



Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Corrections Section

South Carolina Prisons Changing the Way Inmates Are Classified

South Carolina prison officials are rolling out a sweeping policy change that will give the state more discretion in deciding where to locate inmates in the state's 21 correctional institutions. The shift is being made, agency officials say, to encourage good behavior and to better ensure the safety of thousands of prisoners serving time behind bars.

The changes are occurring as state lawmakers continue to review the state's prison system after a violent uprising at a prison in Lee County left seven inmates dead last year. The policy shift, Corrections Director Bryan Stirling said, is likely to be a topic of discussion at a House oversight committee this week. Under the current system, prison officials classify each inmate based largely on the severity of their crime and the length of their sentence. That classification then determines which prison an inmate will be housed in.

The new rules, however, weigh other things like a prisoner's age, medical situation, criminal history and gang affiliations when deciding whether to place them in a maximum-security setting. It also takes into account the work and education programs inmates participate in. "We will take into account more things than just your time and

crime," Stirling said. "I think it's a more informed and educated decision."

Stirling used the example of an inmate sentenced to 11 years in prison for bank fraud. As it stands, that person could be placed in a maximum-security prison even though he didn't commit a violent crime and has no prior criminal record. "That's where it stopped making sense for me," Stirling said.

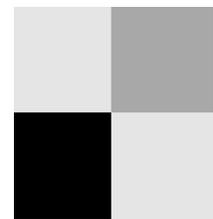
The changes mark a dramatic shift for the Department of Corrections, which has used the more antiquated system for roughly 25 years. It will also bring South Carolina in line with many other states that have already adopted similar policies. Dr. James Austin, president of the JFA Institute, who is assisting the agency in implementing the new system, said the changes could shift up to 20 percent of the inmate population into lower-security prisons. That would allow correctional officers, he said, to better identify and handle the most difficult and dangerous inmates.

"It takes into account everything you need to take into account to put the person in the right facility," said Austin, who is the former director of the Institute on Crime, Justice, and Corrections at George Washington University. Prison officials

are already starting work on the new classification system, but it could take until February to have it fully implemented, Stirling said.

Access the full article, originally published in May 2019, here:

https://www.postandcourier.com/news/sc-prisons-changing-the-way-inmates-are-classified-and-housed/article_1edc0ab8-8171-11e9-912f-2ff166f64806.html



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Spring 2019 - Corrections Now



Message from the Chair

It was great to see everyone who attended the Baltimore conference and the Section's annual breakfast. We had the wonderful opportunity to hear from **our keynote speaker, Director Gail Watts**, Baltimore County Department of Corrections. We also presented a check to The Lazarus Rite, a non-profit organization in the Baltimore area.

On behalf of the Section **and the executive board, I would like to thank**

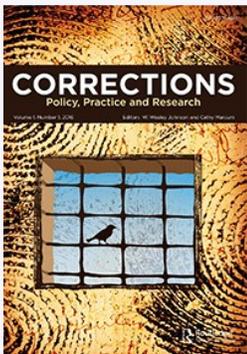
Dave May for his leadership these past three years. He has been instrumental in keeping the Section stable and moving in the right direction.

We also welcomed new executive board members, Ryan Labrecque and Stacy Haynes (Executive Counselors), and Adam Matz moved to Vice-Chair. I am excited to work with each of them. Finally, we are looking forward to our next meeting in San Antonio March 24-28, 2020. We

will host our annual Awards breakfast meeting and support a number of other interesting events. We will welcome a new Secretary/Treasurer to the Section, and will hopefully hand out a few awards! I hope to see you all there.

In the meantime, have a safe and relaxing summer break! ~Natalie

***Corrections: Policy, Practice, and Research* — Call for Reviewers and Manuscripts**



Interested in doing some service for the discipline and adding a great CV line? The **CPPR** needs reviewers!

If you would like to serve as a reviewer for the journal, please contact Dr. Cathy Marcum at:

marcumcm@appstate.edu

CPPR is also seeking manuscript submissions.

The journal is aimed at publishing research on a range of topics that address innovative approaches, theory building, and policy development in both institutional and community corrections settings.

Those interested in submitting a manuscript can visit the journal's website here:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=aimsScope&journalCode=ucor20>

For regular updates on the latest **CPPR** research and announcements follow the journal on Twitter:

@CorrectionsR 

2019 Annual Awards Ceremony & General Business Meeting



2020 Section Awards and Scholarships: Call for Nominations

The nomination deadline for the 2019 Division awards is **October 15, 2019**.

Nominations can be sent to:

ACJS.Corrections@gmail.com.

Please check the Corrections Section website for further information about each award.

John Howard Award

The John Howard Award is given intermittently, upon significant demand, to recognize an individual who has made significant and sustained contributions to the practice of corrections. The nominee MUST have made significant contributions to practice, but also can have made significant contributions in scholarship, teaching, policy, or service. Nominators can make the argument that a nominee's

scholarship or work in teaching, policy, or service DID make a significant contribution to practice. This is encouraged. Nominations are accepted every year and the committee will seriously consider all nominees. However, the awarding of this honor is solely at the Committee's discretion and may not be awarded each year. Nominees should send a description of the nominee's contributions, explaining how the nominee meets or exceeds the criteria, along with a copy of the nominee's CV.

Outstanding Section Member Award

Criteria for nomination for the Outstanding Member award are: 1) membership in and preferably contribution to the ACJS Corrections Section; and 2) significant research and/or scholarship in the field of corrections. Winners will receive a

\$100 cash award, a plaque of recognition, and will be honored at the annual Corrections Section Award meeting. Self-nominations are allowed and encouraged.

Dr. Kelly Cheeseman Student Paper Travel Scholarship

Students presenting papers at the ACJS annual conference are encouraged to submit their papers to the Awards committee for consideration for receipt



of the travel scholarship. A letter of

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 57th annual meeting of ACJS will be held **March 24– March 28, 2020 at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel in San Antonio, TX.**

The Section's awards ceremony and general business meeting will take place on **Friday March 27th at 8a.m.**

Paper and poster submissions are requested by the Program Com-

mittee by **September 30, 2019** with a final deadline of **October 14, 2019.**

The Section encourages faculty, students and practitioners in the field to submit a paper or poster presentation.

Additionally, suggestions are welcome for a **corrections-related charitable organization**

in the San Antonio area. As is tradition, the Corrections Section will provide a monetary donation to such a charity based on profits from meeting t-shirt sales.

Please inform the E-Board of your suggestion via e-mail no later than December 1:

ACJS.Corrections@gmail.com



Corrections Section Purpose

The purpose of the Corrections Section is to bring together academy members who have a particular interest in corrections, to facilitate and encourage research and theory development related to corrections, to encourage appropriate and effective teaching techniques and practices for corrections courses, to serve as a resource network for and encourage interaction among academic, research, practitioner and policy-making sectors in order to further knowledge about corrections, and to encourage the organization of corrections-related conference activities.

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