Message from the President

I am delighted to share the Ohio Community Corrections Association’s 2018 Annual Report with you. In these pages, you will find highlights of the year in community corrections as experienced by the 10 Non-Profit Community Corrections Agencies that comprise the OCCA.

Our members operate halfway houses and community based correctional facilities (CBCFs) in urban and rural communities across Ohio. OCCA member agencies provide residential and non-residential services to criminal justice-involved individuals including both those returning from prison and those who are sanctioned in the community in lieu of prison. Our commitment is to assess the needs of EVERY individual and deliver tailored evidence-based programming that the research shows reduces recidivism in a structured, secure environment.

In recent years, the clients we serve are presenting with higher, more complex needs, and we have expanded our capacity to meet those needs. We provide an effective alternative to jails and prisons as our clients receive cognitive behavioral and chemical dependency treatment, workforce development services, housing assistance, and other supportive services.

OCCA supports these efforts through a mission centered on training in best practices and advocacy for policies that reduce recidivism. We are making a difference in community corrections:

- Over 80% of individuals who completed halfway house programs had no new felony convictions within 2 years of program completion.
- Ohio’s halfway house and CBCF residents accepted responsibility and began the journey to productive lives as they provided almost 290,000 hours of community service while paying over $1 million in taxes, court fines, restitution, and child support during FY18.
- Over 350 individuals attended OCCA’s annual conference in 2018, and an additional 200 were provided training facilitated by OCCA throughout the year. Training participants were drawn from across the community corrections field.

Collectively we remain committed to a common sense approach to criminal justice reform centered in our shared belief that we must turn the page on mass incarceration. OCCA members stand at the ready to work with legislators and other key stakeholders to hammer out the details of comprehensive reforms that will prioritize placing lower level offenders in the most effective and least restrictive settings necessary to meet their rehabilitation and treatment needs while reserving overcrowded prison beds for higher level felons who represent a public safety threat.

We look forward to continuing to work with you!

Sincerely,

Michael Randle
OCCA President
Our association represents two types of residential community corrections programs. The first are non-profit operated Community Based Correctional Facilities – or CBCFs – which are funded 100% by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and divert felony offenders from entering prison. The Common Pleas Judges directly sentence offenders to these CBCFs for a period not to exceed a six month stay. The average length of stay is typically four months, during which time these offenders participate in treatment programs including cognitive behavioral programming, chemical dependency counseling, vocational rehabilitation, and educational classes including GED testing. In Fiscal Year 2018, there were 18 CBCFs operating in the State. OCCA represents five non-profit operated Community Based Correctional Facilities. Facility governing boards oversee these facilities.

**Halfway Houses** are residential programs that provide supervision and treatment services for program participants. There were 2429 halfway house beds under contract in the state for Fiscal Year 2018. The primary focus is to transition participants back to the community and assist with obtaining employment, stable housing, and connecting them to support services they can access independently. Specialized services for substance abusers, sex offenders, and the mentally ill may be offered. Most participants enter halfway houses in the following ways:

- **Direct Sentence.** A direct sentence allows a judge to sentence an offender directly to a halfway house. This allows appropriate individuals to be diverted from prison and placed in local community corrections programs while creating space in prison for violent and dangerous offenders who need to be separated from society. If community corrections options are not available, local judges will have no choice but to sentence these persons to prison.

- **Probation or Parole Violation.** With failure to meet the technical conditions of their probation or parole, (housing, employment, abstinence from drugs and alcohol) offenders may need to be placed temporarily in a more structured environment, with some level of supervision but not necessarily in prison. These violators need to be stabilized and understand the conditions of their probation or parole. This alternative sanction keeps the offender from going to prison and enables them to transition back to the community successfully.

- **Parole/ Post Release Control/ Institutional Referrals.** These prison inmates have completed their prison sentence and are released into the structured environment of the halfway house to receive services and remain under the supervision of the Adult Parole Authority as they transition into the community.

- **Treatment Transfer.** This program transfers eligible non-violent offenders serving a year or less with substance use disorders to halfway houses where they receive comprehensive treatment including chemical dependency treatment, aftercare and relapse prevention, self-help groups, and drug and alcohol testing.

- **Transitional Control.** These offenders are spending the final months of their sentence first in a halfway house and finally with electronic monitoring in their home. **Offenders completing their sentence in this way, have a lower recidivism rate than any other categories listed above. In fact, in research conducted by the University of Cincinnati, Transitional Control Offenders who served in a halfway house program demonstrated substantial recidivism reductions, 16%, when compared with a control group.**
CBCF/HALFWAY HOUSE  PROGRAM SERVICES PROVIDED

Alcohol / Drug Services:
- Chemical Dependency Treatment
- Aftercare / Relapse Prevention
- Self Help Groups
- Prevention
- Drug & Alcohol Testing

Cognitive Skills:
- Criminal Thinking
- “Thinking for a Change”
- Restorative Justice
- Victim Impact
- Anger Management
- Family / Parenting

Education Services:
- Literacy/Tutoring
- Adult Basic Education (ABE)
- General Equivalency Diploma (GED) Preparation and Testing
- Vocational Services
- Computer Training

Employment Services:
- Job Readiness
- Jobs Assistance/Placement/Retention

Special Services:
- Mental Health
- Sex Offender Treatment
- Developmentally Disabled
- Dual Diagnosis Treatment
- Domestic Violence Services
- Veteran Services
- Geriatric Services
- Human Trafficking Victims
- Children/Family Programs

NOTE: Not all services are provided by all Halfway Houses or CBCFs

Fiscal Year 2018
All Residential Community Corrections*
Program Benefits

*The data reflected in the graphs represent all Ohio community-based correctional facilities, including the five that are member agencies of the OCCA.
INVESTING IN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACROSS OHIO

- OCCA’s 10 member agencies operate 38 Ohio Department of Rehabilitation licensed halfway houses and five community based correctional facilities (CBCFs) throughout Ohio.
- All substance use disorder programs are certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.
- These facilities are critical components of the criminal justice continuum as they provide both a residential reentry option for those leaving prison and a residential alternative to prison or jail for sentencing judges across the state.
- Halfway houses and CBCFs assess the risks and needs of EVERY individual and deliver tailored evidence-based programming that the research shows reduces recidivism in a structured, secure environment.

INVESTING IN PROGRAMMING THAT WORKS

- Programming is cognitive behavioral based and focuses on criminal thinking and behavior.
- Employment specialists provide training in the skills to maintain employment and aid in the job search. Many of our clients experience their first success at finding and holding gainful employment during their time at the halfway house.
- Halfway houses serve on the front line of the opiate crisis and provide substance use disorder treatment to 80.5% of participants.
- Halfway Houses (HWH) are working! 81.6% of successful completers have no new felony conviction within 2 years of program completion.

INVESTING IN BUILDING PRODUCTIVE OHIOANS

Community corrections residents are accepting accountability and beginning the journey to productive lives. Residential program participants:
- Paid $217,509 in Court Costs/Fines and Restitution and $115,852 in Child Support;
- Earned $9,360,794 in Income/Wages and paid $936,080 in Taxes
- Contributed 289,759 hours of Community Service with an estimated value to local communities of over $6,713,417 million; and
- Transitional Control offenders in a halfway house also submitted up to 25% of gross earnings to DRC to help defray program costs, resulting in an estimated $1,418,623 contribution toward the cost of their participation.

A WISE INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC DOLLARS

- The cost to incarcerate Felony 3, Felony 4, and Felony 5 offenders in prison is $34,614 per offender; the cost for a halfway house placement is $6,954 and $10,179 in a CBCF.
- Residential Community Corrections is a wise investment. Treatment is delivered at lower costs and more effectively than in prisons.
- Lower recidivism rates result in safer, healthier communities and permanent reductions in the over crowded prison system. Each individual who goes on to live a law abiding, productive life also represents a long term reduction in prison spending.
We believe

- Addiction is a public health issue best addressed with treatment as opposed to incarceration. We recommend the adoption of changing low level felony possession to misdemeanors.

- Treatment should be fully funded & that the definition of technical violation must be clarified to promote community-based sanctions for minor violations.

- Mass incarceration is a failure that leads to worse outcomes at great taxpayer expense.

- We can continue to make improvements in a least restrictive, evidence-based approach that costs taxpayers less.

- Transitional Control is one of the most successful reentry programs funded by DRC and is underutilized.

- Persons on Transitional Control & Treatment Transfer statuses should be able to access Medicaid.

- Lower level offenses should be addressed using the most effective, least restrictive community-based sanctions needed to produce rehabilitation.

- Earned credit and thoughtful early release options are important in preparing persons to return home in pro-social ways.
In state Fiscal Year 2018, the OCCA fulfilled its mission of advocacy and professional development by:

- **CONDUCTING THE OCCA 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE** in 2018. Over 350 individuals participated. Conference highlights included keynotes by Retired Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton (*Stepping Up Ohio*); Dr. Douglas Marlowe (*Medication Assisted Treatment in Community Corrections*); and Ohio’s own internally recognized expert on corrections Dr. Ed Latessa, professor at the University of Cincinnati (*Assessment of Lessons Learned from Corrections Program Evaluations*).

- **OFFERING DAY TRAININGS** that feature evidence based practices shown to reduce recidivism including crisis intervention and combining motivational interviewing with cognitive behavioral interventions. OCCA sponsored user training for community corrections professionals on the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) tool for community correction and accessed grant funds to provide specialized training to residential corrections staff from across the state. OCCA is authorized by the state of Ohio to provide credentialing hours through the Ohio Counselor and Social Worker Board and the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board - a designation we have held for over fourteen years.

- **INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS IN COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS** by sponsoring a leadership course for middle management staff at our member agencies. 16 participants engaged in an intensive two-day training focused on improving the skills needed to lead teams, coach individuals, manage conflict, and handle tough situations in the challenging community corrections environment.

- **BUILDING ONGOING RELATIONSHIPS WITH POLICY MAKERS AND THEIR STAFF** by hosting an annual reception at the Statehouse complete with educational literature and being an active advisor to the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission, the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, the statewide Stepping Up Initiative, and the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections. OCCA also participates in the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition, a statewide network that educates the public and governmental leaders about model programs, statutes, and policies that will help people with criminal records reintege into Ohio communities.
2018 OCCA President’s Award
Cynthia Mausser

Cynthia Mausser, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, poses with OCCA President Elect Jeremy Simpson, former DRC Director Gary Mohr, and OCCA President Mike Randle.

2018 OCCA Membership Award
Charlette Osterland

Charlette Osterland, Community Assessment and Treatment Services (CATS) is surrounded by family, friends, and her OCCA colleagues as she poses with her award plaque.

2018 Cliff Skeen Winner - Halfway House
Community Corrections Association, Inc. (CCA)

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction presents the Clifford Skeen Award annually to residential and non-residential programs in recognition of excellence in community corrections.

2018 halfway house winner, CCA, Inc. (Youngstown) serves both state and federal offenders. Notable 2018 accomplishments include the expansion of its Medication Assisted Treatment program, creation of a Dress to Succeed site for work appropriate clothing, and the development of a pre-trial program. CCA also expanded its residential program, increasing placements year over year, while maintaining a utilization rate over 100%.

This is the fourth win for CCA, Inc.

CEO David Stillwagon (third from right) and the staff of CCA, Inc. celebrate their achievement with ODRC Assistant Director Stu Hudson (fourth from right).
## Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Residential Program Information and Costs

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<th>Type of Facility</th>
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<th>Total Offenders</th>
<th>State Funded Cost per Day</th>
<th>Average Length of Stay (days)</th>
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Source: Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Funded Community Corrections in Ohio 2018 Fact Sheet