

OJACC (formally known as OCCO) published its first newsletter in 1988 as a means to share information across the state.

Volume 18
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OJACC Mission:
To bring together stakeholders to promote and support effective community corrections that enhance public safety.

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OJACC President's Message

Greetings to OJACC Members and Friends

Throughout 2017, the Ohio Supreme Court, the Sentencing Commission and others have studied and submitted proposals to modify Ohio's criminal code and sentencing structure. How community corrections will be affected is still unknown. The national trend in reforming the justice system emphasizes the rehabilitative and restorative aspects of juvenile and criminal law...OJACC's mission focuses on these issues.



*Hon. Nancy A. Fuerst
OJACC Past President*

The 2017 Annual OJACC Conference, "Individualizing Responses To Overcome Barriers," was held in Columbus in early October. Thanks to the hard work of Co-Chairs Gayle Dittmer and Molly Gauntner, longtime OJACC Organizational Coordinator Cheryl Taylor, and a host of presenters and moderators, a sell-out crowd attended many informative and thought-provoking sessions. Plans for the 2018 Conference are already underway and the constructive comments and suggestions for improvements offered by the attendees are being fully considered. Detailed conference presentation materials for your reference are available in this publication and on the website.

Ohio remains a leader in community corrections. OJACC's diverse representation, with influences from state and local agencies, professional associations in the adult and juvenile systems, and other stakeholders, serves as a powerful voice to identify issues, to advance legislation and to implement the most effective programs with a good dose of common-sense. We hope you will remain engaged to assist in achieving these goals; consider inviting a friend or colleague to join.

As of January 1, 2018, Judge Jim Slagle, Marion County Common Pleas Court, will assume his duties as OJACC President. Judge Slagle brings years of experience in the criminal justice system

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OJACC Newsletter

Over 30 Years Promoting and Supporting Effective Community Corrections

OJACC President – Hon. Jim Slagle

OJACC First Vice President – Kysten Palmore

OJACC Second Vice President – Molly Gauntner

OJACC Treasurer – Linda Janes

OJACC Secretary – Amy Klumpp

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 the submission of articles dealing with all aspects of community corrections. Articles must be relatively brief. OJACC reserves the right to edit articles for space considerations and reserves the discretion 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.

How to reach us

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where he has demonstrated his intellect, common sense and leadership abilities. He will certainly serve OJACC wisely and well.

Finally, we at OJACC extend our thanks for all you do to improve the lives of others. Our best wishes to you for a Prosperous New Year. It has been my distinct pleasure and privilege to serve as OJACC President these past two years.

Judge Nancy A. Fuerst
Past President

OJACC 2018 Slate of Officers

OJACC is pleased to present its 2018 slate of officers approved at the December 1, 2017, Board of Trustees meeting. The approved slate is as follows:

President:
Honorable Jim Slagle
Judge, Marion County Common Pleas Court

First Vice President:
Kysten Palmore
Coordinator, Franklin County Reentry Coalition

Second Vice President:
Molly Gauntner
Chief Probation Officer, Franklin County Municipal Court
Probation Department

Secretary:
Amy Klumpp
Drug Court Coordinator, Mahoning County MHRB/Felony Drug Court

Treasurer:
Linda Janes
Managing Director of Amethyst, an Alvis recovery program

Past President:
Honorable Nancy A. Fuerst
Judge, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court

Congratulations to this impressive slate of officers. Under the leadership of these officers, the OJACC Board of Trustees will meet at an April retreat to plan the goals of OJACC for the next two years.



OJACC 2017 Achievement Awards Announcement

OJACC is honored to recognize individuals each year at the annual conference who have shown dedication to the improvement of community corrections. The 2017 OJACC Achievement Award recipients are identified below along with comments from their nominators.

Marilyn Brown, Franklin County Commissioner, received the Dr. Bennet J. Cooper Award, presented to correctional administrator or policy maker who has shown a lifetime commitment to the improvement of community corrections.



Commissioner Brown has become a champion in the area of reentry and criminal justice reform. Under her leadership, Franklin County was one of the first counties to join the national Stepping Up Initiative in 2015, committing to reduce the number of adults with mental and co-occurring substance use disorders in jails. Commissioner Brown, as chair of the county's Reentry Coalition and Criminal Justice Planning Boards, set ambitious goals to reduce the number of people in jail and help them to return successfully to the community. She has also been an advocate of the "Bonds Beyond Bars" program with the Girl Scouts of Ohio's Hartland which has worked with over 500 girls and their incarcerated mothers to build mutual respect, meaningful social connections, and strengthen the mother-daughter bond.

Commissioner Brown's leadership is also reflected internally at the county as she spearheaded efforts to "Ban the Box" within Franklin County's HR processes, to ensure candidates are never eliminated solely on the bases of criminal history. Commissioner Brown's passion is now ingrained in the work of Franklin County through its many different agencies. Job and Family Services developed a specialized Outreach & Reentry unit to help connect people returning from jail to critical services to stabilize and improve their lives.

Thanks to Commissioner Brown for her commitment, passion, and leadership in criminal justice and so many other areas.

The Honorable Teresa Ballinger, Marion County Municipal Court, received the Representative C.J. McLin Award, presented to an elected official in Ohio who has worked towards the improvement of community corrections.



Since taking the bench in 2004, Judge Ballinger founded the first specialized docket in Marion County by forming the Wellness in Intervention Court (Mental Health Court), she also established the Veteran's Treatment Court, the Medication Assisted Recovery Court and the Driving Under Suspension Docket.

Judge Ballinger was one of the founders of "Marion Maters", which is based on the nationally known "Bridges out of Poverty" In 2010, more than 1,000 citizens in Marion County participated in this training. In 2017, Judge Ballinger, along with the City of Marion, saved the municipal court's diversion program, which had been previously funded through a grant that had been cut. Judge Ballinger saw how meaningful and successful the diversion program had become and wanted to continue to give first time offenders the benefit of diversion.

Judge Ballinger was the recipient of the Athena Award in 2012 for demonstrating a passion to help other women reach their goals in business or community leadership. She is a member of the Commission on Specialized Dockets, Marion County Community Corrections Planning Board, Marion Rotary Club, Marion County's Re-entry Coalition and Women's Business Council.

Through her commitment and compassion, Judge Teresa Ballinger has improved community corrections throughout Marion County.

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Misty Cromwell, Associate Director and Care Management Director, Muskingum Area Mental Health and Recovery Board, received the Dr. Simon Dinitz Award, presented to a community correctional practitioner who has made contributions to the improvement of community corrections in Ohio.



Ms. Cromwell is a Licensed Independent Social Worker and has over 20 years' experience working at Six County, now Allwell. She was the hospital (Psy Unit) liaison for Six County and the Director at the Six County Morgan County Office and has a Master of Social Work from The Ohio State University.

In 2016, Ms. Cromwell brought together a diverse community coalition made up of treatment providers, our local hospital, faith-based leaders, children services, local health department, law enforcement, EMS, local colleges, elected officials, senior center,

and representative from the prison system to address the community's opiate crisis. As part of this response, the MHRS Board partnered with a local literacy group, On The Same Page Muskingum, to provide 200 copies of the book *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic*, by Sam Quinones, which culminated in Mr. Quinones' presentation at Secret Auditorium in October, 2016. There were over 800 in attendance. Thirty-seven resource tables were set up that included local treatment providers and other resources. The Dreamland Project spawned multiple working groups in Muskingum and surrounding counties, including the Addiction and Maternal Health Workgroup.

This year, the MHRS Board, under Ms. Cromwell's leadership, brought David Sheff, author of *Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Addiction* and *Clean: Overcoming Addiction and Ending America's Greatest Tragedy* to Zanesville. 800 people gathered to hear Sheff, along with a community panel of multiple clients across diverse professions who are in recovery.

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Serving Teens age 12-17 and their families.

- Emergency Shelter Care
- Secure Residential Treatment for Mental & Behavioral Health Disorders
- Acute Hospital for crisis stabilization + outpatient

Professional referral required- from county children service agencies, juvenile/ family court/probation, DYS, hospital emergency departments, mental /behavioral health agencies. Local. State of Ohio. National.

Evidence-based treatment from a trauma-informed care perspective. Individual therapy, group therapy, family therapy, nursing group and life skills. Art therapy. PREP program. Genesight® by Assurex Health; DNA-based psycho-pharmacology. Lumin Academy on-site + Columbus Public School tutors.

- Licensed by The Ohio Department Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Accredited by The Joint Commission
- Member OHA The Ohio Hospital Association

Visit: www.SEQUEL-PomegranateHealthSystems.com



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Columbus, Ohio 43223

614-223-1650 (residential admissions ext. # 339)

NATIONAL:

SEQUEL Youth and Family Services

www.sequelyouthservices.com

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Ms. Cromwell brought together this vastly diverse group that work together regularly and are breaking down silos in the community. She was a critical factor in the successful rebirth of the Muskingum County Re-entry Coalition which was renamed Restored Citizen Network and is now its Chair Person and assisted in the development of the Citizen Circle and facilitated these groups to establish structure and stability. She also serves as the board's liaison to the court's specialty dockets.

Ms. Cromwell is nominated for this award for her great passion for working with this population.

Sgt. Terry Grabowski, Geauga County Sheriff's Department, received the James Wichtman Award, presented to an OJACC Board Member who has shown dedication to the mission of OJACC.



Terry Grabowski served as Treasurer for OJACC for many years. He actively participated in all OJACC functions and brought his humor and expertise to both the OJACC Board and the Executive Committee. His hard work throughout the years allowed OJACC to host a golf outing prior to our annual conference. The friendship and comradery developed over those years allowed criminal justice partners to have a greater understanding of the work and position of all our criminal justice partners, from law enforcement, to courts and community corrections providers. Terry has demonstrated his professionalism, caring and dedicated service throughout the years to OJACC.



Collaboration is the Key!

Submitted by: Judge Jim Slagle, OJACC President, 2018-2019

Over the years, I have served on the OJACC Board as a representative of the Prosecuting Attorney's Association, as a representative of the Attorney General, and currently as a Common Pleas Judge. In each capacity I have looked at criminal justice issues and OJACC's work through a different lens.



The mission of OJACC is to bring together stakeholders to promote and support effective community corrections that enhance public safety. That is why we include all segments of the criminal justice system – judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement, probation, prisons, CBCFs, halfway houses, social service providers, and many others.

Too much of the time, we look at issues from the perspective of our own discipline. My involvement with OJACC has helped me learn from other disciplines and gain a broader perspective. Our annual conference is a great example, as we have the opportunity to learn evidence-based practices from experts from multiple different fields.

Our criminal justice system faces many challenges today with prison and jail overcrowding, a heroin epidemic, budget constraints, and a mandate to address corrections issues in the community. While the problems aren't new, the solutions require collaboration and input from all of our criminal justice partners.

I look forward to following Judge Nancy Fuerst, as OJACC's new President, and working with the many fine people who are dedicated to OJACC's mission.



The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's 2017 Clifford Skeen Awards

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) held the 25th annual Clifford Skeen Awards Ceremony on October 12, 2017 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. The purpose of this act was 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.

ODRC Director Gary Mohr spoke prior to the presentation of awards, emphasizing the important role community corrections programs play in assisting the Department to achieve its goal of reducing the prison population. He also acknowledged the efforts that all of Ohio's community corrections programs make in working with offenders to better their lives while keeping our communities safe. Attendees were thanked by Director Mohr for their ongoing efforts that make Ohio a leader in national and international community corrections.

The selection committee was comprised of last year's Cliff Skeen recipients represented by Jennifer Miller, Chief Probation Officer of Marion County Adult Probation; Jeremy Radcliff, Chief Probation Officer, Highland County Municipal Probation; Steve Figueroa, Program Director of Lorain-Medina CBCF; and Gerard Lowe, Senior Managing Director of Alvis. The selection committee, which also included Bureau of Community Sanctions Assistant Chief Jennifer Gentry, recommended the award recipients after conducting individualized interviews of Ohio's top scoring programs in each category. The panel selected the following programs as the 2017 Clifford Skeen Award recipients:

- Community-Based Correctional Facility: NorthEast Ohio Community Alternative Program (NEOCAP) CBCF
- Halfway House: Alvis – Dunning Hall
- Prison Diversion Program: Lorain County Adult Probation Department
- Jail Diversion Program: Canton Municipal Probation Department

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 prison 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.



NorthEast Ohio Community Alternative Program (NEOCAP) CBCF

OJACC Hosted its 31st Annual Conference

The Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC) held its 31st annual conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel North in Columbus, Ohio, on October 12 and 13, 2017. OJACC provides an annual conference to educate and train on new theories, best practices and evidence-based practices and to create discussion on how we continue to press forward in the ongoing efforts to develop and enhance services while promoting and supporting effective community corrections.

The conference opened Thursday morning with Jennifer Cox, MA, National Trainer for Mental Health First Aid and Director of Training for the Montgomery County ADAMH providing valuable information on the national movement toward Mental Health First Aid. Mental Health First Aid USA is listed in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices and is often referred to as mental health's equivalent of CPR. According to the National Council for Behavioral Health, "In a nation facing a crisis in care for people with mental illnesses and addictions, widespread training in Mental Health First Aid for every American increases the chance that people will get the initial support they need and crisis can be averted." Ms. Cox presented information on the Public Safety training module available through Mental Health First Aid to assist professionals in understanding the five-step action plan to defuse crises situations, and connect people to the appropriate care provider. Recognition of signs and symptoms learned through this training allows for early intervention for those we deal with in the criminal justice system.

Carmen Rodriguez, Senior Training Specialist for Cook County Adult Probation and nationally recognized presenter provided the closing session with a lively and engaging presentation on "The Pursuit of Happiness at Work". Ms. Rodriguez assisted us in developing our capacity to have a say in how we experience our work life. She discussed the power of happiness, explained the positive influences of happiness at work and described the five components



Alvis House – Dunning Hall



Lorain County Adult Probation Department



Canton Municipal Probation Department

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of the center of happiness at work. Happiness in the workplace results in a better, more productive working environment for all.

We also thank the many quality workshop presenters for providing valuable, practical information to assist Ohio in maintaining its position as a leader in community corrections. Many of the presenters submitted electronic copies of their presentations which are available on the ojacc.org website.

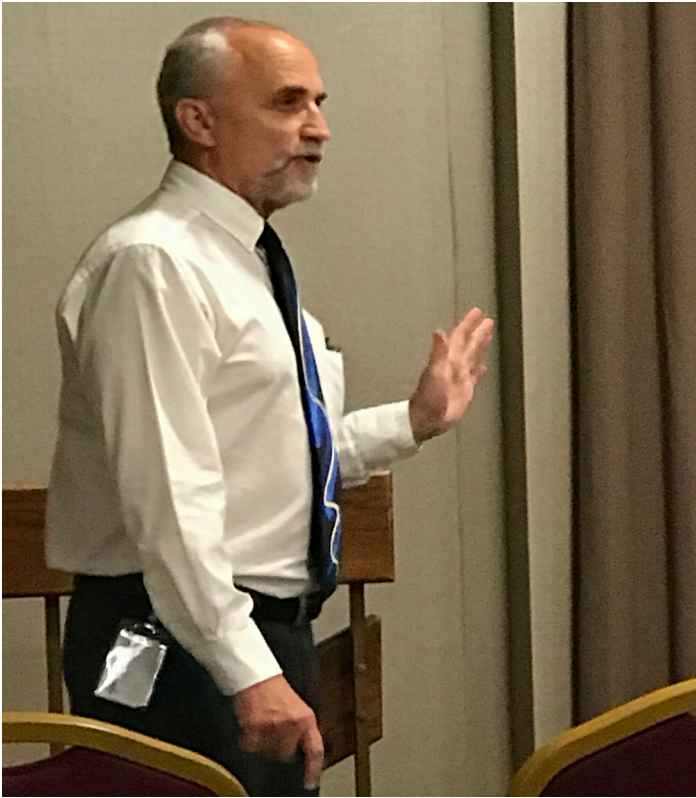
OJACC was honored to continue its partnership with

the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) as they once again presented The Clifford Skeen Awards in conjunction with the OJACC Achievement Awards luncheon recognizing excellence in community corrections. Please see related articles highlighting the award recipients.

Thanks to those who participated in this highly informative conference. Please mark your calendar for October 11 and 12, 2018 for the OJACC 32nd annual conference. Planning will begin soon as we continue our commitment to effective community corrections in Ohio. 

Conference Photos







Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections

Post Office Box 849, Pataskala, OH 43062

OFFICERS

President
Hon. Jim Slagle
Marion Co. Common Pleas Court

First Vice President
Kysten Palmore
Franklin Co. Reentry Coalition

Second Vice President
Molly Gauntner, CPO
Franklin Co. Municipal Court

Secretary
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Mahoning Co. ADAS Board

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County Commissioners' Association of Ohio
Juvenile Justice Coalition
National Youth Advocate Programs
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
Ohio Association for Court Administration
Ohio Assoc. of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges
Ohio Assoc. of Pretrial Services Agencies
Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association
Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association
Ohio Community Corrections Association
Ohio Municipal Attorneys Association
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Ohio TASC Associations
Ohio Victim Witness Association
Specialty Dockets
The Supreme Court of Ohio
U.S. Pretrial and Probation

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Office of the Ohio Public Defender
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Ohio Dept. of Developmental Disabilities
Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation and Correction
Ohio Department of Youth Services
Ohio Judicial Conference
Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

2018 OJACC Membership Application
(Please Type or Print and fill in application completely)

Name: _____

Agency/Dept: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Type of Membership (Please Check One)

- Individual Membership - \$25** 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
- County Membership** – Allows *county commissioners, judges, prosecutors, chief probation officers and sheriffs* to join. These offices may designate an employee from that office to represent them. **Five** members from the county receive a \$25 discount for annual conference fees. **A county with a population under 150,000, membership is \$150 and counties with a population of 150,000 or greater, membership is \$250.**
- Government or Private Agency** – Allows a private, not-for-profit agency to join. Membership extends to the director of the agency or the designated employee. Examples of private agency members are halfway houses, private correctional agencies and child caring agencies. **Three** members from the agency receive a \$25 discount for annual conference fees. **Agencies with a budget of less than \$500,000, membership is \$150 and agencies with a budget of \$500,000 or greater, membership is \$250.**

OJACC Committees

(Please check all committees on which you would be interested in participating)

- Advocacy/Policy
- Newsletter
- Juvenile Treatment
- Conference

Charge Membership to: Visa Master Card

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Ohio Justice Reinvestment: The Next Phase

In 2008 Ohio's three branches of government came together to request assistance from the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center to become a Justice Reinvestment state. CSG's intensive work with legislators, policy makers and practitioners lead to the General Assembly passing HB86, significant sentence reform legislation. However, according to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, Ohio has not realized the reduction in prison population expected, and more than 20 percent of those entering prisons have less than a year to serve and many are for non-violent offenses.

As a result, the three branches of government expressed support for reengagement in the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) to be led by the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission. The request from the three branches of government proposed that CSG focus on the "front end" of the criminal justice system to include reported crime, arrest and criminal history; diversion, including deferred adjudication;

assessment for risk and behavioral health assessment at the pretrial stage; how sentencing sorts people with convictions across the various sentencing options; capacity of treatment and programs in the community to reduce recidivism; and community control.

Ohio request to become a JRI site was approved and the first meeting of the bipartisan inter-branch Justice Reinvestment Ad Hoc Committee of the Ohio Criminal Justice Sentencing Commission was held November 9, 2017 to address the impact of violent crime and opioids while enhancing public safety and look to reduce recidivism and manage the number of people in prison and on probation and parole.

The committee is expected to meet six times over the next year before delivering a final report and policy proposals to the legislature in the fall of 2018. For more information on this initiative please visit <https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/Boards/Sentencing/committees/justiceReinvest/default.asp>.



Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections

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