



NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National District Attorneys Association Joins Task Force on Reducing Jail Inmate Recidivism

ARLINGTON, Virginia – The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) applauds the announcement this morning by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) to create a new joint task force to highlight the need to improve the resources and services available for inmates facing mental health or substance use issues. NDAA is pleased to join the task force to provide the local prosecutor perspective as it relates to exploring and addressing the impacts of current federal policies on recidivism rates of jail inmates.

Specifically, the group will focus on inmate access to existing federal programs within Medicaid, CHIP and the Veterans Affairs Administration (VA). The task force plans to explore how increased availability of essential health services can reduce recidivism rates and ensure inmates are successfully reintegrated into society.

The Nation's state and local prosecutors will be represented by NDAA Board and Veterans Committee Member, John J. Flynn, the current elected district attorney in Erie County, New York. As a former JAG officer in the United States Navy, Flynn will provide insight into the need for increased access to services for our Nation's veterans who often interact with the criminal justice system as a result of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use issues or other co-occurring disorders. NDAA also recognizes the unique challenges faced by those suffering from mental health and substance use disorders to reintegrate into society upon release from incarceration.

The new task force brings together county officials, sheriffs, prosecutors, judges, public defenders and behavioral health partners to develop a coordinated response to the challenges faced by these individuals. As these stakeholders know, federal policies often stand in the way of necessary treatment and other services to increase the likelihood that inmates will successfully transition back into society. NDAA and Flynn look forward to working with NACo, NSA and other task force partners to address these important topics.

The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), www.ndaa.org, is the largest prosecutor organization in the country, representing 2,500 elected and appointed District Attorneys across the United States, as well as 40,000 Assistant District Attorneys.

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