

Conference Overview



AUG. 4-7, 2022

152ND CONGRESS OF CORRECTION



152nd Congress of Correction hits all high notes

The Big Easy proves a welcome destination for corrections professionals

Thousands of corrections professionals gathered in New Orleans from August 4–7th for the 152nd Congress of Correction hosted by the American Correctional Association.

Over the four days of the conference, participants attended workshops, browsed the exhibit hall, heard from actress and activist Ashley Judd at a packed general session, conducted business for ACA and met and conferred with many of their fellow corrections professionals in and around the Ernest L. Morial Center.

One of the important aspects of ACA's Congress of Correction is the chance for members of the corrections profession to network and trade

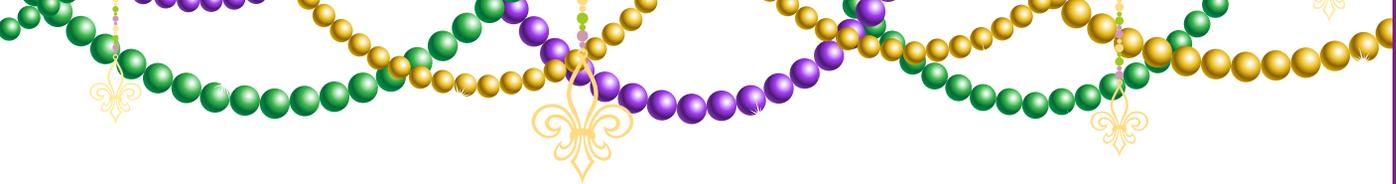
experiences and information on how different organizations deal with the same problems.

The common areas around the conference were abuzz with constantly shifting groups who used the wide-open spaces of the convention center to engage with and learn from other corrections professionals.

One of the highlights of the Congress was a briefing by Jarad Harper, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Little Rock District Office, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Little Rock, Arkansas.

For a standing room only crowd, Agent Harper described current trends in drug trafficking across the globe and some of the challenges faced by the

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DEA along with state and local law enforcement agencies in battling the illegal drug trade.

Agent Harper laid out the grim statistics on overdose deaths, from March 2020 to March 2022 some 108,000 people have been counted as overdose deaths.

He identified fentanyl and other synthetic opioids as a major contributor to the overdose crisis. As part of the presentation, Agent Harper showed videos, which he cautioned the assembled group not to film, of the effects of fentanyl on what the cartel’s dub “test dummies” and on law enforcement agents who have been unknowingly exposed to trace amounts of fentanyl.

Agent Harper urged all law enforcement professionals to have complete personal protection kits available including: gloves, N-95 masks, sturdy eye protection, coveralls, shoe coverings and Narcan if available.

Another area covered by Agent Harper was fake pills. He showed some photos of pill presses

used by the cartels to make fake prescription drugs for sale in the streets and stressed this was a problem for not just hardcore users but for everyone who could end up with a fentanyl-laced prescription drug by mistake.

The crowd appreciated Agent Harper’s serious and informative presentation and left with many questions to ponder for their own professional duties.

Away from the main action of the Congress, corrections professionals were treated to tours of local facilities including the Elayn Hunt Correctional Center, the Lafourche Parish Correctional Complex, the Orleans Parish Jail Complex and the Rayburn Correctional Center.

ACA looks forward to gathering corrections professionals from across the nation and across the globe in Orlando, Florida for the Winter Conference in January of 2023.

— KIRK RAYMOND

