American Correctional Association

PUBLIC CORRECTIONAL POLICY ON CRIME PREVENTION

1996-1

Introduction:

The occurrence of violent and other serious crimes in our communities is a continuing and growing social concern. One of the most visible outcomes of this concern has been the dramatic growth in correctional populations and caseloads. Correctional practitioners have both crime control and crime prevention responsibilities. Offender programs should be preventive and reduce the risk of re-offending. The American Correctional Association encourages moving beyond conventional boundaries in order to become involved in the search for, and promotion of, effective early preventive measures. Crime prevention strategies and programs that focus on factors in families, neighborhoods, schools and communities that contribute to a decrease in crime, deserve the correctional practitioner's attention and support.

Policy Statement:

A. Correctional practitioners and other professionals should develop policies and programs that will be effective in both the prevention of crime and the lowering of recidivism rates. Correctional agencies and organizations should:

B. Advocate for and promote a blended, culturally-responsive approach to crime reduction, which includes prevention and intervention, community-based sanctions and, when necessary, confinement;

C. Advocate for and continue to participate in existing programs that demonstrate effectiveness in violence and crime prevention;

D. Participate as active partners with law enforcement, courts, communities, health care providers, schools, and faith-based agencies in crime prevention and reduction initiatives;

E. Advocate for and support prevention and early intervention strategies in health care, mental health, education and social services;

F. Advocate for and promote investment in programs for children, particularly those at risk;

G. Advocate for and/or provide programs that:

1. Reduce domestic violence;
2. Reduce child abuse;
3. Reduce teen pregnancies;
4. Improve parenting skills and the functioning of families and healthy relationships;
5. Help offenders and their families resist gang involvement while establishing and maintaining pro-social relationships; and
6. Reduce substance abuse while supporting sustained recovery from addiction and other criminal lifestyles.

H. Consider the offender’s family as an integral component of crime prevention; and

I. Evaluate performance outcomes of crime prevention and reduction strategies and programs.

This Public Correctional Policy was unanimously ratified by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly at the Winter Conference in Philadelphia, Jan. 17, 1996. It was last reviewed and affirmed at the 2016 Winter Conference in New Orleans, LA.