



AUG. 11 VIRTUAL AUG. 12-15 LIVE ON-SITE AND VIRTUAL

# NASHVILLE

## 151<sup>ST</sup> CONGRESS OF CORRECTION

AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION  AUG. 11-15, 2021



## Conference Overview

### Music City a hit with conference goers

**A**fter a year without a face to face meeting, corrections professionals from across the globe gathered in Music City, USA to finally meet again at the 151<sup>st</sup> Congress of Correction from August 11-15.

The setting was Nashville’s Music City Center located in the heart of Nashville near the Country Music Hall of Fame and the storied Broadway Street featuring a lively nightlife of honky tonks and the beat of live music coming from nearly every corner.

Wednesday’s proceedings began with a full day of workshops conducted entirely online.

Thursday found ACA members finally back

meeting face to face. A Plenary session moderated by ACA Vice President Tony Wilkes got the proceeding off to a flying start.

Drugs: From the Border to Inside the Fence featured a long-time DEA special agent, the Executive Director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the South Texas regional director of the Texas Department of Public Safety discussing recent drug introduction and manufacturing trends seen throughout the country along with Intervention approaches for correctional staff who encounter intoxicated individuals and strategies to combat this crisis on the micro and macro level.

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Participants also learned how correctional staff across the nation can help prevent introduction of drug contraband into correctional settings.

New auditor training began as did a host of well-attended workshops including a juvenile track session on Behavior Management, DBT Programming Tools and Working Towards Fidelity and a mental health track workshop on Conducting the Psychological Autopsy in Correctional Settings.

The always fruitful Health Care Special Session and Luncheon convened at the nearby Omni Hotel ballroom so the gathered corrections professionals could hear Dr. Amber D'Souza, a Professor of Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health give a fascinating talk on the SARS-CoV-2 virus and strategies corrections professionals can use to mitigate it.

Congress goers had a busy afternoon of workshops along with the annual meeting of the Committee on Performance-Based Standards.

Weary congress attendees could take a break at the Health and Wellness Expo (see page 43) where they could learn about healthy food choices, exercise routines and get a wellness check from qualified nurses on duty.

A very popular choice were the massage stations where trained massage therapists plied their trade. →





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The day wound down with the Health Care Network Reception held on the Marty Dickens Terrace of the Music City Center.

Friday dawned with another busy day of activity in and around the Music City Center. A pair of special training sessions were convened: Use of Separation for Juvenile Facilities and Adult Local Detention Facilities Performance-Based Standards and Expected Practices: 2021 Updates and What You Need to Know prestaged the highlight event of any Congress of Correction: the General Session.

Every seat in the socially distanced Exhibit Hall D was filled when the colors were presented, and the national anthem was sung.

President Tony Parker greeted the assembled corrections professionals and introduced one of the main speakers: Governor Bill Lee of Tennessee.

Governor Lee acknowledged the crowd and talked about his own personal experience with corrections:



“I did work in a prison reentry program starting some 20 years ago long before I ever thought about politics or government. In that process of mentoring men as they reentered society, I learned an awful lot about how it is that you in this industry have a tremendous opportunity to serve the people we are called to serve to reduce recidivism, lower crime, reduce the cost to taxpayers and most importantly to be in the process of transforming people’s lives.”

Lee also talked about his efforts to reform criminal justice in the state of Tennessee:

“This year, I signed the Alternative to Incarceration Act and the Success in Reentry Act and it was one of the proudest moments I’ve had as Governor signing these bills because of the long history and passion I have around the work you do every single day and the impact it has on our world.”

Lee was followed to the stage by country music superstar Rodney Atkins.





Atkins and his wife Rose Falcon played an acoustic set of Atkins' hits like: Farmer's Daughter, Caught up in the Country, Take a Back Road, I've Been Waiting for You and If You Are Going Through Hell (Before the Devil Even Knows.)

Atkins then sat down with President Parker and shared some of his insights on country music, adoption (Atkins was adopted as a child), and parenting.

He saluted the crowd and told them "It's an honor to be here with you guys."

As the corrections professionals filed out of Exhibit Hall D, the exhibit hall next door was opening and the place quickly became a beehive of activity. Exhibitors and attendees mingled discussing the latest in corrections technologies and expanding both a customer and supplier base.

Saturday's events included a host of workshops along with both the Accreditation Panel Hearings and a Board of Governors Meeting.

A second Plenary was held at the Music City Center called Global Pandemic Response 2020 Recap, 2021 Reset hosted by Tony Parker and featuring Brian Bivens, Assistant Chief, Knox County Sheriff's Office, Annette Chambers-Smith, Director, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Corrections and Tyrone Oliver Commissioner, Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. The panelists addressed measures correctional agencies implemented to manage correctional populations during the pandemic, minimize lawsuits and apply the lessons learned to enhance public safety and improve correctional operations for the future.

The final day of the Congress again featured a steady diet of workshops and Accreditation Panel

Hearings. The business of the Association was done at the Delegate Assembly meeting where policies and resolutions were approved (See page 55).

The exhibit hall climaxed with the annual vehicle giveaway. The non-stop networking came to a halt for just a moment as three finalists took their turn trying to start the Grand Prize: A Jeep Renegade.

Billy Lewis of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice had the golden key and drove off in his new vehicle.

The Congress ended that night with the E.R. Cass Award banquet. The two Cass award winners, Dr. Aufderheide, the Executive Director of the American Board of Correctional Psychology and Chief of Mental Health Services for the Florida Department of Corrections and Mr. Tony Wilkes, ACA's current Vice-President and Davidson County Sheriff's Office Chief of Corrections.

The 151<sup>st</sup> Congress of Correction was a much-needed shot in the arm for all the corrections professionals who attended, in person or virtually. Friendships were built, knowledge was acquired and the sense of community for all corrections professional was renewed.

Looking forward, ACA is bringing the corrections field together again, this time in the desert bloom of the Valley of the Sun in Phoenix, Arizona.

Once again, there will be unique opportunities for training and for learning. We look forward to all of you joining us in Phoenix in January of 2022!

— KIRK RAYMOND