



## **Improving the Physical and Mental Health Needs in Alabama Prisons and Detention Centers**

- WHEREAS Alabama State Nurses Association (ASNA) promotes quality health care as a human right for all; and
- WHEREAS It is well known Alabama prisons are overcrowded and that mental health care for inmates has been under the scrutiny of the Federal Court; and
- WHEREAS Growing numbers of undergraduate nursing students and faculty (nearly 62%) report experiencing academic incivility, and
- WHEREAS There is a separate population of incarcerated persons in Alabama, namely, immigrant detainees under the office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); and
- WHEREAS It is of great concern to the nursing community that incarcerated persons under all jurisdictions within the state have fair and humane access to quality healthcare; and
- WHEREAS It is disconcerting to hear reports of alleged lack of access to families and friends, lack of interpreters, lack of outdoor recreation or access to fresh air and sunlight, inadequate physical and mental health care, inadequate nutrition, sanitation, clean clothing and clean-living conditions; and
- WHEREAS ASNA supports efforts underway to improve healthcare for inmates, we also recognize that lack of funding and resources inhibit the implementation of higher standards of care; be it therefore
- RESOLVED That ASNA monitor public information about healthcare conditions/services for incarcerated/detained individuals in Alabama and use ASNA media to increase awareness of these issues in the nursing community; and be it further
- RESOLVED That ASNA will seek to participate in forums, discussions and/or policy making committees to advocate for improvements in the provision of quality physical and mental health care for men and women in Alabama jails, prisons and detention centers.

Submitted by: Ethics and Human Rights Committee, Rosemarie Juergensen, RN, MSN  
and Bonnie Rausch, RN, BSN, Co-Chairs

References:

Cason, Mike (2017). Alabama Prisons - State: Double mental health staff. Huntsville Times, Oct. 11, 2017. A1 and A6

Moench, Mallory (2018) Gadsden “black hole” for deportation cases. Inmates can languish in jail for years.

Huntsville Times, May 9, 2018. A3 LOCAL+ REGION – ETOWAH COUNTY

<https://thebea.st/2sSLzIV?source=email&via=mobile>

<https://www.schr.org/files/post/files/HaleCountyAL.PDF>