

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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Pres: Linda Janes

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Table of Contents:

- President’s Message.... 1
- OJACC Conference..... 2
- OJACC Retreat..... 3
- Franklin Cty RRC 5
- Dispelling Myths 6
- OJACC Collaborative... 9
- OJACC Spotlight 10
- Ad & Conference 11
- Membership..... 12

President’s Message

By: Linda Janes, OJACC President

It seems impossible that 2024 is more than half over. Didn’t we just celebrate New Year’s about a month ago?

That time flies is not a new experience but as I’ve gotten older, it seems to coast by even more quickly. Recognizing that allowing time to continue to fly by is a choice and I can choose a different path makes me feel wiser and not just older. A few things have happened over the past couple of months that have made me determined to slow down and take the time to show my deep appreciation for the people who have made my professional life more interesting and fulfilling. These individuals have also made a profound impact on the people, organizations, and communities they serve.

Some of the changes have been jarring and final: Sandy Allen, Alvis’ Division Director who oversaw our programs for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, passed away suddenly in May. Her office is right across the hall from mine and I find myself drifting in that direction to talk about something “the guys” (Sandy affectionately referred to the men in our IDD programs as “the guys”) were doing, only to have to stop short and remember she’s no longer there for those conversations.

Other transitions are positive and just part of another person’s professional development: Chris Galli, the Chief of the Bureau of Community Sanctions at ODRC, is moving to lead the Bureau of Adult Detention. I had the pleasure of working alongside Chris for decades at ODRC. After I came to Alvis a few years ago, we weren’t in the same building anymore but we were still in the same business – helping individuals to successfully return to their home communities. It’s good to know that Chris will remain in the corrections profession and continue to work to create and/or support programs that improve the lives of individuals with justice involvement.

Still, other changes just keep on coming: It seems like every week, I learn that someone else who’s been part of my professional life for many years has decided to retire. These positive transitions also serve as a reminder to value our professional colleagues and the opportunities to regularly see and work together to seek and implement process improvements, new programs, and other solutions.

None of this is new or even unusual, except that the pace and volume of changes have been accelerating over the last few years as Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964 and who comprise about 25% of the workforce) age. Noticing that the pace has changed has made it even more important to make time to appreciate the people who’ve made their marks in my professional life.



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

Article

Submission

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One way I keep in touch is through OJACC and I'm so grateful to be a part of this association. OJACC brings people together and we share a commitment to working together to find solutions to some of our profession's many challenges. This association has provided the opportunity to get to know so many high quality corrections professionals. On an ongoing basis, OJACC gets us together so we have a chance to see our treasured professional counterparts at least a few times a year.

I would like to end my message with a quote from Robert Brault:

"Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things."

Please join us for the 37th Annual OJACC Conference:

OJACC is pleased to present its 37th annual conference: *"A Different Perspective: Understanding the Reality of Life After Conviction,"* to be held at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, Lewis Center, Ohio (**NEW LOCATION**) October 10th and 11th 2024.

The general session on Thursday morning will feature Alex Harper, founder of Spartan Global Research and community activist. Mr. Harper will provide a realistic view of the consequences of collateral sanctions that create challenges for those involved in the criminal justice system in leading a crime-free, productive life. Mr. Harper will also conduct a workshop on *"Understanding Post-Incarceration Syndrome and its Effect on Recidivism."*

In the closing general session, Judge Michael Ryan, Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals, will provide an inspiring presentation- *"Don't JUDGE a Book by its Cover."* As the author of *"The Least Likely...from the Housing Projects to the Courthouse,"* Judge Ryan provides an inspirational message on how professionals in the field of community corrections can help those we supervise to be successful. You will also find many workshops focused on providing tools to improve the work of community corrections.

The OJACC Achievement Awards & the ODRC Clifford Skeen Awards will be held during the Thursday luncheon, which recognizes excellence in community corrections.

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/ or by completing the Registration Form and sending it to dittmergr@gmail.com

All hotel sleeping room reservations MUST be made directly with the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center through this link: [Hotel Link](#) or by calling 614-880-4300. Indicate you are with the OJACC Conference – group code 360831 to receive the group rate. The sleeping room reservation cut-off date is September 13, 2024. 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 13, 2024. We look forward to seeing you at the conference at our **NEW LOCATION!**



OJACC Board of Trustees Planning Retreat

The OJACC Board of Trustees Planning Retreat is held every other year and provides an opportunity for trustees to come together to develop the two-year Strategic Plan that guides OJACC's work. Much planning and organizing went into the retreat, as well as a great deal of work during the two-day retreat. Hocking Hills State Park was the setting for the most recent two-day retreat.

The retreat opened with a review of the accomplishments of OJACC over the past two years presented by past president Mike Randle. Some accomplishments of OJACC include:

- Provided testimony supporting increases in community corrections line items;
- Took the lead in bringing together interested parties to advocate for, and continue to work toward, Ohio Medicaid 1115 Waiver Request to allow for Medicaid paid-for services to those leaving jails, prisons, and community corrections diversion programs;
- Provided support for TT and TC Medicaid Eligibility;
- Worked with state agencies to obtain ARPA grant funding for CBCFs;
- Held two highly successful conferences reflecting OJACC's commitment to providing leadership and learning opportunities that are responsive to the rapidly changing needs of community corrections. A new conference location was also chosen;
- Recognized excellence in community corrections through awards presentations and established the Ed Latessa Tribute Award;
- Held a Legislative Reception in partnership with members associations to exhibit collaborative efforts to promote and support effective community corrections and highlighted the importance of community corrections within the criminal justice system and community.
- Updated the OJACC website (ojacc.org) to better highlight the work of OJACC and allow for online registrations;
- Established a social media presence;
- Produced two newsletters annually;
- Held four board meetings annually to discuss relevant information and identify collaboration opportunities
- Reviewed and made changes to fee structures to better support the work of OJACC

The retreat gave the board an opportunity to prioritize the needs of community corrections and identify how to advocate for them. This included a survey to identify the most pressing issues in community corrections today. The issues identified included: the challenge to hire and retain skilled staff,

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changing needs of those supervised, focus on new research and EBP, continued inequities in the population served in the justice system, difficulty implementing best practices and statewide standards, inadequate funding, lack of comprehensive data to inform and guide service provision and the need to educate the public on community corrections.

After much valuable discussion, the board established the following goals and objectives:

Goal 1: To achieve four advancements in community corrections services policies, outcomes, and/or funding through bold, forward-looking leadership in advocacy, collaboration, and education.

Objectives:

- Create a public awareness campaign focused on increasing the retention rates of the community corrections workforce.
- Increase funding in identified priority areas to enhance competitive wages, promote innovation and sustain quality programming and services through education and advocacy that cultivates trust and demonstrates the value community corrections offers.
- Review and proffer solutions to collateral sanctions with a focus on residency restrictions that create common sense, evidence-based responses that minimize barriers to a productive, law-abiding life while protecting public safety.
- Mobilize stakeholder organizations and those with lived experience to promote a more equitable justice system.

Goal 2: Increase revenues and membership over current numbers and cultivate new leadership and awareness of the strength of OJACC in order to sustain and strengthen operations and influence with key stakeholders that impact community corrections.

Objectives:

- Identify and fill gaps in the Board of Trustees and/or staff while offering leadership opportunities for existing board members.
- Increase the OJACC budget by 10% through a range of internal and external options that allow OJACC to enhance its reputation and accomplishments.
- Increase the participation of OJACC board members and individual/agency members through more accessible and meaningful activities, enhanced understanding of professional roles and responsibilities, and comradery among members.

We look forward to increasing the effectiveness of OJACC as a result of this renewed focus and planning and we thank our board members for their commitment to the mission of OJACC: *to bring together stakeholders to promote and support effective community corrections that enhance public safety.*



Franklin County Rapid Resource Center (RRC)

What if everyone leaving a local carceral setting could say they "left jail better off than when they entered" and "because of the interactions they had with staff, peer support and other inmates, they feel more confident in their recovery journey post release?"



This is the vision of the Franklin County Rapid Resource Center (RRC), which launched in January 2021 and as of June 30, 2022, served 3,768 individuals released from the Franklin County Correctional Center and their family members. "Better off" is a subjective term personal to each of us, but it could mean something as big as receiving priority consideration for residential treatment and being transported immediately from the jail to a treatment center, not in standard issue County oranges, but in new sweatpants provided by the RRC or as small as, receiving a cup of coffee while waiting for provided transportation to a transit hub.

The concept of the RRC was born from data confirming between 20 and 25% of individuals dying of an overdose in any given year were held in the Franklin County Correctional Center the 12 months preceding their death and the undeniable truth that very few were linked with treatment services prior to their release. With an average daily population hovering between 1,600 and 1,700 individuals and the reality that most will be released within a matter of days, conducting comprehensive in-reach services resulting in a treatment referral and linkage in an urban jail this size is a tough feat to accomplish.

The Rapid Resource Center provides an opportunity to widen the 'window of opportunity' that presents itself when someone is booked into the Jail. Individuals just released can access a wide variety of services while still at the facility (non-confined section) including treatment referral and linkage, peer support, transition planning, assistance with benefits establishment, clothing and hygiene products, harm reduction education including distribution of naloxone and fentanyl test strips, transportation, a phone charging station, employment opportunities, and some housing assistance. What brings people in the door though is the staff providing the services. Individuals are greeted with a smile and offered a cup of coffee upon entry. Gestures that may seem commonplace to many, but not to someone who's been incarcerated for any length of time.

Many of the staff providing services at the Rapid Resource Center have lived experiences themselves which translates into a keen understanding of how difficult life's challenges can be but more importantly, how wonderful life can be living in sobriety, off the streets, and in a law-abiding manner. The staff offer hope, guidance, and reassurance, while also holding the individual accountable for their own journey.

For these and many more reasons, Franklin County is eager to share our Rapid Resource Center with other jurisdictions eager to develop a similar program. It doesn't take a windfall of new revenue, what it takes is community partnerships, a little space, and an understanding from leadership of the value this type of operation lends. Officials in Franklin County are so pleased with the level of engagement and the resulting outcomes, that they've authorized a second RRC to be built at the site of the new Franklin County Correctional Center which opened in late 2022.

But don't just take our word for it, please reference the data provided below and take a moment to view the embedded video by clicking on the URL. For those hoping to do something similar in their jurisdiction, we welcome your questions and invite you to visit the RRC when next in Columbus, OH.

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Video Link: <https://youtu.be/e2Ls1ZKAGGo>



Data Corner

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

Dispelling the Myths Surrounding Sex Offender Management

Judge Mary Kate Huffman, Second District Court of Appeals

Myths and misunderstandings abound regarding sex offenders and sexual offending. The very nature of sex offenses often provokes a visceral response in favor of swift and harsh sanctioning that may ignore empirical evidence associated with the realities of sexual offending. Yet the myths and fear generated by sexual offending serve to compromise both legislative mandates and the effective management of convicted offenders.

The term “sex offender” represents a constructed image, expressing popular sentiment rather than the evidence-based realities associated with individuals who have committed any of the broad scope of offenses of a sexual nature. In attempting to add precision to the term, the Center for Sex Offender Management defines sex offenders as individuals who have “committed violent sexual assaults on strangers, offenders who have had inappropriate sexual contact with family members, individuals who have molested children, and those who have engaged in a wide range of other inappropriate and criminal sexual behaviors.”¹ Used interchangeably but not appropriately, the terms sex offender and sexual predator represent separate and distinct cohorts. The conflation of the terms reflects that the public, the media, and legislators, as well as judges and court personnel often fail to understand that vast differences exist among offenders.² Instead, the constructed image of sex offender—as reflected in prevailing community attitudes and statutory trends, particularly in sex offender registration laws—ignores the extant evidence that sex offenders possess no universal characteristics and no degree of homogeneity, but the laws often serve only to assuage prevailing public fear of sex offenders.

The myths represented in public perceptions differ vastly from the realities of sexual offending. No distinct cohort of sex offenders exists; sex offenders and sexual crimes vary widely. Convicted sex offenders may engage in a diverse array of criminal activity, or may confine offending to crimes of a sexual nature only.³ The actions encompassing sex offenses range from misdemeanors, such as urinating in public, to horrific and brutal crimes, such as rape and sexually motivated murder. Crimes falling within the definition of sexual offenses include forced violations but may also include consensual although criminal activity, contact and non-contact crimes, and violent or passive offenses.

In enacting harsh legislation targeting sex offenders, lawmakers and politicians have largely ignored the research associated with the dynamics of sexual offending, the heterogeneity of sexual offenders, and the overall ineffectiveness of severe legislative registration efforts.⁴ Lawmakers and their legislative actions express little support for therapeutic intervention as a means of addressing recidivism and favor stringent monitoring of offenders through registries and notification duties⁵, accepting the fallacy that sexual perpetrators cannot benefit from supervision or treatment.⁶

1. Center for Sex Offender Management, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, *Recidivism of Sex Offenders* (2001).
2. James F. Quinn, Craig J. Forsyth and Carla Mullen-Quinn, *Societal Reaction to Sex Offenders: A Review of the Origins and Results of the Myths Surrounding Their Crimes and Treatment Amenability*, 25 *Deviant Behav.* 215, 217 (2004).
3. See Terrance D. Miethe, Jodi Olson and Ojmarrh Mitchell, *Specialization and Persistence in the Arrest Histories of Sex Offenders: A Comparative Analysis of Alternative Measures and Offense Types*, 43 *J. Res. In Crime & Delinq.* 204 (2006).

The misperception that sex offenders most often target strangers also pervades popular opinion and sex offender management efforts. Registries presume that the public will utilize the available information for self-protection and to safeguard children and the vulnerable from strangers in their vicinity. The realities, though, are much different. A staggering 93% of child sexual abuse perpetrators are a family member or an acquaintance of the victim.⁷ Adult victims know their offender in 73% of reported cases.⁸ Sex offender registries reinforce and perpetuate the misperception that strangers represent the most likely perpetrators of sexual offenses,⁹ arguably leading to a false sense of security with family members and known persons.

The public and legislators also endorse the misperception that sex offenders inevitably reoffend. A recent study suggests that sex offenders have a lower overall rearrest rate than non-sex offenders (43 percent compared to 68 percent), but their sex crime rearrest rate is about four times higher than the rate for non-sex offenders (5.3 percent compared to 1.3 percent). Nearly four out of every ten (38.6 percent) sex offenders in the same study were returned to prison within 3 years of their release due to the commission of a new crime or a technical violation of their release conditions.¹⁰ When recidivism occurs, registrants are more likely to commit a non-sexual offense than another sexual offense.¹¹ Failure to register represents the single most common recidivist offense committed by sex offenders.¹² Non-compliance with registration duties fails to correlate with the risk of sexual reoffense but instead relates to underlying deficits and characteristics, such as cognitive impairments, self-regulatory deficits, and general rule-violating tendencies.¹³

Although convicted sexual offenders represent individuals more likely than other criminals to reoffend sexually, approximately 71.5% of all arrests for sex crimes involve an individual not previously convicted of a sexual offense, and thus not listed on a registry.¹⁴ Instead, a number of factors influence recidivism but vary considerably even among offenders. Circumstances contributing to repeat sexual offending include primarily, but not exclusively, the relative youth of the offender at the time of the first offense, unmarried status, an enduring sexual preference for children, non-acquaintance and male victimization, and a greater number of prior arrests for any type of criminal conduct.¹⁵ Poor coping skills and the number of prior sexual crimes and paraphilias also influence the risk of repeat offending.¹⁶ Recidivism rates among rapists decrease with advancing age, primarily resulting from increased self-control, fewer opportunities and decreased sex drive as offenders mature in years.¹⁷

Legislation focused on sex offenders generally shows little support for treatment and rarely mandates treatment. Successful completion of specialized therapeutic intervention, when coupled with effective supervision, lowers the risk of recidivism among sex offenders.¹⁸ Available treatment tools include group, individual and family therapy, and psychological and psychosocial evaluations.¹⁹ Specialized sex offender treatment targets a variety of risk factors associated with recidivism including “[d]eviant sexual arousal, interests, or preferences; [s]exual preoccupation; [p]ervasive anger or hostility; [e]motional management difficulties; [s]elf-regulation difficulties, or impulsivity; [a]n antisocial orientation; [p]ro-offending attitudes or cognitive distortions; [and i]ntimacy deficits and conflicts in intimate relationships.”²⁰

Determining the most appropriate method of treatment represents an important consideration influencing the likelihood of success from therapeutic intervention. Not mutually exclusive and often employed in tandem, treatment modalities addressing specific concerns associated with sexual offending include cognitive-behavioral therapy, psycho-educational approaches, pharmacological treatment, and physical therapies, such as chemical castration. As with any intervention, sex offender treatments must address each individual offender’s needs. Researchers suggest that treatment approaches that address the dynamic factors associated with recidivism, when combined with intensive supervision, produce conditions contributing to the greatest chance of success, particularly because the triggers underlying repeat offending can be influenced through intervention.²¹

4. Michelle Meloy, Kristin Curtis and Jessica Boatwright, *The Sponsors of Sex Offender Bills Speak Up: Policy Makers’ Perceptions of Sex Offenders, Sex Crimes, and Sex Offender Legislation*, 40 *Crim. Just. & Behav.* 438 (2013); Lisa L. Sample and Colleen Kadleck, *Sex Offender Laws: Legislators’ Accounts of the Need for Policy*, 19 *Crim. Just. Pol’y Rev.* 40 (2008).

5. *Id.*

6. Quinn, et al., *supra* note 2.

7. Howard N. Snyder, Nat’l Center for Juv. Justice, *Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident, and Offender Characteristics* 10 (2000).

8. *Id.*

The employment and residency restrictions placed on registered sex offenders represent severe impediments to the maintenance of a pro-social lifestyle and the reduction of recidivism potential. Stable residence and employment, strong social and familial support, along with effective treatment serve as key conditions necessary for success in the community.²² Resulting from the legislatively-imposed status as a registered sex offender, registrants report experiencing destabilizing events and factors, including disruption in residence, loss of employment, property damage, relationship difficulties, threats, harassment, and feelings of stigmatization and ostracism.²³ The risk of recidivism for sexual offending, as with all offending, increases in periods of particular stress.²⁴ Research suggests that “some percentage of offenders will reoffend because of the stress and pressure imposed by a hostile, rejectionist community that has branded the offender as a pariah.”²⁵ Simply put, the stress of carrying the label of sex offender contributes to risk.

While sexual offending can result in devastating trauma to the victims and provoke harsh punishment for the perpetrator, employing evidence-based practices in the management and supervision of the convicted offenders, rather than succumbing to the myths associated with sex offenders, may support the success of the individual when returning to the community or while on administrative or court-monitored sanctioning and thus reduce the potential for future offenses.

9. Sarah W. Craun and Matthew T. Theriot, *Misperceptions of Sex Offender Perpetration: Considering the Impact of Sex Offender Registration*, 24 J. Interpersonal Violence 2057 (2009).

10. Roger Przybylski, *Recidivism of Adult Sexual Offenders*, U.S. Dept. Justice (2015).

11. Miethe, Olson & Mitchell, *supra* note 3.

12. See generally Grant Duwe and William Donnay, *The Effects of Failure to Register on Sex Offender Recidivism*, 37 Crim. Just. & Behav. 520 (2010); Patrick Lusier, Marc LeBlanc & Jean Proulx, *The Generality of Criminal Behavior: A Confirmatory Factor Analysis of the Criminal Activity of Sex Offenders in Adulthood*, 33 J. Crim. Just. 177, 184-186 (2005).

13. Duwe & Donnay, *supra* note 12.

14. Patrick A. Langan, Erica L. Schmitt and Matthew R. Durose, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, *Recidivism of Sex Offenders Released from Prison in 1994* (2003).

15. Bonita M. Veysey and Kristen M. Zgoba, *Sex Offenses and Offenders Reconsidered: An Investigation of Characteristics and Correlates Over Time*, 37 Crim. Just. & Behav. 583 (2010); Naomi J. Freeman and Jeffrey C. Sandler, *The Adam Walsh Act: A False Sense of Security or an Effective Public Policy Initiative*, 21 Crim. Just. Pol’y Rev. 31 (2009). For detailed evidence relating to factors influencing recidivism, see Langan, et al., *supra* note 14.

16. John Matthew Fabian, *To Catch a Predator, and Then Commit Him for Life: Sexual Offender Risk Assessment—Part Two*, 33 Champion 32, 40 (2009); Robert A. Prentky, Raymond A. Knight and Austin F.S. Lee, *Risk Factors Associated With Recidivism Among Extrafamilial Child Molesters*, 65 J. Consulting and Clinical Psychol. 141, 147, 148 (1997). Paraphilias have been defined as “socially deviant, repetitive, highly arousing sexual fantasies, urges, and activities enduring at least six months and accompanied by clinically significant distress or social impairment.” See also Martin P. Kafka, *Hypersexual Desire in Males: An Operational Definition and Clinical Implications for Males with Paraphilias and Paraphilia-Related Disorders*, 26 Arch. Sex. Behav. 505, 506 (1997).

17. R. Karl Hanson, *Recidivism and Age: Follow-Up Data from 4,673 Sexual Offenders*, 19 Sexual Abuse: J. Res. & Treatment 115 (2007).

18. Candace Kruttschnitt, Christopher Uggen and Kelly Shelton, *Predictors of Desistance Among Sex Offenders: The Interaction of Formal and Informal Social Controls*, 17 Just. Q. 61, 80-84 (2000); see generally R. Karl Hanson and Andrew Harris, *Where Should We Intervene? Dynamic Predictors of Sexual Offense Recidivism*, 27 Crim. Just. & Behav. 6 (2000).

19. Rebecca Thomforde-Hauser and Juliana Grant, Ctr. For Court Innovation, *Sex Offense Courts: Supporting Victim and Community Safety Through Collaboration* 7 (2010).

20. Ctr. For Sex Offender Mgmt., U.S. Dep’t of Justice, *Understanding Treatment for Adults and Juveniles Who Have Committed Sex Offenses* 4 (2006); see also R. Karl Handson and Kelly E. Morton-Bourgon, *The Accuracy of Recidivism Risk Assessments for Sexual Offenders: A Meta-Analysis of 118 Prediction Studies*, 21 Psychol. Assessment 1 (2007).

21. See R. Karl Hanson, et al., *First Report of the Collaborative Outcome Data Project on the Effectiveness of Psychological Treatment for Sex Offenders*, 14 *Sexual Abuse: J. Res. & Treatment* 169, 185 (2002).
22. See generally Hanson and Morton-Bourgon, *supra* note 20.
23. See, e.g., Jill S. Levenson and Leo P. Cotter, *The Effect of Megan's Law on Sex Offender Reintegration*, 21 *Contemp. Crim. Just.* 49, 51 (2005).
24. See generally Hanson and Morton-Bourgon, *supra* note 20.
25. Robert Prentky, *Community Notification and Constructive Risk Reduction*, 11 *J. of Interpersonal Violence* 295, 296 (1996).

The OJACC Community Corrections Collaborative Works for the Ongoing Improvement of Community Corrections

By: Veronica Perry, Chief Probation Officer, Medina County Court of Common Pleas

The OJACC Community Corrections Collaborative originated in 2006, at the behest of the ODRC. The committee was established with a dual purpose: to address systemic challenges within community corrections and to unify disparate voices into a cohesive advocacy front. Over the past nearly two decades, this collective effort has served as a nexus for professionals across various sectors, fostering dialogue, sharing insights, and implementing strategies to enhance the effectiveness of community-based corrections programs. Through collaboration and collective action, the OJACC Collaborative has played a pivotal role in shaping policies, promoting best practices, and advocating for the holistic improvement of the criminal justice system.

Throughout the years, the OJACC Collaborative has been fueled by the unwavering dedication and hard work of its members. Comprising professionals from diverse backgrounds from OJACC, Ohio Community Corrections Association (OCCA), ODRC, The Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association (OCPOA) CORJUS, and Independent CBCFs. This collaborative effort has been characterized by a shared commitment to improving the lives of individuals involved in the criminal justice system and enhancing public safety.

The collaborative's success is not solely measured by its achievements in policy reform or program development but also by the relationships forged and the sense of camaraderie cultivated among its members. Through mutual support, mentorship, and collaboration, individuals within the OJACC Community Corrections Collaborative have found a platform to share expertise, learn from one another, and collectively strive toward common goals.

Moving forward, we remain committed to harnessing the collective power of our collaborative spirit to continue advocating for positive change and creating a more just and equitable criminal justice system for all.



OJACC Board of Trustee Member Spotlight

Ro-Ellen Sinkewich has served on the OJACC Board of Trustees since 2018. She is currently the 1st Vice President and co-chairs the Advocacy/Policy Committee and the Conference Committee. She has also previously served as Treasurer



Ro-Ellen has worked in community corrections for 25 years. She currently serves as Senior Director of Outreach & Program Development for VOAHOIN with over 20 years of building partnerships and focusing on solutions. Before her career in community corrections, Ro-Ellen served in the US Army both active duty and reserve, entering as a private and retiring as a field grade officer. As Personnel & Psychological Operations Officer/Major she steered community and family support activities and quality-of-life programs for deployed soldiers.

Ro-Ellen is a certified facilitator by many accredited organizations including SAMSHA, the National Institute of Corrections, the Shay Moral Injury Center, the US Army, and the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute. Ro-Ellen is an ordained minister with VOAHOIN specializing in Moral Injury, PTSD, and offender self-forgiveness.

Ro-Ellen obtained a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Akron. She is the 2021 recipient of the James Wichtman Award for the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections and the 2019 Leadership Award for the Ohio Community Corrections Association.

Thank you to Ro-Ellen and all OJACC Board Members for working to promote and support effective community corrections!

OJACC Achievement Award Nominations

The OJACC Achievement Awards presentations will be held during the OJACC 37th Annual Conference luncheon on October 10th, along with the ODRC Clifford Skeen Awards 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.

What do you think of the OJACC Newsletter?

We are interested in your opinion on the OJACC Newsletter. Please click on the survey link below and provide your input as we look to reevaluate the format of the newsletter.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7KN5G38>

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

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

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See you at the 37th Annual OJACC Conference!

2024 OJACC Annual Conference

October 10th and 11th, 2024

At the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center

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




Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections



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

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

Together we:

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

Please consider membership in OJACC to help support these efforts.

2024 OJACC Membership Application

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

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Type of Membership (Please Check One)

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

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

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

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

Or Charge Membership to: Visa Master Card

Name on card: _____ Address on card: _____

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

OJACC Federal Tax ID Number: 31-1255020

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