

# ASSOCIATION OF STATE CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS

**Executive Committee**  
*President, John Wetzel*  
*Vice President, Colette Peters*  
*Treasurer, Anne Precythe*  
*Past President, Leann Bertsch*



**Regional Representatives**  
*Northeast, Marcus Hicks*  
*Southern, Jefferson Dunn*  
*Midwest, Heidi Washington*  
*Western, Chuck Ryan*

## **ASCA Restrictive Housing Committee Meeting Minutes January 12, 2019 New Orleans Marriott**

The meeting commenced at 11:10 a.m.

Committee Chair Leann Bertsch (ND) welcomed members and guests in attendance.

Leann Bertsch discussed the recent ASCA member survey of best practices around restrictive housing, noting that members have made significant reforms in reducing the use of restrictive housing. However, with many new Governors and several new Directors, members run the risk of slipping back and losing the progress made with the reforms.

Leann then discussed ASCA's partnership with Yale Law School (YLS) over the past several years and the reports that have been generated. A copy of the most recent 2018 report, [Reforming Restrictive Housing: The 2018 ASCA-Liman Nationwide Survey of Time-in-Cell](#), was sent electronically to all members when the report was published and will be resent to members at the conclusion of this meeting.

Leann then asked members if ASCA wants to continue its' partnership with the YLS. Leann suggested forming a workgroup to shape the questions for any future ASCA/YLS surveys so the resulting reports meets members' needs.

A discussion regarding members needs around restrictive housing ensued:

- Bryan Stirling (SC) stated that education of staff that work in restrictive housing settings is important. ASCA needs to look at best practices;
- Kenneth Lassiter (NC) stated that justice reform is needed for restrictive housing to change what it looks like;
- Harold Clarke (VA) stated that in VA they created treatment officer positions to facilitate programming to offenders in restrictive housing;
- Perry Phelps (DE) noted that an ACLU lawsuit around restrictive housing required DE to provide training for all staff, which took 2.5 years to complete;
- Steve Sinclair (WA) mentioned that WA State made good progress around restrictive housing reform several years ago; however, that progress has been stalled. The Legislature is moving forward with possible legislation around the issue. He is now looking at restrictive housing 2.0;
- Colette Peters (OR) discussed how OR DOC sent 15 staff to Norway as part of an immersion program to work alongside Norwegian correctional staff. OR DOC now has designated deescalate staff to work with problem offenders.

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- Leann Bertsch (ND) noted that her agency is working on a screening tool to access newly committed inmates on the likelihood of ending up in restrictive housing, so that her agency can advocate for services.

Leann asked for volunteers for the workgroup. The following persons volunteered:

- Leann Bertsch (ND)
- John Baldwin (IL)
- Harold Clarke (VA)
- Bob Lampert (WY)
- Dean Williams (CO)
- Steve Sinclair (WA)
- Rick Raemisch (Associate)