

ACA RESOLUTION ON BIAS AND INSTITUTIONAL RACISM WITHIN CORRECTIONAL SYSTEMS

WHEREAS discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, are prohibited by federal law, and

WHEREAS people of color in custody overrepresent the populations of those incarcerated in jails and prisons; and

WHEREAS the American Correctional Association finds the “Exclusion Clause” of Section 1 of the Thirteenth Amendment of the US Constitution implying work performed during incarceration is equivalent to slavery to be inconsistent with its basic founding principles and standards; and

WHEREAS the American Correctional Association specifically states the guiding principles of HUMANITY, JUSTICE, PROTECTION, OPPORTUNITY, KNOWLEDGE, COMPETENCE and ACCOUNTABILITY” are consistent with good correctional policy; and

WHEREAS effective programming such as effective individualized interventions and treatment programs that include education, substance abuse (new language), mental health, cognitive restructuring, work skills, and life skills contribute to the potential for successful reentry to the community should be equally available to all individuals in custody; and

WHEREAS bias and institutional racism has impeded opportunities for equity within components of the justice system for persons of color; and now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the American Correctional Association supports vigorous exploration of all aspects of corrections operations to include an examination of classification, disciplinary reports and sanctions; and access to participation based on race in programming and work activities for the purpose of determining equity in selection, participation, completion rates, classification, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Correctional Association supports the development of appropriate interventions that prevent bias and institutional racism within corrections agencies.