VALUE OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS PARTNERING WITH CORRECTIONS

COVID-19 DETECTION AND MITIGATION IN CONFINEMENT FACILITIES (CDMCF) TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TTA) CENTER

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Presenters

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• **Russ Strickland**, Secretary, Maryland Department of Emergency Management

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Agenda

Welcome and Introduction
Program Overview
COVID-19 Lessons Learned
Maryland Case Study
What Emergency Managers Need to Know
Questions
SECTION 1

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
What is the Office of Justice Programs?

- The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) provides grant funding, training, research, and statistics to the criminal justice community.

- OJP is one of three grant-making components of the Department of Justice along with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

- BJA – Bureau of Justice Assistance
- BJS – Bureau of Justice Statistics
- NIJ – National Institute of Justice
- OVC – Office for Victims of Crime
- OJJDP – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- SMART – Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking
U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Justice Assistance

Mission: BJA’s mission is to provide leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support state, local, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities. BJA works with communities, governments, and nonprofit organizations to reduce crime, recidivism, and unnecessary confinement, and promote a safe and fair criminal justice system.

Karhlton F. Moore, BJA Director

https://bja.ojp.gov/
How BJA Supports the Field

**Investments**
Provide diverse funding to accomplish goals.

**Sharing Knowledge**
Research, develop, and deliver what works to build capacity and improve outcomes.

**Engagement**
Consult, connect, and convene.
SECTION 2

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
## TTA Center

| American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 | COVID-19 Confinement Funds  
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<th>Project Period: August 2021–July 2024</th>
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| CDC & BJA Partnership           | $700 million in funds through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC)  
|                                 | BJA’s CDMCF TTA Center |
| Eligible Facilities             | Adult prisons  
|                                 | Adult jails  
|                                 | Juvenile facilities  
|                                 | Community corrections centers  
|                                 | Police lock-ups |
Project Partners

- Nonprofit research and analysis organization
- 80 years of experience serving government entities
- Operates Centers of Expertise in Criminal Justice, Public Health, and Vulnerable Populations Protection
- Supports several national TTA programs for BJA and HHS

- 150+ years experience supporting practitioners in corrections
- Offers correctional operations and health care expertise
- Providing TTA Coaches and access to extensive network of SMEs

- Represents 2,500 members from jails across the country
- Facilitates peer learning among jail administrators
- Maintains extensive network of SMEs

- National organization representing the correctional administrators of the 50 states and US territories
- Focuses on critical issues impacting the field, such as Behavioral Health, Program and Training, and Staff
- Maintains extensive network of SMEs
Available Technical Assistance to Facilities in Your State

- Assess pandemic plans
- Develop staff training
- Connect with state health departments
- Inform data reporting procedures
- Educate on mitigation strategies
- And more...
SECTION 3

COVID-19 LESSONS LEARNED
Pandemic Impact on Correctional Facilities*

COVID-19 Cases
- 647,349 COVID-19 cases among people incarcerated in prisons
- 246,858 COVID-19 cases among staff working in prisons

COVID-19 Deaths
- 2,933 COVID-19 deaths of incarcerated individuals
- 292 deaths of staff working in prisons due to COVID-19

COVID-19 Vaccines
- 561,096 incarcerated individuals received at least one vaccine dose
- 130,232 staff received at least one vaccine dose

## Planning and Coordination

- Coordination with public health and emergency management.
- Develop and maintain tailored public health emergency response plans for correctional facilities.
- Collect data critical to appropriate, proportional public health response.

## Operations

- Access to health care enabled by investments in telemedicine; access to mental health.
- Need to balance mental and physical health impacts of mitigation protocols.
- Implement sustainable detection and mitigation strategies.
- Reducing the population works.
- Staffing-related issues impact operations.

## Tactical

- Investment in technology enabled communications and continuity of programs and services.
- Upgrading/improving HVAC systems key to risk management.
- Incentives increase personal protective equipment (PPE) compliance and vaccination rates.
- Diverse communication methods key to improve public health outcomes.
Whole of Community Response Includes Collaborating with Corrections

- Emergency Management
- Corrections
- Public Health

- Local
  - Hospitals
  - Jails
  - EMA
  - Public Health

- State
  - State EMA
  - State DOH
  - State Police
  - State DOC

- Federal
  - FEMA
  - USACE
  - DOJ BJA
  - DOJ BOP
  - HHS
  - HHS ASPR
  - CDC
SECTION 4

MARYLAND CASE STUDY
Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS)

About 27,000 people were incarcerated in Maryland during COVID-19 in:
• 8 correctional facilities
• 4 community release facilities
• Baltimore City jail
Maryland’s Challenge

Challenge
Potential for high demand on state resources if the state’s incarcerated population and staff contracted COVID-19.

Solution
State prioritized Corrections in all phases of the pandemic response.
Maryland Partnerships

State agencies worked together:

• Priority testing and vaccines in corrections.
• Built 10 alternate care facilities within correctional facilities.
• Increased the use of technology within corrections for virtual visits, telehealth.
• Resources and PPE made by Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE).
DPSCS Results

Outcome
State implemented a prison reduction program, built 10 dedicated medical treatment facilities within corrections, and increased the use of technology within corrections.

Impact
4,482 COVID-19 cases, but only 35 deaths. Reduced its overall prison population by 9.3 percent. Saved $3.2 million with alternate care sites.

There were 4,482 cases of coronavirus reported among prisoners in Maryland.
SECTION 5

WHAT EMERGENCY MANAGERS NEED TO KNOW
What Emergency Managers Need to Know about Corrections...

- Facility Layout and Population Density
- Health Protocols within Corrections Systems
- Communication Channels
- Vulnerabilities and Special Needs
What Emergency Managers Need to Know about Corrections...

- Collaborative Planning
- Resource Requirements and Allocation
- Legal and Regulatory Frameworks
SECTION 6

QUESTIONS
Stay Connected!

- **Facebook**: [https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA](https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA)
- **X**: [https://x.com/DOJBJA](https://x.com/DOJBJA)
- **YouTube**: [https://www.youtube.com/dojbja](https://www.youtube.com/dojbja)
- Use the QR code to subscribe to “Justice Matters” and “News From BJA” to receive the latest information from BJA and the field.
- For information on funding opportunities, publications, and initiatives, visit BJA’s website: [www.bja.ojp.gov](http://www.bja.ojp.gov).