Introduction:
In order to establish the goals and objectives of any correctional system, there must be a mission statement established that all members of the correctional community can use in goal-setting and daily operations.

Policy Statement:
The overall role of corrections is to enhance public safety and social order. Adult and juvenile correctional systems should:

A. Implement court-ordered sanctions and provide supervision of those accused of unlawful behavior prior to and after adjudication in a safe and humane manner;

B. Offer the widest range of correctional programs that are based on exemplary practices, supported by research and promote pro-social behavior;

C. Provide gender- and culturally-responsive programs and services for pre-adjudicated and adjudicated offenders that will enhance successful reentry to the community and that are administered within the least restrictive environment consistent with public, staff and offender safety;

D. Address the needs of victims of crime;

E. Routinely review correctional programs and reentry services to ensure that they are addressing the needs of offenders, victims and the community; and

F. Collaborate with other professions to improve and strengthen correctional services and to support the reduction of crime and recidivism.

This Public Correctional Policy was unanimously ratified by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly at the Congress of Correction in Chicago, Aug. 11, 1983. It was last reviewed and reaffirmed at the 2018 Winter Conference in Orlando, Florida on January, 9, 2018.