

THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION KEY ISSUES

Vol XXI, No. 1

Winter 2017



Winter 2017 Edition

Message From The President



Good Day to All TJA Members!

I pray each of you had a Blessed Christmas and wish you a prosperous New Year!

Two-thousand sixteen was a very challenging year for our profession and I hope we get some relief in 2017. The legislative session is in full swing and Past TJA President and current Lubbock County Sheriff **Kelly Rowe** and The Sheriff's Association of Texas Jail Advisory Committee are working hard for us in Austin, Texas.

As I look back to last May at our 30th Annual Conference, and being sworn in as your President, our Association has made some significant changes. Past President **Shane Poole** got us off to a great start celebrating our 30th year as an Association. The membership voted to open up voting to all members on any matter the Board of Directors brings to the membership for approval which can be accomplished online. Also, our TJA website has been totally renovated thanks to CMIT Staff Members, **Jennifer Sexton** and **Melina Gilbert**. In addition, we are traveling all over the state hosting regional training.

Our 31st Annual Conference in May is just around the corner and your Training Committee, chaired by 2nd Vice-President **Martin Gonzales**, have been hard at work putting together a lineup of great topics and presenters. I can assure you, you will not be disappointed. Remember these dates, May 15, 2017 through May 19, 2017, so start making plans to attend.

First Vice-President **Todd Allen**, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and his members have been accepting nominations for: Third Vice-President, Treasurer, and two positions on the Board of Directors. The membership voted at the 30th Annual Conference to open up voting to all qualified members of TJA. Each of you received a letter requesting information, PID and email address. If you haven't sent this information in please do so as soon as possible so you will be able to vote **online** in the upcoming elections.

Our Awards Committee Chairperson, Past President **Carla Stone**, and her committee are accepting

nominations for: Detention Officer of the Year-Professional Service, Detention Officer of the Year-Valor, Hall of Fame Award, and the Jerry Baggs Leadership Award. If you have someone you would like to nominate for one of these awards please go to the TJA website for all the details.

Regional Training "The Rights and Wrongs of Mental Health" around the State has been very successful. A big thank you goes out to our trainer, Past President **Mary Farley**, and our coordinator CMIT Staff member and Historian **Carmella Jones**. Stay tuned there is a lot more regional training on the horizon.

The TJA Board of Directors and myself are always available for any questions, criticisms, or suggestions you may have, so feel free to contact us anytime. Until we meet again, stay safe and focused!

D. Brent Phillips

President, TJA



KEY ISSUES DEADLINES

March 1, 2017
for April 2017 Publication

June 1, 2017
for July 2017 Publication

September 1, 2017
for October 2017 Publication

December 1, 2017
for January 2018 Publication

Send your articles on CD or via email to
Sharese Hurst, Texas Jail Association,
Correctional Management Institute of Texas,
Sam Houston State University,
Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296 sharese@shsu.edu

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Membership Report

I would like to thank everyone who responded to the renewal reminder letter that was sent out. Welcome back! This organization needs you and is only as strong as it is because of you. It has never been more important to stay one step ahead and constantly improve as a profession. The only true way this is possible is through experience and knowledge shared by the diversity of our membership. Every single new member benefits my agency and yours. So again, I thank you.

Please be an ambassador for TJA whenever you speak to anyone and encourage them to join. If there is anything I can ever do for you please let me know. I also welcome any comments, suggestions, etc. We want to ensure that we are providing the service our membership wants and needs. Below are our current numbers and just a few of the benefits that come with your TJA membership.

Professional and Associate Membership – 1290
 Affiliate Members – 13
 Business Members – 23

Membership dues are \$30.00 for twelve months. All members will receive a quarterly *Key Issues* magazine (the TJA Newsletter) via e-mail, and one annual printed edition. Also, members have access to the TJA list-serve, loaded with years of experience and advice. TJA also hosts top notch regional trainings that are free to members. Mental health regional trainings are currently being hosted throughout the state. If

your agency is interested in hosting a regional training, please contact **Carmella Jones** via email (carmella@shsu.edu). In cooperation with TEEX, TJA offers the choice of one of the following courses for free with a TJA Membership:

- Use of Force in a Jail Setting (16 hours - Intermediate)
- Interpersonal Communications (16 hours - Intermediate)
- Inmate Rights and Privileges (16 hours - Intermediate)
- Suicide Detection and Prevention (16 hours - Intermediate)
- Inmate Health Care – Basic Medical (6 hours)
- Inmate Health Care – Advanced Medical (6 hours)
- Inmate Health Care – Basic Psychiatric (8 hours)
- Inmate Sexual Assault Prevention – PREA Training (8 hours)
- Report Writing and Documentation (4 hours)
- Effective Interviewing and Documentation (4 hours)
- Basic Criminal Investigation (40 hours)
- Death Investigation (40 hours)
- Field Training Officer (24 hours)

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you in anyway.

Lt. Kevin Stuart
 Brazos County Sheriff's Office
 TJA 3rd Vice President
 kstuart@brazoscountytexas.gov
 979-361-4846

Governor Abbott Appoints Two TJA Members to the Commission On Jail Standards



In October, Governor **Greg Abbott** appointed **Kelly Rowe** to the Commission on Jail Standards for a term set to expire January 31, 2021. Additionally, the governor reappointed **Dennis Wilson** for a term set to expire January 31, 2021. The governor named **Bill Stoudt** presiding officer of the commission. The commission establishes standards for the care and treatment of county prisoners, construction, maintenance and operation of county jails.

Kelly Rowe of Lubbock is the Lubbock County Sheriff and has over 20 years of law enforcement service. He is a member of the American Jail Association, Sheriffs' Association of Texas, National Sheriffs' Association, Texas Corrections Association and the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he is a member and former president of the Texas Jail Association, board member of the Lubbock Emergency Communications District and a former member of the 2006 Commission on Jail Standards Committee to Study Jail Staffing Ratios. Currently he serves as Chairman of the Jail Advisory Committee, and was recently elected as Sergeant at Arms for The Sheriffs' Association of Texas.



Dennis Wilson of Groesbeck is the Limestone County Sheriff and has over 40 years of law enforcement service. He is a life member of the Texas Jail Association and a life member and President of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas. He is a member of the American Jail Association, National Sheriffs' Association and the Texas District & County Attorneys Association. Additionally, he is a member and past president of the Groesbeck Lions Club, member and past master of the Groesbeck Masonic Lodge #354 and a board member of Centex Citizens Credit Union.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, May 15, 2017
Balcones Country Club



The Texas Jail Association in partnership with the 100 Club of Central Texas are proud to announce the 2017 Annual Golf Tournament, held at the **Balcones Country Club**. The cost is **\$65 per person**, which includes coffee and breakfast tacos. This year's format is four-man scramble.

Visit www.texasjailassociation.com for full information or to register or sponsor this event.

Training Report

Happy New Year to the TJA Membership! I pray that everyone's Christmas was embraced with family and friends creating memories. As we approach another year of optimism, I reflect on 2016 and the accomplishments that were met, and the lessons that were learned. Either way, be thankful for what you have and realize that you have great friends and a supportive peer group. We, the TJA Training Committee look forward to a great year of serving our membership once more.

To close out 2016, we were very pleased with the results of "The Rights and Wrongs of Mental Health" and "Current Trends and High Impact Areas of Jail Operations" regionals that were presented across the state. The Current Trends regional training is hosted by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards and the instructors are comprised of TJA Board Members and Commission staff. I hope everyone got a chance to experience one, or both, of these courses. Be on the lookout for training opportunities in 2017!

For membership information and upcoming training opportunities, please visit the Texas Jail Association website, www.texasjailassociation.com. I have a feeling that 2017 is going to be a great year for all of us. And if improving your career is your resolution for 2017, do not hesitate to contact any one of us. Thank you for being the best part of our membership and I look forward to seeing everyone in Austin in May.

2016-2017 TJA Training Committee

Martin Gonzales, Chairman, Atascosa County

Rey Del Bosque, Zapata County

Wayne Johnson, Terry County

Kit Wright, Brazos County

Dolores "Chach" Rodriguez, Bee County

Eric Hensley, Montgomery County

David Burrous, Hardin County

Vendor Report

It's 2017, and this year is going to be filled with change and excitement. We plan to continue with as many Vendor/Participant interaction activities as possible. We had a great JMI conference in Galveston at the end of August and look forward to all that the New Year has to offer! The 31st Annual Conference in May will be here before you know it and we are asking for any recommendations on how to improve the Vendor/Participant interaction. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact myself or Carmella Jones. Also, please remember to get your registration to Carmella or Sharese if you have not already done so. Booths will fill up fast and we are hoping to see everyone there. I am always available if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for supporting the Texas Jail Association!

Richard Sparkman

rbslonetar@windstream.net



SAVE THE DATE

Register: www.texasjailassociation.com/conf/annual.html

31st Annual Texas Jail Association Conference

May 15-19, 2017

Renaissance Austin Hotel - Austin, Texas



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- ◇ Suicide Detection and Prevention in Jails (TCOLE #3501)
- ◇ Inmate Rights & Privileges (TCOLE #3502)
- ◇ Interpersonal Communications in the Correctional Setting (TCOLE #3503)
- ◇ Use of Force in a Jail Setting (TCOLE #3504)

Other Corrections Academy Courses

- ◇ Objective Jail Classification
- ◇ Inmate Sexual Assault Prevention – PREA Training
- ◇ Cell Extraction & Insertion Instructor
- ◇ Riot Control in a Correctional Setting Instructor
- ◇ Inmate Health Care: Basic Psychiatric Medical
- ◇ Inmate Health Care: Basic Medical
- ◇ Inmate Health Care: Advanced Medical



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The Chaplain's Corner

Surviving the Season

Well if you are reading this, clearly you survived the season. What does it mean to survive? It is defined as; to endure or live through, or to remain alive after the death of someone. In law enforcement there is a great deal of emphasis on surviving; in an altercation, to the end of your watch, or to the end of your career. Survival is the goal. We have all survived someone, remained on this earth after they are gone. Is surviving on this earth, after our loved ones have gone, what we are living for? It is written that following God's word is for our good and for our survival. I believe the survival that is spoken of is so much greater than making to the end of a shift or career. We will endure the days of

the world. We are to do His good works and follow His word in order to truly survive and join those that have gone before us. To have "survived" is to have not fallen prey to this world and to finally be at the feet of the Father. I pray your Christmas season was blessed and that you do survive every trial you face. Knowing that we will have survived it all when we join Him in glory.

Graciously,
Aimee Crockett
TJA Chaplain



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JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE



By: *Joey Silva, M. Ed., LCDC – I, LPC - Intern*

Starting any new job can be daunting. Starting a job in a jail as a civilian can be all the more intimidating. I'll never forget my first day of starting work at the Lubbock County Detention Center as a mental health screener. I remember walking into the processing area and seeing all the inmates standing in holding cells and sitting in chairs waiting to be booked in and thinking to myself, "Oh man, what have I gotten myself into?" Cliché stories of what happens in jail were running through my head and all I could think about was how I was going to be willingly placing myself in danger on a daily basis. Little did I know that I would soon grow to feel safer at work than I ever have on the street. As I became more comfortable in my role and began to trust the officers working around me, I quickly began to accept my role in my new family.

My name is Joey Silva and I work for StarCare Specialty Health System, Lubbock's local mental health authority (LMHA). I am contracted to work at the Lubbock County Detention Center as a Jail Re-Entry Specialist. Since graduating from Texas Tech University with my master's degree in community counseling, I have been working on my LPC – Intern license. I was initially hired as a Jail Diversion Specialist and was responsible for completing face to face screenings with all inmates booked into the jail. With the use of my assessment and clinical skills, it was my duty to screen for substance abuse issues, mental health issues and intellectual developmental disabilities (IDD). We also assessed for suicidal/homicidal ideation and made appropriate referrals for the best interest of the inmates. When an inmate was flagged with any of the previously mentioned issues, I would make appropriate referrals to medical staff and other mental health staff. Most importantly we would make referrals to the courts

so that qualifying inmates could be appointed legal defense and a special needs case worker with the Lubbock Private Defender's Office. After working in my role as a screener for a little over a year, I was presented with a new and great opportunity to work in the jail's special needs pod. The idea of being a civilian working in a pod brought the same feeling of being unsure but provided me with excitement for this new opportunity.

Teaching Change

Working with inmates with special needs has been one of the most challenging but rewarding experiences I have had since beginning my work in the mental health field. The inmates in the special needs pod have either severe mental health diagnoses of bipolar disorder, schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder, major depressive disorder, or IDD. My role in the pod is to provide individual counseling and to teach group psycho educational classes twice a day. In my classes I teach a cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) curriculum where I not only challenge their thinking, but I also teach them that faulty thinking ultimately leads to faulty behavior. Other classes include drug and alcohol education, relapse prevention, socialization, and my favorite class: diagnosis education and symptom management. In this class I provide the inmates with education on their diagnoses, symptoms, prognosis, how the diagnoses are made, and how to better cope with each specific illness.

In addition to the CBT curriculum, I have also come to feel that I am responsible for teaching them basic etiquette and manners. I've learned that many inmates lack basic etiquette



skills such as saying “please” and “thank you”. Upon beginning my work with this population, this was a huge culture shock to me and demonstrated just what types of barriers this particular population faces on a day to day basis. I have enjoyed my role as the counselor because it has allowed me to more effectively be myself than before as a screener. All throughout my graduate program I had a professor tell us that we, ourselves, are our best tool and this has proved accurate with my experience with working with the special needs inmates.

Reducing Stigma

One of my favorite parts about working in this particular pod are the talent shows we put on every few months. One of the most memorable moments for me was when an inmate approached me and stated that when we put on these talent shows, he feels as if we are “showcasing them like animals”. Mind you, this is not our intention – our goal is to show the public that treatment is possible and that although these guys are diagnosed with serious mental illness, you could not tell by just looking at them. With that being said, how this particular inmate addressed this with me was very eye opening. It was something that I felt I needed to know so that we are not unknowingly causing harm to the inmates that we are intending to treat. When we put on talent shows individuals with various roles attend them which include officers from the jail, attorneys, judges, and other medical staff that work in the jail. This not only allows staff to learn more about the inmates but it also helps in dispelling the negative stigma that follows individuals with serious mental health diagnoses.


Incentive Based Program

The special needs pod is ran using incentive based behavioral plans. Inmates are encouraged to follow rules and behave within societal norms. They are rewarded with edible treats (like soups), other various sweets, and hygiene products such as body wash and deodorant. Inmates who avoid getting bunk restriction and other types of “write ups” are rewarded with the chance to play Bingo on Fridays. Again, during Bingo, they also get a chance to win additional items that one could typically purchase from the jail’s commissary. This can be an especially powerful tool for inmates who do not have family members or friends who put money on their “books.” Although inmates are required to attend groups, they are also awarded extra points for participating in them. Twice a month the inmates in the program are allowed to spend their “points” on commissary items. Undoubtedly, inmates will benefit more from groups when they are more invested and involved in the program. The extra points for Honey Buns definitely doesn’t hurt them either.


Breaking Down the Barriers

There is very clear and obvious barrier between the jail officers/local police and inmates. There are several instances that I can recall that involved the inmates reporting that they feel no matter what they do, the officers/ police are always “out to get them”. I strongly believe that this program helps alter some of the inmates’ minds and helps encourage the inmates to take accountability for their own actions. Instead of blaming the “system”, they can finally learn to recognize their part in the situation. I believe that helping to rebuild the relationship between inmate and officer can help in reducing assaultive altercations in the lives of the inmates we treat. For example, in place of getting aggressive during conflicts with others, they can instead learn to trust the police enough to call them for assistance. Breaking down this barrier may help reduce recidivism rates.

No matter what your role is in any organization or how much formal training you have in any given specific field, you never know what kind of impact you can have on an individual who is fighting their own inner struggle. An important thing to remember when working with people is that you cannot directly change them- you can only “plant seeds”. With the proper education and support, they will eventually learn to water their own plants and continue to grow into more productive members of society.



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www.cecintl.com

LOOKING BACK 2006



5th
Annual

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B L O O D D R I V E

Monday May 15th
2:30PM-5:00PM

Blood Bus will be located outside during the TJA 31th Annual Conference.
All Donors are entered in a drawing for \$100 Gift Card.



TEXANS HELPING TEXANS



A NEW BATTLEFIELD

SERIES 3

By: Colonel (RET) Dave Lewis



In my previous article I addressed the Stabilization and Treatment aspects of the FASTRR model (Find, Assess, Stabilize, Treat, Reassess, Reintegrate). It's time to take a look at the last two pieces – and they are critical to supporting a change in the veteran's habits and/or environment. By addressing the need to change and providing resources to assist the veteran we can see a tangible result – and a lower recidivism rate!

The “first” R – reassess is an opportunity to help the veteran understand where they are in life, with both strengths (protective factors) and vulnerabilities. Where the veteran is weak we find ways to minimize the challenge; where the veteran is strong we seek to “anchor” them to build a long term plan. There are a number of ways to do this, but we use a 14 point veteran success model. In no particular order, the areas we evaluate include: Housing, Health, Mental Health, Employment, Benefits Awareness and Access, Food Security, Substance Abuse, Family Success, Financial Literacy/Planning, Children's Education, Legal needs, Education, Transportation, and Faith-based support.

Community coordination and “reach” is a critical component to connecting the veterans to the resources necessary to overcome their vulnerabilities. It's extremely rare to have a single organization that can provide all of the necessary resources, so it's good to have regular coordination and contact with a variety of agencies that can assist the veteran and their family members. Case management is essential to coordination and synchronization – it's far too easy for someone to fall through the cracks and a single manager can help prevent this from occurring.

It's also important to note that not every veteran will need every service – and a priority list is crucial. For example, transportation may be the key link to employment, so that may be a great place to help the veteran begin.

The “second” R is for reintegration. The goal is to get the previously struggling veteran to the finish line – return with honor, and become successful and productive members of the community again. There are many ways to connect veterans back into the community, but the key component in this phase is regular veteran to veteran contact. The very best veterans to help guide are ones who have overcome their own challenges with the justice system.

Regular contact with the veteran is possible through a variety of organizations that probably already exist in your community; if not, there are options for starting some type of mutually supporting group. In your community you may have several options, from Veteran Service Organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Disabled American Veterans, to locally created groups such as Task Force Lubbock.

Bringing veterans together to do community service projects – lot clean up, beautification and restoration, moving assistance to disabled veteran and widows etc., but the real value is just getting veterans together to talk about their challenges. Basically, the goal is informal group therapy, and establishing a supportive network for the mutual benefit of all the veterans. Put coarsely, the skill set that we were trained for, namely breaking things and killing people, can be put to use for creating and helping. Believe it or not, that is remarkably therapeutic for the warrior population.

Another option for reintegration is a program called Vet Life, created by a national-level non-profit called Operation Not Forgotten. The Vet Life community is a twelve step program patterned after other twelve step programs, and can be highly effective for some veterans. Vet Life includes an anonymous and confidential Quality of Life assessment that helps the veteran and coach develop a plan. You can learn more at www.operationnotforgotten.com.

There are other options as well – Team Red White and Blue connects veterans to their community through physical and social activities for example. Or you can create something in your own environment.

The bottom line is to change the environment, change the existing situation for the justice involved veteran so that they don't regress into old habits, and potentially dangerous patterns. Veteran to veteran connection, mentorship and support are key ingredients to helping the justice involved veteran make the change.

In the next article we'll look at options for reentry planning that can incorporate the FASTRR model, including crisis (short-term) reentry planning tools.

TJA AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Texas Jail Association is accepting nominations for Detention Officer of the Year (Professional Service and Valor), the Hall of Fame, and the Jerry Baggs Leadership Award. The purpose of these awards is to recognize exceptional service provided by an individual in the field of county jail operations. How often have you been told that you're doing a good job? Positive reinforcement and recognition of a job well done encourages staff to continue this exemplary behavior. TJA encourages you to evaluate your agency and find the individual that is excelling and is deserving of recognition. Whether it is a peer, a subordinate, or a supervisor, there is someone who has positively impacted your agency. Their level of professionalism, esprit de corps, dedication, loyalty and/or actions has made a difference in the field of county corrections. Now is the time for you to recognize them.

The nomination process is simple. Please complete the nomination form and submit to the Awards Committee by **March 10, 2017**. A person does not have to be a member of TJA; however they must be eligible for membership. These awards will be presented at the 31st Annual TJA Conference, May 15-19, 2017, in Austin, Texas. Recipients will receive complimentary conference registration and hotel accommodations at the Annual Training Conference. The recipients will also be presented with a commemorative plaque and will be recognized in the TJA newsletter. Any nomination must have the written endorsement of the agency head.

Nominations will be accepted for the following awards:

- A. Professional Service**
- B. Valor**
- C. Hall of Fame**
- D. Jerry Baggs Leadership**

Please complete and return the nomination form below to the Awards Committee by **March 10, 2017**. Please describe in specific detail how this nominee meets the criteria for the award. Attach additional pages if needed. Also attach supporting documentation such as offense reports, sworn statements, newspaper accounts, and letters of recommendation.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

- A. Detention Officer of the Year - Professional Service** – This award is given to an individual working in county corrections who has demonstrated a commitment to professional service at his/her agency by making outstanding contributions to county corrections that exceed basic ability and expected performance.
- B. Detention Officer of the Year - Valor** – This award is given to an individual working in county corrections who demonstrated courage or valor in the face of danger while in the performance of his/her official duties.
- C. Hall of Fame Award** – This award is a tribute to the service of an individual career of outstanding contributions to county corrections and the criminal justice system. The recipient of this award has demonstrated a dedication to the advancement of the field of county corrections.
- D. Jerry Baggs Leadership Award** – This award is presented to an individual employed in the field of county corrections who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in and appreciation of the field of county corrections. He or she has exhibited a sincere commitment to the professional advancement of county corrections personnel.

Person Nominated: _____

Department/Agency: _____

Position or Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Nominated by: _____

Position or Title: _____

Endorsement by Agency Head: _____

*Return this form and any supporting documents by **March 10, 2017**:*

TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION

ATTN: Awards Committee

Correctional Management Institute of Texas

George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center

Sam Houston State University

Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296

HOW CLIQUES IMPACT CULTURE

By: Ricky Armstrong, Jail Administrator

If you thought cliques was a thing of your past, you thought wrong. Cliques appear everywhere. What is the definition of a clique? A small group of people, with shared interests or other features in common, which spend time together and do not readily, allow others to join them. It is normal for us to want to hang out with others who are like-minded or similar to us. It happens at work, at parties, at networking events—any place where there are groups of people. Let's talk about two different types of cliques – Positive and Negative Cliques.

Let's examine the positive clique first.

- Positive cliques should work to accomplish department goals. When personal relationships transcend company organization charts, they give and take works for the benefit of the organization.
- Positive cliques have power to get the job done.
- Positive cliques play a large part in team morale and create a sense of friendship that's difficult for even the best manager to replicate.
- Positive cliques can create a sense of safety for their members, cultivating a multitude of positive experiences and workplace memories for employees.
- Positive cliques offer social benefits. Who wouldn't want to be part of a group that offers those pats on the back and social invitations and reminds them that they're a part of something bigger than themselves?

Now for the negative clique.

- Negative cliques may purposefully alienate others.
- Negative cliques are closed to any perspectives other than their own.
- People in negative cliques often miss out on opportunities to expand their careers or view of the company.
- Negative cliques may alienate its members causing employers to view the members of the negative clique in a bad light, stereotyping all the members together.

It is our job to manage the cliques in our organization. You must set the tone. If a leader either condones negative cliques or encourages them by participating in them, then the people inside the clique will continue to enjoy their positions at the expense of others. Whatever you put up with, you promote!

The problem is that cliques are highly sought out by the people in them. They can be highly motivating. What we as supervisors have to do is keep a close eye on our cliques so that they do not transform from positive to negative where the support structure allows any member to poke fun at others who are outside the circle of trust and create their own set of rules.

While cliques may have the illusion of safety in numbers, just remember this: Individuals are hired and fired, groups are not. So align yourself with people who are going to push you to be the best you can be and focus on how your efforts can help others. There's a difference between smart socializing and just desperately trying to make friends to get gossip or get ahead.

Always make the right choice!





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A CALL TO ACTION

By: Ryan Braus, Captain

In the movie National Treasure, the quote was stated, “If there is something wrong, those who have the ability to take action have the responsibility to take action.” This quote was framed as the motivation for the founding fathers to enact the declaration of independence. In my opinion it perfectly frames the necessary motivation to step up and declare that our treatment of people with mental health issues has reached a critical level.

In the past a person who has struggled with mental illness has traditionally been forced to struggle in private. Dr. Fred Frese, professor of psychiatry, has been quoted in saying, “In 25 years, unless speaking to a NAMI group, no-one would acknowledge insanity in their families; the needle is moving now, significantly.” Throughout history, there has been an admitted stigma of persons with mental illness. The United States Surgeon General is recorded as stating “The stigma of mental illness is the primary reason for not seeking necessary mental health care.” (U.S. Surgeon General, 1999).

The fact is that each year in the United States, 2 million people with serious mental illness are admitted to jails. Across



our nation today, more individuals with mental illness are in jails than there are in psychiatric hospitals. Some communities have drawn a line in the sand; they are no longer waiting for help to arrive. Some communities are taking the initiative to train their criminal justice professionals to have the skills necessary to identify and respond to people with mental illnesses. These communities are focusing on diversion programs over incarceration. If jail staff members can successfully identify those who are in jail, they can be connected to services to hopefully stop recidivism of the mentally ill.

The Stepping up Initiative supports all of these efforts. By resolving to adopt the Stepping up Initiative multiple stakeholders all commit to come together and develop an action

plan to address the issues facing their community. By coming together and resolving to take action there can be measurable change. As of today, 11 counties in Texas have already passed a resolution in support of the Stepping Up Initiative. Those are: Bell; Dallas; McLennan; Waller; Bexar; El Paso; Tarrant; Wise; Brazos; Lubbock and Travis counties. 316 counties have passed a resolution throughout the nation.

By agreeing to pass the resolutions, each county adds



resources to reduce the number of mental health inmates being incarcerated. This problem has plagued local agencies for years. By giving this the attention it so desperately needs we can collectively identify programs that work. Giving hope to those people that suffer from stigmas so frequently assigned to them. To achieve the necessary progress it will take a collaborative effort on all levels.

THE STEPPINGUP INITIATIVE

The Stepping Up Initiative focuses on a six step plan. The six step plan can be found on their website: (<https://stepuptogether.org/>) by passing the resolution counties agree to work together in collaboration, sharing their data and innovative ideas. Because of the Stepping up Initiative, the tools exist to take action. If one possess the ability, then one also has the duty and responsibility to make a difference. By joining the call to action you have the opportunity to be a voice for those who are not heard.

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A Basket Filled with Christmas Cheer

Prior to Thanksgiving while perusing Facebook for the latest updates on the status of the world, I came across a post in one of the local "Swap and Sell" sites. A woman was giving away a basket with everything needed to prepare a Thanksgiving meal. She had people Private Message her in order to pick a deserving family and deliver the basket to them for Thanksgiving. I thought, if one person can do this and potentially make an impact on the lives of someone deserving, surely our staff can muster up a few baskets. I sent the following email to our staff:

"With Christmas approaching, I thought we could do something for the community. There are several groups and organizations that collect toys, gifts, etc, but one area that is often forgotten at Christmas time is a meal. Before Thanksgiving I saw a family on Facebook preparing a basket to give to a family that included all of the items necessary to prepare a Thanksgiving meal. I thought, if one family can do that, surely we as a facility can.

What I propose is that we gather the items necessary to allow a family to prepare a nice Christmas meal. If each shift (A,B,C and D) and a group made up of Transport, Administration and the support officers and staff made a basket, we would be able to deliver a basket to 5 families.

By having the entire shift pitch in, there will be little burden to each staff member.

What I would need is a contact person from each shift to work with me to ensure that the basket is complete. All items will need to be in by December

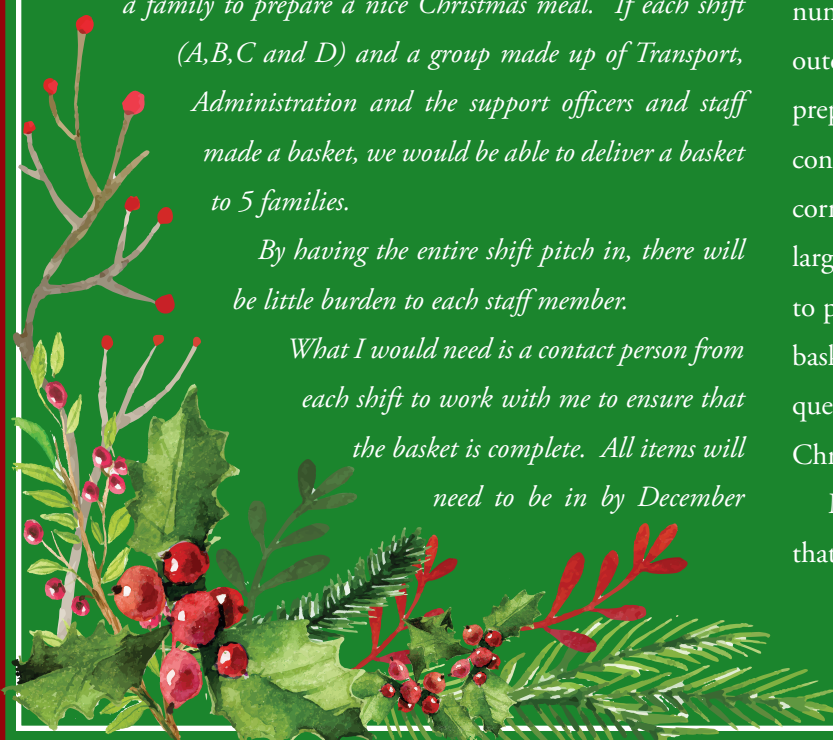
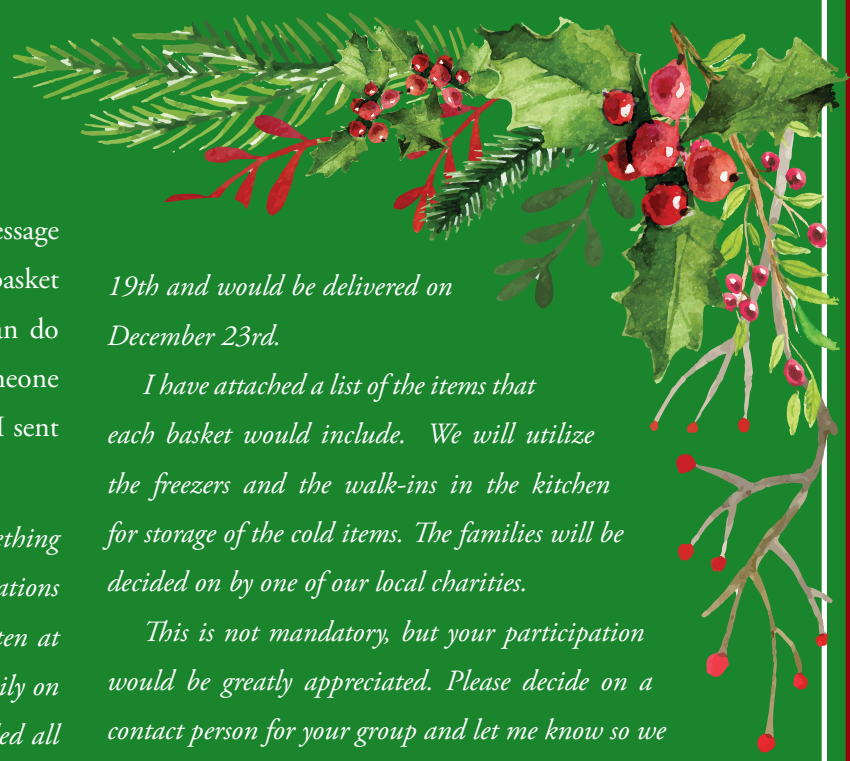
19th and would be delivered on December 23rd.

I have attached a list of the items that each basket would include. We will utilize the freezers and the walk-ins in the kitchen for storage of the cold items. The families will be decided on by one of our local charities.

This is not mandatory, but your participation would be greatly appreciated. Please decide on a contact person for your group and let me know so we can get started. Thank you, Todd"

What transpired in the next few weeks made me even more proud to work with this group of officers and staff. The numbers continued to climb as one shift was not going to be outdone by the other. When the dust settled, we were able to prepare 21 baskets for families of the community. The baskets consist of a turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, gravy, dinner rolls and a desert. A complete meal for a large family. The guys then thought of using a laundry basket to place the items in so the basket could be used all year. The baskets will be delivered on December 23rd by our staff. No questions will be asked, just a Merry Christmas and enjoy a Christmas Dinner.

My only regret is that I cannot find the woman on Facebook that planted this seed here. I am grateful for her generosity and am certainly grateful for the generosity of our staff at the Tom Green County Jail.



Brazos County Hosts the Polish Prison Service Delegation

We recently had the opportunity to help host a delegation from the Polish Prison Service on a visit to Texas. The delegation included **Patryk Jaki** - State Secretary (Deputy Minister) at the Ministry Justice; General **Jacek Kitliński** - Director General of Polish Prison Service; Colonel **Andrzej Leńczuk** - Director of Penitentiary Office at the Central Board of Prison Service; Mr. **Piotr Świdorski** - Director of the Prison Industry, Pomerania; and **Aleksandra Rogowka** - Office of the Director General. The visit is part of an ongoing program between the Polish Prison Service and The Correctional Management Institute of Texas (CMIT).

The group enjoyed a dinner in Austin Hall at Sam Houston State University. Leaders from Texas Department Criminal Justice; the Dean, faculty and staff of the College of Criminal Justice and CMIT were present and welcomed the group Texas style. The event was an opportunity to relax for a moment after several days of traveling to see reentry and work programs at TDCJ.

On Friday, the delegation traveled to Bryan and made several stops. They enjoyed a visit to the Emergency Operations Training Center at TEEEX including tours of

Disaster City and the Brayton Fire Training Field. The next stop was the Federal Prison Camp Bryan. This facility holds female offenders and features programs like cosmetology classes and UNICOR training. The highlight of the tour in Brazos County was Sheriff Kirk, who provided an overview of the duties of his office and a coveted photo op with a Texas Sheriff.

CMIT's exchange program with the Polish Prison Service is a valuable networking opportunity that provides knowledge of our respective correctional systems. It is also an opportunity to expand friendships that promote improved correctional practices.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

BRAZOS COUNTY

On October 13, 2016, Brazos County Sheriff **Chris Kirk** congratulated Deputies **Robert Kirk** and **John Williams** on their promotion to the patrol division. Deputy Kirk graduated from the Police academy in January of 2014 and was appointed as a Deputy Sheriff in May of 2015. Deputy Williams graduated from the Police academy on June 5, 2015. Both Deputies will begin their 12 week field training program in the near future, and look forward to serving the citizens of Brazos County.



(L to R): Sheriff Chris Kirk, Deputy Robert Kirk, Deputy John Williams, Chief Deputy Jim Stewart, Jail Administrator Wayne Dicky

On October 18, 2016, Brazos County Sheriff **Chris Kirk** recognized Deputy **Jesse Ostiguin Jr.** by awarding a Meritorious Service Medal. Deputy Ostiguin received this award in recognition of his outstanding performance during an extraordinarily dangerous call for service. On September 9, 2016, Deputy Ostiguin responded to an assault with a weapon in progress, where the suspect had a firearm and was threatening to shoot himself.

During the time of the call, the Sheriff's Office was already on scene of another priority call where a majority of the Sheriff's Office resources were deployed. The scene that Deputy Ostiguin responded to was on the opposite side of Brazos County with no additional units nearby. While enroute to the location Deputy Ostiguin asked for assistance from the College Station Police Department, but continued due to the potential for serious bodily injury or loss of life. Once on scene, Deputy Ostiguin

located the subject on the front porch of the residence. Deputy Ostiguin remained calm and deescalated the situation which resulted in the suspect being taken into custody.

The Sheriff's Meritorious Service Medal is the third highest decoration presented by the Sheriff's Office, and is awarded for outstanding meritorious performance during a difficult and challenging mission carried out under extraordinary circumstances.



(L to R): Sheriff Chris Kirk, Lt. Paul Martinez, Deputy Jesse Ostiguin Jr., Sgt. Mike Stumpf, Chief Deputy James Stewart.

On November 15, 2016, Brazos County Sheriff **Chris Kirk** congratulated Deputy **Tracy Hamilton** on her appointment as a Patrol Deputy. Deputy Hamilton started with the Brazos County Sheriff's Office in June of 2010. Deputy Hamilton worked as a Detention Officer until she received her Peace Officer certification in June of 2016 from TEEX. Before Deputy Hamilton's promotion she worked in the jail as a booking Deputy as well as a member of the Detention Response Team.



(L to R): Sheriff Chris Kirk, Deputy Tracy Hamilton, Jail Administrator Wayne Dicky, and Chief Deputy Jim Stewart

On November 15, 2016, Brazos County Sheriff **Chris Kirk** congratulated Investigator **Sean McCarroll** on his promotion to Lieutenant. Lieutenant McCarroll will be assigned to the Special Services Division, and will supervise the training division, recruiting division, and crime prevention. Lieutenant McCarroll started his career at the Sheriff's Office in November 1993 as a Detention Officer. During his time here at the Sheriff's Office Lieutenant McCarroll has promoted through the ranks as a Patrol Deputy as well as a Criminal Investigator. Lieutenant McCarroll's service with the Sheriff's Office includes several years with the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force. Lieutenant McCarroll is also a current member of the Sheriff's Emergency Response Group tactical team.



(L to R): Sheriff Chris Kirk, Lieutenant Sean McCarroll, and Chief Deputy Jim Stewart

On November 18, 2016, Brazos County Sheriff **Chris Kirk** congratulated **David Villarreal** on his promotion to Lieutenant. Lieutenant Villarreal will be assigned to the Support Services Division.

Lieutenant Villarreal has thirty-one years of service as a Peace Officer with fifteen years here at the Sheriff's Office. During his career with us, Lieutenant Villarreal has served as a Criminal Investigation Sergeant, Investigator for the FBI Terrorism Task Force, an Investigator for the area Narcotic Task Force, and Sergeant over the Warrants Division.



(L to R): Sheriff Chris Kirk, Lt. Villarreal, and Chief Deputy Jim Stewart

On December 6, 2016, Brazos County Sheriff **Chris Kirk** congratulated newly appointed Deputies **Corando Pena Jr.** and **Holt Ledyard**.

The new deputies graduated on December 2, 2016 from the 159th session of the Central Texas Police Academy conducted by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) where they completed a rigorous 728 hour academy. The graduation ceremony was held at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center at the George Bush Library, College Station, Texas.

Deputy Pena began his career with the Sheriff's Office in May of 2014 as a Detention Officer, and he is currently assigned to the Brazos County Detention Center. Deputy Ledyard began his career with the Sheriff's Office in December of 2014 as a Detention Officer, and he is currently assigned to the Brazos County Detention Center in the Security Division.



(L to R): Sheriff Chris Kirk, Deputy Corando Pena Jr., Deputy Holt Ledyard and Chief Deputy Jim Stewart

On December 6, 2016, Brazos County Sheriff **Chris Kirk** congratulated **Belinda Jackson** on her promotion to Lieutenant. Lieutenant Jackson will be assigned to the Intake and Release Division at the Brazos County Detention Center.

Lieutenant Jackson has fifteen years of service as a licensed Detention Officer, with ten years here at the Sheriff's Office. During her career with us, Lieutenant Jackson has served as a Detention Officer as well as a Detention Sergeant. Lieutenant Jackson earned her Advanced Jailer Proficiency Certificate in February of 2016. Congratulations are in order for Deputy



(L to R): Jail Administrator Wayne Dicky, Lieutenant Belinda Jackson, Sheriff Chris Kirk

Laura Buttgenbach. Deputy Buttgenbach has been selected for promotion to Criminal Investigator within the Brazos County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Buttgenbach started with the Sheriff's Office in December of 2010 as a Detention Officer. In June of 2013, Deputy Buttgenbach graduated the TEEX Peace Officer Academy earning her Basic Peace Officer Certification. Shortly after graduating the Peace Officer Academy, Deputy Buttgenbach was promoted to the patrol division and became a member of the Sheriff's Emergency Response Group Team. Sheriff Kirk would again like to congratulate Deputy Buttgenbach.



(L to R): Sheriff Chris Kirk, Investigator Laura Buttgenbach, and Chief Deputy Jim Stewart

COLLIN COUNTY

Recent Retirements

Sheriff **Terry Box** presented **Bonnie Guimarin** with her retirement plaque and thanked her for her years of service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office.



Sheriff **Terry Box** presented **Mark Riggs** with his retirement plaque and thanked him for his years of service.



Sheriff **Terry Box** presented **Mary Murphy** with her retirement plaque and thanked her for her many years of dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office.



Sheriff **Terry Box** presented **Bruce Ferguson** with his retirement plaque and thanked him for his years of service.



Awards

Sheriff **Terry Box** recently presented **Tami McCullough** with a Lifesaving award for saving the life of an inmate.



JEFFERSON COUNTY

On October 11, 2016, Jefferson County Sheriff **Mitch Woods** promoted **Jim Eiselstein** to the rank of Major and **Aaron Morris** to the rank of Captain. Major Eiselstein has been employed with



the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department for 27 years and Captain Morris for 15 years.

LUBBOCK COUNTY

Corporal **Nayda Santos** was recognized as employee of the month for June 2016. Corporal Santos is a member of the Office of Professional and Ethical Standards.



Sheriff **Kelly Rowe** promoted Officer **Jennifer Espinosa** to Corporal, assigned to the Office of Professional and Ethical Standards and **Emily Flores** to Corporal, assigned to the Night Shift.

Detention Officer **Gary Sikes** was awarded Employee of the Month for July. Officer Sikes has been employed with Lubbock County since August of 2000.



Officer **Monica Lopez** received the Employee of The Month award for August from Sheriff **Kelly Rowe**.

TRAVIS COUNTY

Paul Cartwright was recognized for employee of the month of September. He is a member of the Detention Response Team.



Officer **Paul Perez** was recognized for employee of the month for October. Officer Perez works in the division of Gang Intelligence in the Detention Center.

The 3rd Annual Friends of Law Enforcement Golf Tournament was held on September 26, 2016. Sheriff **Kelly Rowe** presented a check in the amount of \$6,000 to the Remember our Heroes foundation.



Pictured above are Benny Guerrero VFW, Linda Day (Remember our Heroes Board Member) Sheriff Kelly Rowe and Steve Oien (Purple Heart - Commander Lubbock).



Congratulations to **Shane Poole**! He has promoted to the Travis County Sheriff's Office Major of Administration and Support under Sheriff Sally Hernandez.

Major Shane Poole grew up in and graduated high school in Smithville, Texas and joined the Travis County Sheriff's Office on October 19, 1987. Prior to joining TCSO, he worked in his family's real estate and home building business. After joining TCSO, Shane achieved a Bachelor of Liberal Studies (Criminal Justice) from St. Edward's University and went on to receive his Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Ethics from St. Edward's in 2002.

Major Poole promoted to sergeant in 1991 and has worked in or supervised several operational, support and special program areas over the years promoting to lieutenant in 2008 and captain in 2015. His passion is instructing and mentoring the future leaders of the Department through the Sheriff's Institute for Ethical Leadership Development (SHIELD) which he co-founded and coordinates. He is also an adjunct instructor for the Texas State School of Criminal Justice.

Major Poole also served 21 years in the United States Army Reserve, retiring in 2004, with his last four years assigned as the Senior Enlisted member (Sergeant Major) of the Southwest Asia Contracting Command. He was activated for both Desert Storm and the Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom campaigns.

Shane and his wife of 30 years have lived in Austin for 24 years and are active in supporting their children's academic and extracurricular activities, as well as the community through TCSO and the Blue Knights.

Highlights & Achievements:

President, Texas Jail Association (2015-2016)
President, Texas XIII Chapter, Blue Knights Int'l LEMC
Graduate, FBI National Academy, Session 244
Graduate, National Jail Leadership Command Academy, Class 18
Graduate (Trilogy Award), FBI-LEEDA Program
TCOLE Master Jailer, Master Peace Officer
VFW Officer of the Year, 1995
90th Army Reserve Command NCO of the Year, 1995
TCSO awards to include Commendation, Sheriff Wayne Barton, Unit Citation and several others.
TCOLE Academic Recognition Award



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