
The Fundamentals of Independent Prison Oversight in the U.S.

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Speakers.



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www.PJIL.org

WHAT IS THE PRISON AND JAIL INNOVATION LAB (PJIL)?

The Prison and Jail Innovation Lab (PJIL) is a national policy resource center at the LBJ School of Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin that is transforming the landscape of correctional oversight and helping to ensure the safe and humane treatment of people in custody.

We serve as a bridge between academic research, practical experience, and policy.

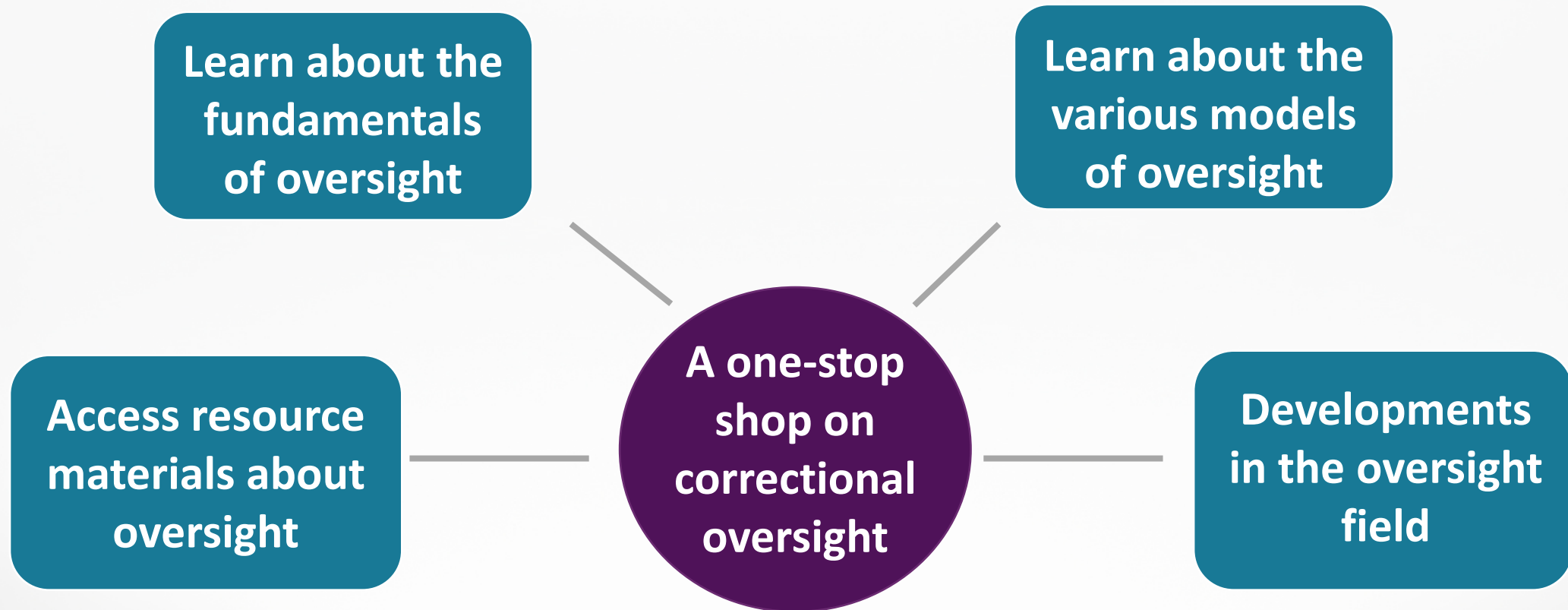
Since launching in late 2021, PJIL has been a go-to resource for policy makers, the media, justice system practitioners, advocates, and corrections officials on three main issues:

- 1) **Effective oversight of prisons and jails**
- 2) **Dehumanizing and dangerous conditions behind bars**
- 3) **Deaths in custody**



WHAT IS THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CORRECTIONAL OVERSIGHT (NRCCO)?

The National Resource Center on Correctional Oversight (NRCCO) is a signature project of PJIL. The NRCCO provides guidance and research on how to develop or strengthen correctional oversight mechanisms and it operates an online clearinghouse of resources at www.prisonoversight.org.



WHAT IS CORRECTIONAL OVERSIGHT?

An independent, external mechanism designed to ensure the collection, dissemination, and use of unbiased, accurate, and first-hand information about correctional conditions of confinement and the treatment of incarcerated individuals, primarily through on-site access to the facilities.



WHY IS CORRECTIONAL OVERSIGHT IMPORTANT?

Oversight bodies can help prevent harm by identifying problems at an early stage.

Oversight bodies provide objective information for policy makers, advocates, and the media.

The presence of an oversight body in a facility can change staff behavior.

Oversight bodies provide a trusted place where incarcerated people and loved ones can raise concerns.

INTERNAL ACCOUNTABILITY V. EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT

Effective prison management demands both **internal accountability measures** and **external scrutiny**. States can and should ensure that both exist.

INTERNAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Tools for agency administrators that allow them to self-identify and address operational problems at an early stage.

Examples:

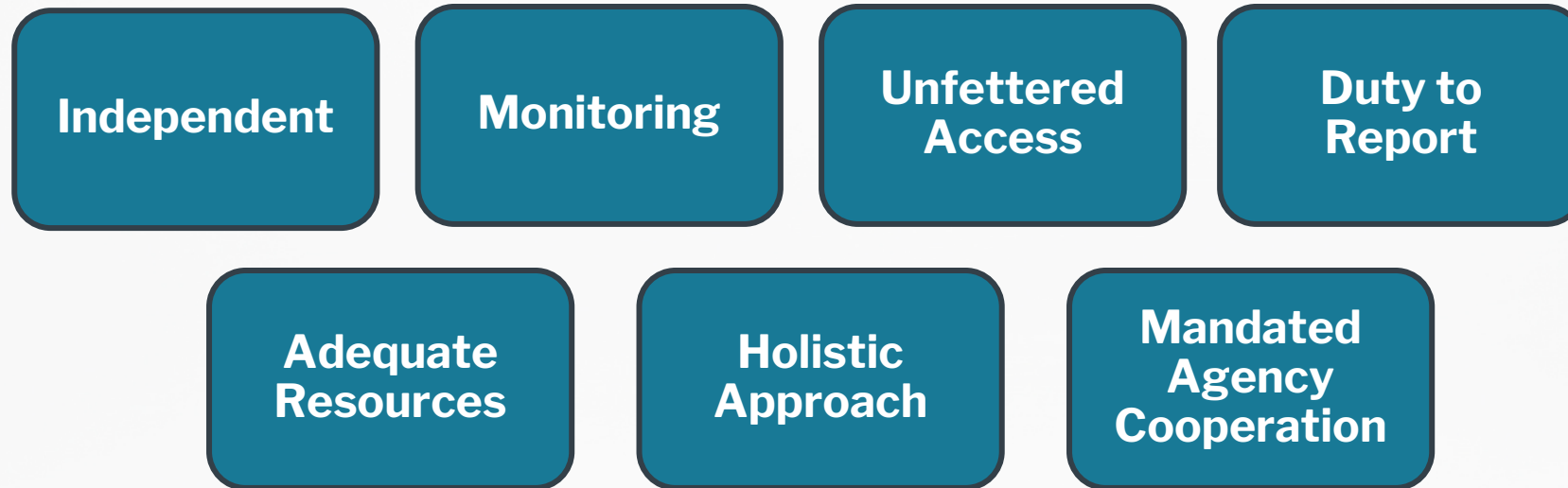
- Internal Affairs
- Grievance System
- Internal Auditors

EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT

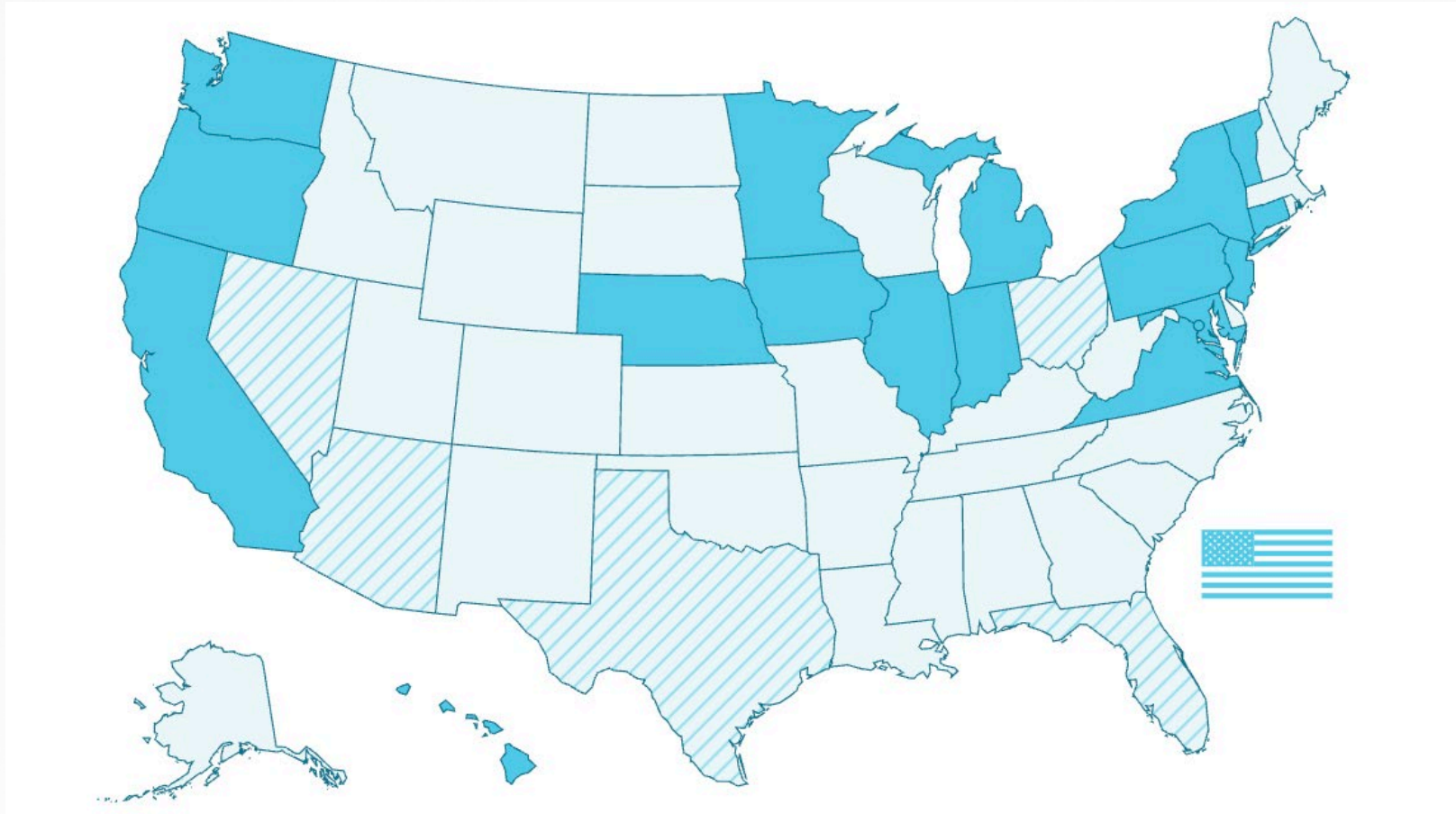
Entities that exist outside the agency and are responsible for:

- Routinely monitoring and inspecting facilities;
- Investigating complaints;
- Reporting their findings and recommendations to the public.

WHAT SHOULD AN OVERSIGHT BODY LOOK LIKE?



PRISON OVERSIGHT IN THE U.S.



WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT OVERSIGHT?



What is oversight? Why do we need it? What functions does it serve?
What are the different models of oversight?



Detailed profiles of prison oversight bodies in every state wherever they exist.



Publications about oversight



Developments in the oversight field



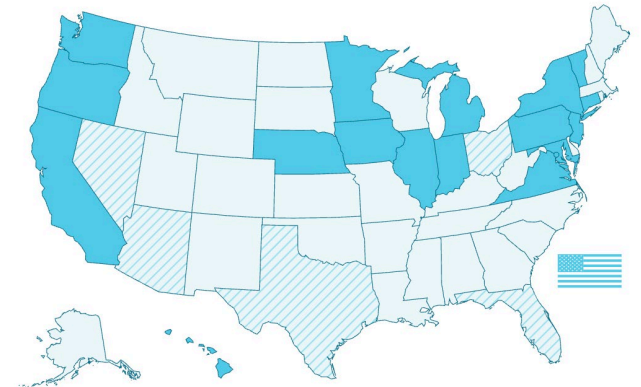
Sample legislation to establish oversight bodies



News stories about oversight

VISIT:

www.prisonoversight.org



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NRCCO:
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NRCCO
NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
for CORRECTIONAL OVERSIGHT

Questions?



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Visit our websites

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