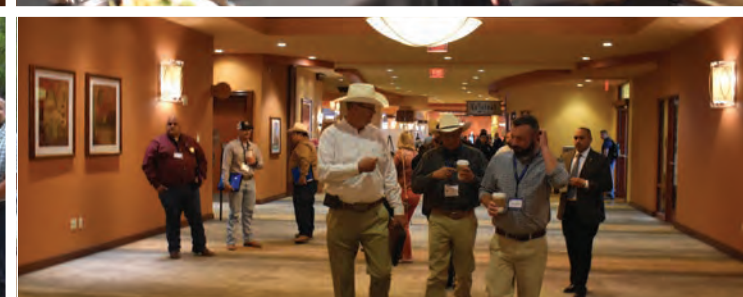
MARTIN GONZALES
830-480-2741
Martin.Gonzales@ncic.com

DOUG MORGAN
903-806-5884
Doug.Morgan@ncic.com

JOEY WALTERS
214-549-5845
Joseph.Walters@ncic.com

NCIC.com

37TH ANNUAL TJA CONFERENCE



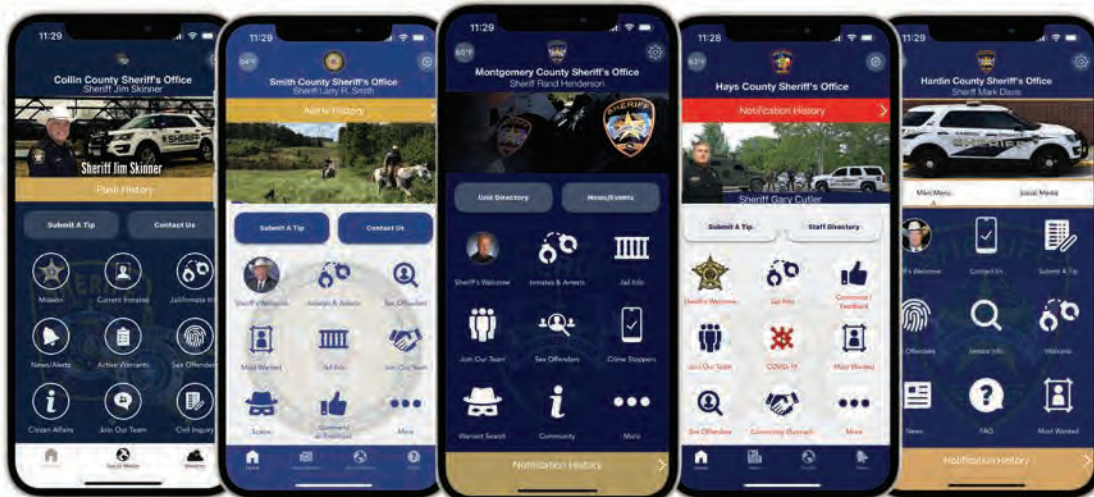
MAY 1-5, 2023 | SAN MARCOS, TX





THE SHERIFF APP.COM

CUSTOM SHERIFF APPS



Your citizens want
More Transparency • Better Technology • Information at their Fingertips
TheSheriffApp.com provides them all.

At TheSheriffApp.com, we have been the leaders in custom app development for over nine years. We offer custom iOS and Android mobile apps for sheriffs' offices across the entire United States. We work with you to develop an app that will meet the specific needs of your office, as well as your community. An app is now needed to be able to efficiently communicate with your citizens. With a custom app, you can have features like:

- Push Notifications
- Inmate Search
- Most Wanted
- Sex Offender Search
- Submit a Tip
- Many More!

90% of time spent on a smartphone is within an app.
Are you reaching your citizens where they are?

“ Keeping up with technology is important. We need to utilize innovative tools and technology to better connect with members of our communities and citizen partners. ”



Rand Henderson, Sheriff
Montgomery County, TX

Contact us to find out more about a custom app for your organization

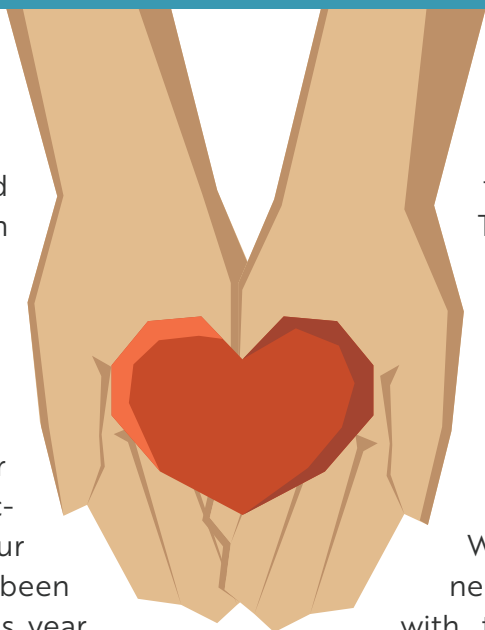
www.TheSheriffApp.com | 1.800-381-8321 | info@thesheriffapp.com

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BLOOD DRIVE

BY: TIM QUINTANA, SOUTHERN HEALTH PARTNERS AND TJA PAST PRESIDENT

Thanks to all who supported the Southern Health Partners/TJA Annual Blood Drive this year at the 37th Annual Texas Jail Association Conference. This marks the 11th year in a row that Southern Health Partners has sponsored the blood drive and each year has been a tremendous success. The membership of our great association has never been shy about giving. Again this year, our members filled the sign-up list and jumped on the blood bus to donate.

Over the past 11 years, the blood drives have collected a total of 205 units. Accord-



ing to the blood bank, this amount of blood correlates to 615 lives that were saved. This information comes directly from the Blood Drive staff. This year, members of the Texas Jail Association set a new record of blood donations that totaled 36 procedures in one day.

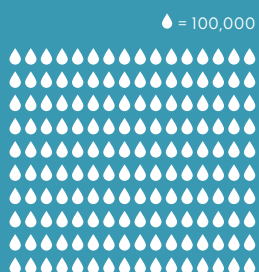
We at Southern Health Partners are so proud to partner with the Texas Jail Association in this continued effort to collect blood and save lives.



TEXANS HELPING TEXANS

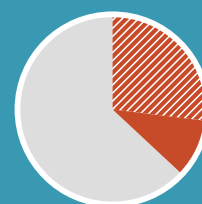
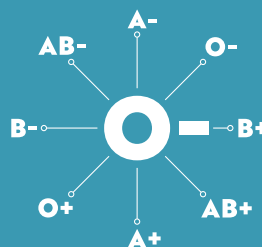


up to
THREE LIVES
can be saved
from just
ONE
DONATION



Nearly **16 million** blood components are transfused each year in the U.S.

O- is the
UNIVERSAL
DONOR BLOOD
TYPE



37%
of Americans
are eligible to
donate blood.
ONLY 10% DO



The Positive Impact of Re-Entry Programs in Texas Jails:

EMPOWERING CHANGE,
REGARDLESS OF SIZE

by: Greg Pilkington,
TJA Director, Tarrant County Sheriff's Office

In recent years, Texas has recognized the significance of re-entry programs within its correctional facilities. These programs focus on providing incarcerated individuals with the tools, resources, and support necessary to successfully reintegrate into society upon release.

While the size of the jail may vary, the implementation of re-entry programs has consistently yielded positive outcomes. This article explores the benefits of re-entry programs in Texas jails, with a specific emphasis on their impact on veterans, men, and women.

Empowering Justice Involved Veterans

Re-entry programs tailored to veterans play a crucial role in addressing the unique challenges faced by those who have served in the military. These programs acknowledge the sacrifices made by veterans while aiming to alleviate the issues they may encounter upon reintegration. By offering specialized support, such as mental health services, job training, and educational opportunities, these programs empower veterans to rebuild their lives and find meaningful employment. The skills and discipline acquired during military service can be harnessed through re-entry programs, enabling veterans to become productive and law-abiding citizens.

Fostering Positive Change for Men

Re-entry programs designed for men contribute to reducing recidivism rates by equipping them with essential life skills. By providing educational resources, vocational training, and job placement assistance, these programs enable men to develop a sense of purpose and self-

worth. Moreover, the focus on substance abuse treatment, anger management, and conflict resolution equips individuals with healthier coping mechanisms, reducing the likelihood of re-offending. Re-entry programs acknowledge the potential for growth and transformation in men, enabling them to positively contribute to their families and communities.

Empowering Women for a Brighter Future

Women face unique challenges during and after incarceration, often related to trauma, substance abuse, and parenting responsibilities. Re-entry programs specifically tailored to the needs of women provide vital support to address these issues. These programs offer counseling, trauma-informed care, parenting classes, and access to healthcare, fostering personal growth and resilience. By addressing the underlying factors that contribute to women's involvement in the criminal justice system, re-entry programs empower them to break the cycle of incarceration, reunite with their families, and reintegrate into society with confidence.

Benefits Regardless of Jail Size

Re-entry programs are effective and beneficial regardless of the size of the jail. Whether it is a smaller county jail or a larger state facility, these programs have proven to be instrumental in reducing recidivism rates. Smaller jails can leverage community partnerships to provide localized resources, such as job fairs, mentoring programs, and housing assistance. On the other hand, larger jails have the advantage of offering a wider range of services, including education programs, vocational training, and mental health support. Regardless of the jail's size, the primary focus remains on facilitating successful reintegration into society by providing individuals with the tools they need to live productive lives.

To conclude, re-entry programs in Texas jails have emerged as a crucial aspect of the criminal justice system, emphasizing rehabilitation and

successful reintegration. These programs recognize the unique needs of incarcerated individuals, such as veterans, men, and women, and equip them with the necessary skills to rebuild their lives. By offering tailored support, ranging from education and vocational training to mental health services and substance abuse treatment, re-entry programs empower individuals to break the cycle of incarceration. The positive impact of these programs extends beyond the size of the jail, fostering a stronger, more resilient community that values second chances and believes in the power of redemption.



**Your Regional Correctional
Healthcare Provider**
Regional Base, Regional Focus

Turn Key Health has been providing excellence in inmate healthcare to county jails for over 10 years. We provide medical and mental health services to 80 facilities in 8 states including Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Montana. We offer customized health programs tailored to your specific needs. We hire dependable, reliable, and professional healthcare staff. We deliver quality care, effective communication, and exceptional customer service. We look forward to partnering with you in the near future!

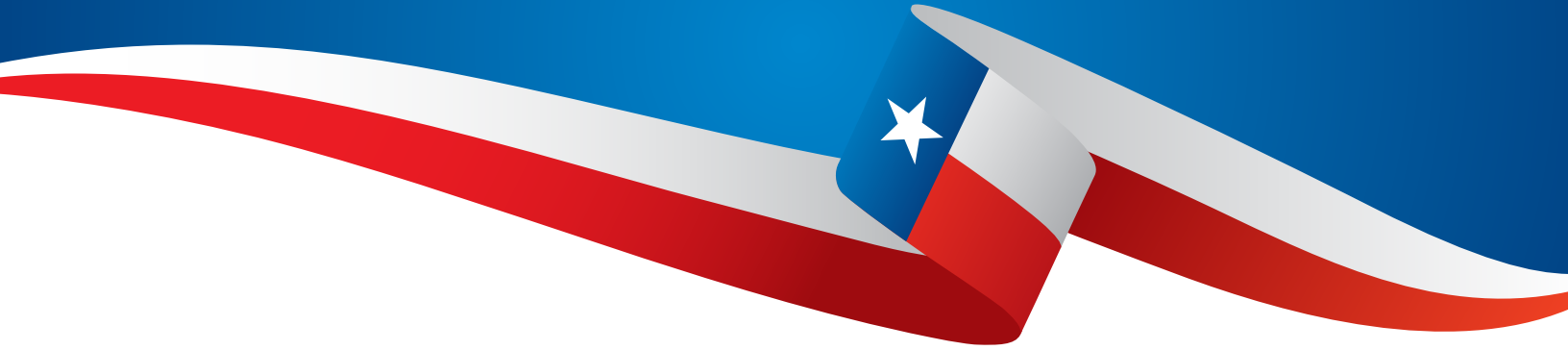
Contact us today to schedule a meeting or for more information!

April Farmer, *Client Liaison* • **email:** afarmer@turnkeyhealthclinics.com • **phone:** (214) 674-9959

COMMUNICATIONS
INTELLIGENCE
EDUCATION AND
ENTERTAINMENT
PAYMENT SERVICES



Connecting what matters®



Securus is dedicated to partnering with you, innovating toward a future with better outcomes for all

At Securus, we develop solutions that improve daily life for every person involved in the correctional system in this country. That includes the individuals in the system and the communities around those individuals - the family structures, support networks, and employees who need their work environment to feel safe and their careers to be fulfilling.

SECURUS IS THE LEADING PROVIDER OF CORRECTIONS TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS



Jerry Baggs Leadership Award — Lynette Anderson

What an honor to receive the Jerry Baggs Leadership Award. I can honestly say that 2023 has been a year of dreams coming true. I began my career in Corrections in 1991 at the Harris County Sheriff's Office. Back then, there was no career ladder for those who chose to stay a jailer. In 2009, under then Sheriff Adrian Garcia, the Detention Sergeant rank was approved and I was in the first group of 21 detention officers who promoted. Those of us who took that leap knew there would be some difficult times with this newly created position, because we would be supervising certified deputies. Although there were issues with the change, we were able to overcome the initial grumblings of having a detention officer telling a deputy what to do. In 2014, five years later, I promoted to

the newly created Detention Lieutenant position. Then in 2023, the unbelievable happened! I was asked to be part of Sheriff Ed Gonzalez' Command Staff. I can honestly say if someone had told that 24-year-old detention officer that she would one day be a Major in the third largest County in the United States, I would have never believed it. I remember the first 18 years of my career thinking if I was a supervisor I would supervise differently. When I promoted to Sergeant, I never forgot the great leaders I had. Nor did I forget the bad ones. I believe in mentoring and motivating all staff. This is how we create our leaders of tomorrow. I have had and continue to have great mentors in my career. They believed in me and that fueled me to believe in myself. I would like to thank everyone who recommended and voted for me to receive this prestigious award. I am so proud to be a part of TJA and most of all the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Distinguished Service Award — Rodney Cooper

I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Becky Caffey for the very nice recognition I received at the latest TJA conference. I am very honored to have the opportunity to meet and work with so many hard-working and dedicated people. I have been blessed to serve on the TJA board with many wonderful people who work throughout the state of Texas to operate and maintain safe and secure jails and serve the citizens within their communities. It is an honor to continue to serve in this role with incoming President Edwardo Jackson and other board members. I look forward to being a part of the continued growth of the Texas Jail Association and their continued mission to provide the best training and support to all its members across the Great State of Texas! I hope many more staff across Texas will have the opportunity to join and be a part TJA in the future! Thanks again to Becky and all the Presidents who have allowed me to be a part of this growing organization.



Detention Officer of the Year Award — Citlalli Suarez

Citlalli Suarez, of Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, received the Detention Officer of the Year Award. The award was presented by TJA Director Greg Pilkington and Chief Deputy of Detention Henry Reyes.

Travis County Sheriff's Office

2023 PREA Audit

by: Chad Cauthen, Sergeant, Travis County

20 years ago, President Bush signed the first United States Federal Law intended to deter sexual assault of prisoners: The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). PREA set standards, protecting inmates through its policies and procedures. Adherence to those policies is something Travis County upholds.

What goes into preparing for a PREA audit?

Proactiveness is key to being successful! The standards assure proper procedures, training, and management to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual abuse or harassment within jail facilities. PREA Standards set expectations agencies can build an action plan around.

It's important to know you're not alone. When devising policies, the PREA Resource Center is available to answer any questions you have. They provide support and training programs to provide the foundation for your new system. You can also look closer to home for support as every PREA compliant facility is a resource. Their experience can help you determine what procedures work in practice, and what may be a hindrance instead. Use every resource you can to increase confidence in your agency.



Intake and Assessment

Each inmate is assessed as part of TCSO's intake screening. This limits the likelihood some inmates will be sexually abusive toward other inmates. It also identifies the risk of potential victimization by other inmates upon transfer to another facility.

During the intake assessment, inmates are given information detailing the agency's zero-tolerance policy concerning sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Additionally, they are provided guidance on how to report sexual abuse or harassment.

Auditing Principles

The audit process established by PREA Standards is designed to audit agency practices. While onsite, the auditor thoroughly reviews and analyzes practices and procedures to certify compliance.

The audit process has four phases: pre-onsite, onsite, evidence review/interim report, and corrective action/final report. Each phase includes a selection of key steps the auditor must take to conduct an

objective, thorough, and high-quality audit.

The PREA audit thus requires auditors to be on-

site for an appropriate length of time, conduct a thorough site review of each audited facility to include functional tests of key systems and operations, interview a representative sample of inmates, staff, contractors, and volunteers, and collect and analyze detailed documentation that provides the evidence base for determining the facility's practices throughout the past twelve months.

Onsite Experience

When the auditor is onsite, everything is fair game. The auditor will ask your staff about training, review files for education, and walk around to find any blind spots. Have a list of people in the facility with disabilities ready so the auditor may talk to them. In addition, have detailed reports relating to PREA the auditor may review. This isn't a "gotcha" approach, rather a method to show the auditor that your agency practices what it preaches.

The time an audit takes varies based on the number of auditors and the size of the agency. At TCSO, the average audit takes three to five days because we have two separate facilities and an inmate population that averages nearly 2200. If you're consistent with your policy and training, passing the audit will be a common routine.

A Positive Outlook

Beyond the audit, PREA is a positive influence within an agency. It makes daily life less stressful for everyone in your agency. PREA provides directions for staff to follow, removing any doubt when high-stress situations occur. It protects inmates from abusers through its zero-tolerance policy and proactive approach to informing staff about potential problems they could face. Setting up a system of checks and balances will be an enhancement for your agency.



ADVANCED

Correctional Healthcare, Inc.

provides tailored solutions onsite and via telehealth
Accreditation - New Construction - Renovation - Staffing Analysis

Solving Problems, Making Lives Easier.

With more than 200 years of combined correctional healthcare experience in our team, **Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc.** is a proud partner with fellow correctional health leaders to deliver a higher standard of care for your facility.



AIMM, LLC brings you DetainEMR, an electronic solution for medical records developed by correctional health care professionals.



Freedom Behavioral Health, Inc. provides comprehensive solutions such as addiction services, forensic evaluation, telehealth solutions, recidivism prevention, and occupational health care for first responders.



USA Medical & Psychological Staffing, S.C. provides client facilities with comprehensive medical and mental health professionals. Our experts manage the needs of the clients by offering on site coverage and telemedicine.



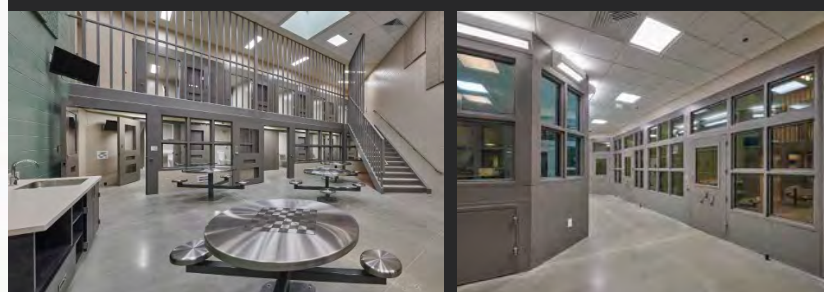
Spark Training, LLC offers clients data-driven targeted training in seat and online based on quality and safety standards, all on a national, state, and site-specific basis.

CONTACT US

(309) 692-8100

ach@advancedch.com

www.advancedch.com



CONTACTS

Henry Pittner, AIA
Justice Practice Leader
Phil Callison, AIA
Government Practice Leader
TXGov@bkgvgroup.com

PROJECT MANAGEMENT
PLANNING AND FEASIBILITY
ARCHITECTURE
INTERIOR DESIGN
BUILDING ENGINEERING
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION

ViaPath Inspire Tablets

Secure, wireless device specifically for corrections

viapath
TECHNOLOGIES



7:24 am
Watch video of
a daily sermon



8:32 am
Exchange messages
with girlfriend



11:15 am
Study algebra for
secondary education



13:12 pm
Read 30 pages of a
Jules Verne novel



15:45 pm
Do legal research on
pending case



18:21 pm
Talk to mom on the
phone with the tablet



19:32 pm
Listen to music tracks
by Lecrae

Corby Kenter

Associate Vice President
(214) 415 4866

Cheryl White Mynar

Senior Account Manager
(713) 898 7090

Lesley Hernandez

Senior Account Manager
(713) 898 7090

Joe Garbe

Director-Account Management
(817) 505-9070



NATIONAL CORRECTIONS OFFICER WEEK:

Recognizing the Contributions of Unsung Heroes

by: Jonathan Ede



Each year, during the first full week of May, the United States celebrates National Corrections Officer Week. The week is dedicated to recognizing and honoring contributions made by the men and women who work tirelessly to keep our communities safe from “behind the fence”.

This year, the Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) celebrated National Corrections Officer Week with special events and gifts for its officers. TCSO's efforts were amplified by the resolution passed by the Travis County Commissioners Court on May 2, 2023, acknowledging the significant contributions of corrections officers.

The challenges faced by corrections officers are often overlooked, but they are no less important than those of law enforcement officers. Corrections officers work in an extremely demanding environment, often dealing with violent, unpredict-

able inmates. They must maintain order and safety within the jail, while also attending to the needs of inmates and ensuring their welfare. The conditions faced by these hardworking individuals can be both physically and mentally taxing.

In recognition of the sacrifices made by corrections officers, TCSO hosted various events and prize giveaways throughout the week. The gestures showed the agency's appreciation for the hard work officers do, and acknowledged the risks associated with their day-to-day duties. Random drawings generated prize winners and the loot ranged from gift cards to a month reprieve from mandatory overtime, and the prize drawings were met with great enthusiasm by the officers. TCSO and the Travis County Sheriff Officer Association (TCSOA) partnered on Tuesday, May 9th, and fed all on duty staff. This effort started at 5:30 am and lasted until after midnight.

National Corrections Officer Week is the perfect time to recognize the contributions of these unsung heroes who work hard to keep our communities safe. It's important to recognize the dedication and sacrifices of these men and women who are often overlooked. The pride and joy on the faces of the officers during the week's festivities were a testament that everyone thrives when they're noticed and appreciated.





The Nation's Leading Provider of Medical and Mental Healthcare in Jails, Prisons, Inpatient and Residential Treatment Facilities, and Community Care Centers.

We are Wellpath. We care for more than 300,000 patients each day and employ more than 15,000 professionals at more than 500 facilities in 34 states and Australia. We take pride in our successful partnerships in Texas focused on patient care, clinical innovations, transparent operations, and a commitment to "Always Do The Right Thing!" We will continue to create healthier communities — wherever we go, wherever we grow — one patient at a time.

CJ Whitfield, MPH // Director, Partnership Development
731.441.8203 // cjwhitfield@wellpath.us
www.wellpathcare.com



CHOSEN FOR THE CHALLENGE



by: Sgt. Crystal Rosains: Travis County Sheriff's Office



Every year, the Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) attends the Texas Jail Association's Annual Conference. It's a great opportunity for leaders ranging from Field Training Officers (FTOs) to Sheriffs to attend classes associated with jail practices, standards, and leadership roles.

TCSO has an FTO program and prides itself on holding quarterly training. The training allows FTOs from the entire corrections bureau to get together and talk about popular topics that need to be discussed, network with fellow FTOs on how operations are running in their perspective buildings and follow up with any new policies.

All FTOs are expected to provide quality training and service to their sections, making them some of the sharpest officers in the corrections bureau. To select the officers who will have the honor of

attending the conference, a game is played during the quarterly training. FTOs compete against each other, answering questions that test their knowledge of Texas Jail Standards. Winners attend the conference and represent TCSO in the legendary Courtroom Challenge, a contest in which counties face off to see who knows their jail standards best.

It's a highly competitive, fun experience that builds camaraderie as teams answer questions correctly and as quickly as possible. The quicker teams answer questions correctly, the more points they earn. In addition to those coveted bragging rights, teams learn from the strengths of other agencies and bring those ideas back home. Those chosen for the challenge not only enjoy the competition, but also make their agency a better place for successful operations.

COURTROOM CHALLENGE

The Texas Commission on Jail Standards once again hosted the Courtroom Challenge: Quick Draw game at the 37th Texas Jail Association Annual Conference. This is a game to test knowledge of minimum jail standards. This never seems to disappoint as competitors from various counties compete to be the champions.

Teams of two compete by random draw against each other in rounds. During each round, questions are projected onto the wall. Teams respond by selecting their choice within a set time limit. Points are earned for correct answers only. However, more points are earned the quicker a team responds with the correct answer. Round winning teams progress to the finals, where the stakes are higher, and the questions get tougher. In the end, two teams duke it out in a fast-paced final round.

The last ones standing this year were from Travis (2 teams) and Lubbock Counties. It was a nail biter as the Travis County teams went head-to-head to determine who would take on Lubbock County. The closing match pitted a one-loss Lubbock County team against a one-loss Travis County team. Lubbock took the championship bragging rights by one point.

Congratulations to champions Cpl. Toby Pharr and Cpl. Wade Goolsby of Lubbock County! This is the 3rd year in a row Lubbock has taken first place. Congratulations to 2nd place winners Officer Derek Scott and Officer Cyrus Griffin and 3rd place winners Sgt. Crystal Rosains and Office Specialist Melissa Lawhon from Travis County.



AKINS HIGH SCHOOL CORRECTIONAL SERVICES INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

By Frances Dembowski, TJA 2nd Vice-President



The Akins High School Correctional Services Internship Program started working with the Travis County Sheriff's Office Correction's Bureau in 2011. This partnership allows students the unique opportunity to go out to the Travis County Jail in downtown Austin and the Travis County Correctional Complex in Del Valle to learn directly from current correctional officers. The goal is to prepare students a career in Corrections by the time they graduate. The students are all seniors and apply for the program their junior year by submitting an essay and participating in an interview process with Travis County Sheriff's Office corrections staff.

During the course, students earn four certifications:

- Texas Municipal Jailer Certification
- Correctional Services Professional Certification
- Private Security Level II Certification
- Objective Jail Classification Certification
- In the classroom, students learn:
 - Basic organizational models for municipal, county, state, or federal correctional facilities and the history of correctional services.
 - Officer's role in maintaining order and safety along with professional standards and ethical responsibilities
 - Issues related to human behavior and relations in a detention facility
 - Methods of screening for and addressing injurious prisoner behavior
 - Intake procedures for a detention facility
 - Various inmate health care issues and processes
 - Methods of providing various prisoner services



- Prisoner and facility security protocols
- Appropriate actions to take in emergency situations at a detention facility.
- Report-writing methods and courtroom procedures
- Situations requiring the use of force and the use of force continuum.
- Self-defense and defensive tactics
- At the end of the internship the students are career ready and have a Professional Portfolio that includes:
 - Professional Resume
 - Four Industry Certification Certificates
 - Letters of Recommendation from Industry Professionals
 - Industry references
 - Awards for Industry Skills Competitions
 - Experience with Correctional Officer Tasks and Duties

Students start the program in the fall and graduate

in the spring. They shadow staff in control rooms learning counts, observing cameras and observing movement in and out of housing. They also shadow corrections officers conducting their daily duties, supervising and managing inmates from the booking process to housing. The students spend time with the courthouse staff and bailiffs in the courtroom, and they get to watch the K9 handler and dog search for narcotics.

Students learn about gangs from the Corrections Security Threat Unit and enjoy a presentation from the corrections tactical team, C-TAC. They also spend time with the training academy staff on defensive tactics and physical fitness. Another highlight is their training with the Life Safety Unit, donning SCBA equipment and going into the fire house. They get to see all the assignments the Sheriff's Office has.

On March 11th, the latest team of Akins Correctional Services Interns competed in the TXPSTA State Criminal Justice Competition. The Cell Extraction Team was able to keep the school's streak alive, taking the honor of Best Cell Extraction Team in the entire State of Texas. The students graduated from the program on May 10th. Three of the students are in the application process, hoping to start their career with the Travis County Sheriff's Office.



We are so proud of their accomplishments and look forward to seeing their success as their career paths unfold.



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, 2023**

**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION IN THE WINTER ISSUE
DECEMBER 1ST, 2023**

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

ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME FOR CONSIDERATION!

What's Happening Around the State?

Lubbock County

Sheriff Rowe and Chief Cody Scott are proud to announce the following promotions to the Lubbock County Detention Center, **Joshua Acevedo** (Sergeant), **Micah Van Meter** (Sergeant), **Whitney Clements** (Lieutenant), **Mark Mosqueda** (Captain), and **Elroy Holmes** (Sergeant). We are extremely proud of our officers who have worked hard to get where they are today.



Officers and Staff gathered at the Lubbock County Detention Center to take part in bringing awareness to human trafficking by filling cracks on the sidewalks with blue sand as part of the Texas Blue Sand Project.



On Tuesday, January 24, 2023, Sheriff Kelly Rowe and Chief Cody Scott announce the graduates from the Basic County Correctional Officer Course. As always, these individuals demonstrated perseverance and

reflected the character required for the Lubbock County Detention Center. **J. Amalia, M. Ariaz, S. Badillo, M. Goss, R. Gamez, A. Griffis, I. Macias, E. Martel, A. Martinez, E. Mora, J. Negrion, J. Ortiz, A. Owens, J. Puente, C. Solis, A. Torres, Z. Vargas, and A. Villanueva.**



Milam County



Lieutenant Jeremy Knaus was awarded the Texas Jail Association Jerry Baggs Memorial Scholarship to attend the National Jail Leadership Command Academy, Class #46 in June 2023.

What's Happening Around the State?

Tarrant County

LaToya Jackson started her career with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office in April 2008. Jackson was promoted to the rank of Captain in March 2023 by Sheriff Bill E. Waybourn.

Captain Jackson holds an associate degree in Criminal Justice, a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Political Science, and a master's degree in Public Safety Administration. Prior to joining the Sheriff's Office, Captain Jackson worked as an educator.

Captain Jackson served as the Detention Division's Field Training Officer program manager prior to her promotion and is now the Green Bay Facility Commander. Jackson is a graduate of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy Class and is a certified TCOLE instructor.



Captain Jackson has been recognized by the Sheriff's Office by receiving the Sheriff's 4th Quarter Award of Excellence (2022) and will be recognized at this year's American Jail Association conference as the 2023 Correctional Trainer of the Year.

Lieutenant **Sheldon Kelsey** graduated from the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration (ILEA) School of Police Supervision Class #138. This month-long program is designed for first-line supervisors and middle-level management and aims to develop an agency's professional management team. It is the only independent four-week program in the nation for police supervisors and recognizes the importance of supervision as a major management function in law enforcement. The curriculum focuses on transition from "street policing" to management, especially the social and personal adjustments.

Lieutenant Kelsey started his career in law enforcement with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office in 2012. He has risen through the ranks and currently serves as the 1st shift Lon Evans assistant facility commander. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Tarleton State University and is licensed as a Master Jailer.

Outside of Sheldon's career he is a proud father and grandfather. Sheldon enjoys spending time with his fiancé, two (2) daughters and two (2) grandsons. Besides spending time with family, he enjoys grilling out, refurbishing wood items, playing golf, and softball. His future endeavors include starting school to obtain a Peace Officer License.

What's Happening Around the State?

Wichita County

Wichita County Sheriff's Office Promotions and Awards Ceremony

May 24, 2023

Promotions:

Sergeant **Jeff Penney** to Lieutenant
Corporal **Roy Biter** to Sergeant
Corporal **Kristian Valdez** to Sergeant
Deputy **Daniel Jacobson** to Corporal



Tessa Price Award:

Deputy **Johnny Routon**

This past February was the 12th Anniversary of the tragic death of Tessa Price, who was killed by a drunk driver Sunday, February 13, 2011. Tessa was only 16 years old and was a junior at City View High School. She is survived by her mother Lisa Gubernath, and family. Tessa was active at her Church, loved going shopping, played soccer, and loved spending time with her family. The crime of a person driving while intoxicated caused Tessa to lose her life.

The year of Tessa's death, 2011, 9,878 people were killed and approximately 350,000

were injured by drunk driving. Each crash, loss of life, and injured person, impacted friends, family, co-workers and classmates. In 2021, 4,489 people were killed by drunk driving in the State of Texas.

The Wichita County Sheriff's Office remembers the life of Tessa Price by each DWI arrest. This past year, 2022, the Wichita County Sheriff's Patrol Division made 169 Driving While Intoxicated arrests. Of the 169 Driving While Intoxicated arrests, Deputy Johnny Routon made 85 Driving While Intoxicated Arrests.

The 2022 Tessa Price Award goes to Deputy Johnny Routon.



Meritorious Conduct Award:

Deputy **Eric Wisch**



What's Happening Around the State?

Wichita County

Life-Saving Award:

Corporal **Andrew Bolf**

Corporal **Konner Chancellor**

On November 28, 2022 at approximately 1200 hours, Corporal Bolf was notified of an inmate choking on his food. Corporal Bolf responded and found the inmate had a completely obstructed airway. Corporal Bolf gave 4 or 5 hand strikes to the inmates back. Corporal Chancellor responded and performed the Heimlich maneuver and was able to successfully dislodge the food that was choking the inmate. Without the quick actions of these two Officers, the inmate could have lost his life.



Detention Officer **Santana Newsom**

Detention Officer **Tyler Lyford**

Corporal **Joseph Price**

On April 21, 2023 at approximately 8:45 am, Detention Officer Lyford found an inmate who had cut both wrists and was unconscious. Corporal Price removed the inmate from the cell and Detention Officer Newsom applied a tourniquet and Detention

Officer Lyford applied two sternum rubs. Their quick action, saved the inmate from bleeding to death.



Corporal **Jim Tidwell**

On April 20, 2023, at approximately 6:30 pm, Corporal Jim Tidwell was on his way to work when he drove upon a fatality accident on S.H. 79. One of the vehicles had caught on fire, at which time Corporal Tidwell assisted in removing two of the occupants from the vehicle. Corporal Tidwell's actions saved two persons lives.



What's Happening Around the State?

Detention Officer **Brittany Russo**

On July 2, 2023 at approximately 2:40 am, Detention Officer Brittany Russo found an inmate attempting to commit suicide by hanging herself in a holding cell in the Central Book In. Detention Officer Russo was successful in removing the string around the inmate's neck, saving the inmate from strangulation.

Deputy **Jacob Harris**

On May 7, 2023, at approximately 6:00 pm, Deputy Jacob Harris was assisting with a traffic stop in the 300 block of Loop 11. Deputy Harris noticed that an arrested person was moving around in the vehicle and checked on him. The person was sweating profusely, his skin became cool and clammy and his body exhibited signs of tremors. Harris contacted American Medical Response and was successful in saving the subjects life of an overdose in methamphetamine that he had ingested.

Top Gun Award:

Sergeant **Roy Biter**

2023 State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Award for Public Service:

Corporal **Joseph Price**

Each year, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) accepts nominations for the annual State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Awards. The awards are presented to selected peace officers, reserve officers, jailers, custodial officers, and telecommunicators who are licensed by TCOLE. These nominees exceed the normal expecta-

tions of job performance through acts of professional achievement, public service, or valor. Each nomination was reviewed and rated by the Achievement Awards Judging Panel and approved by the TCOLE Board of Commissioners at their April 20th, 2023, meeting.

Presentation of Service Weapon:

Retired **Captain Randy Elliott**

Captain Elliott began his career with the Wichita County Sheriff's Office on June 16, 1988 as a Detention Deputy. He was transferred to the patrol/transport division on January 22, 1990. On September 13, 2000 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on September 4, 2008. He was promoted to the rank of Captain on October 28, 2010. He retired on September 8, 2022 with 34 years of service.



Employee of the Quarter:

Deputy **Johnny Routon**

This award is presented by the Wichita County Sheriff's Office Citizen's Academy Alumni Association to a Sheriff's Office Employee each quarter.

What's Happening Around the State?

Wichita County

Service Awards:

The Wichita County Sheriff's Office recognized their staff for continued service to the county. They are as follows:

Kimberly R. Johnson – 20 years

Bonnie S. Holder – 15 years

Bryan D. Peeler – 15 years

Marcial Zenon – 15 years

Jeffrey C. Lee Jr. – 10 years

Timothy A. Putney – 10 years

Matthew P. Ferguson – 5 years

Edmundo Garcia – 5 years

James P. Keyser – 5 years

Jami J. Lasky – 5 years

Hunter McCain – 5 years

Christopher Whipple – 5 years



ONE VENDOR, MULTIPLE SOLUTIONS

Super Display® Touchscreen
Integrated Physical Security Control

Citadel® Records Management
Law Enforcement Software (RMS)

Watch Tour®
Inmate Welfare Checks & Guard Rounds

SallyPort® 4.0
Jail Management System (JMS)

SallyPort® Municipal
JMS for Holding Centers & Lock-ups

TSI PRISM™ GEN 5
Real Time Location System &
Heart Rate Monitoring

Personal Detention Assistant®
Management & Control from a
Handheld Device



Black Creek
INTEGRATED SYSTEMS CORP.

37th Annual TJA Conference
May 1-5 • San Marcos, TX • Visit Booth #22

205.949.9927 • blackcreekisc.com • sales@blackcreekisc.com

Wexford Health is proud to support the TJA.

Wexford Health has been implementing, staffing, and managing successful correctional health care programs for more than three decades. Clients trust us to maintain quality of care, generate positive patient outcomes, avoid lawsuits and negative publicity, and stay within budget. Isn't that the reason you partner with a health care vendor for your justice-involved population?

To learn how Wexford Health is your correctional health care team, go to www.wexfordhealth.com.



QUALITY CARE | EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS | RESPONSIVE SERVICE



CORRECTIONAL
MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Check out these other great programs presented by the Correctional Management Institute of Texas.
Information, registration and payment available online at www.cmitonline.org



10th Annual Mental Health Conference

OCTOBER 16 - 19, 2023 | AUSTIN, TX

GANG INTELLIGENCE AND SUPERVISION CONFERENCE

2024 GIS Conference

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 1, 2024 | SAN MARCOS, TX



Women in CJ

March 25 - 28, 2024
San Marcos, TX

Leadership *for* Support Staff

JUNE 3-6, 2024 • AUSTIN, TX

TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024

Edwardo Jackson, President

Travis County Sheriff's Office
5555 Airport Blvd.
Austin, TX 78757
Phone: (512) 854-5214

edwardo.jackson@traviscountytx.gov

Johnny Jaquess, 1st Vice President

Collin County Sheriff's Office
4300 Community Ave.
McKinney, TX 75071
Phone: (972) 547-5208

jjacquess@co.collin.tx.us

Frances Dembowski, 2nd Vice President

Travis County Sheriff's Office
5555 Airport Blvd.
Austin, TX 78757
Phone: (512) 854-5391

frances.dembowski@traviscountytx.gov

Rowdee Edwards, 3rd Vice President

Collin County Sheriff's Office
4300 Community Ave.
McKinney, TX 75071
Phone: (972) 547-5207

rjedwards@co.collin.tx.us

Becky Caffey, Past President

Brown County Sheriff's Office
1050 W. Commerce
Brownwood, TX 76801
Phone: (325) 641-2202

becky.caffey@browncountytx.org

Erica Hernandez, Director

Hays County Sheriff's Office
1307 Uhland Road
San Marcos, TX 78666
Phone: (512) 878-6780

erica.hernandez@co.hays.tx.us

Levi Vance, Director

Tom Green County Sheriff's Office
4382 N. US Hwy. 277
San Angelo, TX 76905
Phone: (325) 655-5720

Levi.Vance@co.tom-green.tx.us

Shane Sowell, Director

Bell County Sheriff's Office
104 S. Main Street
Belton, TX 76513
Phone: (254) 933-5444

shane.sowell@bellcounty.texas.gov

Greg Pilkington, Director

Tarrant County Sheriff's Office
200 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, TX 76196
Phone: (817) 884-3711

jgpilkington@tarrantcountytx.gov

Ryan Braus, Director

Lubbock County Sheriff's Office
3502 N. Holly Road
Lubbock, TX 79708
Phone: (806) 775-7002

rbraus@lubbockcounty.gov

Elroy Holmes, Director

Lubbock County Sheriff's Office
3502 N. Holly Road
Lubbock, TX 79403
Phone: (806) 775-7005

eholmes@lubbockcounty.gov

Abby Belangeri, Treasurer

Brazos County Sheriff's Office
1835 Sandy Point Road
Bryan, TX 77807
Phone: (979) 361-4846

abelangeri@brazoscountytx.gov

Lynette Anderson, Secretary

Harris County Sheriff's Office
1200 Baker Street
Houston, TX 77002
Phone: (346) 286-1628

lynette.anderson@sheriff.hctx.net

Veronica Mancias, Chaplain

Travis County Sheriff's Office
5555 Airport Blvd.
Austin, TX 78757
Phone: (512) 854-5552

veronica.mancias@traviscountytx.gov

Rodney Cooper, Private Jail Representative

LaSalle Corrections
117 Briar Meadow
Huntsville, TX 77320
Phone: (318) 232-1500

rodney@lasallecorrections.com

Carla Stone, Historian

LaSalle Corrections
12053 FM 1391
Kemp, TX 75143
Phone: (737) 465-9866

carla.stone@lasallecorrections.com

Sally Hernandez, Sheriff's Representative

Travis County Sheriff's Office
5555 Airport Blvd.
Austin, TX 78757
Phone: (512) 854-9788

sally.hernandez@traviscountytx.gov

Blake Taylor, Vendor Representative

Keefe Group
1840 Crestland Drive
Lucas, TX 75002
Phone: (214) 392-7248

btaylor@keefegroup.com

Kevin Stuart, Sergeant-At-Arms

Brazos County Sheriff's Office
1835 Sandy Point Road
Bryan, TX 77807
Phone: (979) 361-4996

kstuart@brazoscountytx.gov

Larry Lynch, Vendor Representative

ICS Jail Supplies, Inc.
10020 Forest View
Woodway, TX 76712
Phone: (254) 405-5597

larrylynch@grandecom.net

Sharese Hurst, Executive Director

Correctional Management Institute of Texas
Box 2296
Huntsville, TX 77341
Phone: (936) 294-1687

sharese@shsu.edu

Aimee Crockett, Editor

Smith County Sheriff's Office
Phone: (903) 590-1839

acrockett@smith-county.com

Shane Poole, Parliamentarian

Retired - Travis County Sheriff's Office
Phone: (512) 587-6494

sgm0600@yahoo.com



Texas Jail Association

Sam Houston State University
Correctional Management Institute of Texas
Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 26

• **BACK TO THE BEACH** •



2023 JAIL MANAGEMENT ISSUES

September 11–15, 2023 | Galveston, TX

LEARN MORE & REGISTER ONLINE AT [TEXASJAILASSOCIATION.COM](https://www.texasjailassociation.com)