## 2017 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Stepping Up: The California Summit

**Jan. 18–19 | Sacramento, California**

Stepping Up: The California Summit convened a broad cross-section of county leaders, state officials, and representatives from state and national organizations to share challenges, best practices, and advance plans for measuring and reducing the number of people with mental illness in California jails. Stepping Up is a national initiative launched by The Council of State Governments Justice Center, the National Association of Counties, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation.

### WESTIES and the re-engineering of internal processes

In addition, he oversaw the restructuring of both corrections, will serve as the 2017 chair of The Council of State Governments Justice Center Executive Committee, a board he has been committed to since 2015.

### A Five Level Risk and Needs System: Maximizing Assessment Results in Corrections through the Development of a Common Language

Released: January 2017

### Reducing the Number of People with Mental Illness in Jails: Six Questions County Leaders Need to Ask

Released: January 2017

### Critical Connections: Getting People Leaving Prison and Jail the Mental Health Care and Substance Use Treatment They Need

Released: January 2017

### Mentoring as a Component of Reentry: Practical Considerations from the Field

Expected release: February 2017

### Cognitive Behavioral Interventions: A Comprehensive Curriculum for People in the Criminal Justice System

Expected release: February 2017

### Hiring People with Criminal Records: A Toolkit for Engaging Employers and the Business Community

Expected release: February 2017

### Strengthening Correctional Culture: Eight Ways Corrections Leaders Can Support Their Staff to Reduce Recidivism and Improve Justice System Outcomes

Expected release: April 2017

### Demonstrating Impact: Measuring Program Performance

Expected release: April 2017

### The Multi-State School Discipline Convening Report

Expected release: June 2017

### The National Clean Slate Clearinghouse

Expected launch of full site: August 2017

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**Wetzel, appointed Pennsylvania corrections secretary in January 2011 and reappointed in January 2015, presided over the first prison population since 1987.**

Pennsylvania Corrections Secretary John Wetzel, who is widely recognized as a thought leader in corrections, will serve as the 2017 chair of The Council of State Governments Justice Center Executive Committee, a board he has been committed to since 2015. Wetzel was invited to a CSG Justice Center initiative launched in 2012. “We actually shut down the construction of a new prison or the faith that Justice Reinvestment would deliver an impact on expenditures in a system that was growing by 1,500 inmates a year,” Wetzel said. “So, my faith in the Justice Center paid off.”

With nearly 30 years of experience in corrections, Pennsylvania Corrections Secretary John Wetzel, appointed Pennsylvania corrections secretary in January 2011 and reappointed in January 2015, presided over the first prison population reduction in Pennsylvania in more than four decades. In addition, he oversaw the restructuring of both the community corrections and mental health systems and the re-engineering of internal processes to yield a more efficient program delivery.

Justice Reinvestment is a data-driven approach many states are using to improve public safety, reduce corrections spending, and remove staff in strategies that decrease crime and recidivism rates. Shortly after Pennsylvania launched its program, Wetzel was invited to a CSG Justice Center board meeting.

“ langs was “has just been blown away by the caliber of people around the table and the depth of conversation. And I’ve been honored ever since.”

With nearly 10 years of experience in corrections, Wetzel has held positions including corrections officer, treatment counselor, warden and training academy director. As warden of the Franklin County Jail in Pennsylvania for nine years, beginning in January 2002, Wetzel was credited with leading an effort that resulted in the transformation of their correctional system. Under his leadership, Franklin County saw a 22 percent reduction in its jail population while the crime rate declined.

Before he became chair, Wetzel served as vice chair of the CSG Justice Center Executive Committee. “When state leaders engage with us, the opportunity to have smart, wide-ranging discussions on criminal justice in a meaningful way is really exhilarating,” Wetzel said. “And to see the discussions at the board level translate down to the excellent staff of the Justice Center, to really great, strong outcomes that make America a safer and better—mean, who wouldn’t want to have that experience?”

One of the biggest justice-related challenges facing state leaders today is results of a “24-hour news environment where everyone wants outcomes immediately,” Wetzel said. “The really is a good policy public, especially in criminal justice, is based on data—that’s what we call evidence and that widely builds consensus,” he said. “What I’m describing doesn’t always go smoothly.”

The CSG Justice Center is currently working on Justice Reinvestment-related policy changes in six states: Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Montana, New York, and Pennsylvania. And the Justice Center continues to implement policy changes in past Justice Reinvestment states such as Alabama and Nebraska.

“The state of Wisconsin was an oftentimes, dismissed in the 1970s on protecting the in the state of the public,” Wetzel said. “Now, corrections leaders and elected officials understand that it’s an integral part of preserving public safety. But beyond that understanding, there’s far more we need to do to ensure that when someone leaves prison or jail, they don’t come back. That will continue to be a foundational part of our work this year.”

Wetzel said he credits the CSG Justice Center to continue to find solutions and make progress.

“We have a forum to use data to have real discussions on real-world problems,” he said. “That leads to real-world solutions.”

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### Reentry and Employment Project

is focused on enabling business leaders, policymakers and practitioners from the corrections and workforce development fields to improve reentry and employment outcomes for people returning to their communities after incarceration.

### The statewide Juvenile Justice Improvement Initiative

is a national initiative to help policymakers and educators in each of the past Justice Reinvestment states such as Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington are working to improve learning environments, school safety and student outcomes.

### Technical Assistance

—The CSG Justice Center provides ongoing training and technical assistance to help ensure that states and communities are implementing evidence-based practices.