



37th Annual Conference

**A Different Perspective:  
Understanding the Reality of Life  
After Conviction**

Thursday and Friday  
October 10 and 11, 2024

*also presenting the*

*2024 ODRC Cliff Skeen Awards &  
OJACC Achievement Awards*

**NEW LOCATION:**

Nationwide Hotel & Conference Center  
100 Green Meadows Drive S., Lewis Center, OH  
614.880.4300

# Conference Overview

The Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC) is pleased to present its 37th annual conference, *"A Different Perspective: Understanding the Reality of Life After Conviction,"* to be held at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, Lewis Center, Ohio, (NEW LOCATION) October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2024.

The general session on Thursday morning will feature Alex Harper, founder of Spartan Global Research and community activist. Mr. Harper will provide a realistic view of the consequences of collateral sanctions that create challenges for those involved in the criminal justice system in leading a crime-free, productive life. Mr. Harper will also conduct a workshop on *"Understanding Post-Incarceration Syndrome and its Effect of Recidivism."*

In the closing general session, Judge Michael Ryan, Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals, will provide an inspiring presentation entitled, *"Don't JUDGE a Book by its Cover."* As the author of *"The Least Likely...from the Housing Projects to the Courthouse,"* Judge Ryan provides an inspirational message on how professionals in the field of community corrections can help those we supervise to be successful.

You will also find many workshops focused on providing tools to improve the work of community corrections.

The OJACC Achievement Awards and the ODRC Clifford Skeen Awards presentations will be held during the Thursday luncheon, which recognizes excellence in community corrections.

Continuing education credits are being applied for in the area of Changing Offender Behavior (COB), CLE, RCH and Counselor/Social Work.

Please make plans to attend this highly informative conference. Registrations may be made at [www.ojacc.org/event/annual-conference/](http://www.ojacc.org/event/annual-conference/) or by completing the attached Registration Form and sending it to [dittmergr@gmail.com](mailto:dittmergr@gmail.com)

## THURSDAY, October 10, 2024

7:30 a.m.— 4:45 p.m.

Registration

7:30 a.m.— 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m.—10:00 a.m.

Opening Session

10:00 a.m.—10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m.—11:45 a.m.

Morning Workshops

11:45 a.m.—Noon

Break

Noon — 1:30 p.m.

Lunch, OJACC Achievement and ODRC Annual Clifford Skeen Awards

1:30 p.m. —1:45 p.m.

Break

1:45 p.m. — 3:15 p.m.

Afternoon Workshops

3:15 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 p.m.— 5:00 p.m.

Afternoon Workshops

7:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m.

Reception (Cash Bar)

## FRIDAY, October 11, 2024

8:00 a.m.— Noon

Registration (for new registrants)

7:30 a.m.— 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m.— 10:00 a.m.

Workshops

10:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m.—Noon

Closing Session

## Featured Speakers

### Thursday Opening Session 8:30 a.m.—10:00 a.m.



#### **Navigating a New Reality: Collateral Consequences - Is it a Life Sentence? (COB)**

*Alex Harper,  
Spartan Global Research LLC*

Collateral consequences are legal and regulatory restrictions that limit or prohibit people convicted of crimes from accessing employment, licensure, housing, voting rights, education, and other rights, benefits, and opportunities enjoyed by those not impacted by the Criminal Justice System.

The presentation will include a real-life depiction of an ex-offender's journey as they work to navigate the unintended consequences of collateral sanctions in American Society. It is designed to provide perspective, invoke thoughtful conversations, and educate criminal justice professionals so they can best support those with whom they work in achieving their goals and, thus, reducing recidivism. The session will be multifaceted and interactive, incorporating live survey questions, multiple role plays of real-life scenarios, and a variety of audio/visual elements.

### Friday Closing Session 10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.



#### **Don't JUDGE a Book by its Cover (COB)**

*Judge Michael John Ryan,  
Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals*

Individuals who work in the field of criminal justice sometimes lose momentum when they experience a pattern of lack of success among the people they supervise. Some preconceptions may be a product of implicit bias or simply a product of the challenges they encounter and what they see and operate with daily. This session intends to provide alternate perspectives and practical tools to help restore the commitment, passion, and hope that attracted us to this work. Attendees will be inspired to use proven traditional and innovative methods/programming to facilitate a higher rate of supervisees' successful completion of court and/or parole board-ordered goals.

# Workshops

## Thursday Morning Workshops

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

### **(A-1) Gambling Overview: Understanding the Impact**

*Nora Larson and Nabil Pervaiz,  
Recovery Recourses*

Participants will become familiar with foundations of Gambling Disorder and be able to identify how to incorporate Problem Gambling messaging into currently existing AOD programming. We will explore the difference between gambling disorder and substance use disorder and learn how to identify warning signs of gambling in those who are involved in the criminal justice system. We will also discuss sports betting, what is allowed, and how to “Have the Conversation” about problem gambling with our friends/family and community.

### **(A-2) Practical Peer Supporter Experience in Treatment Courts, Re-entry Environs, Jails, and Prisons (COB)**

*Lonnie Williams and Kristy Temple,  
Thrive Peer Recovery Services*

Improving the behavioral health, physical health, and criminal justice outcomes for individuals with mental health and substance use disorders is the goal of all shareholders who serve these demographics. A focal point is increasing engagement with Peer Recovery Supporters at every level of involvement with the criminal justice system, from arrest to booking and detention, arraignment, and pre and post-release to enhance

the rate of success of these individuals. The goal of this presentation is to highlight the practical experiences of Peer Recovery Supporters who work with peers in these venues - their integration and communication with the staff they work alongside, the challenges they encounter, burnout and fatigue, and the successes they’ve enjoyed.

### **(A-3) Core Correctional Practice: Structured Learning Evidence- Based Practices (COB)**

*Christopher D’Amato, University of  
Cincinnati Corrections Institute*

Learning new skills requires motivation, knowing what to do and how to do it, and becoming proficient in the skills. In the 1980s, Andrews and Kiessling introduced Core Correctional Practices, commonly referred to as CCP, as a way to increase the therapeutic potential of rehabilitation. Part of CCP techniques include structured learning and skill building. Specifically, providing structured learning and skill-building services to justice-involved individuals can increase their use of prosocial skills, reduce their reliance on antisocial skills, and reduce recidivism. In this session, we will review examples of skills that can be taught in rehabilitative programs and learn how to adopt these structured learning practices into our daily work successfully.

### **(A-4) Benefits and Overview of Behavioral Management System (COB)**

*Cristina Jolley and Veronica Perry,  
Medina County Adult Probation De-  
partment*

Embark on a journey through the implementation of a Behavior Management System (BMS), navigating the identification of challenges and solutions. Discover the transformative benefits of BMS implementation while uncovering effective strategies to secure stakeholder buy-in. Join us as we explore the path to fostering positive behavioral change within your organization.

### **(A-5) Registering Youth as Sex Offenders: Relevant Laws and Best Practices (COB)**

*Katherine Sato, Lauren Hammer-  
smith, and Jilian Weithman, Office  
of the Ohio Public Defender*

This session will provide attendees with an overview of the statutes and case law in Ohio permitting (and in some circumstances, mandating) sex offender registration for youth who engage in harmful sexual behaviors. The presenters will discuss the legal process requiring registration, research on the effectiveness of sex offender registration, and best practices to treat this population.

## Thursday Afternoon Workshops

1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

### **(B-1) Engaging Individuals and Families through NAMI**

*Luke Russell, Emy-Lynn Marhulik,  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
of Ohio*

# Workshops

NAMI Ohio aims to support, educate, and advocate for individuals with serious mental illness and their families. Learn about NAMI's signature programs and support groups offered to individuals and families throughout Ohio. Also, hear about key partnerships with Crisis Intervention Teams, the Ohio Stepping Up Initiative, and the Attorney General's Taskforce on Mental Health and Criminal Justice. Through these connections, the community is better able to serve those NAMI Ohio represents.

## **(B-2) Expressive Arts in a Correctional Setting**

*Tresalyn Butler, Franklin County Sheriff's Office*

Expressive arts can have a meaningful impact on the overall well-being of a person, no matter their location, age, or gender identity. Through PeaceLove's expressive arts workshops, both staff and incarcerated individuals can have an opportunity to explore, create, and share about things that they keep on the inside. They simply make stuff and feel better. Expressive arts can be a tool for anyone's tool belt, staff or not. Through participation in this workshop, participants will learn the beneficial impact of implementing expressive arts into their institutions and the benefits that they can have on moral, and behavioral modifications, connection, and overall mental wellness.

## **(B-3) Motivational Interviewing with Resistant Clients: Overcoming Barriers and Working Together (COB)**

*Jacob Sadon, Oriana House, Inc.*

This workshop will provide a comprehensive overview of the use of motivational interviewing (MI), specifically with resistant or uncooperative clients. It will cover MI in detail and discuss how it is especially useful with our extra-resistant client population. The spirit of MI, MI Principles, MI Skills, and avoiding common MI traps will all be reviewed in detail. This will be a fun and interactive session that will give participants the confidence to use motivational interviewing effectively with their most challenging clients.

## **(B-4) Moral Injury in the Criminal Justice System (COB)**

*Ro-Ellen Sinkewich and Kathleen Atkins, Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana*

Moral Injury is when one feels they have violated their conscience or moral compass when they take part in, witness, or fail to prevent an act that disobeys their own moral values or personal principles. This workshop is the exploration of Moral Injury in those involved in the criminal justice system: offenders; law enforcement; correctional and community corrections professionals; first responders; judges; parole and probation; all those affected by the criminal justice system.

## **(B-5) How Credible Messengers Provide Pathways to Success for Youth and Emerging Adults**

*Mujeddid Muhammad and Terry Green, Think Make Live Youth*

The Credible Messenger is an innovative model of restorative justice that relies on the unique relationships that Credible Messengers form with justice-involved youth, and others, to modify individual behavior and strengthen disadvantaged communities. Central to the approach, Credible Messengers are individuals who can connect with and motivate the most at-risk young people to successfully challenge and transform destructive thinking, attitudes, and actions. The workshop will explore the concept of Credible Messengers, who they are, what they do, and their effectiveness through the lens of Credible Messengers themselves.

### **Thursday Afternoon Workshops**

**3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

## **(C-1) Understanding Post-Incarceration Syndrome and its Effect on Recidivism (COB)**

*Alex Harper, Spartan Global Research LLC*

Walk through the symptoms and elements of post-incarceration syndrome, the mental health effects of collateral sanctions, and how criminal justice professionals can positively impact the recidivism rate.

# Workshops

## **(C-2) Confused about Post-Convictions Victim's Rights? You're Not Alone!**

*Julie Doepke, Hamilton County Adult Probation, Victim Services*  
*Elizabeth Well, Esq., Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center*  
*Chrystal Alexander, ODRC, Office of Victim Services*

Join us for a panel discussion on victims' rights post-conviction. This workshop will focus on probation, parole, and community corrections and how victims' rights intersect with criminal justice officials' roles and responsibilities. This conversation will include a discussion of Marsy's Law amendment to the Ohio Constitution, implementing legislation, and the always-dreaded restitution discussion!

## **(C-3) Women in Corrections (COB)**

*Jodi Glitzenstein, Rebecca Krzeminski, & Lori Toth, Oriana House, Inc.*

What is the history of women working in corrections? How can women be an asset in the field of corrections? How can gender-specific training for women have a positive impact on the professional lives of women in corrections? How do women effectively establish boundaries with offenders?

What are the tell-tale warning signs that boundaries are in trouble? Is there a "profile" of a female employee who becomes involved with an offender? How can we evolve from a snitch/tattletale/sellout/

squealer mentality to a "see something say something" atmosphere?

Our goal is to answer all of these questions and more in this information-packed session!

## **(C-4) Community Correction and Task Force Partnerships: The Collaboration to Reduce Violent Crime in the Community (COB)**

*Steve Vukmer, Tyshawn Irby, Eric Persing, Ohio Adult Parole Authority*

This workshop will detail the efforts of the Ohio Adult Parole Authority (APA) to partner with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies on task force operations. It has become apparent that a small percentage of the offenders on community supervision in the Cleveland area are "crime drivers" and responsible for a significant amount of the violent crime, gun violence, gang violence, and drug trafficking taking place in the city. The APA has responded by placing parole officers on special assignment with the US Marshal's Violent Fugitive Task Force, FBI's Safe Streets Gang Task Force, FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force, FBI's Child Exploitation Task Force, DEA's Drug Task Force, and the ATF's Gun Violence Task Force. Communication between community corrections agencies and law enforcement is a critical element in the response to violent crime. At the end of the training, participants will be able to recog-

nize that a small percentage of individuals released from prison pose the greatest risk to the community. Participants will be able to understand efforts to reduce violent crime and drug trafficking.

## **(C-5) Identifying and Responding to Victims of Human Trafficking (COB)**

*Chelsea Gaffey, Ohio Department of Youth Services*  
*Emily Dunlap, Advocating Opportunity*

This training is intended to equip professionals with the tools needed to identify and respond to victims of trafficking in their own communities. Through activities, and the knowledge of subject matter experts, attendees will learn how to recognize signs of trafficking, understand the dynamics of exploitative relationships, build empathy with individuals who may be experiencing a trafficking situation, and identify available resources to support those who have been trafficked.

### **Friday Workshops**

**8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

## **(D-1) But It's Just Weed! Understanding Cannabis (COB)**

*Judge Kate Huffman, Second District Court of Appeals*  
*Dr. Kara Marciani, Eastway Behavioral Healthcare*

With the recent legalization of recreational cannabis in Ohio, a deeper understanding of cannabis, beyond common perceptions, is important

# Workshops

for judges, attorneys, courts, and supervision staff. This presentation focuses on the various strains of cannabis and their effects on the brain and body of both adolescents and adults, the properties of cannabis, and how cannabis legalization impacts the day-to-day work of courts. The faculty will also discuss cannabis use disorder, available treatments, and probation and specialized docket treatment of recreational cannabis.

## **(D-2) Neurodiversity Affirming Practices: Addressing Autistic Individuals' Needs Within Community Corrections (COB)**

*Amy Bixler Coffin, Steve Mentrek, OCALI*

ASD is highly prevalent in the community correction system. Unfortunately, autistic individuals may not be diagnosed at the time of incarceration. Consequently, their underlying characteristics are not known and treated with appropriate practices. As a result, these individuals may be living in a constant state of dysregulation, often resulting in what can be viewed as aggressive and non-compliant behaviors. This presentation will provide an overview of autism and the unique differences in the underlying characteristics of autistic individuals that must be considered when engaging and rehabilitating within the community correction system for successful supervision. An overview of common strategies that can be implemented

across personnel, settings, etc., within the community correction system to accommodate these underlying characteristics will be addressed.

## **(D-3) Justice Programming (COB)**

*Robert Graessle, DO, Basecamp Recovery Center*

Dr. Graessle will present on the unique challenges and opportunities in treating those involved in the criminal justice system struggling with Substance Use Disorder. He will also speak to the benefits and drawbacks of the justice related process in bringing someone to a healthy recovery state with the collaboration of all stakeholders.

## **(D-4) You are now Entering the Growth Zone: Implementation Science and Culture Change (COB)**

*Suzanne Brooks, Joseph Suciu, Paula Drees, Desirae Belleville, Ohio Adult Parole Authority*

Changing culture is an uncomfortable process. Ohio Parole has formed implementation teams to work through the process of implementing adaptive change. This workshop will provide an overview of implementation science. Trainers will discuss the role of implementation teams tasked with supporting Parole staff through change, innovation, and growth. Participants will gain insight into effective principles of

appreciative thinking to lead people into a growth zone, where the ideal state can become a reality.

## **(D-5) Reforming Juvenile Justice in Ohio – Making Communities Well**

*Brittany Neal & Cecelia Ko, Ohio Department of Youth Services*

During this session, attendees will learn about Ohio's juvenile justice reform efforts throughout the years and will hear about the impact of the nationally recognized Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) founded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Participants will also dive into some of the specific reform strategies that have produced promising youth outcomes and made continuous efforts to make Ohio's communities safer and better.

# Registration Information

## Conference Location

Nationwide Hotel & Conference Center

100 Green Meadows Drive, S.

Lewis Center, OH 43035

614-880-4300

## Registration Fee

Full conference registration cost is \$350 for non-members and \$325 for OJACC members. Agency membership includes discounted conference registration (\$325) for up to 7 staff from the agency. If you are unsure whether your membership is current, please contact [dittmergr@gmail.com](mailto:dittmergr@gmail.com)

Checks should be made payable to the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections and mailed to

**OJACC, P.O. Box 79, New Albany, OH 43054**

***Cancellations made after September 25, 2024, or no shows to the conference are subject to the full registration fee.*** You may substitute another person by contacting Gayle Dittmer at [dittmergr@gmail.com](mailto:dittmergr@gmail.com)

Registration fee covers participation in the education sessions, continuing education credits, conference materials, continental breakfasts, breaks, and lunch on Thursday.

## Continuing Education Credits

CEUs have been applied for the following:

- Recognized Clock Hours (RCHs)
- Counselor/Social Worker Board
- Continuing Legal Education
- Hours that qualify for ODRC "Changing Offender Behavior" (COB) requirements are signified by the initials "COB" next to the workshop title.

Attendees must attend the entire conference to receive full CEUs/CLEs.

## Certificate of Attendance:

Participants will be given a "Certificate of Continuing Professional Education" form at registration. At the end of each session, participants will be provided with an attendance validation code. Record the codes and return the yellow copy of the form to the registration desk before leaving the conference.

## Hotel Reservations

**All hotel reservations MUST be made directly with the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center through this link: [Hotel Link](#):**

**or by calling 614-880-4300.**

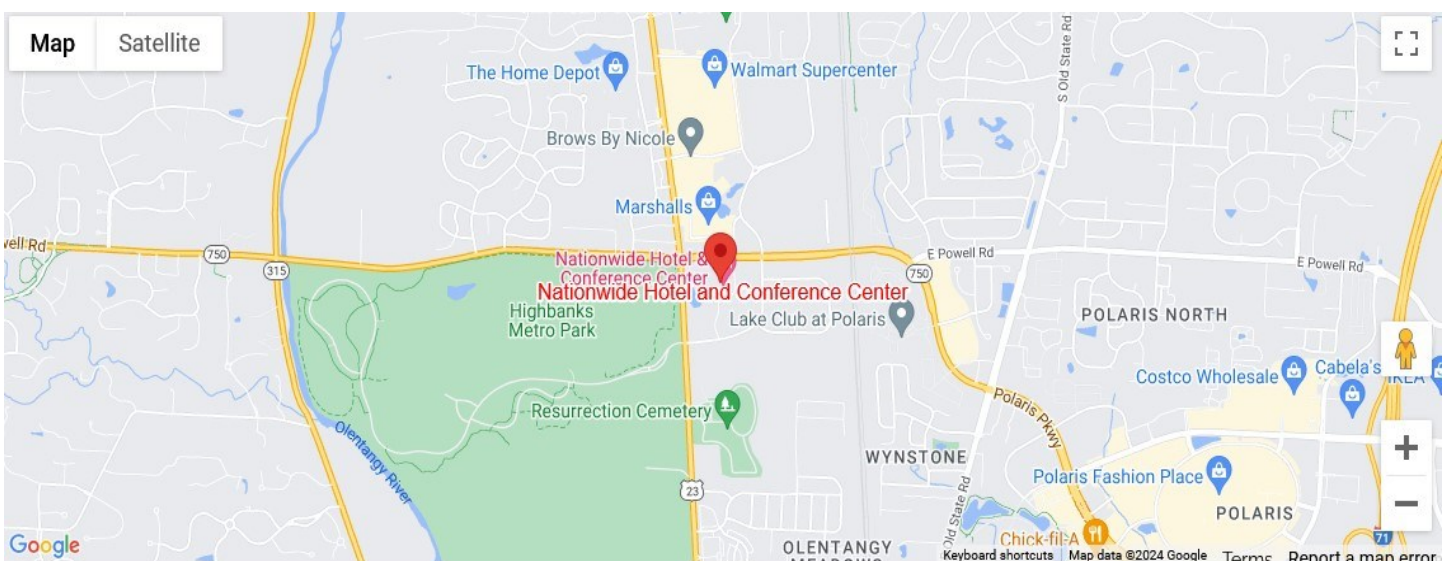
State you are **with the OJACC Conference – group code 360831** to receive group rate of \$142 /night.

**Reservation cut-off date is September 13, 2024.** The hotel will accept reservations after the cut-off date if rooms are available, however, the **group room rate may not be available after September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

## OJACC Annual Awards

OJACC created 4 awards to be given to Ohioans whose work has contributed to the improvement of community corrections.

The nomination form is added to this registration brochure or you can obtain another copy via the OJACC website at [www.ojacc.org](http://www.ojacc.org) or by emailing [dittmergr@gmail.com](mailto:dittmergr@gmail.com)



## Registration Form

37th Annual OJACC Conference October 10 and 11, 2024

You may register online at [ojacc.org](http://ojacc.org) OR submit this registration form to:  
[dittmergr@gmail.com](mailto:dittmergr@gmail.com)

(Complete one form per participant. All fields are required.)

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name as you would like it to appear on nametag \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop Selection** (Please circle one for each session so we may determine appropriate room size for workshops—Please keep for your record).

Thursday A Session      1      2      3      4      5

Thursday B Session      1      2      3      4      5

Thursday C Session      1      2      3      4      5

Friday D Session      1      2      3      4      5

**Special Meal Requests:** \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian      \_\_\_\_\_ Gluten-free      \_\_\_\_\_ Other

**Registration Cost:** \$325 for members, \$350 for non-members.

**Agency membership includes up to 7 registrations at the member rate.**

### Method of Payment:

\_\_\_\_\_ Purchase order is attached P.O. # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Personal/Agency check is enclosed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card (**a 3% fee will be assessed for credit card payment**)

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Check card type: \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa

Verification # (3 numbers on signature line in back). \_\_\_\_\_ Expir Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email credit card receipt to: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections and mail with a copy of the registration form to: **OJACC, P.O. Box 79, New Albany, OH 43054**

OJACC Federal ID #: 31-1255020

Questions: Gayle Dittmer, Executive Director, P.O. Box 79, New Albany, OH 43054

(740) 420-6444      [dittmergr@gmail.com](mailto:dittmergr@gmail.com)

### PLEASE COMPLETE :

#### Job & Jurisdiction

- ☐ Federal
- ☐ State
- ☐ County
- ☐ City
- ☐ Private Firm/Business
- ☐ Academic Institution
- ☐ Nonprofit Organization
- ☐ Other

#### Professional Category

- ☐ Line Personnel
- ☐ Commissioner/Director
- ☐ Administrator
- ☐ Consultant
- ☐ Trainer
- ☐ Sheriff
- ☐ Judge
- ☐ Attorney
- ☐ Educator/Researcher
- ☐ Private Sector/Corporate
- ☐ Chief Probation Officer
- ☐ Other

#### Primary Work Area

- ☐ Adult Probation & Parole
- ☐ Adult Probation Only
- ☐ Adult Parole Authority
- ☐ Juvenile Parole/Aftercare
- ☐ Pretrial
- ☐ Residential
- ☐ Other

#### Geographic Area

- ☐ Urban
- ☐ Rural

#### Experience in Corrections

- ☐ Less than 2 years
- ☐ 2-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ 11-15 years
- ☐ 16-20 years
- ☐ 21-25 years
- ☐ More than 25 years

#### Past Attendance at our Conference

- ☐ First time
- ☐ 2-4 times
- ☐ 5-6 times
- ☐ 7-9 times
- ☐ 10 + times