

Newsletter

Winter 2006

Dear Friends,

This promises to be one of our best years ever! We have just completed a very ambitious strategic plan and have forged alliances with our partners in federal, state and local governments, the judiciary and the faith based community. I am proud to be a part of this thriving organization, of licensed halfway house and community based correctional facilities, and bring to you quality programs that seek to enhance public safety, reduce re-victimization and produce productive members of society. Our new executive committee is a good mixture of passionate professionals with bright ideas and seasoned veterans with the wisdom necessary to guide our progress. We are pleased that you are joining us in new endeavors to continue to be the leaders in community corrections in the nation.

Thank you for your continued support. As you will see inside, we are sponsoring our annual legislative reception to share our gratitude and goals with members of the General Assembly. Also, please note that our conference will be held April 3-5th, 2006 at the Embassy Suites in Dublin, north of Columbus. We have applied for a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) knowledge dissemination grant and have secured co-sponsorships with the Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center (GLATTC), the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) and are seeking the endorsement of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. All of this collaboration allows us to bring you exceptional presentations from renowned national speakers at a very affordable rate.

As always, please reach us at the contact information above with any comments or questions.

Respectfully yours,

Anne Connell-Freund

Mission

The Ohio Community Corrections Association is a collective voice of committed professional service providers. Through experienced leadership, we empower our membership to create a continuum of effective cost efficient, and humane criminal justice programs and services that enhance public safety. We

Dates to Remember

February 15, 2006
Legislative reception

April 3-5, 2006
OCCA Conference

Oriana House Provides Offenders Opportunities as an Alternative to Prison

In 2004, 529 people came to the Summit County Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) to serve their court-ordered sentence. While most of the people sentenced to the CBCF reside in Summit County, the facility is also used by several other counties including Medina, Lorain, and Stark.

“It’s an opportunity for offenders to straighten out their lives by taking advantage of the many services offered such as chemical dependency treatment, relapse prevention, education, employment assistance, cognitive skills, anger management classes, and parenting classes just to name a few,” said Anne Connell-Freund, executive vice president of Oriana House, Inc. Oriana House has managed Summit County’s CBCF program for both men and women since its inception in 1992. The Summit County CBCF program is one of 18 in Ohio.

While the program is an alternative to prison, it is not for everyone. “Some offenders tell their sentencing judge that they would rather go to prison because the CBCF program is too hard. We hold them accountable and require them to follow through with their individual program plans,” Connell-Freund added.

The Summit County CBCF program involves a progressive

treatment plan based on four phases: Phase one is the assessment and confinement phase and clients are restricted to the facility for 30 days. During this phase, clients receive assessments for chemical dependency, medical, employment, education, and mental health.

During phase two, community involvement, clients begin outside duties such as community service or attend outside counseling. Some begin to job search and then maintain employment. All outside activities are pre-approved, and clients are expected to return to the facility by a specified time.

Phase three is the maintenance phase where clients are practicing everything they learned. According to Oriana House CBCF Program Manager Lisa Disabato-Moore, this phase encompasses some of the biggest challenges clients face. “When our clients are here, they are in a safe and sober environment. They need to apply what they’ve learned and make good decisions when they leave our facility,” she said.

Phase four is community placement where clients establish housing and earn more privileges.

During all phases, clients undergo random drug and alcohol tests.

Connell-Freund said the advantages CBCFs offer are felt throughout the community. A recent study conducted by the University of Cincinnati indicated that overall, CBCFs throughout the state reduced recidivism. “According to the study, the Summit County CBCF program reduced recidivism by 9%,” she said.

CBCFs are also a cost effective option to prison by providing an average savings of \$21,549 per offender. Clients pay toward their court costs and restitution, taxes, and child support if ordered. And in Summit County, clients provide more than 20,000 hours of community service annually.

A former CBCF client expressed her gratitude in an exit evaluation by writing, “This was a real experience. I learned a lot I never thought I would learn. Thank you to all of the staff. You helped me save my life.”

For more information about the Summit County CBCF program or any of the other programs offered by Oriana House, call 330-535-8116.

OCCA HOSTS ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

The Ohio Community Corrections Association will host its annual legislative reception on February 15, 2006 at 5-7p.m. in the Statehouse crypt. We had almost one hundred percent participation from state legislators in 2005. Member agencies will make appointments with their respective elected officials during the day. Our members will learn of the most important issues from the public policy and strategic planning committee and what is most pressing for community corrections in the state. Legislators may contact Governmental Policy

Fifth Annual Conference Dates Set

The fifth annual OCCA Conference will be held April 3rd -5th, 2006. The 2006 conference will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, 5100 Upper Metro Place.

This year's theme is "Changing Directions: Accountability through Embracing Evidence Based Practices". National Key Note speakers for the conference will be Gordon Graham and Fay Taxman.

Complete conference information can be found on last page of this newsletter.

Crossroads Center for Change: Community Service Makes a Difference

Change was a big part of the year 2005 for an agency with change in its name. Crossroads Center for Change located in Richland County and in the city of Mansfield, Ohio is always looking at improving in its programming and in its impact on lives. Last year, Crossroads residents completed close to 5,000 hours of community service either by park maintenance, delivering hot meals to the elderly or sprucing up the local Boy Scout camp.

"We are really proud of our residents, and our agency," stated Lynne Spencer, Executive Director, so "we work hard at being good neighbors and good citizens." "We recognized that the City of Mansfield, like many other cities in Ohio was

struggling financially and could not afford to maintain the 38 different parks in and around the city, so Crossroads volunteered the time and the manpower to paint, cut grass and trim, pick up trash and generally clean up 12 of the different city parks."

"The City of Mansfield really appreciates the donation of our time and manpower and the residents really enjoy the time out doors and realizing how they can give back to society. The Parks department has already contacted them this year about working together again to continue the park maintenance. "We believe in partnering with others to improve the quality of whatever our project is, Crossroads is about community."

Crossroads believes in their community service initiative so much that they incorporated a mandatory amount of community service hours to be completed to move forward in their phases of treatment. When a person is admitted to Crossroads Center for Change, they learn about community and service to others. Crossroads Center for Change sees this as a "win/win" situation, not only are they providing a service to the city, but they help create a sense of pride in the city, and a feeling of accomplishment for the residents who volunteer to either help out in parks, deliver hot meals to the elderly or working out at the Boy Scout camp to repair cabins, and other activities for the kids, not to mention the savings to those we help out.

FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 3-5, 2006

“CHANGING DIRECTIONS: Accountability through Embracing Evidence Based Practices”

NATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: Gordon Graham & Fay Taxman

RCHs & CEUs Available!

To be held at the Embassy Suites in Dublin, 5100 Upper Metro Place, OH 43017.

Reserve your room now by calling 1-800-362-2779 or reservations at (614) 790-9000

Reference rate code OCO for the reduced rate. Hotel rates include complimentary breakfast and NCAA Tip-off evening reception on wide screen television in the hotel lobby.

**For more information, contact Lusanne Green at (614) 252-8417, FAX (614) 252-7987,
or visit our WEBSITE: www.occaonline.org**

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