



Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections

Over 35 Years Promoting and Supporting Effective Community Corrections

Mission:

To bring together stakeholders to promote and support effective community corrections that enhance public safety.

www.ojacc.org

Officers:

Pres: Linda Janes

1st VP: Ro-Ellen Sinkewich

2nd VP: Molly Gauntner

Sec.: Amy Klumpp

Treas.: Melissa Pierson

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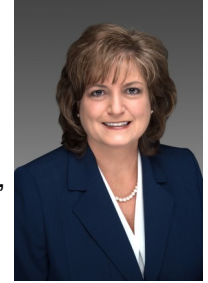
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President's Message

By: Linda Janes, OJACC President

Thank you for entrusting me to serve as president of OJACC. It is an honor to follow in the footsteps of Mike Randle, Kysten Palmore, Jim Slagle and many other esteemed leaders of OJACC.

Hopefully, all of you had a happy holiday season and are having a productive start to the New Year.



Linda Janes,
C.O.O., Alvis Inc.

I recently returned to Ohio from the American Correctional Association's Winter Conference in Washington, DC. It was delightful to see so many OJACC members there! The conference was terrific and featured some new elements, such as a concurrent Education in Corrections Symposium and a trip to the Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum.

Whether at a corrections conference, a behavioral health treatment event, or in my office at Alvis, I am struck by the fact that corrections professionals share so many common challenges. These include, but are not limited to: not having enough staff, how to work with clients who have significant and varied treatment needs, differences in the way generations approach work, and dealing with scarce resources.

I am grateful to have an association like OJACC to turn to in such times. OJACC brings people together to create and support solutions. OJACC members share the common goal of enhancing public safety and we share a commitment to working together. OJACC's mission is "To bring together stakeholders to promote and support effective community corrections that enhance public safety." OJACC membership includes representation from all segments of the criminal justice system including: judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement, probation, prisons, CBCFs, residential reentry programs, social service providers, and others.

The way OJACC brings different segments of the justice system together reminds me of looking into a kaleidoscope, where pieces rotate and come together to form something beautiful. A variety of colors and shapes are needed for the kaleidoscope to work.

OJACC is a kaleidoscope of unique perspectives and experiences coming together. Our strength lies in our diversity. In the same way that there isn't a single book on parenting correctly, there isn't a single strategy to improve community safety. None of us have all the answers but each of us has a valuable perspective.

This is an exciting time to be a corrections professional! The COVID-19 Pandemic will continue to provide us with learning opportunities that would not otherwise exist.

Submissions:

The OJACC Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections. Subscription is free to all members.

The OJACC Newsletter encourages submission of articles relating to community corrections. Articles must be relatively brief, and OJACC reserves the right to edit articles for space considerations and to select which articles to publish.

Points of view expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of OJACC.

OJACC accepts paid advertising.

Article

Submission

& Advertising:

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OJACC

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We can look at the significant reductions in jail and prison populations across the country during the pandemic and see what worked – and what did not work – to enhance community safety while reducing the number of people in custody. The pandemic also showed us how important it is for all of us to connect to one another.

I look forward to working with you and welcome your thoughts regarding the ways OJACC can best bring diverse voices and perspectives together to discuss and promote ways to provide effective programming for the individuals we serve and increase public safety.

Announcing the 2024-2025 OJACC Officers

At the December 1, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting the following officers were elected for 2024-2025:

President – Linda Janes, Chief Operating Officer, Alvis, Inc.

First Vice President – Ro-Ellen Sinkewich, Senior Director of VOA Ohio & Indiana

Second Vice President- Molly Gauntner, Oriana House Vice President of Programs, Cuyahoga County

Secretary – Amy Klumpp, Mahoning County Mental Health & Recovery Board – Felony Drug Court

Treasurer – Melissa Pierson, Chief Operating Officer Franklin County Office of Justice Policy & Programs



Together, they provide many years of ideal diverse experience to lead OJACC in the achievement of its mission *to promote and support effective community corrections in Ohio!*

OJACC Newly Designed Website and Social Media Sites

The newly designed OJACC Website is up and running! This new website has been designed to keep you up to date on the work of OJACC as we promote and support effective community corrections.

We continue to enhance the “Members” section of the website. If you are an OJACC member and do not have access to the members sections, please contact dittmergr@gmail.com.

Conference participants will have the opportunity to register for conferences through the website, and participants will receive a code to access conference materials on the website. There is also the capability to apply for membership through the website <https://www.ojacc.org/membership-join/>

OJACC Facebook and Instagram pages have also been created. These sites can be accessed by clicking on the icons in the website's top right-hand corner. We hope you will find this site helpful and informative.



259 Days	16 Hours	03 Minutes	08 Seconds
Until			

The 37th Annual OJACC Conference

NEW LOCATION: Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center

October 10th - 11th, 2024



OJACC Recent News and Posts

- OJACC Conference
- WELCOME to the newly
- OJACC Newsletter – Fall 2023



OJACC Trustees

- Assoc. of Local Reentry Coalitions
- Assoc. of Muni/Cty Judges of Ohio
- Buckeye State Sheriffs' Assoc.
- CorJus, Inc.
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- County Commrs. Assoc. of Ohio
- Juvenile Justice Coalition
- National Youth Advocate Program
- Ohio Assoc. of Court Admin.
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- Ohio Chief Probation Officers Assn.
- Ohio Common Pleas Judges Assn.
- Ohio Community Corrections Assn.
- Ohio Municipal Attorneys Assn.
- Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Assn.
- Ohio TASC Assn.
- Ohio Victim Witness Assn.
- Specialty Dockets
- Supreme Court of Ohio
- U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services

Ex Officio:

- Office of the Ohio Attorney General
- Office of the Ohio Public Defender
- Ohio Dept. of Dev. Disabilities
- Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Servs.
- Ohio Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services
- Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation and Correction
- Ohio Dept. of Youth Services
- Ohio Judicial Conference
- Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

Data Corner

To advocate for meaningful, uniform data collection and sharing, Data Corner highlights the importance of data and efforts where data has been utilized successfully.



MonDay strives to identify and offer clinical services that complement our core CBT program. Several years ago, we recognized the need to augment a gap that existed in our clinical services to provide treatment for our residents with mental health issues. However, we needed data to support our request for additional funding for services. Thus, we began our collaboration with Wright State University's Substance Abuse Resources & Disability Issues (SARDI). WSU SARDI secured a multi-year grant from SAMSHA in 2016, which was renewed in 2020 for an additional five years. The grant study is designed to identify determinants that are barriers to reducing recidivism for those re-entering society after incarceration. WSU peer support staff provide recovery assistance, and additional case management services to our residents post-release and collect data at baseline (looking at the time prior to incarceration), six months, and twelve months post-release from MonDay.

There is a plethora of research identifying co-occurring disorders (substance abuse and mental health issues, like trauma) as significant factors in the lives of the criminal justice-involved population. If left untreated, co-occurring disorders have profound impacts on their ability to sustain a life of recovery. Co-occurring disorders often require specific interventions to address the unique needs of the individual. One may be motivated to change while in treatment, but sustaining it upon release can be daunting when facing negative external stimuli that often lead to relapse. Peer Support (individuals who have lived experience and are certified) is an intervention that can assist individuals upon release to sustain their motivation as they transition back into the community. Peer support has gained recognition as a meaningful service that is critical in the recovery process.

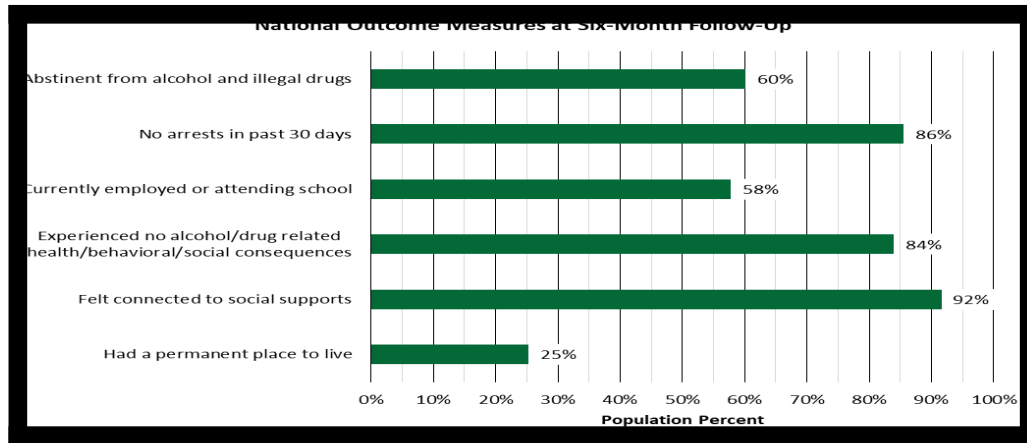
Over the years, the WSU study provided the data to justify to our local ADAMHS Board the need to fund three separate clinical services: Peer Support (created two Peer Support Specialist positions) to assist our residents during the critical post-release transition; Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR) program to specifically address trauma; and Mindfulness by hiring a Mindfulness Coordinator to provide services that address co-occurring disorders.

The following is a concise summary highlighting the clinical services mentioned.

WSU SARDI MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFENDER RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

In November, WSU's team provided an update on the data outcomes; overall, it is rather encouraging. It covered several outcome measures: substance use reduction, mental health issues, and case management services. One of the graphs shared illustrates the impact that treatment has on substance abuse harm reduction and the importance of returning citizens having a solid peer support recovery system in place upon release. Notably, stable housing is an issue that continues to confound our efforts to reduce the likelihood of one re-offending. Some of the project's required National Outcome Measures are described below:

Figure 1: Overall, individuals enrolled in the ORP project were doing well at the six-month follow-up. At the time of the follow-up interview, the majority of individuals had abstained from alcohol and illegal drug use (60%), had no arrests within the past 30 days (86%), were employed or attending school (58%), experienced no alcohol or drug-related health, behavioral or social consequences (84%), and felt that they were connected to social supports via family, friends, and support groups (92%). While at follow-up, only 25% of individuals had a permanent place to live (i.e., their own apartment, room, or house), an additional 39% of individuals were living at someone else's apartment, room, or house.



EMDR PROGRAM STUDY

Dr. Bashir, WSU Chair of Department of Human Services, supervises MonDay’s EMDR services which started in 2020. Dr. Bashir’s initial program findings have been published in the *Journal of Addiction and Offender Counseling* Sept. 2023: <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaoc.12123>

The findings indicate that EMDR is a promising clinical intervention for the justice-involved individuals exposed to trauma:

“In conclusion, this study validates EMDR therapy’s effectiveness in reducing post-traumatic symptoms in incarcerated populations. The study also found that EMDR therapy is equally successful across genders and races, suggesting that it could be a viable treatment option for a diverse population of incarcerated people. Although these findings are encouraging, more research on EMDR therapy is required that critically evaluates gender and racial differences in response to EMDR. Furthermore, more research is needed to assess the effect of EMDR therapy on recidivism in jailed populations. The current study did not directly quantify recidivism, but it is hoped that future research would investigate this subject. Other criteria, such as the type of offense, length of incarceration, and frequency of incarceration, need to be investigated further to provide a more complete picture of the use of EMDR therapy in this situation.”

MINDFULNESS PROGRAM

Montgomery County ADAMHS Wins Grant from Ohio’s SOS 3.0 (Press Release)

“Ohio continues to make good progress in our effort to stem the tide of opioid addiction, but our work is far from over,” said Governor Mike DeWine. “While the rate of unintentional overdose deaths is slowing, our work must continue. This funding will help us save lives and promote stronger, healthier communities.”

The funding provides programs and services for individuals needing mental health support or experiencing a substance use disorder. One of those programs is Path of Freedom Mindful Meditation class at the MonDay Community Correctional Institution. “Since I began teaching these classes at MonDay, I have been amazed at the overall success and the positive response residents have expressed to me,” said Laurie Johnson, Mindfulness Clinician. “These positive results are observed in all groups, male or female, regardless of age, race, or level of criminological history. It is hard to explain the pride I feel as an instructor of this class when I see how relaxed and at peace residents are while practicing meditation.”

These are just a couple of the many noteworthy program services we are engaged in facilitating daily that complement our core CBT treatment modalities. If you would like a copy of the recent WSU SARDI outcome data shared with MonDay, or additional information about the other services highlighted, please contact Mike Flannery, Director, at: flannerym@mcoho.org or (937) 496-3002.

OJACC Hosts 36th Annual Conference

The Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC) held its 36th annual conference: “Work Well, Be Well,” at the Crowne Plaza Hotel North in Columbus, Ohio, on October 12th and 13th, 2023.

Dr. Alexandra Walker from the Alliance for Community Justice Innovations provided the opening general session: “*Resilient Optimism: Staying Engaged During Challenging Times*,” sharing with participants how to build hope and ignite passion by embracing what it meant to fail forward in our work.



Dr. Walker also presented the workshop, “*From Data Deserts to Data Floods: De-Mystifying Fidelity*”, providing valuable information to simplify the process of fidelity so that real-time information can be utilized to determine impact.

Thursday afternoon, Karen Vadino used her very humorous approach to explain “*Resiliency: The Art of Living Well*.” *Experiencing difficulties, especially in our field, is unavoidable. Karen helped participants identify needed resources that sustain well-being, which is what resiliency is all about.*

The Friday morning general session featured Dr. Reginald Wilkinson from Connect the Dots, LLC. Dr. Wilkinson was an integral part of the history of evidence-based practice implementation in Ohio and is a long-time friend of community corrections. Dr. Wilkinson led participants through the progress of the field of community corrections toward the goal of evidence-based practices and the importance of continuing the pursuit of this goal.

The conference closed with a general session presented by Dr. Jennifer Bogner, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, on “*Overview of Traumatic Brain Injury and Prevalence in Persons Involved in the Criminal Justice System*.” *Dr. Bogner identified the prevalence of those with brain injuries involved in the criminal justice system and provisions of cognitive accommodations that can enhance the ability to engage in programs to improve the ability to function in the community, leading to reduced recidivism.*

Many workshops were also offered to improve our community corrections work to help change behavior and reduce recidivism. Thank you to our conference committee, who worked diligently to provide a highly informative conference.

Thank you also to our exhibitors/sponsors who help to keep our conference registration rates lower for participants and provide valuable information on products and services in efforts to help improve community corrections services:

Aramark – Special thanks to Aramark for sponsoring the conference luncheon.
Alkermes Adventfs.com American K9 Detection Services
The Counseling Center ezJustice from StepMobile Lighthouse Behavioral Health Solutions
Indivior Intoxalock Oriana House, Inc.
The Phoenix Center Rise Up Recovery SecureManage

Mark your calendar for the **2024 OJACC Conference to be held on October 10th and 11th, 2024**. After 16 years at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, the conference will move to a **NEW LOCATION – The Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, 100 Green Meadow Drive, Lewis Center, Ohio 43035 (Columbus Area)**



Policy Change Allows Access to Medicaid Coverage for Transitional Control and Treatment Transfer Participants

Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), in partnership with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC), introduced an important policy change in November that allows Ohioans who are completing their terms in ODRC-contracted halfway houses to access Medicaid-covered medical, mental health, and substance use treatment services. The policy became effective on November 1 and enables those who are eligible to access important healthcare services beyond those limited to inpatient hospital stays.

ODRC's Transitional Control or Treatment Transfer programs facilitate an individual's transition from the state correctional system to the community while residing in a monitored halfway house environment. ODM and ODRC collaborated with the Ohio Community Corrections Association and halfway house providers to design and implement the policy change for those participating in the programs.

Transitional Control participants are deemed eligible by the Ohio Parole Board and may participate up to 180 days prior to the expiration of their prison sentence. Treatment Transfer participants can receive substance use disorder treatment through community treatment providers for up to 365 days prior to the expiration of their prison sentence to help reduce substance use relapse and recidivism for felony non-violent offenses.

It is important to note that this policy change is separate from the Medicaid Pre-Release Enrollment Program (MPREP). MPREP is for eligible incarcerated individuals who, before they are released from prison, are assigned a case manager by their Managed Care Organization who is responsible for assisting with the development of a transition plan (i.e., scheduling doctor's appointments in the community, providing access to transportation, connecting the member to other community services, etc.).

All eligibility questions related to Transitional Control or Treatment Transfer can be directed to an individual's county Department of Job and Family Services (CDJFS). They can find their CDJFS by selecting their county from the dropdown at [medicaid.ohio.gov/dropdown](https://www.medicaid.ohio.gov/dropdown).

OJACC 2023 Achievement Awards & Dr. Ed Latessa Tribute Presentation at Annual Conference

OJACC is honored to recognize individuals each year at the annual conference who have shown dedication to the improvement of community corrections. The 2023 OJACC Achievement Award recipients and comments from their nominators are identified below.

Ohio State Representative Phil Plummer, received the *Representative C.J. McLin Award*, which is presented to an elected official in Ohio who has worked towards the improvement of community corrections.



Nomination information: Representative Plummer is an Ohio 135th General Assembly member representing House District 39, the Dayton area. Rep Plummer puts the concerns of Ohioans first, as he has throughout his career as Montgomery County Sheriff and now as a State Representative. Whether he is supporting the work of the Alzheimer's Association, calling on state and federal leaders to update hazardous material transportation safety, protecting social security benefits for Ohioans, advocating for domestic violence support programs, or ensuring the success of the Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program, Rep Plummer demonstrates his steadfast commitment to our state and its citizens.

Rep Plummer sits on the Criminal Justice Committee and is a champion for community corrections. He is a forerunner, as sheriff and as a state representative, in supporting our programs that recognize people whose involvement in the criminal justice system is rooted in behavioral health problems such as addiction, mental health conditions, or trauma.

Rep Plummer devotes himself to making our communities healthier and safer for everyone.

This award is presented to Rep Plummer in honor of the C.J. McLin Award, who served Daytonians for 22 years in the House of Representatives.

Lanaya McDonald, ODRC Bureau of Community Sanctions Assistant Chief, received the *Dr. Bennet J. Cooper Award*, which is presented to a correctional administrator or policymaker who has shown a lifetime commitment to the improvement of community corrections.

Nomination information: Director Chambers-Smith tasked Lanaya to Revitalize and resurrect the Ohio Correctional and Court Services Association (OCCSA), coordinate a state-wide Audit and Leadership Summit, and increase the number of ODRC staff as trained and accredited auditors for the American Correctional Association (ACA). This effort put OCCSA back on the national stage. As part of this task, Lanaya assumed the position of OCCSA President, created a new board of officers, and swiftly hit the ground running. Under Lanaya's leadership and in a very short period of time, the board was selected and swiftly coalesced and committed to furthering the mission and future of OCCSA. Lanaya and the Board worked collaboratively to successfully execute a well-attended and high-caliber Summit that resulted in elevating the external perception of the association and 26 ODRC staff becoming trained ACA-Accredited auditors, allowing them to audit prisons in other states and bringing that experience and knowledge back to Ohio.



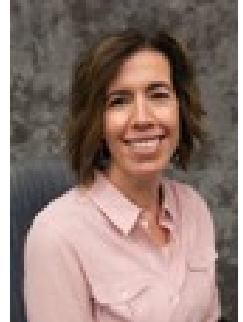
Additionally, during the height of COVID, Lanaya was instrumental in coordinating and expanding access to virtual learning opportunities for individuals who are incarcerated in ODRC prisons to improve the reentry process and reduce recidivism. This initiative has endured to this day due to its demonstrated success. Additionally, Lanaya was appointed to oversee the ODRC housing initiative with the goal of reducing homelessness for individuals leaving Ohio prisons. Lanaya continues to educate and advocate for these efforts across the state.

Lanaya is a resourceful and collaborative professional who does not hesitate to take on challenges. Her unwavering commitment to the growth and excellence of rehabilitation in corrections and reentry is exceptional.

Under Lanaya's leadership, Ohio's presence is once again known at the national level, for Ohio's chapter of ACA and OCCSA will once again have a seat at the table.

Molly Gauntner, Oriana House, Inc. Vice President of Correctional Programs in Cuyahoga County, received the *Dr. Simon Dinitz Award*, which is presented to a community corrections practitioner who has contributed to improving community corrections in Ohio.

Nomination information: Molly has dedicated over 29 years to outstanding contributions to the field of community corrections through her work in adult felony and misdemeanor courts in Cuyahoga and Franklin Counties and is currently the Vice President of Correctional Programs in Cuyahoga County with Oriana House. She has worked in various capacities, including Chief and Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Director of State Community Corrections Act grant-funded diversion programs, Co-Coordinator of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Court, Cognitive Skills Facilitator, and Substance Use Case Manager. Molly has been a trailblazer for evidence-based practices. In her roles in probation, she assessed needs related to evidence-based practices and implemented new, science-based approaches to probation. Molly engaged national experts and changed the landscape of probation interventions for officers and probationers served.



Molly has passion and the ability to work with others. She was able to find funding to implement and add services to the probation population and found innovative ways to extend IDAT funds for much-needed services. Just about anyone who has worked with Molly would likely agree that when she puts her mind to something, it gets done. Through her tireless advocacy efforts through the Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association (OCPOA), the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC), and her time on OJACC's Adult Community Corrections Collaborative, as well as many other boards and committees,

Molly has lent her expertise and voice to help the entire field of community corrections. This experience and commitment to the continued improvement of community corrections makes Molly Gauntner an ideal candidate to receive the Simon Dinitz Award for 2023.

Veronica Perry, Medina County Court of Common Pleas Chief Probation Officer, received the *James Wichtman Award*, which is presented to an OJACC Board Member who has shown dedication to the mission of OJACC.

Nomination information: When Veronica Perry joined the OJACC Board of Trustees in 2020, she graciously accepted the challenge of chairing the then Newsletter Committee. Through Veronica's leadership, that committee was expanded to the Public Outreach Committee, which includes the newsletter and the enormous project of creating a newly designed website and establishing a social media presence for OJACC. Her can-do, forward-thinking attitude led to the success of this project. Veronica also co-chairs the OJACC Community Corrections Collaborative, a group of community corrections associations that work with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections to represent the mutual interests of state-funded adult community corrections for the overall effectiveness and efficiency of adult community corrections. Veronica's vast background and experience in probation, advancement of evidence-based practices, and ability to work with others to find effective solutions make her extremely valuable in this position.



Beyond Veronica's work with OJACC, she serves as the Chief Probation Officer for the Medina County Court of Common Pleas. She is also active in the Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association, chair of the OCSS Governance Committee, as well as many other boards and committees.

Veronica is a true leader and innovator in community corrections. Her hard work, dedication, and commitment to promoting and supporting effective community corrections make her a natural choice for the James Wichtman Award.

Dr. Ed Latessa Tribute Presentation
OJACC 2023 Conference Recipient: Dr. Myrinda Schweitzer Smith

In 2022 the OJACC Board of Trustees created the Dr. Ed Latessa Tribute Presentation. Dr. Latessa was a true friend to OJACC throughout our history, and we felt it important to honor him in a meaningful way. Each year a session is identified at the annual conference that focuses on the work of Dr. Latessa, who transformed the field of community corrections through research/evaluation and communicating the results to make sure we understood what it took to make our field successful.

The featured presenter for the 2023 OJACC Conference was Dr. Myrinda Schweitzer Smith.

Dr. Myrinda Smith has more than ten years of leadership history at the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI) with 25 years of corrections experience. UCCI was the vision and passion of former Director of the School of Criminal Justice, Dr. Ed Latessa. The institute's overarching goal is to provide resources and support to the field of corrections in an effort to create safer communities and stop the cycle of recidivism. While Dr. Smith has led day-to-day operations at UCCI for some time, her career began as a residential treatment counselor at a facility for adjudicated youth. She then earned an MA from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, and spent the next six years as a therapist providing correctional interventions for juveniles and adults in the justice system. It is then that Mindy's focus shifted from providing direct services herself to training and coaching others who provide those services. Dr. Pat VanVoorhis hired Mindy as a full-time staff for UCCI in 2006, where she immediately began helping corrections professionals implement strategies (many of which she herself used in the field) to learn a person's criminogenic risk and needs and respond with effective intervention. During her tenure as a UCCI staff, Mindy earned her PhD in Criminology from the University of Cincinnati. Mindy's professional growth during this time was fostered by her mentor and friend, Dr. Ed Latessa, who nurtured her drive to help people tap into their talents to impact the field they both love positively. Now as Executive Director, she's excited to expand UCCI's strategic vision by evolving UCCI's ability to translate research into practice, challenging the status quo of effective correctional interventions. In her own words, Dr. Smith is driven by "helping people to be their best selves and improving the lives of ALL those who are touched by the criminal justice system."



Our Mission: To bring together stakeholders to promote and support effective community corrections that enhance public safety.

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's 2023 Clifford Skeen Awards

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) held the 29th annual Clifford Skeen Awards Ceremony on October 12, 2023, during the annual Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC) conference at the Crowne Plaza North in Columbus.

This award is given in honor of the late eight-term Ohio Representative Clifford Skeen, who sponsored the Community Correction Act passed by the Ohio Legislature in 1979. This act aimed to reduce the number of non-dangerous offenders being sent to state prisons. Representative Skeen was instrumental in obtaining increased funding for many community corrections initiatives. The Clifford Skeen Award was initiated in 1993 to demonstrate commitment to community corrections as a viable alternative to incarceration.

Ohio is proud of its community corrections programs. The ODRC, in partnership with local corrections agencies, has assisted in developing professional and safe community sanctions. These sanctions allow the offender to be treated in the community while saving scarce prison and jail space for the violent offender.

The selection committee comprised former Cliff Skeen Award recipients and a Bureau of Community Sanctions representative. After conducting individualized interviews of Ohio's top-scoring programs in each category, the committee recommended the award recipients. The panel selected the following programs as the 2023 Clifford Skeen Award recipients:

Community-Based Correctional Facility: Northwest Community Corrections Center

Halfway House: Oriana House/Terrence Mann Residential Center

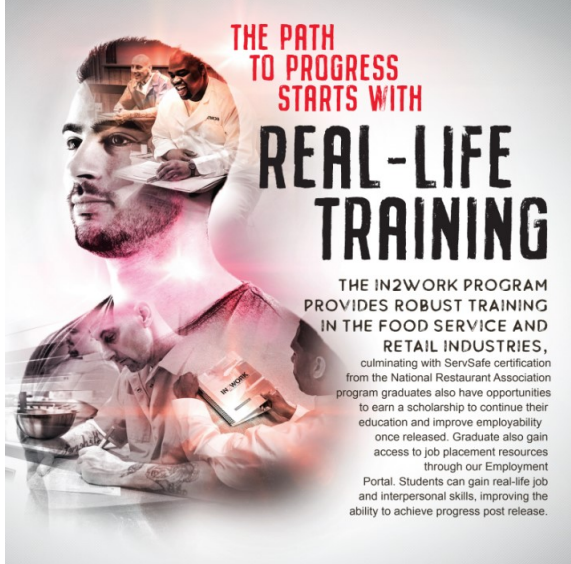
Prison Diversion Program: Shelby County Common Pleas Court

Jail Diversion Program: Marion Municipal Court

The Department's vision for community corrections is that of a collaborative and cooperative partnership between state and local agencies. The Clifford Skeen Awards highlight our successes in this vitally important area. The award ceremony is just one opportunity for the Department to recognize local programs for the outstanding work they do on a daily basis to provide alternatives to prisons and jails and ensure safe communities. If you would like additional information about the Clifford Skeen Awards or community correction programs, please contact Chris Galli, Chief of the Bureau of Community Sanctions, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, at 614-728-9990 or Christopher.Galli@odrc.state.oh.us. OJACC congratulates the 2023 Clifford Skeen Award Winners!



Thank you to Aramark for sponsoring the OJACC Conference Luncheon



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THE IN2WORK PROGRAM PROVIDES ROBUST TRAINING IN THE FOOD SERVICE AND RETAIL INDUSTRIES, culminating with ServSafe certification from the National Restaurant Association program graduates also have opportunities to earn a scholarship to continue their education and improve employability once released. Graduate also gain access to job placement resources through our Employment Portal. Students can gain real-life job and interpersonal skills, improving the ability to achieve progress post release.

IN2WORK is a phased program designed to teach qualified applicants job-ready food service skills and practices. Contact an Aramark representative for more information.

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SAVE THE DATE!

2024 OJACC Annual Conference

October 10th and 11th, 2024

At the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center

100 Green Meadows Drive, Lewis Center, Ohio 43035 (Columbus Area)



Unlocking Potential: The Value of Community Corrections in Ohio

By: Veronica Perry, Medina County Director of Probation



In the ever-evolving landscape of community corrections, the heartbeat of transformative reentry practices echoes loudly in the state of Ohio. Here, the script of rehabilitation is being rewritten, and as professionals dedicated to guiding individuals through the delicate dance of returning to society after incarceration, Ohio's community corrections are at the forefront of innovation and effectiveness.

In Ohio's narrative, community corrections isn't just a process; it's a dynamic force breaking down barriers and building bridges between incarceration and successful reintegration into society. It's a recognition, a powerful acknowledgment that those leaving the criminal justice system don't just face hurdles; they navigate an obstacle course, from the quest for employment to the struggle for stable housing, all while confronting the formidable specter of stigma attached to a criminal record.

In the arena of reentry, community corrections professionals are the conductors, weaving strategies that resonate with success. It's not merely about ticking boxes; it's about composing a transformative plan that reduces recidivism rates and harmonizes with the safety of our communities. This isn't just a job—it's a commitment to sculpting lives into stories of redemption and resilience.

Key players emerge, each carrying a pivotal role. Policymakers are crafting the narrative, correctional officials coordinate the flow, and community organizations build the backdrop. Workforce development agencies and employers are the supporting actors providing the essential props and cues. It's a collaborative project where everyone's performance is critical, contributing to the success of reentry initiatives in Ohio.

As community corrections professionals in the Buckeye State, it's not just imperative but inspiring to recognize the value of our work. We are the engineers of change, the navigators guiding individuals through uncharted waters. The holistic approach we embrace is the compass leading the way through the complexities of unique needs and challenges each individual brings to the table.

Ohio stands tall in the vast landscape of community corrections. Our commitment to evidence-based practices isn't a mere trend; it's the cornerstone of our success. A glimpse into our comprehensive array of reentry practices reveals the utilization of tools such as the ORAS, cognitive-behavioral interventions, employment assistance, facilitation of housing support, substance abuse, and mental health treatment, and the creation of avenues for community engagement and support. These services represent merely a fraction of the extensive support we collectively provide.

The collaborations we foster with local stakeholders are the elements intertwining to create a network of support. In focusing on individualized support, we're shaping destinies.

Ohio has taken center stage, not merely as a participant but as a leader. Our ongoing commitment, passion, and unwavering belief in the power of rehabilitation position us as leaders in Ohio and throughout the nation. As we continue to fine-tune our practices, we continue to shape lives and contribute to the creation of safer, more resilient communities.

The community corrections professionals in Ohio are crafting a tale of transformation and triumph. Let our efforts resonate within the corridors of justice and in the hearts of those we guide toward a brighter, reimagined future.



Mission: To bring together stakeholders to promote and support effective community corrections that enhance public safety.

For over 35 years, OJACC has brought together Ohio’s criminal justice stakeholders, including judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, pre-trial and probation officers, law enforcement officials, corrections officials from adult and juvenile systems, treatment providers, reentry practitioners, and victims’ representatives to promote and support effective community corrections that enhance public safety. Few other states have achieved this type of umbrella organization which represents Ohio’s collaborative efforts that have led to Ohio’s place as a leader in Community Corrections.

Together we:

- Work with state agencies, legislators, and other stakeholders on policy/issues affecting community corrections.
• Hold a biennial board retreat to focus the efforts of the organization and guide our mission.
• Host a biennial legislative reception with OJACC member organizations to educate legislators on issues vital to the improvement of community corrections.
• OJACC’s Adult Community Corrections Collaborative, comprised of associations providing state-funded community corrections services, works with the ODRC for the overall improvement of these services and highlights benefits and cost savings of community corrections.
• Hold an annual conference and/or virtual learning opportunities for personal development/networking to educate and inform service providers and stakeholders on issues of importance to community corrections and provide tools to enhance services.
• Provide newsletters throughout the year highlighting evidence-based practices, promising practices, and issues important to the field of community corrections.

Please consider membership in OJACC to help support these efforts.

2024 OJACC Membership Application

Agency/Dept.: _____ Name of Agency Representative: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Type of Membership (Please Check One)

Individual Membership \$30 - Allows an individual in the field of criminal justice or interested citizens to join. Individuals representing private for-profit corporations are excluded from this category. Includes discounted conference registrations.

Government or Private Agency – Allows governmental or private, not-for-profit agencies to join. Examples of private agency members are halfway houses, private correctional agencies, and child-caring agencies. Examples of Governmental Agencies include state agencies, courts, CBCFs, and probation departments. Includes discounted conference registrations for up to 5 staff from the agency. Five members from the agency receive a \$25 discount for annual conference fees. For agencies with a budget of less than \$500,000, membership is \$165, and for agencies with a budget of \$500,000 or greater, membership is \$275.

County Membership – Allows county commissioner, judge, prosecutor, chief probation officer, and sheriff from a county to join. These offices may designate an employee from that office to represent them but are specific to the listed positions. Five members from the county receive a \$25 discount for annual conference fees. For counties with a population under 150,000, membership is \$165, and for counties with a population of 150,000 or greater, membership is \$275. Includes discounted conference registrations for up to 5 staff from county membership agencies.

Make check payable to Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections and mail to PO BOX 79, New Albany, Ohio 43054

Or Charge Membership to: Visa Master Card

Name on card: _____ Address on card: _____

Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____ 3 #s from back _____ Zip Code _____

OJACC Federal Tax ID Number: 31-1255020

For questions, contact dittmergr@gmail.com or 740-420-6444