



Session 9 | Oversight of Deaths in Custody

August 3, 2020

3:00p.m. – 4:30p.m.

All jails face inmate death, and the potential for inmate death. Could any of these deaths have been prevented? To what extent did being in custody cause or contribute to a death? What data or information is available to determine whether a jail has a large number of deaths by population size? How should jail deaths be examined to prevent future death? What role could oversight agencies play in answering these questions?

This panel aims to answer those questions from the perspective of a former chief medical officer of a jail system, an investigative journalist, and an experienced court-appointed monitor.

Speakers:

- Peter Eisler, National Affairs Reporter, Reuters, Washington, DC
- Susan McCampbell, Federal Court Monitor, Miami-Dade County, Miami, FL
- Homer Venters, M.D., Senior Health and Justice Fellow, Community Oriented Correctional Health Services, New York, NY

Moderator:

- Julie Abbate

Speaker Biographies

Peter Eisler | Peter Eisler is a Washington DC-based reporter for Reuters, where he specializes in investigative projects on U.S. national affairs. He previously spent 20 years as an investigative reporter at USA Today, where he exposed problems ranging from lax enforcement of U.S. safe drinking water laws to poor security at Russia's chemical weapons stockpiles. His work has helped spur major changes in public policy, including laws requiring compensation for sick nuclear weapons workers, improved fire protections in nursing homes, and better safety testing for school lunch food. Peter has a long list of national reporting awards, including a Gerald Loeb Award, a Hillman Prize, a duPont-Columbia Award, and multiple honors in the National Press Club Awards, the National Headliner Awards and other major competitions. He's a board member and treasurer at the Fund for Investigative Journalism, which provides grants to independent reporters for investigative stories, and he volunteers as a journalist fellow for the News Literacy Project, which teaches high school students to be discerning news consumers.

Susan McCampbell | Susan McCampbell is President of both the Center for Innovative Public Policies, Inc., (CIPP) a not-for-profit company specializing in public policy consulting, established in 1999, and McCampbell and Associates, Inc. McCampbell has been involved in many projects of relevance to the justice system: leadership development in jails; root cause analysis for jails; jail CTO programs; jail recruitment, and retention; effectively manage a multi-generational workforce in corrections; resource guide for newly appointed wardens, technical assistance to state and local correctional agencies regarding the issues associated with staff sexual misconduct and PREA; and the curriculum for the



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Please note, content and speakers subject to change.

National Sheriffs' Institute. She serves as lead instructor of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy. Prior to 1999, Ms. McCampbell was the Director, Department of Corrections, Broward County, Florida, Sheriff's Office for four years where she oversaw the daily operations of a jail system with 4,200 inmates, three facilities, and 1,800 employees. Ms. McCampbell served as Chief Deputy/Acting Sheriff for six (6) months following the death of the Sheriff.

McCampbell currently serves as a Federal Court Monitor for the jail systems in Miami-Dade County, Florida, and Los Angeles County, California. She also worked for six years as the Special Master in the matter of the USA v. U. S. Virgin Islands, as a Federal Court Monitor for six years in the matter of the USA v. Cook County, Ill., and in the LaShawn Jones et.al vs. Orleans Parish for six years.

Ms. McCampbell holds a BA in Political Science from the School of Government and Public Administration, The American University, Washington, D. C., and a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning from the School of Architecture and Engineering, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C. She is a Certified Jail Manager through the American Jail Association.

Homer Venters, M.D. | Homer Venters is a physician and epidemiologist and a nationally recognized leader in health and human rights. As the Senior Health and Justice Fellow for COCHS, Dr. Venters directs several initiatives regarding health and justice, including reducing traumatic brain injury among detainees and correctional staff and promoting access to evidence based addiction treatment for persons with justice involvement. Prior to joining COCHS, Dr. Venters served as the Director of Programs for Physicians for Human Rights and the Chief Medical Officer for the NYC Jail system. In addition to being the author of Life and Death in Rikers Island, Dr. Venters has led over 50 peer reviewed scientific publications on the topics of health and justice involvement, work that has been cited by the US Supreme Court and led to testimony before Congress. Dr. Venters received his MD from the University of Illinois, Masters of Public Health Research from NYU and completed his residency in Social Internal Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center. Dr. Venters is a Clinical Associate Professor at the NYU College of Global Public Health.

