

Directions

Oriana House's Community Corrections

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Need a Speaker?

Oriana House can provide your group or organization a speaker to discuss community corrections and/or chemical dependency treatment. Call 330-535-8116 for more information.

Sign up for the ADM Recovery Challenge

SATURDAY, MAY 18

The Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Support Committee invites you to participate in the inaugural ADM Recovery Challenge.

This family-friendly Subway Series 5K obstacle course will offer fun competition for athletes of all ages and abilities.

The course involves running/walking, climbing, crawling, balancing and maneuvering your way through the trees, fields and grounds of the scenic Interval Brotherhood Home property near the Portage Lakes in Akron.

Proceeds will benefit the Summit County ADM Support Committee, Inc., in its future levy campaign activities on behalf of the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADM) Services Board.

The ADM Board is responsible for seeing that effective and affordable treatment and prevention services are available in Summit County for adults, teens and children with mental illness and/or alcohol or other drug addiction.

For registration information, visit www.admboard.org or ADM Recovery Challenge on Facebook.

MEDICAID EXPANSION COULD CONTRIBUTE TO LOWER RECIDIVISM

The proposal to expand Medicaid in Ohio will help provide much-needed mental and physical health care to many people including those coming out of Ohio's jails and prisons. How does that impact the average Ohioan? Three groups dedicated to developing programs and services that keep offenders from reoffending make a strong case for the expansion.

OhioLink Corrections & Treatment Inc., is composed of three nonprofit agencies: Oriana House in Akron, Cleveland, Tiffin, and Sandusky; Talbert House in Cincinnati; and Alvis House in Columbus. All three non-profit agencies provide community corrections programs, job and education services, and substance abuse and mental health treatment services.

More than 96% of incarcerated offenders serve their sentence and return home to their community. According to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, 21% of male prisoners and 38% of female prisoners have a history of mental illness, and 85% of incarcerated men and 79% of incarcerated women have a history of substance abuse. Untreated, they are likely to reoffend and end up back in the criminal justice system. This vicious cycle is unsafe for the public and expensive to taxpayers.

If Medicaid is expanded to serve low-income, childless adults, many released offenders would qualify for mental and physical health treatment. Currently,

offenders who are incarcerated or in halfway house settings have most of their medical treatments paid by government agencies. Once they are released, there is nothing to ensure continuity of care for these individuals. Many end up seeking expensive medical care at hospital emergency rooms. Ohioans with insurance end up paying more for services to cover the cost of those who cannot pay.

There is even a more compelling reason to provide Medicaid to this population. According to studies in the state of Washington, treatment for chemical dependency saved an average of \$2,500 per person per year in medical costs. Rates of re-arrest were 21% to 33% lower in three groups treated for chemical dependency than in those not receiving treatment. This saved jails, courts, and law enforcement \$5,000 to \$10,000 per person. It also reduced crime and improved public safety.

Substance abuse and mental health counseling plays a major role in community corrections programming. An expanded Medicaid program would help cover the costs of clinicians in these agencies and would free up dollars that could be used to strengthen workforce development, behavioral treatment, and other programs proven to reduce recidivism.

Health plays a big part in the ability of people released from incarceration to keep on the straight and narrow. That is especially true for those with mental illness. Prisoners

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**Oriana House
programming involves:**

Treatment

Employment/Education

Accountability

Community Service

Housing

Oriana House, Inc. is an affiliate of the
County of Summit



**Alcohol, Drug Addiction &
Mental Health Services Board**

It is the policy of Oriana House, Inc., to not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, sex (wages), genetics, gender, sexual orientation, HIV status, retaliation, and military/veteran status.

MEDICAID EXPANSION *(cont. from page 1)*

Prisoners as a group also tend to be less healthy physically than the general population. Most have at least one chronic health condition such as asthma, diabetes, hypertension, hepatitis, or HIV/AIDS. Individuals with a history of incarceration are four to six times more likely to have HIV/AIDS and 17 times more likely to have tuberculosis than the general population.

About 80% of individuals with these conditions have not received treatment before incarceration, and almost all receive no treatment after release because they are uninsured. It is a danger to the community to have untreated communicable diseases on the street.

It is far more costly in terms of dollars and public safety to release offenders without the care they need to fully function in society. We have the tools to stop this cycle of re-incarceration.

In the last couple of years, Ohio's Medicaid system has improved. Care is better coordinated to give patients comprehensive and integrated mental and physical treatment. The \$23.8 billion in additional federal funds through 2019 will help community-based corrections services like OhioLink Corrections & Treatment make Ohio a healthier and safer state.

CLIENT RECOGNIZED FOR LIFE SAVING ACTIONS

A client from the Judge Nancy R. McDonnell Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) in Cleveland is credited for helping to save a staff member's life. The man administered CPR to a staff member who slumped in her chair and was unresponsive.

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judges Joan Synenberg and Cassandra Collier-Williams along with officials from the Cuyahoga County Probation Department came to the CBCF to recognize the man.

CBCF Program Manager Michael Randle said he is grateful the man responded so quickly and is not surprised of his willingness to help, "Most of our clients want to do the right thing and want to help people," Randle said. The staff member received medical treatment and is well.

The Judge Nancy R. McDonnell CBCF is 200-bed facility. Programming includes substance abuse treatment, job training and placement assistance, educational services, cognitive skills, and a required completion of community service. The CBCF program strives to teach offenders the skills they are lacking in order to function appropriately and productively in the community.