Introduction:

Law enforcement, the courts and its agents; juvenile and adult corrections; and public and private social service agencies are components of the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Protection of the public and the promotion of social order under law are shared responsibilities of each. Public safety will be promoted when all components fully collaborate with each other in the spirit of a full and unconditional partnership.

Policy Statement:

Correctional practitioners and other service providers should make every effort to collaborate with one another, law enforcement and the courts in ways that will improve the overall criminal and juvenile justice systems. The result will be enhanced protection of the public, efficiency in handling offenders and long-range cost effectiveness.

Opportunities exist for partnerships to be developed in reentry programs and services, crime prevention initiatives, community corrections programs, probation and parole services, staff recruitment and development, violence reduction and other areas. Correctional agencies and organizations should:

A. Develop communication policies and procedures to share information among agencies that promote prevention, early intervention, public safety and the reduction of recidivism;

B. Commit to improving communications between agencies and initiating regular meetings with a variety of partners;

C. Promote mutual aid agreements, shared training and resource utilization;

D. Initiate research efforts to determine the benefits and outcomes of the partnerships;

E. Support legislative efforts at all levels of government that will improve public safety and enhance the resources available to the partner agencies;

F. Eliminate the barriers that are counterproductive to these partnerships; and

G. Acknowledge the differences in each of the agencies and seek to understand the mission, vision and role of each agency within the partnership.

This public correctional policy was ratified by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly at the Winter Conference in 2003. It was last reviewed and affirmed at the 2018 Winter Conference in Orlando, Florida on January 9, 2018.