



February 19, 2015

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Jennifer Turnes, President
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OCCA Agency Members

- Alvis House - Columbus, Dayton, Chillicothe
- Behavioral Healthcare Partners of Central Ohio, Inc. - Newark
- Community Assessment & Treatment Services, Inc. - Cleveland
- Community Corrections Association, Inc - Youngstown
- Community Correctional Center, Talbert House -Lebanon
- Community Transition Center - Lancaster
- Community Treatment & Correction Center, Inc. - Canton
- CROSSWAEH CBCF, Oriana House, Inc. - Tiffin
- Judge Nancy R. McDonnell CBCF, Oriana House, Inc. - Cleveland
- Ohio Link Corrections & Treatment, Inc. - Lima & Toledo
- Oriana House, Inc. - Akron and Cleveland
- Salvation Army Harbor Light - Cleveland
- Summit County CBCF Oriana House, Inc. - Akron
- Talbert House - Cincinnati
- Turtle Creek, Talbert House - Lebanon
- Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio - Cincinnati, Dayton, Mansfield, Toledo

Director Tracy Plouck
Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services
30 East Broad Street #8
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Director Plouck:

The Ohio Community Corrections Association wants to gratefully acknowledge the effort and accomplishments of your leadership in creating an infrastructure that aims to improve upon our existing behavioral treatment and criminal justice system. Community Corrections programs are proven to show both programmatic and financial benefit to citizens of Ohio.

We understand that this budget would expand Community Corrections options and, we believe, have an overall continued positive impact in the reduction of the prison beds as well as get people the help they need to make our communities safer. In particular, our member agencies have a long history of successful treatment of criminal justice-involved individuals with substance use disorders, and additional funding would allow coordination of care with community providers for larger numbers of this population. We know that one out of every 4 persons sentenced to prison is there for a non-violent crime and a significant percentage have mental health issues and/or substance use disorders.

Community Corrections programs provide treatment and other rehabilitation services that supports successful reintegration back into the community that research has shown contributes to reduced recidivism, increased public safety and saves precious taxpayer dollars. We are so appreciative of your continued support and look forward to working with you on the most effective ways to make lasting and positive changes with these vulnerable populations.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Turnes
President

Lusanne Green
Executive Director