SUBJECT: PRENATAL CARE/PREGNANT INMATES/RESIDENTS

I. AUTHORITY. The Board of Corrections (Board) is vested with the authority to promulgate administrative regulations by Ark. Code Ann. §§ 12-27-105, 16-93-1203 and 16-93-1205.

II. APPLICABILITY. Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) and Arkansas Community Correction (ACC) inmates/residents and employees.

III. POLICY.

A. To ensure that pregnant inmates/residents of the ADC and the ACC are provided comprehensive health care services necessary to reach term or to interrupt pregnancy in accordance with applicable statutes, standards and regulations.

B. It is the policy of the Board to ensure that pregnant inmates/residents who enter the ADC and ACC are provided appropriate and timely counseling in planning for the custody of their unborn children and to ensure, to the extent possible, through cooperation with the Department of Human Services and other agencies, that procedures for placement of the children are in the best interest of the child.

IV. EXPLANATION.

A. Comprehensive counseling and assistance shall be provided to pregnant inmates/residents in keeping with their expressed desire in planning for their unborn children.

B. Counseling and social services shall be available from ADC/ACC staff and/or through community-based agencies as facilitated by ADC/ACC staff.

V. PROCEDURE. The ADC and ACC shall establish procedures for implementing these policies by appropriate Administrative Directives.

VI. REFERENCES. AR (J) ADC AR 835 / ACC AR 7.14 Grievance Procedures for Offenders and ADC AR 833 Health Services.