

OJACC

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

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Table of Contents:

President’s Message.... 1

OJACC Conference 2

Nat’nl Recovery Mo... 3

EOCBC Celebrates..... 4

CJ Reentry Award..... 5

OneOhio Recovery Fdn. 6

Marsy’s Law Update.... 7

OJACC Awards Nom... 8

OJACC Membership... 10

President’s Message

By: Mike Randle, OJACC President

Hello Everyone,

I hope that you all are having an enjoyable summer despite the record heat that we are experiencing. I want to start by congratulating Sara Andrews on an incredible career. Sara has been a long-time OJACC board of trustee member both as the Executive Director of the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission and prior to that as the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections Deputy Director of Parole and Community Services. On behalf of OJACC, we would like to thank Sara for her years of service both to the State of Ohio and to OJACC. All the best to Sara as she begins her next chapter.

OJACC applauds Ohio Chief Justice Kennedy’s leadership in the establishment of the Ohio Supreme Court Reentry task force. The goal of the task force is to identify best practices for successful reentry and share this guidance with courts, reentry coalitions, and other key reentry stakeholders. A key strategy in meeting this goal is to grow the number of Reentry Courts across the state of Ohio. OJACC would also like to congratulate Chief Justice Kennedy on being awarded the International Community Justice Association’s (ICJA) Judicial Award. She was recently honored at the ICJA conference in Cleveland, Ohio, for her incredible efforts in improving Ohio’s reentry services delivery system.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming OJACC conference in October. Nominations for the OJACC Achievement Awards are now open. The member agencies of OJACC have some incredible staff and partners doing outstanding work. The OJACC achievement awards are a great opportunity to recognize the great efforts that individuals are making related to community corrections.

As always, thank you, OJACC members, for your hard work and dedication.

Mike



Mike Randle, Executive V. P. of Operations, Oriana House, Inc.

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.

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Submission

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Join us for the 36th Annual OJACC Conference!

The Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC) is pleased to present its 36th annual conference, "Work Well, Be Well," to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel North in Columbus, Ohio, on October 12th and 13th, 2023.



The general session on Thursday morning will feature Dr. Alexandra Walker from the Alliance for Community and Justice Innovations. She will address "Staying Engaged During Challenging Times," answering the question, how do we stay focused on the important work we do and those we serve and stay resiliently optimistic? She will also provide a workshop on "From Data Deserts to Data Floods: De-Mystifying Fidelity" to help us simplify the process of fidelity.

Thursday afternoon, back by popular demand, Karen Vadino will present "The Art of Living Well." This new session addresses needed resources that will sustain your well-being which is what resiliency is all about.



Friday morning's general session will feature Former ODRC Director Reginald Wilkinson, Ph.D. who will remind us of where we've been, where we are, and where we're headed as a field to help ensure that we do not lose sight of where we've been and what it took to get us to where we are today.

In the closing general session, Jennifer Bogner, Ph.D. from the Ohio State University, will present "Overview of Traumatic Brain Injury and Prevalence in Persons Involved in the Criminal Justice System." She will also provide information on improving the ability of persons with TBI to benefit from interventions and services. This session will provide a better understanding of working with participants affected by TBIs so they can improve their ability to engage in programs to improve the ability to function in the community, leading to reduced recidivism.



You will also find many workshops intended to provide tools to improve the work of community corrections.

The OJACC Achievement Awards and the ODRC Clifford Skeen Awards presentations will be held during the luncheon to recognize excellence in community corrections. Please take the time to nominate a professional who has positively impacted the field of community corrections for the OJACC Achievement Awards.

The nomination form is included with this newsletter or can be found at ojacc.org.

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 also be available at ojacc.org.



Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections

WWW.OJACC.ORG 2

September is National Recovery Month

September marks [National Recovery Month](#). The tagline, “Every Person, Every Family, Every Community,” emphasizes that recovery is possible for everyone. Treatment can save a life and can help people with substance use disorders recover from addiction’s powerful effects on their brain and behavior. Treatment and recovery make it possible for individuals, families, and communities to heal and thrive.



Since 1989, Recovery Month has been held every September to promote and support new treatment and recovery practices, the nation’s strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and communities who make recovery in all its forms possible. Visit [SAMHSA’s National Recovery Month](#) website.

National Recovery Month (Recovery Month) is a national observance to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the nation’s strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and communities who make recovery possible.

SAMHSA aims to increase public awareness surrounding mental health and addiction recovery. In the years since Recovery Month launched, SAMHSA has timed announcements of initiatives and grant funding during Recovery Month while collaborating with private and public entities to celebrate individuals during their long-term recoveries.

Recovery Month celebrates the gains made by those in recovery from substance use disorder. Read the [CDC feature](#), which promotes and supports understanding [treatment](#) and [recovery options](#).

COMING SOON! OJACC Newly Designed Website

This new website is being designed to keep you up to date on the work of OJACC as we promote and support effective community corrections. We are also incorporating the ability to register for conferences and sign up for memberships online. Please stay tuned for additional information!



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- Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation and Correction
- Ohio Dept. of Youth Services
- Ohio Judicial Conference
- Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

Eastern Ohio Community Based Correction Center Celebrates 33 Years of Service

The Eastern Ohio Community Based Correction Center recently held an open house at its Men's Facility in Wintersville, inviting key stakeholders and community partners, as well as the general public, to tour the facility, show off updates and changes to the facility, and strengthen community and stakeholder relationships.

Executive Director Phil Nunes highlighted the history and mission of EOCC, noting that the Wintersville facility has been in operation for over 33 years, with the Women's Campus operating in Lisbon, Ohio, for 23 years. Nunes pointed out that the purpose of a CBCF is "...to provide programmatic intervention services for individuals convicted of a felony in lieu of a prison term in Ohio's prison system," and "serve as a step-down" from prison, noting that 72 % of successful EOCC graduates remain out of prison three years post-release. Between the two campuses, EOCC serves, on average, 340 individuals a year from a nine-county area in Eastern Ohio.

Nunes touted the support received from the Facility Governing and Judicial Advisory Boards, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Corrections (ODRC), and the community members, who all play a vital role in helping EOCC make positive changes in their lives, resulting in safer communities and stronger families.

A highlight of the day was showing off the multiple recently completed capital projects aimed at improving the quality of life and program services for our clients. Among the projects completed in Wintersville are new roofing, replacement of the aging walk-in cooler and freezer, boiler, and sprinkler system. There were also aesthetic improvements, including new flooring at both the Lisbon and Wintersville Campuses. All totaled, the projects represent a \$440,000 capital investment by the ODRC.

The agency also applied for and received \$540,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds aimed at improving the safety and security of the facility. With this generous funding, EOCC was able to purchase items that normally would otherwise be unattainable: body scanners, air ionization systems, and keyless FOB entry systems at both locations.

Director Nunes concluded his comments by sharing some of the ongoing and future plans for the agency. The agency is currently nearing the completion of the first year of a two-year strategic plan, focusing on improving recruitment and retention, improving programmatic offerings, improving communications with internal and external stakeholders, and improving the agency culture to strengthen the support of staff and clients. EOCC is also scheduled to complete a Corrections Programming Checklist in conjunction with the University of Cincinnati and the ODRC Bureau of Community Sanctions, which will provide a blueprint for improving an already dynamic and successful program.

The Honorable T. Shawn Hervey, Chair of EOCC's Judicial Advisory Board, provided comments that highlighted the importance of EOCC in giving Judges a programmatic alternative to incarceration and the commitment of EOCC staff in providing individuals they serve with the opportunities and programming to help change their lives. Judge Hervey pointed out that every person who enters EOCC is guaranteed to receive the programs needed versus incarceration, where programming is neither mandatory nor readily available.

Karl Blissenbach, from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Corrections, discussed the rich history of EOCC and the importance of the agency in providing alternatives to incarceration and an evidence-based curriculum that truly assists each client in changing their lives. He also touted the excellent relationships EOCC has with the ODRC.

After the close of comments, many attendees took part in tours of the facility to view the upgrades and changes.



Chief Justice Receives Award for Reentry Work (Article from Court News Ohio)

Chief Justice Sharon L. Kennedy holding the ICJA Judicial Award next to ICJA President-Elect Phil Nunes.

Supreme Court of Ohio Chief Justice [Sharon L. Kennedy](#) has long championed the need for services and resources to help people return to society after they have been incarcerated. That advocacy was recently recognized. Chief Justice Kennedy received the 2023 Judicial Award from the International Community Justice Association (ICJA) during its annual research conference in Cleveland. The ICJA promotes public safety through evidence-based practices for people transitioning out of the criminal justice system through community-based services, including treatment, housing assistance, and employment. The judicial award is given to an active or retired jurist who promotes and furthers community justice through active support and leadership in community programming.



“This award recognizes that the judge’s participation in positive outcomes for our communities does not end at sentencing, but begins there,” said Chief Justice Kennedy to the more than 250 community corrections, reentry, and behavioral health officials who attended from across the country. “It is an acknowledgement of the role of the judiciary in helping formerly incarcerated individuals, who have been restored to community life, live a life restored.”

In one of her first acts as chief justice this year, she created the Supreme Court Reentry Task Force. The multidisciplinary group was established to analyze the needs, services, and practices between courts and the reentry population. The task force is working to identify evidence-based best practices with a holistic approach to improve outcomes for imprisoned or jailed people. The representatives from state and local agencies include judges, law enforcement, and community health and rehabilitation partners.

“Justice-involved people need to know that there is help waiting for them. With that knowledge comes hope. Hope provides the bridge from incarceration to full participation in community and family life,” Chief Justice Kennedy said in expressing appreciation to the group.

The task force includes two subcommittees – prison reentry and jail release – that examine the different needs required by each population. The task force is expected to report its recommendations to the Supreme Court in June 2024.

Chief Justice Kennedy becomes the third Ohioan to receive the ICJA Judicial Award, following retired Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton and Summit County Probate Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer.

“Thank you for this award. I accept it on behalf of all community corrections and reentry partners in Ohio who are doing great things on behalf of all people who are working hard every day to live a life restored,” said Chief Justice Kennedy.



About the OneOhio Recovery Foundation

The OneOhio Recovery Foundation is a private, non-profit foundation created under the leadership of Governor Mike DeWine and Attorney General Dave Yost, and other state and local leaders, with the mission of advancing Ohio's addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts now and into the future.



The Foundation is governed by a 29-member board from across Ohio and is funded by 55 percent of settlement funds that Ohio is receiving from the pharmaceutical industry as a consequence of its role in the national opioid epidemic. Funds support local efforts to prevent and combat addiction and are also invested to support those efforts for the long term.

Alisha Nelson, a longtime leader in Ohio's behavioral health community, has been appointed executive director of the OneOhio Recovery Foundation.

International Overdose Awareness Day & National Recovery Month

Ending overdoses begins with acknowledging the grief and pain caused by the impact of overdoses, and there is no better way to start than by marking International Overdose Awareness Day on Aug. 31. This year's IOAD theme is "Recognizing those people who go unseen," a way of remembering without stigma people in communities affected by overdoses but who aren't always visible in the midst of the crisis. To join an event, get resources, and more, visit [OverdoseDay.com](https://www.OverdoseDay.com).

September is also National Recovery Month, which is a time to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the nation's strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and communities who make recovery in all its forms possible. [Learn more here.](#)

Visit [OneOhioFoundation.com](https://www.OneOhioFoundation.com) to follow the progress of One Ohio Recovery Foundation

Thank you to Aramark for sponsoring the OJACC Conference Luncheon

The advertisement features a collage of images showing people in various work settings, including a chef, a server, and a retail worker. The text is overlaid on the right side of the collage.

THE PATH TO PROGRESS STARTS WITH REAL-LIFE TRAINING

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.

Marsy's Law Corrections

(Information from the Ohio Judicial Conference)

The 134th General Assembly enacted H.B. 343 (Rep. White) to implement victims' rights protections following the 2017 passage of the Marsy's Law constitutional amendment. That bill took effect on April 6, 2023. S.B. 16 was amended to include a series of changes intended to correct problems arising from the implementation of H.B. 343, including as follows:

- Permits a court to appoint a victim advocate if the victim is incapacitated, incompetent, or deceased, and no family member or other advocate has come forward to serve as the representative, or if the current representative is not acting in the victim's best interests.
- Excludes motor vehicle accident reports submitted to the Department of Public Safety from the definition of "case document," unless the victim requests redaction of those reports.
- Requires a court to provide notice to the prosecutor of hearings to seal or expunge juvenile records no less than 30 days before the hearing and permits a court and prosecutor to agree to a shorter notice period than the otherwise required 60 days for non-juvenile sealing/expungement hearings.
- Permits charging a victim for copies of certain case documents at actual cost.
- Requires courts to inform law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction to enforce protection orders, when the order is terminated, that the order is no longer effective.
- Eliminates the maximum five-year time limit from payment of sanctions imposed for misdemeanors.
- No longer requires clerks of sentencing courts to make the offender's payment history available to the victim, prosecutor, probation department, and court, without cost.
- For child victims under the age of 13, requires juvenile judges, upon motion by the prosecution or victim, to order the victim's testimony be taken outside the room in which the proceeding is being conducted and broadcast into the room.
- For child victims under the age of 13, the same requirements as above, but only if, by a preponderance of evidence, the child victim would suffer serious emotional trauma if required to provide live trial testimony.
- Removes the requirement that courts pay for interpreter services any time an interpreter is used, instead requiring the entity (court, law enforcement, prosecutor, etc.) using the interpreter to pay for that service.
- Prohibits a court from appointing a person employed by the prosecuting attorney to serve as a victim's representative without the consent of the prosecuting attorney.
- Permits a victim, when a case is closed or inactive, to file an application under seal to request an unredacted copy of any recorded forensic interview of a minor or developmentally disabled victim. Upon receipt of such application, the court shall notify the child advocacy center, or other agency, responsible for the interview, and give that agency the opportunity to respond. The court may make grant the application upon an express finding that allowing the applicant to receive the interview is in the best interest of the victim under the totality of the circumstances.
- Removes the ability of the court to appoint a designee to provide notice to victims about violations of or termination/alteration of the terms of community control.
- Clarifies that a juvenile court's authority to order the performance of community service to generate funds for restitution is not limited to minor misdemeanors, as in prior law.



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 12, 2023.

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.

James Wichtman Award

Jim Wichtman was one of the founders of the Ohio Community Corrections Organization, now known as the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections. Jim dedicated his career to the progressive development of community corrections with great passion and commitment. In 2006, the OJACC Board of Trustees voted to create an award in Jim's name to honor OJACC Board Members who have dedicated themselves to OJACC's mission.

To see a listing of former recipients, go to ojacc.org awards.

