



# SRJ ACCREDITATION UNIT



An overview of the American  
Correctional Association's  
reaccreditation process at the Santa  
Rita Jail

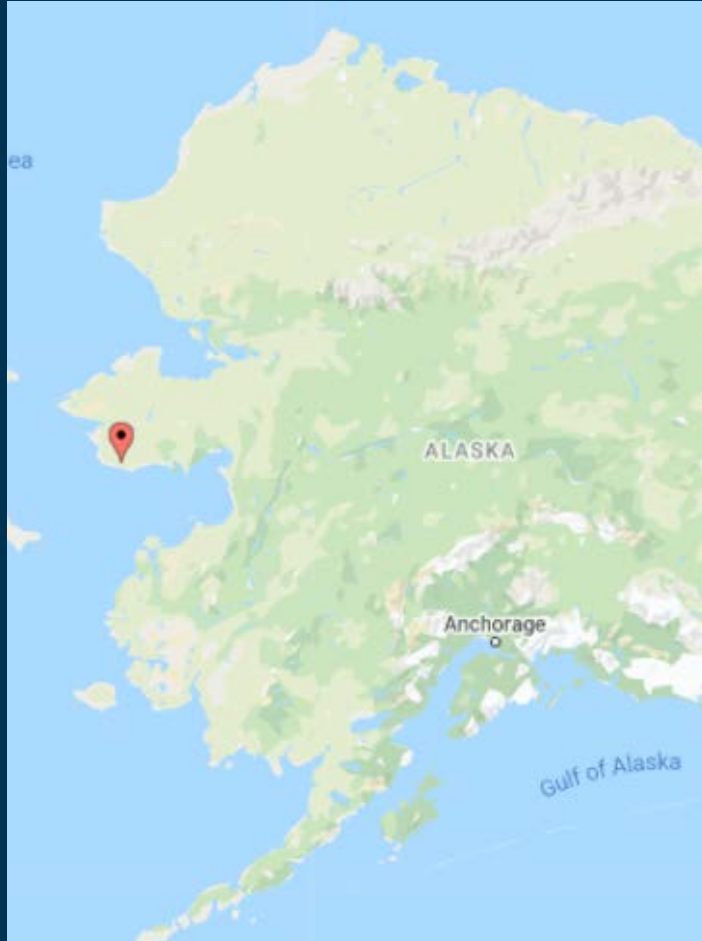
Lieutenant David Bonnell  
Sergeant Michelle Costeiu  
February 13, 2020

# About the ACA



- Founded in 1870
- Oldest association developed specifically for practitioners in the correctional profession.
- Professional organization for all individuals and groups, both public and private, that share a common goal of improving the justice system
- Principles of **humanity, justice, protection, opportunity, knowledge, competence, and accountability** are essential to the foundation of sound corrections policy and public protection
- Publishes over 25 different accreditation manuals for all types of correctional facilities, representing the leading correctional policies, procedures, and practices across all areas of operation
- Accredits over 900 prisons, jails, community residential centers and various other corrections facilities in the U.S. and internationally

# ACA Accredited Adult Local Detention Facilities



ACSO is the only Accredited Sheriff's Office in California

# Why be ACA Accredited?

- Outlines a clear path to exceed the Minimum Jail Standards (Title 15)
- Follow 4<sup>th</sup> edition Standards manual for Adult Local Detention Facilities
- The 4<sup>th</sup> edition manual was published in 2004 and updated in 2018
- Standards are under continuous revision and a draft of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition has already been reviewed



# What are the Accreditation Standards?

- Improves facility operations through adherence to standards involving:
  - Part I. Safety Standards – Provide a safe work environment for staff, volunteers, contractors and those in custody
    - 1a. Protection from injury and illness (Sanitation, Housekeeping, Crowding, Physical Plant, Water Supply, Injury Prevention, Housing, and Environmental Conditions)
    - 1b. Vehicle Safety – Maintained and operated in a manner that prevents harm to the community, staff, contractors, volunteers and those in our custody
    - 1c. Emergency Preparedness/Response – Number and severity of emergencies are minimized (Emergency Plans, Evacuation, Fire Safety, and Maintenance)





# What are the Accreditation Standards?

- Part II. Security Standards – Protect the community, staff, contractors, volunteers and those in our custody
  - 2a. Protection from Harm (Control of Facility Security, Written Orders for every post)
  - 2b. Use of Physical Force – Used only in instances of self protection, protection of inmates or others, prevention of property damage or escape
  - 2c. Contraband – Efforts to detect, minimize, and dispose of contraband in the facility through the use of different types of searches, up to and including the use of K9 Units
  - 2d. Key, Tool, and Utensil Control – Managing the control of keys, tools, (including culinary tools), Medical and Dental equipment for the safety and security of staff and inmates



# What are the Accreditation Standards?

- Part III. Order – Maintain an orderly environment with clear expectations of behavior and systems of accountability.
  - 3a. Inmate Discipline – There are rules for inmate conduct, including the penalties for violation, which are meant to minimize the adverse effect on an inmate and on the facility's order and security



# What are the Accreditation Standards?

- Part IV. Inmate Care – Provide for the basic needs and personal care of inmates.
  - 4a. Food Service – Nutritious food, including special diets, is properly prepared by trained staff and is delivered and served under staff supervision.
  - 4b. Hygiene – Inmates are required to maintain proper hygiene, and are given the items necessary, including the issuance of clean bedding and clothing.
  - 4c. Continuum of Health Care Services – Inmates have good health by having unimpeded access to a continuum of health care services so that their health care needs, including prevention and health education, are met in a timely and efficient manner.
  - 4d. Health Services Staff – Health services are provided in a professionally acceptable manner by qualified, adequately trained staff that demonstrate competency in their assigned duties.





# What are the Accreditation Standards?



- Part V. Program and Activity – Offender Opportunities for Self-Improvement and Successfully Return to the Community
  - 5a. Inmate Opportunities for Improvement – Through programs and services, such as GED and vocational programs.
  - 5b. Family and Community Ties – Individuals have the opportunity to participate in programs to maintain ties with their families and the community during incarceration.
  - 5c. Programs – Through the use of many programs, including work related and religious programs, the negative impact of confinement is reduced.

# What are the Accreditation Standards?



- Part VI. Justice – Treat those in-custody fairly and respect their legal rights. Provide services that hold offenders accountable for their actions, and encourage them to make restitution to their victims and the community.
  - 6a. Inmate Rights – Inmates’ rights, including access to the courts, rights to communications, and the protection from abuse are not violated regardless of ability to pay.
  - 6b. Fair Treatment – Inmates are treated in a non discriminatory manner, regardless of gender, race, religion, or disability.
  - 6c. Due Process for Inmates – Inmates’ alleged rule violations are handled in a manner that provides inmates with appropriate procedural safeguards.
  - 6d. Inmate Responsibility – The facility provides services and opportunities to encourage inmates to take responsibilities for the actions that lead to their incarceration.

# What are the Accreditation Standards?

- Part VII. Administration and Management – The facility is managed in a professional and responsible manner, consistent with legal requirements.
  - 7a. Legal Status – The facility operates as a legal entity.
  - 7b. Recruitment, Retention, and Promotion – The facility has staff and contractors that are trained, qualified, and developed to demonstrate competency in their assigned duties.
  - 7c. Staff Ethics – Staff, contractors, and volunteers are professional, ethical, and accountable.
  - 7d. Facility Administration – The facility is administered efficiently and responsibly.
  - 7e. Staff Treatment – Staff are treated fairly through the hiring process, compensation, and the facility and equipment.
  - 7f. Community Relations – The facility is a responsible member of the community, by maintaining good community relations and working with volunteers for facility involvement.



# Benefits of Accreditation

- Assessment of program strengths and weaknesses
- Establishment of measurable criteria for upgrading operations
- Follows national and best practices in the field of detention and corrections
- Performance-based benefits
- Improved staff morale and professionalism
- Safer environment for staff and those in our care and custody

Jail policies incorporate all ACA standards and are written with the standards in mind



# Mandatory Standards

- There are 24-hour emergency medical, dental, and mental health services.
- There is a written plan that addresses the management of infectious and communicable diseases.
- Clinical decisions are the sole province of the responsible clinician and are not countermanded by non-clinicians.
- Offenders are not subjected to personal abuse, corporal punishment, personal injury, disease, property damage, or harassment.



# Non-Mandatory Standards



- Articles necessary for maintaining proper personal hygiene are available to all inmates.
- Continuity of care is required from admission to transfer or discharge from the facility, including referral to community-based providers, when indicated.
- Health education and wellness information is provided to all inmates
- All new direct care staff receive a test for tuberculosis prior to job assignment and periodic testing thereafter.



# The Accreditation Process



## Preparation

Staff members gather documentation and build files to prove compliance with ACA standards.



## Audit

Three industry experts visit and audit the facility's documentation, policies, and practices. Interviews with staff and inmates are conducted.



## Panel Hearing

The auditors' findings are reviewed, and agency representatives are questioned in front of a panel before a final accreditation decision is made.

**The Santa Rita Jail has been accredited for 21 years.**

# 2019 Audit of the Santa Rita Jail



The Santa Rita Jail was audited on August 26-28, 2019.

During the audit, the auditors:

- Interviewed approximately 48 inmates and 48 staff members
- Had complete access to all areas of the facility
- Reviewed documentation covering 60 mandatory and 323 non-mandatory ACA standards

# 2019 Audit Results

- 100% compliance with 60 mandatory standards (1 not applicable)
- 99.3% compliance with 323 non-mandatory standards (34 not applicable)
- The reaccreditation process is repeated every three years, as the standards are reviewed, revised and updated.

AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION		
Facility/Program	Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Santa Rita Jail	
Audit Dates	August 26 - 28, 2019	
Auditor(s)	Tamera Williams, Chairperson Leslie Kay VanAusdale, Member Fred W. Campbell, Member	
	MANDATORY	NON-MANDATORY
Number of Standards in Manual	60	323
Number Not Applicable	1	34
Number Applicable	59	289
Number Non-Compliance	0	2
Number in Compliance	59	287
Percentage (%) of Compliance	100%	99.3%



“This is the best large jail I’ve ever audited, and I’ve been doing this for twenty years.”

Fred Campbell, ACA Auditor

Exit Interview Meeting  
August 28, 2019



*The American Correctional Association  
and the  
Commission on Accreditation for Corrections  
awards*

# **ACCREDITATION**

*to  
Alameda County Sheriff's Office*


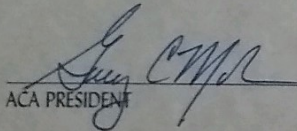
*Santa Rita Jail*

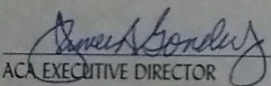
*Dublin, California*

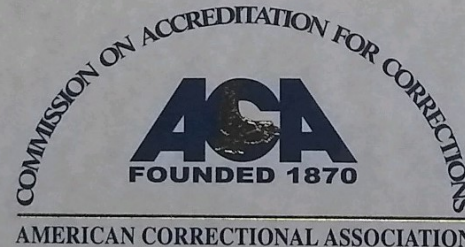
*2020 - 2023*


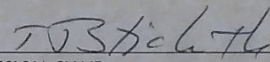
*in recognition of the attainment of excellence in the operation of  
an Adult Local Detention Facility*

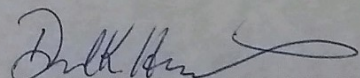
*presented this 13th day of January 2020*

  
  
ACA PRESIDENT

  
ACA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



  
  
COMMISSION CHAIR

  
DIRECTOR, STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION









# QUESTIONS?



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