



2100 Stella Court
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 252-8417
Fax: (380) 235-8254
www.OCCAONLINE.org

Linda Janes, President
Lusanne Green, Executive Director

Alvis - Columbus, Dayton,
Chillicothe

Community Assessment & Treatment
Services, Inc. - Cleveland

Community Corrections Association, Inc -
Youngstown

Community Correctional Center,
Talbert House -Lebanon

Community Restoration Centers of Stark
County, Inc. - Canton

Community Transition Center - Lancaster

CROSSWAEH CBCF, Oriana House, Inc. -
Tiffin

Judge Nancy R. McDonnell CBCF,
Oriana House, Inc. - Cleveland

Mahoning County CBCF, Community
Corrections Association, Inc. -
Youngstown

Ohio Link Corrections & Treatment, Inc. -
Lima & Toledo

Oriana House, Inc. - Akron, Cleveland,
Marietta, Sandusky

Summit County CBCF Oriana House, Inc. -
Akron

Talbert House - Cincinnati

The Salvation Army Harbor Light -
Cleveland

Turtle Creek, Talbert House - Lebanon

Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana -
Cincinnati, Dayton, Mansfield, Toledo

Chief Justice Sharon Kennedy
c/o Alyssa Guthrie
Ohio Supreme Court
65 South Front Street

June 22, 2023

Subject: Reentry Taskforce & proposed Community Corrections Committee within the Criminal Sentencing Commission

Dear Chief Justice Kennedy,

Thank you for the very generous gift of your dedicated attention and time at our Ohio Community Corrections Association meeting earlier this month. We were also pleased to learn that Linda Janes' name has been put forward as a subject matter expert for your Reentry Taskforce. She will be a valuable resource for your vision of improving reentry in Ohio.

As you are considering ways to reorient the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission, we are hopeful that you will consider naming the "community corrections committee." As directed, we are putting this forward as a formal request to give us a voice as the Commission sends forward recommendations for remedying laws that were found to be unconstitutional.

According to the National Institute of Corrections, in 2020 Ohio prisons had 45,036 people and our jails held 20,670 while the parole population was 22,769 and probation had 201,455 under supervision. See <https://nicic.gov/resources/nic-library/state-statistics/2020/ohio-2020>. This means that most persons in custody are in our communities either on probation or parole at a halfway house or in their homes.

In Ohio, community corrections includes post release control supervised by the Ohio Adult Parole Authority under the purview of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, local courts who have their own probation and parole departments, residential community based correctional facilities (CBCFs), halfway houses, community transitional housing programs (CTHPs) and residential reentry centers (RRCs). Additionally, non-residential providers assist with wrap around behavioral health services and global positional satellite or electronic monitoring.

There are far more individuals with justice involvement on community supervision including those in residential settings as well as released homeless or on supervised release. With these facts in mind, it is appropriate to have a committee that reviews community corrections and includes representation from halfway houses. As cases emerge, like *State v. Foster*, 109 Ohio 3d 1, which found "exceptional" indeterminate sentencing unconstitutional due to being violative on 6th Amendment grounds, it is important to have the voice of providers with field experience at the table.

Please reach out to us with any questions that you have. We look forward to building a relationship with your office that improves upon the system that we currently have in place.

Respectfully,

Lusanne Green
Executive Director