

OJACC

Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections

Over 30 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

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Also Enclosed:

OJACC Achievement Awards Nomination Form

Drug Sentencing Reform is Needed Now!

By: Jim Slagle, OJACC President

Most agree that too many people are serving prison time for low level drug offenses. This costs our taxpayers millions of dollars and doesn’t fully address the underlying problem.

Medical professionals now identify addiction as a disease, which has its roots in both genetic and environmental factors. Most now agree that the “Just say no!” campaign and the war on drugs, were well-intentioned ideas, but failed to adequately address the problem.

With these facts in mind, earlier this year our state legislative leaders identified drug sentencing reform as an immediate priority. However, like many of us, our legislative leaders have had difficulty coming to agreement on how to reform our drug sentencing laws.

OJACC represents a wide variety of criminal justice professionals and partners. We too, have a number of different viewpoints. However, because of the importance of this issue, we adopted a position statement which attempts to build on areas of consensus. We urge our legislators to consider this as they consider S.B. 3 and other drug sentencing reform proposals. While the full position statement can be found on our website (www.ojacc.org), the following are some of the highlights:

OJACC supports drug reform which includes the following principles:

- Recognizes that drug addiction is a disease.
- Ensures that treatment, instead of incarceration, is the primary purpose around any sentencing considerations for personal drug abuse.
- Differentiates between petty trafficking and aggravated trafficking to clarify in which cases treatment is the primary need.
- Sets presumptive sanctions, rather than mandatory terms, to allow judges to use discretion.
- Reduces the life-long collateral sanctions that may result from a drug abuse conviction.
- Supports earned credit for positive program participation while incarcerated.

While there are many details to work out, we urge our legislators to move forward without unnecessary delay on this important issue.



*Jim Slagle, Former Judge
Marion County
Common Pleas Court*

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

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Community Corrections Legislative Reception

On April 10, 2019, OJACC hosted a Community Corrections Legislative Reception along with the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA), County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO), CorJus, Inc., Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (OACDL), Ohio Association for Court Administration (OACA), Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association (OCPOA), Ohio Community Corrections Association (OCCA) and Ohio Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (OAPSA) in the State House Museum.

The purpose of this joint legislative reception was to:

- demonstrate the collaborative working relationship of the involved agencies and associations within the community corrections system and the effectiveness and efficiency that result from that relationship
- share with legislators the results of these collaborations, and
- express the importance of effective community corrections and reentry strategies in reducing recidivism.

Representative Bill Seitz addressed reception attendees on sentencing reform and support for community corrections. ODRC Director Annette Chambers-Smith and ODYS Director Ryan Gies also spoke of their support of alternative sentencing and community corrections.

Over thirty-two legislators were in attendance along with many legislative staff. Over forty-five practitioners and stakeholders attended to share with legislators the valuable work they do and the importance of community corrections in the criminal justice system. Legislators shared their appreciation of organizing as a joint legislative reception and the collaborative efforts this displays.

The OJACC Board of Trustees thanks all the associations that participated in this event to demonstrate the strong collaborative working relationship across community corrections which has led to Ohio's place as a leader in Community Corrections.



Director Annette Chambers-Smith, ODRC



Ro-Ellen Sinkewich, VP Business Development Volunteers of America OH & IN; Representative William Seitz; Lusanne Green, Exec. Dir., OCCA; and Phil Nunes, COO, Alvis, Inc.



SAVE THE DATE – 2019 OJACC Annual Conference

The Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC) is pleased to present its 33rd annual conference, “Intentional Leadership at All Levels: Reexamining our Role in the Stability of EBP,” at the Crowne Plaza Hotel North in Columbus, Ohio, October 10 and 11, 2019.

The general session Thursday morning will feature national speaker Dr. Brandon Mathews, from the Alliance for Criminal Justice Innovation. Dr. Mathews is an Organizational Scientist who focuses on carceral systems and organizations. His presentation makes the case that the correctional system is not broken, rather, it is designed to achieve the results that it does. Dr. Mathews will also present two workshops.

- “Calling it Resistance is Futile! Reframing the concept of resistance to change through Primary Human Goods,” and
- “Culture Eats Your EBPs for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner”

In the closing general session, Antonio Smith and Roy Hall, founders of the DRIVEN Foundation and former OSU football standouts, will present CLEAN, a DRIVEN Foundation support initiative to help men and women in the criminal justice system better themselves by encouraging justice involved individuals to adopt pro-social behaviors that aid in the reduction of recidivism. They will also present a workshop on “ELITE – Navigating Organizational Leadership to the Highest Level.” Highlighting commonalities between life and sports, they will share how the same mindset and techniques used to win on the field can be applied to create a winning environment within your organization.

Many other workshops will be offered for the improvement of community corrections including a CQI/QA track and a juvenile track.

OJACC is honored to continue its partnership with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) as ODRC once again presents The Clifford Skeen Awards in conjunction with the OJACC Achievement Awards luncheon recognizing excellence in community corrections.

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. Conference registration information will be available at ojacc.org upon completion of the registration packet. Please find enclosed the OJACC Achievement Awards Nomination Form and take the time to nominate a professional who has positively impacted the field of community corrections.

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Stella's Story Dynamic, Vibrant & Motivated— The Strength of Miss Stella Jones

I have spent multiple years of going in and out of the county jail and struggling with my addiction to crack cocaine while trying to maintain my mental health illness. I just didn't know how to make good decisions and I kept returning back to that active addiction to crack. Each time it landed me homeless, non-medication compliant, and back in county jail with another charge, usually theft. I used to wonder what life was really like without the use of drugs. I just didn't know. Although I suffer from the disease of addiction along with a mental health illness, I know I can live a healthy life-style drug and criminal activity free. Yes, that is what I wanted. I just didn't know how to live that way. I never thought anyone cared enough for me to help show me the way until while severing out a sentence of 9 months and 16 days for theft, I took this group that was offered in our county jail.



Franklin County Commissioner Marilyn Brown; Stella Jones; Michael Daniels, Franklin County Office of Justice Policy & Programs; Geoffrey Stobart, Chief Deputy Franklin County Sheriff's Office

While in the Franklin County jail, I signed up for this group called Pathways to Women's Healthy Living through Homeland Security & Justice Programs. This group turned my life around and I knew I would be able to live a more productive life which I could be proud of.

It was the teaching of self-esteem and personal touch from our facilitator that made the difference. Sergeant Beaudry who is the CIT officer at the jail was instrumental in helping me when things got tough. She would check on me and make sure I was alright. I was able to ask question and get answers that I could understand. This made me feel like I was a contributing part of the process.



For me I think that it was the personal touch of the Pathways team that picked me up with a cup of coffee from White Castle and a big bright smile that made me know I was safe and this time it was going to be different. This time I can make it.

I attend my group sessions through Southeast and I knit and crochet as well as make jewelry to pass the time. I am hopeful that I will be able to sell these items and continue to invest in myself so that I can invest in others. I am writing a book called "Why You, Why Me, Why Anyone" by Stella Lynn. This is only a reality because of the assistance and help of Pathways and CIT officers and team members. Thank you for all that support and leadership in my life.

Today, I am hopeful for a brighter future and sharing my story with others. That if I can do it so can you, believe in yourself and ask for some help. Thank you to the Pathway team Jennifer Mancini, Shannon Beaudry, Ms. Caitlin, Ms. Dyana, and Ms. Patrice. And to Commissioner Brown and Michael Daniels for having the vision that has given me my life back.

Community Corrections Symposium:

Addressing Challenges in Implementing Evidence-Based Practices



Carrie Sullivan, M.A., Sen. Research Assoc., Center for Criminal Justice Research & the Corrections Institute, UC

Through the efforts of the Adult Community Corrections Collaborative (a subcommittee of OJACC consisting of representative from OJACC, Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association, Ohio Community Corrections Association, and CorJus), and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, a day and a half symposium focused on strategies to overcome the challenges of implementing evidenced based practices was held in Columbus on June 11-12, 2019. The target audience for this symposium was mid-level managers and supervisors and the he topics covered included: What Works, Real World Challenges, The Behavior Management System, How to be a Coach, Is Risk Assessment Your Enemy, Measuring Success, CQI in Practice and Individualized Case Planning.

The symposium was presented by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute staff. We were also pleased to have Dr. Kimberly Sperber join Dr. Ed Latessa in the luncheon presentation on Dosage.

Supervisors and managers from probation departments, halfway houses, C.B.C.F.s and other agencies involved in the provision of services to those involved in the criminal justice system from across the state honed their skills and learned new skills to improve the overall success of their programs.

Benefits of OJACC Membership:

For over 30 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:

- Hold a biennial board retreat to focus efforts of the organization and guide our mission. Results of the last retreat are represented in the OJACC Policy Platform , which can be found at www.ojacc.org under "Position Papers."
- 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 effecting community corrections and provides input on the development of legislation.
- Work with state agencies on policy affecting community corrections.
- OJACC's Adult Community Corrections Collaborative, comprised of associations providing state-funded community corrections services, work with the ODRC for the overall improvement of these services and assist in preparing an annual Fact Sheet highlighting benefits and cost savings of community corrections.
- Hold an annual conference to educate and inform service providers and stakeholders on issues of importance to community corrections and provide tools to enhance services.



For more information on membership or to become a member, visit www.ojacc.org

Alvis Family and Children's Program

As a human services agency, employees at Alvis are touched by the challenges of the children and families we serve on a daily basis. Children who have a parent with justice involvement face their own challenges that are the result of living in uncertainty. Many Alvis clients across multiple types of programs are working hard to reconnect and strengthen relationships with their children. Research and our experience have shown that children are a powerful source of motivation for clients who are working to turn their lives around and make a #180DegreeImpact for themselves and their loved ones all around them.



Thanks to Franklin County's generous Catalyst Grant, Alvis is able to expand and improve upon its Family & Children's Programs to deliver an updated curriculum of parenting education, drug prevention activities, and family counseling to an additional 40 women and their children, positively affecting 200 families annually.

Across communities, the hope and inspiring all to to create community in tools to help clients to re-and communities. While at ties that encourage growth ther than on their past. The clients helps them on their families and communities diction and despair.



faces of children stand out as bringing work toward a better future. Alvis strives every facet of our programs. We provide engage with their families, neighbors Alvis, clients form their own communi-and focus on each client's potential ra-supportive community we form with our 180 degree journey to return to their full of hope and promise rather than ad-

Our children are vital in forming loving, positive communities. At Alvis, we see children as instrumental in our programs and our commitment is extended to them, whether it is through our services for Families and Children or in the services that are dedicated to directly addressing the needs of the children.

Alvis is so grateful for the support of Franklin County's Catalyst grant that will improve the Family & Children's Program and extend the services to additional clients. This will foster healthy relationships and provide interventions that break the cycle of addiction, and/or incarceration in families and strengthen the Franklin County communities where they live.



Alvis is a nonprofit human services agency with over 50 years of experience providing highly effective treatment programs in Ohio. Our vision is that communities value a person's potential more than their past. For more information on how Alvis can help you or to learn more about how you can get involved, contact us at www.alvis180.org



Ohio is in the midst of a public health crisis. Every city, county, and community has been impacted by mental health and substance use disorders. Moments after taking office, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed an executive order creating the RecoveryOhio initiative, a statewide program that works to better coordinate the response and prevention efforts of dozens of state departments, boards, and commissions to mental health and substance use disorders.

RecoveryOhio's goal is to create a system that helps make treatment available to Ohioans in need; provides support services for those in recovery and their families; offers direction for the state's prevention and education efforts; and works with local law enforcement to provide resources to fight illicit drugs at their source.

To encourage collaboration and hear from experts from across the state, Governor DeWine also created the RecoveryOhio Advisory Council to study Ohio's mental health and addiction services. In March, the council issued an initial report with recommendations related to all aspects of wellness and recovery including: stigma and education, parity, workforce development, prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery supports.

The criminal justice sector has been hit particularly hard by this crisis, which is why the council's initial report also focused on specialty populations. Ohio's prisons and jails have become de facto treatment centers for those with severe and persistent mental health needs, substance use disorders, or both. The council issued several recommendations that aim to help local communities develop collaborative relationships between the behavioral health and criminal justice systems so that individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders receive the care they need on a continuous basis.

In all, members of the RecoveryOhio Advisory Council issued 75 recommendations, and work to implement them has already begun. To address challenges in the criminal justice system for example, Ohio will expand the OhioSTART (Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma) program, which Governor DeWine launched while serving as Ohio's Attorney General. The program has been successful in helping local governments offer concentrated, critical services to parents struggling with substance use disorder. OhioSTART also offers support to children who are traumatized by parental addiction.

RecoveryOhio is also planning to work with communities across the state to implement 30 new specialized courts over the next two years. Specialty dockets give judges the flexibility to order defendants into treatment rather than sentencing them to jail. These programs are a proven way to hold those with mental health and substance use disorders who are in the criminal justice system accountable and ensure participation in effective treatment.

We must all work together to reduce stigma and provide impactful prevention education for Ohio's children beginning at an early age. We must help those struggling with mental illness or substance use disorders by giving them a system that provides quality treatment on demand. And, we must build recovery-friendly communities that support and promote health and wellness to ensure all Ohioans can live long, productive lives. We have much work to do in Ohio. But, by collaborating and sharing resources and knowledge, we can continue to be proud of the work we have done and be hopeful for the work we are about to do.

If you are interested in learning more about RecoveryOhio or are interested in opportunities to serve and help your community, please keep an eye out for our website coming in September! This will be a wealth of information on state agencies, resources, and continual updates on what RecoveryOhio is doing to combat this public health crisis: www.RecoveryOhio.gov