

ACA RESOLUTION TOWARD A JUST AND EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF JUSTICE

WHEREAS it is proven that laws resulting in mass incarceration have contributed to the over representation of minority populations in prisons;

WHEREAS sentencing policies concerning substance abuse to include drugs and alcohol possession and substance abuse have contributed to mass incarceration with little or no enhancement of public safety;

WHEREAS reliable and scientific research exist for risk and needs assessment tools, screenings of trauma, social determinants and community program interventions and treatment models that may be effectively implemented to avoid overincarceration of offenders and contribute to the successful return to the community;

WHEREAS effective individualized intervention programs that include education, substance abuse (new language), cognitive restructuring, work skills, and life skills contribute to the potential for successful reentry to the community;

WHEREAS, supervision strategies based on research, risk and needs and other factors allow options for community supervision as alternatives to jails and prisons to insure only high risk and serious offenders occupy prison beds;

WHEREAS failure to address these components continues to adversely impact mostly people of color in custody in our jails and prisons; and now

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that corrections professionals are urged to participate actively in local, state, and federal forums to support policies that will encourage research based and equitable interventions into the justice system to eliminate the disparity of treatment for people of color within all components of the justice system.