

## **Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators**

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### **Mission**

To connect, develop and strengthen youth corrections leaders to maximize their capacities to implement and sustain reforms in their systems that will improve outcomes for youth, families and communities.

### **Vision**

“We believe every youth should leave a correctional program in a better place than when he or she came in.”

### **Core Values**

- Continuous Learning
- Collaboration
- Rehabilitation
- Parental Engagement
- Supportive Communities
- Diversity

### **Executive Director**

Michael P. Dempsey

### **Elected Officers**

#### **President**

Fariborz Pakseresht, Oregon

#### **Vice President**

Lisa Bjergaard, North Dakota

#### **Treasurer**

Terri Williams, Kansas

#### **Secretary**

Cindy McKenzie, Montana

## **Mental Health Services for LGBTQI Youthful Offenders**

### **Background**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning and Intersex and other gender nonconforming (LGBTQI) youth are significantly over-represented in the juvenile justice system, making up about 15-20% of those currently in the system. While little research on the prevalence of intersex youth exists, PREA recognizes the needs and risks faced by all LGBTQI youths are similar. Once in the system, these youth have the following specific needs that may go unaddressed without the proper supports in place:

- LGBTQI youth are often left without support systems both in juvenile facilities and in the community;
- LGBTQI youth often experience violence and harassment from youth AND adults;
- Staff are often not given the tools they need to support LGBTQI youth; and
- LGBTQI youth are almost 10 times more likely to report sexual assault in juvenile justice settings than their non-LGBTQI peers.

### **Position Statement**

CJCA aligns with the recommendations from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) that address the needs of the LGBTQI youth in juvenile justice settings. Their recommendations are grouped into the following broad categories:

- Systems need to put policies and programs in place specific to LGBTQI youth. It should be required that all personnel, contractors and volunteers, as well as systems involved youth and their families are informed of the policies, understand them and comply with their provisions.
- Systems should deliver training and technical assistance specific to the needs of LGBTQI youth, provided to all stakeholders who work with youth in juvenile settings, including how to better address their needs within facilities and in the communities to which they return. CJCA supports adherence to The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards.
- Support funding for data collection and research including LGBTQI data points in order to develop a thorough data-driven data collection process.
- Support OJJDP in establishing a formal internal LGBTQI working group responsible for carrying out the OJJDP subcommittee’s recommendations.