2014 NCJAA Annual Conference Course Descriptions

Legal Update & State Jail Inspections Overview

This session will provide a general legal update, focusing on new legislation and cases relevant to the operation of the jail. Among other topics, we will review the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program, Prison Rape Elimination Act, the impact of these recent changes, and other legal concerns. A representative from the Jail & Detention Division will give a brief overview of any concerns and changes.

Detention Officers' Workshop

This workshop is designed for line Detention Staff. Officers will be allowed the opportunity to share concerns about issues they have difficulty with in their facilities. The session will allow for open discussion about any areas of concern. Officers will be allowed to discuss what works for other facilities. The forum will give officers the free communication to voice their challenges to help improve overall Detention efficiencies. The topics of concern from this workshop will be shared with the Jail Administrators in their workshop.

Jail Administrators' Workshop

This workshop will focus on discussion designed only for Facility or Assistant Facility Administrators. During this session, participants will be able to discuss methods and strategies with other Administrators on how to become more efficient and effective with daily operations. They will be able to share successes and challenges of different experiences within their facilities.

PREA: How Are You Doing & What's Next?

This class will provide participants an opportunity to evaluate their own agency's policies and practices to help determine how they are doing with PREA compliance. We will review how compliance can be realistically accomplished. You will develop an increased awareness of the PREA standards, best practices, and resources available from the PREA Resource Center.

Coaching & Mentoring for Detention

This session will focus on coaching and mentoring in the detention environment and its impact on leadership development. Leaders and managers, as well as officers who aspire to move into leadership roles, will learn how coaching and mentoring can impact our ability to build higher work performance with staff.

Team Building for Detention

Your survival and success in the detention profession depends on how you lead, communicate, and work with other people. Learning team building techniques will aid to strengthen every aspect of productivity. We will talk about developing confidence and building trust within the work groups. The concept can be utilized to achieve short-term or long-term goals, regardless of the magnitude of the project or program. You will learn how this helps to build stronger bonds between coworkers and staff. We will also discuss the concept of having a "CAN DO" attitude to lift up others during stressful times.

Gang Awareness Update

This class is designed to expand and update your knowledge about the different types of gangs present in NC. We will discuss the importance of identifying gang activity and how it can directly impact the safety and security of Detention Facilities. We will discuss and illustrate different identifying factors such as tattoos, language, signs, dress, mechanics of operation, etc.

Cryptology: Hidden Messages in Mail

In today's jail environment, we are continuously forced to learn how to improve the overall safety and security within our operations. Inmate Mail analysis can be a critical avenue for us to gather intelligence to avoid potentially dangerous and embarrassing situations. We are held accountable for the safety and security of our staff, facility, and community. During this class we will discuss several avenues to become familiar with to assist with improving security, which are outlined below:

Cryptanalysis is the art of solving secret codes and ciphers found in letters, diaries, and other types of written documents, including e-mail and text messages. Common users of code ciphers include national and international terrorists, foreign intelligence agents, prison and jail inmates, and violent criminals.

Racketeering Examinations consists of examining and decoding records from illicit businesses or individuals via mail or email. The examinations may reveal the mode of operation, criminal activity, attempts of escape from custody, attempts to assault others, dates of activity, number and roles of participants (both in and out of custody).

Drug Records Examinations include deciphering pertinent information about the mode of operation, type of drug, quantity of drugs sold or purchased, unit prices, method of payment, transaction dates, roles of participants, gross and net profits, and involvement of inmate populations.

Detention Officer Readiness

This class will help increase your awareness of the importance of developing extraordinary skills and attitudes to survive the stressful environment that we work in every day. We will discuss the attributes of being survival-oriented, mentally prepared, while examining the impact of line of duty deaths, and how we can improve operations to assure our safe return home each day.

Detention Officer Intelligence Update

During this class, we will discuss how to identify a sovereign-citizen movement and the elements which detention officers encounter. You will be provided with the latest intelligence trends, gangs, sovereign citizens, and suspected terrorist affiliations that may have an impact on detention facilities. We will have discussion about anti-government extremist groups and gangs within NC. We will also discuss the purpose and goal for the efficient information collection and sharing to help with improving safety and security within our operational control.

TROUBLING TREND: Synthetic Drugs & Substance Use

The United States has been seeing the emergence of synthetic drug use, especially among young people. While the harms of these types of drugs are not yet fully understood, we need to have a better understanding of the signs, symptoms, and problems associated with these drugs. How do we manage and safely care for inmates who are suffering with medical issues from the use of these substances: bath salts, roxiecodone, hydrocodone, alcohol, etc.? Unfortunately, if inmates are not treated promptly and properly, reactions to synthetic drugs can result in death.

Ethics & Diversity

Though inmates may not possess a strong moral character, jail and detention environments pose numerous ethical and diverse issues, which officers, managers, contract workers, volunteers, and other criminal justice professionals face every single day. We will discuss the importance of demonstrating high levels of integrity and about "doing things right and doing the right thing." Every policy and procedure must balance the interests of citizens, jail staff, inmates' family members, and those held in custody. You will participate in simulated exercises to identify the differences between ethical and unethical situations and how sometimes others may view actions as being discriminatory.

Inmate Discipline: Communication & Enforcement of the Rules

In the detention and jail environment, many times it is very challenging to get compliance with inmates. Generational and ethnic differences sometimes compound the situation. Communicating to unruly inmates is not always easy. This class will discuss different techniques of management and communication of inmates to ensure a safer, more secure environment. We will discuss the importance of progressive discipline. We will review the legal requirement of having clearly defined policies regarding rules and regulations, disciplinary hearings, reviews, inmate request processes, and grievance procedures.

Suicide Prevention

This class is designed to review the facts about detention suicides and prevention. It is critical to consider why our environment is so conducive to this type of behavior. We need to be cognitive of critical high risk periods during incarceration. We will review the methods of assessment and reassessment for housing, classification, and supervision. We will also discuss some of the potential warning signs and how to implement an effective prevention program, along with critical incident debriefing procedures, and review of liability issues