The ADA and Our Jails:  
Delivering Service to All with Dignity and Respect

Will begin at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time

• Audio and visuals are provided through the online webinar platform
• Access to presentation handouts was included in the email reminder you received for this session
• This session will be open-captioned

Technical Assistance

• If you experience technical difficulties
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Audio

• Expand the audio panel to select computer audio or phone call
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Archive
• This webinar is being recorded and can be accessed next week
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Presentation Accessibility

• For the benefit of participants who are not able to see the presentation slides on the webinar platform, speakers will
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About Your Hosts…

TransCen, Inc.
• Improving the lives of people with disabilities through meaningful work and community inclusion

Mid-Atlantic ADA Center, a project of TransCen, Inc.
• Funded by National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

ADA National Network
• Ten regional centers provide guidance, training, and materials on the ADA
  • 1-800-949-4232
  • ADA.ta.org
The ADA and Our Jails: Delivering Service to All with Dignity and Respect

J.P. McMichael
MA, BA, JP (NAADAC), CIT
Counsel, Arlington County Family Office
Owner, Catalyst of Change Associates LLC
Adjunct Professor, Marymount University

IMAGINE IF YOU...

Overview

- What is the ADA?
- Do you have an ADA Coordinator?
- Does it really impact our jails?
- The Process from booking to release.
- ADA, the DOJ and lawsuits/settlements.
- Where do you begin?
- Walk away with a plan of action.
- Questions
The Americans with Disabilities Act

- Civil Rights Law
- July 26, 1990 – George H.W. Bush
- ADA Amendments Act of 2008
  - Restored the intent of the original ADA

The 5 Magic Words

“How Can I Help You?”

Settlement Agreement between the United States of America and Elizabeth F. Arthur, in her official capacity as the Arlington County Sheriff

U.S. Department of Justice DJ#204-79-325

November 17, 2016
Disabled or Differently Abled?

What is a Disability?

- A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities,
- A person who has a record or history of such an impairment,
- Or a person that is perceived to have a disability.

IMPACT ON OUR JAILS

- Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Level the field
- Access to programs, jobs, etc.
- It’s the law
Service Animals — Who is Responsible?

- What to do when someone is taken into custody with a service animal
- Local animal shelter/animal control and their role

Booking & Processing

- Inmate can request during booking/processing phase, or at any time during incarceration.
- Observe, Listen, Ask
- “I need _____ because of _____”

Housing

- Do you have accessible cells?
- Must comply with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design if built after 2010.
- New alterations to an area, requires that area be brought up to standards.
- At least 5% of cells for those with accessibility needs such as wheelchairs.
- At least 2% of general holding and housing cells must be equipped with communications features designed for those that are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Minimal standards are 5% and 2%. Doesn’t remove responsibility if you have more than that... Plus more!

Source: Local Correctional Facilities, AACHA (2019)
Inmate Housing
- Common sense placement
- Staff awareness
- Cognizant of ADA accommodations during moves

Programs & Jobs
- When do you have to provide accommodations?
- Basic requirements are met by the interested inmate
- Do you have job/programs requirements written?
- Level the playing field
- You can’t discriminate based on the individual’s disability

Visiting
- ADA applies to both inmates and visitors
- Service animals for visitors
- Hearing impairments
- Visual impairments
- Accessibility aides
- Access to visiting area/booths
Direct Threat
A significant risk of substantial harm to the health or safety of employees and others, which cannot be eliminated or reduced by a reasonable accommodation

Devices & Aids
- iPad
- VRS
- Uni-Duo
- Visual Alert Pagers
- Magnifying glasses
- Walkers
- Wheelchairs

Policies and Procedures
Creating Paradigm Shifts
Buy in - How do you get it?

UNTIL YOU SEE THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF SOMEONE WITH A DISABILITY, YOU JUST DON’T GET IT...

The ADA Coordinator
- Does your facility have one?
- Does your city, county or state?
- Job importance
  - Agency liability
  - Ensures inmates and staff ADA accommodations are met
  - Works with the city, county or state ADA Coordinator
  - Deconcentration
  - Regular meetings with those who have accommodations
  - Maintains devices
  - Trains staff members
The Foundation

- Training is key to success
- The ADA is fluid
- Sources of information:
  - Mid-Atlantic ADA Center – www.adacenter.org
  - National Association of ADA Coordinators – www.adacoordinators.org
  - United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division – www.ada.gov
  - www.ADATA.org

Questions?

CONTACT INFORMATION

J.P. McMichael
MA, BA, FA, CPT
Capax, Arlington County Sheriff’s Office
Owner, Criminal Change Associates
Adjunct Professor, Marymount University
JPMcMichael@arlingtonva.us
CriminalChangeAwe@gmail.com
www.CriminalChangeAwe.com
(775) 725-7677
Certificates and Credits: CODE

• If you paid for a certificate of participation or credits, check the reminder email you received about this session for instructions

• Please email the code above to ADAtraining@transcen.org by 5 PM E.T. on July 26, 2021

Thank You for Joining Us!

Mid-Atlantic ADA Center
Toll-free: 800-949-4232 (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV)
Local: 301-217-0124
ADAinfo@transcen.org
ADAinfo.org