



**JULY 2006**

### **APCTO welcomes Emerald Correctional Management as a new member**

APCTO is pleased to welcome Clay Lee, CEO; Glenn Hebert, COO; and Steve Afeman, EVP of Emerald Correctional Management to the organization.

Based in Scott and Shreveport, Louisiana the company operates three facilities in Texas and two more in Louisiana, with a total bed count of over 3,000. It provides services to federal, state and county customers. Emerald Companies also provides services in the areas of correctional healthcare, drug screening and prison industries.

For more information about APCTO's newest member, view their web site at [www.drugresult.com](http://www.drugresult.com).

### **APCTO supports Federal Community Corrections Program in San Antonio**

In responding to an article in the San Antonio News-Express (see APCTO Speaks), the Association wrote a letter to the Editor and sent copies to each member of the San Antonio City Council. The Association does not take positions favoring one member or one site over another during a procurement, but is prepared to respond to NIMBY arguments when they occur. Members interested in receiving public support from APCTO on a NIMBY issue should contact the Executive Director at [doucette@apcto.org](mailto:doucette@apcto.org).

### **Ferriter picked to run Corrections in Montana**

Mike Ferriter, a state Department of Corrections deputy with 29 years' experience, will replace Bill Slaughter as the agency's director, Gov. Brian Schweitzer announced.

### **Kansas receives grant for reentry services**

The JEHT Foundation of New York has announced the award of a \$450,000 grant to the Kansas Department of Corrections. The grant is intended to further the Department's work in the field of offender reentry.

The JEHT Foundation is the largest private criminal justice foundation in the country. According to Robert Crane, President of the JEHT Foundation, "Kansas has launched on a bold but attainable course to significantly reduce recidivism, save the state money and improve public safety. Its strong leadership at every level, its commitment to excellence and its willingness to allocate state and county resources to this effort set it apart from many other states. We are pleased to be a part of this effort."

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius lauded the grant award, saying Kansas is working hard to make sure offenders become law-abiding taxpayers after their release.

### **APCTO encourages private prison initiative in Wilson County Texas**

APCTO Executive Director Paul Doucette recently discussed the benefits of public-private correctional partnerships with the County Commission and the Public Facilities Board in Wilson County, TX. The meeting, which was open to the public and the media, was called to discuss the potential to build a 500+ bed facility in the county. An RFQ has been issued and it will be followed by an RFP for design, construction and management of the new facility.

### **Report on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons is released**

With a flurry of media activity and testimony before a committee of the U.S. Senate, the Report on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons was released to the public by a Commission appointed to review the subject.

The Commission's report provides detailed findings and recommendations in the area of conditions of confinement, medical care of offenders, segregation of dangerous or vulnerable individuals, institutional culture and employee/management leadership, oversight and accountability and knowledge and data. The Summary of Findings and Recommendations and the full report can be found at [www.apcto.org/news/research.cfm](http://www.apcto.org/news/research.cfm).

In general terms, the Commission finds America's prisons and jails to be plagued by violence and suggests that overcrowding, overuse of segregation and isolation of inmates and failure to provide appropriate and meaningful treatment, education and rehabilitative programs are the cause.

### **ACA Executive Director responds to commission report**

In an opinion editorial published by USA Today, James A Gondles, Jr. responded to a USA Today editorial calling the Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons a "scathing indictment of the nation's correctional system".

In his response, Gondles said, "Correctional facilities have more oversight than nearly any other governmental agency. Our "watchers" include the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, federal and state courts, the American Civil Liberties Union, fire marshals, health inspectors, ombudsmen, inspector generals, and thousands of U.S. citizens serving as volunteers. There is little doubt we are the most transparent system in the world. Many nations never open their correctional systems to any visitor."

"For more than 40 years, the American Correctional Association has maintained standards and accreditation of our jails and prisons. The Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons even urged all facilities to become ACA-accredited.

Countries worldwide look to our standards as a benchmark of professionally administered systems.”

“Can we do more? Of course we can, but we need county, state and federal governments to step up to the plate and fund treatment, education, job skills training for inmates and adequate pay for our workers. Public health has let this nation down. The 350,000-plus inmates with serious mental illness were that way when they entered our systems. Corrections cannot be blamed for a lack of treatment. Inmates are our brothers and sisters and our sons and daughters, and nearly every one of them will return to our communities. We need to treat their diseases, mental and physical, to help them turn the corner on living a productive, positive life.”

“Most corrections professionals have known long before this report was issued that people can change. We, and they, just need the tools to effect that change”

### **New study on faith-based programs in prison**

Nancy T. Kinney has authored a study entitled Implications for Inmate Rights of the Voluntary Provision of Religious Services, which appears in the June edition of Criminal Justice Policy.

According to the study, since the 1990s, States have increasingly eliminated chaplain positions in their corrections systems because of cost and the difficulty of meeting the increasingly diverse religious needs of inmates under a professional chaplaincy. This has resulted in a trend toward the use of volunteers to provide religious services to inmates. This creates the possibility that the volunteers may represent only dominant religious groups, thus creating an imbalance in serving the religious needs of inmates devoted to religions with relatively few adherents in the United States. There are no national data that can assist in determining whether this has happened; however, the secondary data analysis reported in this study indicates that between 1990 and 2000 the number of court orders for religious practices in prisons increased by 1 percent while court orders related to all sorts of other prison conditions declined significantly. This study determined trends in the provision of inmate religious services by examining a 1997 survey of 31 State correctional departments. The impact of the trend toward volunteerism in providing inmate religious services was examined through a secondary analysis of 1991 and 1997 Bureau of Justice Statistics' Surveys of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, as well as the Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities for 1990, 1995, and 2000.

The study is published at <http://www.sagepub.com/>

## **Public-Private Correctional Partnership to begin operation of PA County Jail**

A private company will take over management and operations of the Beaver County Jail by Oct. 15, county commissioners said Thursday.

Putting CiviGenics Inc. in charge of the 360-bed jail in Hopewell will save the county \$1.9 million in the first year of the deal, commissioners said in a news release. The county will pay CiviGenics \$14.6 million over three years to run the jail.

## **Report on Drug Courts Issued**

The National Institute of Justice has issued a report on the performance of Drug Courts. NIJ combined findings from several process evaluations to produce Drug Courts: The Second Decade. The report contains six chapters that cover a range of issues, including the role of the judge, the type of participants, treatment regimens, and cost-benefit concerns.

Drug Courts: The Second Decade is available online at the National Institute of Justice Web site at: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/211081.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/211081.htm)

## **APCTO member opens new facility in Arizona**

**Corrections Corporation of America** has opened the \$82.5 million Red Rock Center in Pinal County. This second CCA facility in Eloy will employ about 317 workers. The center is expected to open July 15 for inmates. With the opening of the prison, Nashville, Tenn.-based CCA will become the largest employer in Eloy, with more than 630 workers.

## **West Virginia begins smoking ban inside prisons**

Starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, West Virginia inmates and prison employees are only able to use tobacco products outside. By next July, prisons will be totally smoke-free. The plan originally called for prisons to become smoke-free this year, but some lawmakers worried about the reaction from some inmates if they were forced to quit cold-turkey.

## **Colorado uses public-private correctional partnerships to increase prison beds**

The Colorado Department of Corrections has awarded private operators contracts for 2,220 additional prison beds to handle an explosion in the inmate population triggered by tougher sentencing laws and tighter parole rules.

A 1,500-inmate private prison will be built in Ault, about 10 miles north of Greeley.

In addition, an existing private prison in Las Animas, in southeastern Colorado, operated by **APCTO member Corrections Corporation of America** will add 720 beds, doubling the size of that facility.

In addition to these two medium- security prisons for men, the DOC awarded **APCTO member Cornell Companies** a third bid for a 750-bed women's medium-security prison in Hudson, 12 miles north of Denver International Airport.

Colorado is sending 1,100 more people to prison every year and already has 500 backed up in county jails, awaiting openings in state prisons, Morgan said.

### **Kentucky may consider takeover of costly local jails, official says**

A review could be completed by the end of next year that will look at the feasibility of the state taking over county jails, Corrections Commissioner John Rees says.

State Auditor Crit Luallen raised the issue in February when she released a report suggesting taxpayers are spending too much on individual county jails and recommending that Kentucky move toward a state-run system that would be less expensive.

APCTO has written to the Commissioner and Ms. Luallen offering to make a presentation to them regarding the benefits of public-private correctional partnerships as they relate to the jail problems in Kentucky.

**APCTO SPEAKS – Your association monitors the print and electronic media, seeking opportunities to inject APCTO key messages into the public debate on private prisons. Each month, this section of the newsletter will report on the articles identified and APCTO’s response.** (If you wish to review the original article and APCTO’s full response, cut and paste the date and publication information from the list below into an email and send to [doucette@apcto.org](mailto:doucette@apcto.org).)

**San Antonio News-Express – May 31** – This article discussed a NIMBY debate taking place in a San Antonio Neighborhood regarding the proposed location of a 127-bed Federal community corrections facility. City Councilwoman Sheila McNeil supports the project, while the local neighborhood association opposes it. APCTO responded by pointing out the important of transition services in reducing recidivism and suggested that it is far better for released offenders to have the support provided in a community corrections setting than to simply be released into the community without help. A copy of APCTO correspondence was sent to each member of the San Antonio City Council.

**San Antonio News-Express – June 5** – The News-Express ran a story indicating that Wilson County in South Texas was considering issuing revenue bonds to build a detention center to meet the bed-space need created by illegal immigration. APCTO responded to the article by recommending that the county consider a true public-private correctional partnership by issuing an RFP. APCTO also corresponded with a member of the not-for-profit corporation established to consider the entire matter, offering to provide information or assistance.

**The Daily Texan – June 14** – In a story appearing in the daily paper of the University of Texas at Austin, several members of the state legislature called for increased use of alternatives to incarceration and treatment in an effort to reduce recidivism. APCTO provided a response which supported the use of treatment, education and rehabilitative services and stressed the need for community corrections programs to reduce recidivism.

**Parsons Sun (KA) – June 23** – This regional paper ran a story regarding the county's decision to operate the 191-bed Labette Correctional Conservation Camp after the expiration of the contract with private operator, GRW. The county determined that they could not run it more cost effectively and is reconsidering their decision. APCTO discussed the implications of depreciation in calculating the actual costs of government and private operation and advocated that the decision be made based on the results being produced by GRW.

**The Herald Bulletin (Anderson, IN) – June 23** – The Herald Bulletin editorialized on the subject of prison overcrowding and indicated that pay raises for prison guards were necessary to reduce turnover and improve inmates services in prison. While not questioning the need for pay raises, APCTO encouraged the use of public-private correctional partnerships to build needed bed-space and provide for transitional community based services that could help reduce recidivism.

**The Tennessean – June 28** – In response to “Solve prison issue now or feds will” concerning overcrowding in the Dickson County, TN jail, APCTO urged the consideration of public-correctional partnerships and cited the benefits articulated in both the Allegheny Institute and Abt Associates studies.