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Immediate Release

**Justin Jones, Director of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections,
Joins Policymakers in Setting the Agenda for Criminal Justice Policies**

New York— Justin Jones, the head of Oklahoma’s Department of Corrections, joined a group of state and local leaders from across the nation—including respected legislators, court and law enforcement officials, cabinet secretaries and other gubernatorial appointees, and victim advocates—in San Francisco, CA this week to discuss critical criminal justice policies.

These policymakers met to determine the best ways to advance the latest thinking and evidence-based practices on such issues as a cross-systems approach to better serving people with mental illnesses at risk of criminal justice involvement, strategies for addressing school discipline policies that relate to bad academic outcomes and juvenile justice contact, technical assistance approaches for supporting those on the front lines of service provision to help released prisoners transition safely and successfully to the community, a justice reinvestment approach to making the best use of public safety dollars, and other issues that touch multiple disciplines and systems.

“I am looking forward to working with these respected national experts over the upcoming year to set the direction for policy and technical assistance efforts that can address some of the toughest criminal justice issues facing communities,” said Director Jones. “I am confident that by collaborating with other individuals and agencies with expertise on these issues, we can direct precious resources to the kinds of approaches that make a real difference in people’s lives and in the functioning of our criminal justice system.”

The board of directors charted the Justice Center’s course for the coming year and examined options for keeping pace with requests for technical assistance, research, and policy guidance.

The Council of State Governments Justice Center is a national nonprofit organization that serves policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels from all branches of government. The Justice Center provides practical, nonpartisan advice and consensus-driven strategies, informed by available evidence, to increase public safety and strengthen communities.

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