



► PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Solutions to reduce recidivism and ensure the welfare and protection of the population goes beyond arrests and sentencing. To ensure preservation of peace and public safety, public institutions and organizations in the West are taking innovative approaches by broadening prevention and intervention and enhancing training.

In [Arizona](#), Governor Doug Ducey's budget provides funding to combat the opioid crisis. Additionally, the state has [joined 47 other states](#) that prohibit the use of a cell phone while driving. [Hawaii](#) has established a Reentry Commission that monitors and reviews its reentry programs. Both [Washington](#) and [California](#) have worked to broaden prevention and intervention efforts working closely with public safety experts to build community resilience, improve communication, and enhance response efforts related to natural disasters.

[Alaska](#) is offering forensic training opportunities for nurses and health care professionals that ensures trauma informed care for victims of violence. Highlighting the importance of protecting personal information, Montana has implemented the [Safe in Your Space](#) program which encourages a dialogue between children, parents, and teachers to address how to stay safe online. The conversation topics cover everything from cyberbullying to financial scams and sexual victimization. Additionally, [Montana](#) announced training aimed at helping investigators and the public address missing persons cases, particularly those involving Native Americans.

The work of the [CSG West Public Safety Committee](#) will be focused on the changing landscape of public safety and the path towards strengthening communities. Nationally, there has been an accelerated movement to improve the lives of young people in contact with law enforcement, which is driving conversation on juvenile justice reform. An increase in the jail and prison population over the decades has led



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to unprecedented prison overcrowding and put tremendous strain on state budgets, causing states to take a closer look at their criminal justice systems. Various institutions and organizations are evaluating attempts to remove or reduce barriers and assist citizens to successfully “reenter” society, encouraging lawmakers to broaden a discussion on reentry programs and best practices.

Stay tuned...for an introduction the [CSG West Canada Relations Committee](#).