

Spring 2010 Newsletter

2009 Officers

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**ELECTED OFFICIALS
MARK
YOUR CALENDAR
OCCA CONFERENCE
ROUNDTABLE**

**“Common Sense Sentencing
Reform and the Intersection
Between Science and
Legislation”**

MAY 20, 2010

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**The Doubletree Hotel
Columbus/
Worthington, 175
Hutchinson Ave.,
Columbus 43235**

**Call us to reserve
a seat**

Message from the President



As the incoming President of OCCA, I look forward to working hand in hand with our partners in local, state, and federal government and our OCCA providers to produce solutions to the problems of our day. I anticipate there will be many changes in the corrections industry during my two year term.

First things first, I recognize that in succeeding Mary Spottswood I have very big shoes to fill. For the past decade, Mary Spottswood has served on the OCCA Executive Committee either as the President Elect, President for two terms and now as Past President. Although we will continue to benefit from Mary's wisdom, I want to take this opportunity to offer her my personal congratulations and thank her for her contributions to the success of not only OCCA but our entire field.

I would be remiss if I also did not thank Director Collins for his leadership at the ODRC. Terry Collins has been a brave leader for the past 34 years and has led the ODRC through very turbulent times. As Director, Collins took on the harsh realities of an over populated prison system hit hard by massive budget reductions. He was quick to educate legislators, practitioners and the general public on the wisdom of incarcerating those “we are afraid of and NOT THOSE we are just mad at.” Director Collins combined the ideals of community safety and true rehabilitation of offenders with a focus on research based best practices. We here at the OCCA are grateful for Director Terry Collins' meritorious service and wish him much luck as he begins the next part of his life's journey. We are looking forward to working with Director Ernie Moore and Assistant Director Linda Janes as we continue to embrace research and strive to arm all practitioners with the most effective and up-to-date knowledge on how to successfully reduce recidivism and prison crowding even as we confront extreme budget challenges.

The National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) recently sent out their annual forecast for Calendar Year 2010 and indicated that “the fiscal challenges are enormous, appalling and, unfortunately, at least two years away from being over.” We will need to address even more extreme budget deficits in Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013, due to the economic downturn coupled with the loss of one time federal stimulus money that comprises a great portion of our current biennial budgets. Further, the NCSL has listed corrections Number 5 on a scale of one to ten of areas impacting state budgets negatively. In this report they indicate that they will continue to analyze sentencing and corrections costs and that investment in justice is a vital topic for states to examine. We certainly concur with this assessment.

On a related note, the Council on State Governments (CSG) met in December, 2009 at the Ohio Supreme Court to announce their plans to review and recommend changes to Ohio's sentencing and correctional systems. Over the coming months, OCCA will work very closely with CSG while continuing to advocate for Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 386 to address sentencing reform now. The inmate population continues to grow, and there are many measures in these two important pieces of legislation that will prove most sensible, safer and more economical for Ohio's citizenry.

I welcome these challenges and changes in 2010; much work must be done to repair our burdened prison system enabling it to operate with safer numbers while also utilizing our proven community corrections system.

Please feel free to contact me with any comments or concerns as we forge ahead in these most difficult times.

Sincerely,



Phil Nunes

Leadership Changes at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Welcome Director Moore! Gloria Nielsen Iannucci, Alvis House

Both the individuals and member agencies comprising the Ohio Community Corrections Association (OCCA) would like to congratulate Ernie Moore on his appointment as Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC).

“We are all looking forward to working with Director Moore, and already he has proven as Assistant Director that he recognizes community corrections as a partner with the ODRC,” said Phil Nunes, OCCA President. “We truly appreciate his enthusiasm and stand ready to assist him in whatever way we can!”

Director Moore has been with ODRC since 1987, when he began as a corrections officer at the Correctional Reception Center in Orient. During Moore's tenure, he has held a variety of positions, including sergeant, lieutenant, inspector, administrative assistant, deputy warden, warden, and deputy director within the Office of Prisons. In addition to the Correctional Reception Center, he also worked at the Warren, Dayton, Chillicothe, Madison and Lebanon Correctional Institutions.

Moore moved to the Ohio Department of Youth Services in 2000 as superintendent of Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility and later served as the bureau chief of institutions in the Central Office.

Moore returned to the adult system in 2004 to work as warden at Lebanon Correctional Institution, was appointed to south regional director in 2007 and then to Assistant Director of the department in 2009.

Former ODRC Director Reginald Wilkinson, stated, “Ernie Moore's considerable experience positions him well to lead ODRC; he fully understands the importance of directing a balanced agency which includes institutional and community corrections.” Wilkinson appointed Moore to his first Warden's position at Madison Correctional Institution in 1999. Wilkinson currently serves as President and CEO of the Ohio College Access Network.

Director Moore is a past president of the Ohio Wardens and Superintendents Association and a member of the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents, the Ohio Correctional and Court Services Association, and the International Association for Reentry and the American Correctional Association (ACA) where he is a national trainer, conference presenter, and certified ACA Auditor. Moore graduated cum laude from Ohio University and is also an adjunct professor at both Cedarville and Tiffin universities.



Linda Janes Appointed as Assistant Director Lusanne Green, OCCA

We are pleased and delighted that the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has appointed its first woman in the role of Assistant Director. Linda Janes has worked for 23 years in various posts at the Department. We have been fortunate to work directly with her as she led the Bureau of Community Sanctions and later when she was promoted to Deputy Director over the Division of Parole and Community Services. Linda was instrumental in making changes to community corrections audit standards and increasing accountability for halfway houses by establishing fair per diem rates and awards based on outcomes and populations served.

Linda is rare in her ability to understand both the global implications of policy and the minutiae of day to day operations, having served in the field prior to her ascension up the professional ranks. OCCA is looking forward to working with Linda in her new role as Assistant Director.

OCCA Member Agency Updates

Booth House Celebrates 20th Anniversary Jane Benner, Booth House

On January 26, 2010, Salvation Army Booth House celebrated its 20th Anniversary with an open house that brought over 125 clients, staff, volunteers, criminal justice professionals, community partners, alumni, family and friends to our 624 South Main Street facility in Dayton. The evening began with a formal program that reviewed the history of the Booth House, recognized staff, other community agencies, and the approximately ten church parishes that have provided meals for Booth House residents for over 15 years.

A true highlight of the evening was the inspirational speech delivered by Judge Walter Rice, senior judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. Speaking of the offenders that we serve, Judge Rice said "It is our responsibility to educate our community that people returning from prison have paid their debt to society. Often offenders are not treated that way upon their return. Most offenders are good people; they have just made bad choices for one reason or another. Booth House is one of the community resources that is trying to help send this message."

After the formal program ended, the evening was completed with tours, client and staff stories, a lot of good food and good conversation. Several of the current residents and alumni shared their stories on an individual basis. They said they felt the Booth House had given them the resources to overcome the limitations that led to their poor decision-making in the past. Booth House has instilled hope and for that, the men are grateful.



Conrad Goode, Lusanne Green (OCCA), Jane Benner and Judge Walter Rice at the Booth House 20th Anniversary Celebration

Community Assessment & Treatment Services, Inc. to Build a Better Place for Women Natalie Friedl, Community Assessment & Treatment Services, Inc.

With all that is going on in this world, some things have remained a constant – like Community Assessment & Treatment Services, Inc. providing high quality, cost effective, holistic, abstinent based intervention and prevention services to a diverse clientele. With almost 20 years of service to Cuyahoga County and to the Slavic Village neighborhood, Community Assessment & Treatment Services, Inc. (CATS) will celebrate with a bang! Of the hammer that is.

Since 1996, CATS has been a multi-site organization with a 40-bed women's residential treatment program housed at the Holy Name convent on Broadway. In 2003, CATS relocated its men's residential facility from the St. Michael Hospital campus to a renovated building just across the street from Holy Name. Since 2005, CATS has been working to create a campus-like facility that would house both residential programs and its outpatient program as well.

The new facility will increase capacity of women's beds to 48 while creating an atmosphere most conducive to treatment. "The women have endured some really hot days at Holy Name. They have endured broken boilers, leaking plumbing, and less than comfortable conditions. Funders have agreed that it is time to Build a Better Place for Women," explained Roxanne Wallace, founder and Executive Director.

The capital campaign kicked off in 2006 with a goal of \$2 million. CATS first capital campaign slowly forged ahead during these harsh economic times as CATS Board of Directors and staff remained diligent, patient, and hopeful that the necessary funding would come through. Many foundations and individuals stepped up and in spring of 2009, CATS received the gift that allowed discussion to begin with the bank... a \$400,000 anonymous check!

With fundraising efforts in full effect to bring in the last remaining dollars, CATS broke ground on Friday, September 4, 2009 and expects to be order to be in an accredited building by May 2010 as well as to ensure satisfactory compliance with foundation gift requirements. CATS Board and staff are so pleased that the community has invested in what works! Treatment...people do recover.

Please save the date to join us in celebrating both 20 years of service and the grand opening of the new women's facility on **Thursday, June 3, 2010 at 5:30 pm at Bohemian National Hall (4939 Broadway Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44127)**. For more information, contact Natalie Friedl, Development Director at 216-441-0200 ext 111.

Residential Community Corrections The Best Investment for Ohio's Future

Now, more than ever, is the time to advocate for residential community corrections as the most effective and fiscally responsible option for Ohio.

- ◆ **50% of offenders sentenced to prison are serving less than a year.**
- ◆ As of January 2010, Ohio's prison population is 50,762 – our state prison system was designed to hold 38,865 this is **more than 11,897 inmates over rated capacity.**
- ◆ ODRC now predicts 52,546 inmates by July 1, 2011. Further, by July 1, 2018 the ODRC population is expected to reach 55,734 inmates; 4,972 inmates more than today.
- ◆ 4th and 5th Degree Felonies, which are at the low end of the sentencing structure, have seen an increase in length of sentences up to two months. This does not appear to be an issue, until you multiply that by **15,000 offenders...**many of these persons having committed non-violent offenses such as theft, drug abuse, and failure to pay child support*.

The following are benefits of investing in community corrections (figures are from Fiscal Year 2009)

- ◆ **\$4,794,502 in court costs and fines paid**
- ◆ **\$1,307,419 in restitution and \$1,929,736 in child support paid to victims and families**
- ◆ **Wages totaling \$72,311,732 earned, improving the economy and providing life changing employment opportunities for the offenders**
- ◆ **Offenders paying more than \$7,000,000 in state and federal taxes**
- ◆ **Giving back to the community 653,674 hours in community service projects throughout Ohio**

A typical prison stay costs the state \$23,381 for low level offenders compared to a \$5,608 state cost for a similar offender at a halfway house. Public Safety is enhanced when these offenders receive structured supervision, monitoring, and treatment in the community. Community correctional programs offer rehabilitative services such as employment, education, substance abuse treatment, evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy programs, and other supportive services in our communities. **These programs have proven to reduce recidivism overall.** Ohio leads the nation in provision of effective community corrections programs by:

- Raising the evidenced-based professional standards
- Educating stakeholders
- Implementing research-based, cost effective programs.

*Per ODRC Director Terry J. Collins' "Testimony before the House Finance and Appropriations Committee" on February 12, 2009 [Emphasis added]



The Salvation Army - Booth House



Ohio Link

Lost But Not Without Hope: Applying Our Personal Experiences to Our Work with Offenders

Harold Clarke, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Correction



Each of us has probably been on a personal or professional path where we felt lost, where life is shrouded in fear, confusion or doubt and we are unsure of where to go, or maybe, how or why we got there in the first place. As I reflect on the events of September 11, 2001, I think a parallel can be drawn between the events of that day, in my life, and a message we, in the community corrections community, can share with offenders and ex-offenders.

On September 11, 2001, the first leg of my flight from Boise, Idaho to Lincoln, Nebraska was suddenly interrupted by the pilot's announcement of the termination of all flights for the remainder of that day due to terrorist attacks committed against the United States. As I waited with the other confused and frightened passengers in the Denver airport, I noticed a young lady with tears in her eyes. I approached her and offered her assistance. She was on her way home to Barbados, but only had \$40. Clearly that was not enough to help her through this ordeal. I suggested we work together. So, I contacted a colleague within the Colorado Department of Correction and the two of us went to his home to sort out the chaos. Watching the events of the day, we realized the magnitude of the blow inflicted by the terrorists, not only on New York, D.C., and Pennsylvania, but on our nation as a whole and each of us who were caught up in the aftermath.

The following day I secured a rental car to complete my journey to Lincoln, Nebraska and made arrangements for the young lady to stay with my colleague's family until the airport re-opened. But, my troubles were not over. Approximately five miles outside of Denver, the rear tire of the rental car exploded, causing the car to swerve back and forth across three lanes of the Interstate before I managed to pull off the road, barely avoiding being hit by a tractor trailer. However, as fate would have it, I heard a voice saying, "Sir, can I help you?" Two men in their early 20's, wearing pristine white jump suits were running towards me. Before I could explain, they took the jack from me, installed the spare tire and proceeded to instruct me on the proper speed for the new tire and the location of the nearest town to purchase a full-size tire. Before I could reach into my wallet to offer them monetary thanks, they were gone.

To this day, that experience moves me every time I think of it. Assuming that they were driving in the opposite direction on the Interstate, I never saw a vehicle in which they could have arrived and I have often wondered what would cause two travelers to stop, risk their lives to run across the median and assist a total stranger.

Who are we on someone's journey? What positive, unexpected role can we play in the difficulties faced by others? I can only hope that we will stop, take pause of a situation, lend a helping hand and offer guidance. (By the way, the young lady from Barbados sent a postcard thanking me for being her guardian angel.)

How often have we found ourselves lost and discouraged? My reflection of Sept. 11, 2001 reminds me that when working with incarcerated individuals, we ought to recall the challenges in our lives and be, for them, the angels, the unexpected helpers in the often tumultuous days of our lives. They may be lost, but there is often help where we least expect it—and it seeks no thanks.

The Call for Sentencing Reform Now in Ohio

Phillip Nunes, President of OCCA

In June 2009, while testifying before the Ohio Senate Judiciary and Criminal Justice Committee, the Ohio Community Corrections Association (OCCA) urged the quick passage of the sentencing reform measures found in Senate Bill 22 (and, now in House Bill 386). OCCA also advocated for the Council of State Governments (CSG) to come to Ohio to explore additional reform measures. Today, OCCA stands firmly behind both of these positions. We oppose the sentiment that the Ohio General Assembly should wait on CSG's final report. This may take up to 3 years to complete. Passage of this legislation now will complement CSG's future efforts in preventing Ohio from having to build another prison and will lead to immediate reductions in the prison population. This will enable Ohio to reinvest the cost savings in other important Ohio needs sooner rather than later. OCCA wishes to urge all lawmakers to pass the well vetted elements found in Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 386 now...without delay.

As of January 2010, Ohio's prison population is 50,762 – our state prison system was designed to hold 38,865; this is **more than 11,897 inmates over rated capacity**. This population translates into double bunking, day space converted to prison bunks and other common areas inundated with a bulging prison population. Even more troubling, ODRC now predicts 52,546 inmates by July 1, 2011. Further, by July 1, 2018 the ODRC population is expected to reach 55,734 inmates; 4,972 inmates more than today. These intake numbers still can be significantly decreased if the Ohio Legislature acts now to pass Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 386.

In particular, OCCA believes that the following elements contained in Senate Bill 22 will allow Ohio to begin to turn the tide and control our future prison population:

Nonpayment of child support. In FY1993, 27 offenders were in prison for non support. In FY2008, 781 offenders were in prison for the same offense. Increased enforcement of the felony non support sanction led to dramatic increases in the number of offenders sentenced to prison. These offenders can be more effectively supervised in the community, allowing them to obtain or maintain employment.

Earned Credit Expansion. Beyond the effect of reducing the prison population, earned credit provides prisons with a much needed management tool to control offender behavior through positive incentives.

Mandatory Drug Sentencing. Crack cocaine penalties should be equalized with powder cocaine penalties.

Expansion of Intervention in Lieu of Conviction. This would provide judges more discretion in granting intervention in lieu of conviction.

Theft Threshold. Our board fully supports increasing the felony theft threshold to \$1,000 to account for inflation since the current threshold was established in 1995.

In conclusion, OCCA firmly believes that action to pass the measures contained within SB22 and House Bill 386 now will save Ohio tax payer dollars that can be reinvested in such critical areas as education and job creation. Although we are excited to have CSG here in Ohio to make even further recommendations, risking inaction on the current proposals is not in Ohio's best interest.

REGISTER NOW FOR A ONE DAY WORKSHOP!

April 8, 2010, 9 am - 4 pm

OHIO CENTER FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH,

“Writing Successful Grants”

Presenter: Sharon Schnelle,
Researcher, Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

For more information or to register, contact Gloria Hampton at (614)252-8417, ext. 15
Or visit our WEBSITE: www.occaonline.org

Evidence Based Practices and Offender Risk Assessment

The Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) in Action Randy Allman, Talbert House— Turtle Creek Center

In July 2009, ODRC began the implementation process of the ORAS—a risk assessment developed by the University of Cincinnati's Center for Criminal Justice Research. ODRC has a strong commitment to Best Practices with offenders and this new risk assessment will replace both ODRC's current risk instrument and the use of the Level of Service Inventory—Revised (LSI-R).

The ORAS tool can assist both the prisons and community corrections with appropriate prison terms and program length of stay. It is clear that OCCA member agencies are committed to the enhancement of the tool's development. While some member agencies already have been trained on the ORAS, many others will participate in one of the four 2-day trainings that OCCA has scheduled this spring for different sites and locations to ensure that all our member agencies will be able to utilize the new tool most effectively. Ohio continues to pave the way with Best Practices for offenders and the ORAS will make it possible for all users to focus their attention on risk and criminogenic needs to determine what level of interventions are necessary with offenders served.

The OCCA at Work and Play



OCCA and ODRC representatives at the January, 2010 OCCA board luncheon honoring Past President Mary Spottswood. From l-r, Lusanne Green, ODRC Director Ernie Moore, Terry Collins (ODRC Director retired), Neil Tilow - President & CEO of Talbert House, Mary Spottswood - OCCA Past President, Phil Nunes - OCCA President, Thomas Berghausen - Talbert House Vice President, Oriana House Executive Vice President Anne Connell-Freund and Alicia Handwerk -Chief of the Bureau of Community Sanctions



Participants hard at work at the December OCCA training on Motivational Interviewing



Past President Mary Spottswood poses with her cake at the January OCCA board luncheon.

**Roundtable:
"Common Sense Sentencing
Reform and the Intersection
Between Science and
Legislation"**

**Dr. Ed Latessa,
Chair, Department of Criminology, UC
and
Ohio Senator William Seitz**

REGISTER NOW!

May 20-21, 2010
9th Annual OCCA Conference
**"Impacting Offender Behavior in
Community Corrections"**

INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Dr. Paul Gendreau, O.C., PhD, Professor Emeritus

NATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Michael D. Clark, MSW, LSW, Director – Center for Strength-Based Strategies

COB, RCHs AND CEUs AVAILABLE

To be held at the Doubletree Hotel Columbus/Worthington, 177 Hutchinson Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43235.
Reserve your room now by calling 1-800-222-TREE
Please state that you are a guest of the Ohio Community Corrections Association for base room rate \$109.
For more information or to register, contact Gloria Hampton at (614)252-8417
Or visit our WEBSITE: www.occaonline.org

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