American Correctional Association

SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF AN OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE HEALTH CARE

1999-1

WHEREAS, the American Correctional Association affirms that comprehensive health care includes prevention, intervention, education and treatment for physical, mental and behavioral health problems; and

WHEREAS, many individuals involved with the juvenile and adult justice systems have or are at risk for communicable diseases and mental health and other health-related problems; and

WHEREAS, a public health crisis is occurring in our nation and its juvenile and adult justice systems; and

WHEREAS, applying public health prevention and intervention strategies in juvenile and adult justice systems is important for protecting and improving the health of offenders, staff, and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, providing timely assessments and appropriate services may result in the prevention of further spread of communicable diseases in the community; and

WHEREAS, juvenile and adult justice staff of various disciplines can be exposed to these diseases in the course of their daily duties and placed at risk; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to develop and sustain educational and immunization programs for persons in the adult and juvenile justice systems; and

WHEREAS, the adult and juvenile justice systems have a responsibility to improve public health through the education, immunization, prevention and treatment of an at-risk population; and

WHEREAS, there is no single source of information and resources dealing with the issue of juvenile and adult offender health care; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for collaboration among the various components of the adult and juvenile justice systems and public health systems; and now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Correctional Association supports and urges the creation within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services an Office of Criminal Justice
Health Care to coordinate health programs directed at populations under the jurisdiction of adult and juvenile justice systems.

This resolution was adopted by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly on Aug. 11, 1999, at the Congress of Correction in Denver. It was last reviewed and reaffirmed at the 2017 Winter Conference in San Antonio, TX on January 24, 2017.