



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](http://www.ojacc.org)

### **Officers:**

Pres: Linda Janes

1st VP: Ro-Ellen Sinkewich

2nd VP: Honorable Theresa Dellick

Sec.: Katie Stenman

Treas.: Terrance Hinton

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## **President's Message**

*By Linda Janes, OJACC President*

It seems I start every newsletter message with something along the lines of, "I can't believe it's already..." In this case, I can't believe that we are already halfway through 2025. Before I know it, my term as President of OJACC will end, and Ro-Ellen Sinkewich, Senior Director of Outreach and Program Development at the Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana, whom I know to have such a heart for this work, will take over as President in January 2026. I have been honored to serve as the President of this association for the last 18 months and to carry forward the association's mission, "To bring together stakeholders to promote and support effective community corrections that enhance public safety."



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

Over the years, there have been some periods of time (especially vacations) when I dearly wished time would go more slowly. Conversely, 2025 has been a year of rapid-fire change that's created uncertainty, which can make it challenging to plan ahead. I am so proud that, regardless of any challenges, OJACC has never lost focus on the need to champion evidence-based practices, advocate for smart justice policies, and foster collaboration across agencies and disciplines.

OJACC has made some significant accomplishments so far this year, which include, but are not limited to:

- We welcomed Alicia Handwerk as the new Executive Director of OJACC; and we thanked Gayle Dittmer for her many years of dedication to the association and wished her a happy retirement.
- We had a successful legislative reception that permitted Ohio legislators to hear about the importance of community corrections from the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, two members of Governor DeWine's Cabinet, and one of their own Senators.
- OJACC presented and submitted testimony supporting funding for community corrections and for critical behavioral health supports that are essential for the success of those we serve.

I am looking forward to our 38<sup>th</sup> Annual OJACC Conference that will take place October 9-10, 2025, at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center. This will be our second year at the new venue, which has allowed for greater attendance and the increased comfort of conference attendees. If you go to the OJACC website, there's a helpful counter showing the exact time left until the conference.

Below is how it stood as I wrote this. Of course, by the time you read this, we'll be

## Submissions:

The OJACC Newsletter is a biannual 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

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even closer to the conference, so if you have not yet made arrangements to attend, do not delay.



As we look ahead, I encourage you to stay engaged with OJACC, whether by attending events (from meetings to conferences), contributing to policy discussions, writing for the newsletter, sharing your ideas, and/or mentoring the next generation of community corrections professionals. Your voice and experience are vital to the association, and I hope you will share my experience that the more involved I've become in OJACC, the more I get out of it.

Thank you for your continued service and leadership. OJACC is a unique organization that 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. Members do not always agree on everything, but they never waver in their support for the collaborative work of OJACC.

I am deeply appreciative of the dedication and innovation each OJACC member brings to the field of community corrections in Ohio. Together, we are helping to foster a stronger and safer Ohio and making a positive, measurable impact on the lives of all those we serve.

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### 38th Annual OJACC Conference

*By OJACC Executive Director, Alicia Handwerk*

As I returned to the world of community corrections after a two-year hiatus, I was struck by how the field is evolving. This year's annual conference, titled *Exploring New Horizons In Community Corrections*, reflects that continuing growth and evolution. The opening keynotes will explore the use of AI as a tool to assist practitioners in their daily duties—not replace them. There will also be presentations on social determinants of health and success, as well as presentations on how practitioners can best aid their clients and supervisees to achieve those measures. The Bureau of Community Sanctions will provide an overview of their new audit standards and what auditors will be looking for in future audits. Also, the conference will feature a stimulating track tailored to juvenile justice practitioners. Finally, the conference will conclude with a keynote on dealing with the stress and impact our very demanding professions deal with on a daily basis.

We are looking forward to seeing you on **October 9 and 10, 2025**, to learn, mingle, and maybe even relax a bit at the 38th Annual OJACC Conference at The Ohioan (formerly Nationwide) Hotel and Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio.

## Correcting the Record: The Facts About Impaired Driving

*By Judge Kate Huffman*

Congress established the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in 1970 with the goal of reducing the number of deaths, injuries, and economic losses from motor vehicle crashes on our nation's roadways. The steep rise in traffic deaths in the 1960s foreshadowed the desperate need for a coordinated effort to enhance roadway safety. Traffic-related deaths in the United States in the decade of the '60s increased 47 percent, from 36,399 fatalities in 1960 to 53,543 in 1969, compelling congressional action to address the danger on the roads. And the toll rose even higher in the early 1970s, with 54,589 lives lost on our roadways in 1972, the highest number ever recorded.<sup>1</sup> While an improvement over the 1970s, early estimates place motor vehicle fatalities in 2023 at 40,990<sup>2</sup>, all preventable deaths.

Combatting alcohol-impaired driving represented a major Congressional agenda item to be addressed by NHTSA. According to the National Institute of Health, by the mid-1970s, alcohol was a factor in 60% of all traffic-related deaths in the United States and two-thirds of the traffic deaths among 16–20-year-olds.<sup>3</sup> While NHTSA labored in its nascent years to impact roadway safety, incidents of alcohol-impaired driving continued to escalate. Between 1970 and 1986, arrests for driving under the influence increased nearly 223%, with rates the highest among 21-year-olds<sup>4</sup>. Impaired driving, though, involves more than alcohol use or abuse. Daily or near-daily cannabis use in the United States now exceeds similar alcohol use among individuals 12 and older<sup>5</sup>. And cannabis is the second most common substance detected in impaired driving incidents after alcohol.<sup>6</sup>

NHTSA reports that 13,524 people died in the United States in 2022 as a result of alcohol-impaired driving, representing 32% of total roadway fatalities.<sup>7</sup> Those numbers equate to 32 fatalities every day on American roadways resulting from impaired driving—or one person every 45 minutes.<sup>8</sup> In Ohio, 1,275 people lost their lives on our roadways in 2022, with 37% of the fatalities resulting from impaired driving episodes.<sup>9</sup>

In the last several decades, we have made progress, though, in combating impaired driving in the United States. Since the mid-1970s, and as a consequence of efforts spearheaded by NHTSA and numerous non-profit organizations, including AAA, MADD, and the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility (Responsibility.org), among many others dedicated to improving roadway safety, policy and legislative changes addressing multiple facets of driving under the influence, educational efforts, targeted enforcement efforts and changing public attitudes, have effectuated a 35% national decrease in alcohol-related fatalities. Awareness campaigns helped shift public attitudes about alcohol-impaired driving, with 94% of drivers now reporting they perceive driving after drinking as very or extremely dangerous, although 7% of drivers admitted driving under the influence of alcohol in the past 30 days. Drivers, though, express different perceptions of the dangers of driving under the influence of cannabis, likely resulting from a lack of awareness about the dangers of cannabis use and driving. Only 70% of drivers believe operating a motor vehicle within an hour of using marijuana to be dangerous, and 6% report engaging in marijuana use within an hour of driving in the past 30 days.<sup>10</sup>

## OJACC Trustees

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Much work remains to be done, though, particularly in educating judges and other criminal justice professionals in evidence-based practices that prove successful in combating driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Despite over five decades of efforts by NHTSA and other traffic safety partners to raise awareness about the dangers of driving under the influence and a robust body of research, many of those involved in the criminal justice system, including prosecutors, defense attorneys, pretrial and probation officers, and judges still treat the offense as a simple traffic case with limited risk.

So, what do we know about impaired drivers? Significant and wide-ranging research undertaken in the past 60-plus years provides a typical profile of those who drive under the influence: alcohol-impaired driving remains most common among men aged 20–45 and people who engage in other risky behaviors, such as speeding and lack of seat belt usage.<sup>11</sup> When involved in fatal traffic crashes, speeding drivers exhibit high blood alcohol concentrations more frequently than drivers involved in similar crashes who were not speeding.<sup>12</sup> In 2022, 12,151 deaths on the roadways occurred as a result of speed-related crashes, representing 29% of total traffic fatalities for the year,<sup>13</sup> and in those incidents, more than half of speeding drivers of passenger vehicles were unrestrained at the time of the crash.<sup>14</sup>

Despite a historical profile of men as the predominant impaired drivers, women make up an increasing number of those who operate a vehicle while impaired by drugs or alcohol. Arrests for driving under the influence by women increased by 92.6 percent between 1998 and 2012, while arrests for men rose just 8.6 percent during the same period. By 2019, women made up 25 percent of the alcohol-impaired drivers involved in fatal crashes.<sup>15</sup> Particularly in arrests for DUI/DUID among women occurring in rural areas, prescription medications, including opioids, and illegal drugs contributed to impairment more often than alcohol.<sup>16</sup>

Impaired drivers differ significantly from traditional criminal offenders—they often lack an extensive criminal history, tend to be employed, and have a more stable social and/or family network, but they engage in a high degree of denial (drinking is legal, highly prevalent, and socially encouraged), and do not endorse a self-view that they are engaging in criminal behavior. Often, individuals who choose to drive under the influence of an impairing substance display antisocial behaviors, increasing the risk of offending, including aggression, thrill-seeking, impulsivity, and anti-authoritarian attitudes. About 45% of impaired drivers acknowledge experiencing a lifetime major mental health disorder, such as depression, bipolar disorder, conduct disorder, anxiety, antisocial personality, and PTSD. Repeat DUI offenders generally report more extensive substance use and criminal histories, though.<sup>17</sup> Primarily as a result of employment status, lack of extensive criminal history, and the existence of a stable social network, those who drive under the influence often score low risk on traditional assessments, thereby likely masking the need for intervention. Therefore, engaging in universal screening with a tool validated for impaired drivers, such as the Impaired Driving Assessment (IDA), represents an evidence-based practice designed to meet the needs of defendant, and given the prevalence of major mental illness among repeat impaired drivers, a separate screening and assessment tool, such as CARS, should be utilized to identify specific concerns to be addressed during supervision.

A significant misperception pervades attitudes about impaired driving, particularly the notion that a first arrest actually represents a first offense.<sup>18</sup> Depending on the source, researchers estimate that a person drives while intoxicated anywhere between 80 and 1,200 times before a first *arrest for an impaired driving offense. Drivers who operate a vehicle while under the influence do so an alarming number of times without being stopped by law enforcement. In 2020, drivers reported 127 million episodes of operating a vehicle while impaired by alcohol, but only about 1 million arrests for driving while intoxicated occurred during the same year.*<sup>19</sup> *While about two-thirds of those arrested for the first time for impaired driving self-correct, one-third of all impaired driving arrests involve persons with a prior conviction for DUI.*<sup>20</sup>

Those who consume impairing substances and drive often have a perception of low risk of apprehension. The perception is reality though—because, irrespective of the number of prior incidents of impaired driving for which the driver was not arrested, a first arrest results in the sanctions applied for first offenses, which are often minimal and thus relatively meaningless in discouraging future similar behavior. Yet, many so-called first offenders actually experience problem drinking for whom intervention, monitoring, and treatment could assist in reducing recidivism.<sup>21</sup>

Judicial officers often feel limited in their ability to employ evidence-based practices when sentencing DUI offenders, resulting from punitive legislative mandates for impaired drivers, which frequently lack any re-

relationship to public safety. Legislative enactments restrict a judge's ability to employ evidence-based practices that have been shown to reduce recidivism among those who drive under the influence by imposing increasingly punitive and non-discretionary sentencing demands on judges—a one-size-fits-all approach to sentencing—in impaired driving cases.

As with other offenses and offenders, courts should be free to sentence impaired drivers to both contribute to public safety and aid in the rehabilitation of the offender through the use of evidence-based practices, yet Ohio law fails to rely on research-supported sanctions for impaired drivers. Evidence-based practices represent those strategies that research demonstrates have a positive effect on reducing recidivism. Interventions must match the driver's current status and readiness to change rather than merely assuaging the justifiable public outrage associated with the risks of driving under the influence. Sanctions for all criminal offenders, including impaired drivers, should coincide with the nature of the offense and should represent therapeutic rather than solely punitive measures.<sup>22</sup>

Through legislative enactments, Ohio judges must impose a mandatory jail sentence and fine with every impaired driving conviction, and may order a three-day "intervention" program for first offenders. Yet research does not support the legislative directives in impaired driving sentences. Research on the use of fines<sup>23</sup> and jail sentences<sup>24</sup> has failed to demonstrate any deterrent effect associated with those sanctions alone in decreasing impaired driving. There is also no evidence of a specific deterrent effect resulting from mandatory minimum fines, yet legislative action continues to impose ever-increasing fines on impaired drivers.<sup>25</sup> The high price of fines and fees, though, can severely impact the ability of a driver to be successful while on supervision. Additionally, while Ohio law provides the opportunity to attend a three-day intervention program in lieu of the mandatory jail sentence for a first offender, no modern research supports the value of such a program as an evidence-based practice reducing recidivism.

Without universal screening and assessment, which is not yet mandated by Ohio law, those in need of higher levels of intervention may be overlooked, or, on the other hand, drivers who are not at high risk of reoffending may be subjected to unneeded treatment or intervention. Providing substance abuse treatment to non-addicted substance abusers actually increases rates of criminal recidivism and substance abuse,<sup>26</sup> and treating participants with different risk or need levels together in treatment programs can make outcomes worse for the low-risk and low need participants by exposing them to antisocial peers or interfering with their engagement in productive activities, such as work or school.<sup>27</sup> Therefore, obtaining a screening to evaluate the need for further assessment of all impaired drivers represents a critical step in employing evidence-based practices to reduce impaired driving recidivism.

High caseloads and the demands of traffic court often render it difficult to thoroughly or even adequately address impaired driving cases. Because of the high case volume in courts with jurisdiction over impaired driving cases, judges often resort to the legislatively sanctioned one-size-fits-all sentencing without first obtaining critical information necessary to effectively respond to the individual driver's treatment and intervention needs. But judges have some discretion in adding evidence-based practices to their impaired driving sentences, particularly through screening and assessment for treatment needs, in addition to the mandatory jail and fine required by the legislature.

Additionally, to sentence impaired drivers in a manner that meets the individual risks and needs of the offender that contribute to recidivism and thus support public safety, judges must demand from all involved in the process—whether it is law enforcement officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, pre-trial and probation staff or treatment professionals—thorough and complete information regarding offense details, including roadside behavior and officer observations, criminal history, driving history including speeding, seat belt usage and distracted driving, and the results of screening and assessment, prior supervision and treatment compliance, and a host of other information, to then employ the evidence-based practices most appropriate for that driver.

Judges and supervision officers hold a unique position in the criminal justice system with the power to significantly affect public safety while also aiding offenders in their rehabilitation. In recognizing the facts about driving under the influence and employing the evidence-based practices that research has proven to work in reducing the potential for repeat impaired driving, decision-makers can be agents of change in the continuing efforts to reduce the number of preventable deaths associated with impaired driving.

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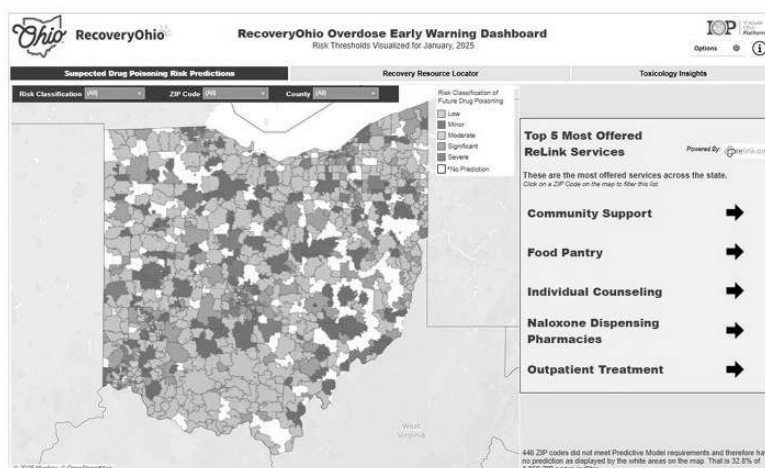
## **Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio Initiative Launches Groundbreaking Dashboard to Help Communities Predict, Prevent Overdoses**

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's RecoveryOhio initiative has launched a groundbreaking new online dashboard, designed to predict when communities may be at heightened risk for a spike in drug overdoses, so local leaders can take action in time to save lives. The first-of-its-kind tool uses a variety of data to pinpoint ZIP codes at increased risk for overdoses up to 30 days in advance.

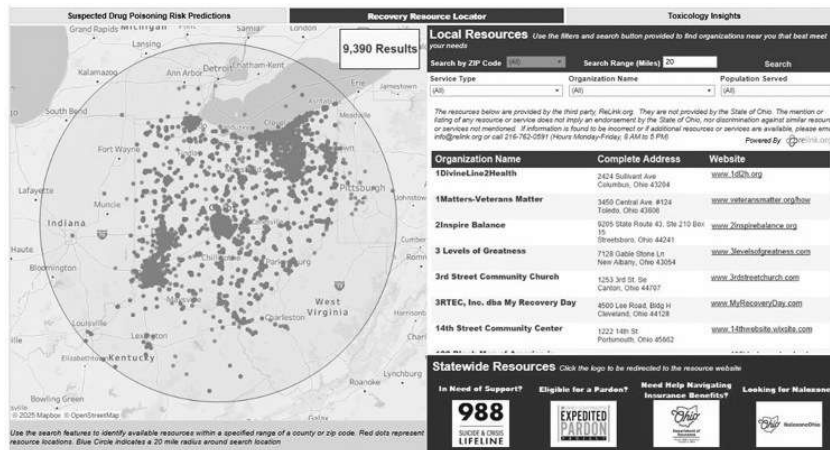
Developed in partnership with the InnovateOhio Platform (IOP), RecoveryOhio's Overdose Early Warning Dashboard draws upon data sources like emergency medical reports, naloxone administration, socioeconomic indicators, law enforcement data, and more. These inputs fuel a sophisticated predictive model that produces a color-coded risk map of Ohio ZIP codes – which are categorized into one of five risk levels: low, minor, moderate, significant, or severe.

This innovative resource provides local leaders with a critical window for intervention. With this information at their disposal, first responders and community health leaders representing local health districts, hospitals, ADAMH boards, coroners' offices, treatment providers, and others can work together to spread awareness in their communities. The advanced warning also provides an opportunity for resources like naloxone and fentanyl test strips to be surged into potential hot spots. The model's forward-looking approach marks a significant shift in the state's means of responding to overdose threats.

Historically, drug trends in local communities have shifted so rapidly that alarming patterns have only been detected after coroners report a rise in fatalities. Updated daily, the new dashboard offers dynamic, real-time insights into the evolving landscape of drug and overdose prevalence across the state – for the first time allowing for a proactive response, rather than reactive one. In partnership with ReLink.org, the dashboard also serves as a hub for accessing prevention-related resources. People can find information and links to community support services, family and individual counseling, naloxone distribution programs (like the Ohio Department of Health's Project DAWN), and outpatient treatment programs in their area.



The new dashboard builds on Governor DeWine's comprehensive efforts to combat substance use disorders across Ohio. Recently, the Governor announced that Ohio saw a 9% decrease in overdose deaths in 2023, marking the second consecutive year of progress, and well ahead of the national average.



The dashboard project was led by RecoveryOhio and IOP, with additional support from the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio Board of Pharmacy, Ohio Supreme Court, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio Department of Medicaid, and Ohio Department of Administrative Services. It exemplifies Ohio's whole-of-government approach to tackling the addiction epidemic.

For FAQs and instructions on how to access the dashboard, visit: <https://recoveryohio.gov/resources/all-resources/od-early-warning>

## About RecoveryOhio

Created as one of his first official actions upon taking office, Governor Mike DeWine's RecoveryOhio initiative is dedicated to unifying state and local efforts to address substance use disorders and mental health challenges, as well as providing support for individuals and families affected by these challenges. Visit RecoveryOhio.gov for more information.

## Championing Second Chances: The Supreme Court of Ohio's Reentry Video Series and the Path Forward

*By Chief Justice Sharon L. Kennedy, Supreme Court of Ohio*

Each year, thousands of Ohioans return to their communities after incarceration seeking a fresh start and a second chance. As Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, I am proud to announce a new initiative that supports this journey: the launch of a series of three reentry videos. These videos are more than just educational tools; they are catalysts for change, designed to inspire action, reduce stigma, and align with the key recommendations of the Supreme Court of Ohio Task Force on Reentry.

Reentry is not just a process. It is a promise—a promise that individuals who have paid their debt to society can rebuild their lives with dignity, purpose, and support. There are multiple barriers that returning citizens face, including limited access to employment and housing and community acceptance. These challenges are compounded by stigma, which remains one of the most significant obstacles to successful reintegration.





To address this, the Supreme Court of Ohio has released three targeted videos, each tailored to a specific audience, with the goal of fostering understanding and promoting solutions.



Watch the Videos at [supremecourt.ohio.gov/Reentry](https://supremecourt.ohio.gov/Reentry)

### **Judicial Leadership Through Reentry Dockets**

The first video is a mini-documentary created for Ohio's judiciary. It highlights the transformative power of reentry dockets—specialized court programs that prioritize rehabilitation over punishment. These dockets connect individuals with community resources, helping them navigate the complexities of reintegration. Through compelling stories and expert insights, this video encourages judges to consider reentry dockets as a powerful tool to reduce recidivism and strengthen communities.

### **A Public Service Announcement to Challenge Stigma and Inspire Action**

The second video is a 30-second public-service announcement aimed at employers, landlords, and the general public. It delivers a concise, powerful message: returning citizens are more than their past. They are parents, workers, neighbors, and contributors to our shared future. By showcasing real success stories, the public-service announcement challenges misconceptions and calls on the business community and civic leaders to open doors of opportunity.

### **A Message of Hope for Returning Citizens**

The final video speaks directly to those currently or formerly incarcerated. It offers a message of hope, resilience, and possibility. Through testimonials from individuals who have successfully reentered society, it shows that change is possible and that support is available.

This video is a beacon for those navigating the reentry journey, reminding them that they are not alone and that their future is not defined by their past.

### **Tackling Stigma, Building Opportunity**

The Reentry Task Force Report makes it clear: stigma is a barrier we must break. These videos are a step toward that goal. By educating judges, engaging the public, and empowering returning citizens, we are building a justice system and community that is not only fair but forward-thinking.

I invite you to watch, share, and discuss these videos. Let them serve as a starting point for deeper conversations and stronger collaborations. Together, we can transform reentry from a challenge into an opportunity and ensure that every Ohioan has a true second chance.

For more information and resources, contact the Supreme Court of Ohio's Office of Court Services at [OfficeofCourtService@sc.ohio.gov](mailto:OfficeofCourtService@sc.ohio.gov) or 614.387.9400.



#### **BIO**

*Sharon L. Kennedy was elected Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court in November 2022, the second woman to do so. She joined the court in 2012 and was re-elected in 2014 and 2020. Previously, she served on the Butler County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division, improving case management and leading financial initiatives. Her career began as a police officer, and she later practiced law and served as a magistrate. Chief Justice Kennedy has received multiple awards for her contributions to the legal field.*



## OJACC Achievement Awards

OJACC created four awards to be given to Ohioans whose work has contributed to the improvement of community corrections. Please consider nominating someone you feel is deserving of one of these awards. Below are the descriptions of each award. An Achievement Award Nomination Form is attached. The awards will be presented at the OJACC Annual Conference on October 9, 2025.

### **Representative C.J. McLin Award**

The late Representative C.J. McLin, Jr., during his tenure in the General Assembly, actively worked to improve community corrections through funding and legislative change. The award is given annually to an elected official in Ohio who has worked towards the improvement of community corrections in Ohio.

### **Dr. Bennett J. Cooper Award**

Dr. Bennett J. Cooper was the first Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction in Ohio. During his lifetime, he has created many improvements in public policy towards corrections. He has worked on a national level to try to institutionalize needed changes. This award is given to a correctional administrator or policymaker who has shown a lifetime commitment to the improvement of community corrections.

### **Dr. Simon Dinitz Award**

Dr. Simon Dinitz, through his work at the Ohio State University, has dedicated his life to improving the knowledge base of corrections. He has served on state and national commissions whose purpose was to improve corrections. As an educator, he has also been responsible for training many correctional practitioners in the state. This award is given to a community correctional practitioner who has made contributions to the improvement of community corrections in Ohio.

### **Wichtman/Gauntner Award**

Jim Wichtman was a founding member of the Ohio Community Corrections Organization—now the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC)—and served on its Board of Trustees for many years. Molly Gauntner faithfully served on the OJACC Board for more than a decade. Both Jim and Molly devoted their careers to the progressive advancement of community corrections, approaching their work with vision, passion, and unwavering commitment. They were leaders who sought to transform the field, improve outcomes, and enhance the lives of those we serve. Through their tireless efforts, they strengthened OJACC and left a lasting impact on community corrections in Ohio.

The Wichtman/Gauntner Award celebrates an OJACC Board Member whose leadership, service, and vision embody the legacy of Jim Wichtman and Molly Gauntner, ensuring their commitment to collaboration, innovation, and compassion continues to guide our work.

To see a listing of former recipients, go to [www.ojacc.org/awards/](http://www.ojacc.org/awards/)



***Please utilize this form to nominate a professional who has positively impacted the field of community corrections. Descriptions for each award are attached.***

**For questions, contact Alicia Handwerk at (740) 420-6444 or [ojacc.director@gmail.com](mailto:ojacc.director@gmail.com)**

**(Please indicate which award you are nominating this person for)**

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## Conference

The Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC) is pleased to present its 38th annual conference, *“Exploring New Horizons in Community Corrections,”* to be held at the Ohian (formerly Nationwide) Hotel and Conference Center, Lewis Center, Ohio, October 9th and 10th, 2025.

The general session on Thursday morning, *“How Can AI Help Us Build Better Community for Tomorrow?”* will feature four panelists: Myrinda Smith, Ph.D., Exec. Dir., University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI); Joseph Arvidson, Exec. Dir., The Paragon Group; Jennifer Scott, Dir. Of Innovation and Outreach, UCCI; and Vineela Kunapareddi, Assistant Professor, University of Cincinnati Information Technology Solutions Center (ITSC). This dynamic session will explore the intersection of proven practices and emerging technologies—especially Artificial Intelligence (AI) - to envision a more connected responsive and resilient future.

In the closing general session, Karen Vadino, trainer and consultant, will provide a presentation intended to enable participants to identify and recognize the symptoms of stress and ultimately learn techniques for coping, entitled, *“Mind Over Monsters.”*

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, recognizing excellence in community corrections, will be presented during the Thursday luncheon.

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 Alicia Handwerk at [ojacc.director@gmail.com](mailto:ojacc.director@gmail.com).

### THURSDAY, October 9, 2025

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.

Opening Session Continues

11:45 a.m.—Noon

Break

Noon — 1:30 p.m.

Lunch, OJACC Achievement and ODRC 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

8:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m.

Hospitality Suite

### FRIDAY, October 10, 2025

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

# Registration Information

## Conference Location

The Ohioan (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 Alicia Handwerk at [ojacc.director@gmail.com](mailto:ojacc.director@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** with the completed registration form.

***Cancellations made after September 25, 2025, or no shows to the conference are subject to the full registration fee.*** You may substitute another person by contacting Alicia Handwerk at [ojacc.director@gmail.com](mailto:ojacc.director@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

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 Hotel and Conference Center through this link: [Hotel Link](#):**

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

State you are with the **OJACC Conference Group Code: 400466** to receive group rate of \$151 /night.

**Reservation cut-off date is Monday, September 8, 2025.** 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 8, 2025.**

## 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 attached to this registration brochure, or you can obtain another copy by emailing [ojacc.director@gmail.com](mailto:ojacc.director@gmail.com).

## Registration Form

378h Annual OJACC Conference October 9 and 10, 2025

Register online at [ojacc.org](http://ojacc.org) OR submit registration form to:

(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? Contact Alicia Handwerk, Executive Director (740) 420-6444 or [ojacc.director@gmail.com](mailto:ojacc.director@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

*For over 35 years, OJACC has brought together Ohio's criminal justice stakeholders to include 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 also takes positions throughout the year on pending legislation affecting community corrections and provides input on the development of legislation.**
- **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. Individuals and agencies are also recognized through achievement awards.**
- **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.***

**2025 OJACC Membership Application**

**Agency/Dept.:** Click here to enter text. **Name of Agency Representative:** Click here to enter text.

**Address:** Click here to enter text. **City/State/Zip:** Click here to enter text.

**Phone:** Click here to enter text. **E-Mail:** Click here to enter text.

**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 7 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.

**Checks payable to Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections. Mail to PO BOX 79, New Albany, Ohio 43054**

**Or Charge Membership to:** ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card

**Name on card:** Click here to enter text. **Address on card:** Click here to enter text. **Zip Code:** Click here to enter text.

**Card #** Click here to enter text. **Expiration Date:** Click here to enter text. **3 #s from back** Click here to enter text.

**OJACC Federal Tax ID Number: 31-1255020** **For questions, contact [ojacc.director@gmail.com](mailto:ojacc.director@gmail.com) or 740-420-6444**