



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

AVERY D. NILES, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS



Avery D. Niles, Commissioner

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 04, 2014

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DJJ Commissioner Avery D. Niles Elected to ACA Board of Governors Niles Pledges Strong Support for Juvenile Justice Reforms

(ATLANTA - GA) The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice is pleased to announce DJJ Commissioner Avery D. Niles has been elected to the Board of Governors of the American Correctional Association (ACA) for the 2015 – 2019 term. The official election results will be declared during the upcoming ACA Winter Conference in Long Beach, California where Commissioner Niles will be sworn in this February.

The American Correctional Association was founded in 1870 as the “National Prison Association”, an organization that has historically championed the cause of correctional best practices for more than 143 years. Its first Declaration of Principles was universally accepted as the guidelines for corrections institutions throughout the United States and Europe.

DJJ’s Commissioner Avery Niles, who is a strong proponent for juvenile justice reform laws, promised to use his 28-year criminal justice background to assist the nationwide ACA membership to develop working policies and procedures for successful community reentry programs to help reduce recidivism.

Niles has served Georgia’s Governor as a Juvenile Justice Board member and Board Chairman. As DJJ Commissioner he is appointed to the Governor’s Committees for Juvenile Justice Grants, Accountability Courts and Faith-Based Initiatives, and represents Georgia as State Council Chairman in the nationwide Interstate Compact on Juveniles.

Along with Commissioner Niles, DJJ Medical Director, Michelle Staples-Horne was also elected to a significant ACA post during the recent elections. Dr. Staples-Horne, who is a certified correctional health professional and has served as medical director for the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice for more than 20 years, was elected to the ACA Commission on Accreditation for Corrections.

A stand-out veteran DJJ leader, Dr. Staples-Horne has served on the ACA’s Correctional Awards Committee, the Juvenile Committee and the Health Care Committee. She has conducted training for the ACA and previously served on the ACA Delegate Assembly.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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Commissioner Niles said he plans to use his new standing with the ACA Board of Governors to help other juvenile justice systems find ways to reduce recidivism among their young offender populations.

"I am honored the ACA membership has placed their confidence in me to be a member of their Board of Governors," said Commissioner Avery Niles. "It is my sincere hope that our decisions during this next term will help develop and reinforce a framework of juvenile justice reforms wherever they are needed. Through the strong leadership provided by the American Correctional Association and the partnerships we forge, I believe much can be accomplished in the next four years to shape the future of juvenile corrections," said Niles.

ACA is now the oldest professional association developed specifically for correctional career practitioners. As advances in practice and theory have been updated by the membership, so has the name of the organization. The "American Prison Association" underwent a name change to become the American Correctional Association, reflecting the expanding philosophies of corrections and its increasingly important role in our communities. Today, the ACA has thousands of professional members working all over the world.

(END RELEASE)

DJJ Commissioner Avery D. Niles is a former warden of the Hall County Correctional Institute and commander of the Hall County Detention Center. Niles holds a degree in Criminal Justice from Columbus State University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Georgia Law Enforcement Command College and Georgia Police Academy. He and his wife, Charlene, reside in Gainesville with their daughter and god-daughter.