

# Directions

Oriana House's Community Corrections

VOL. 7, ISSUE 2, 2008

**Want to know more about community corrections?**

**Oriana House can provide your group or organization a speaker to discuss community corrections and/or chemical dependency.**

**Call 330-535-8116 for more information.**

## ACCESS TO RECOVERY GRANT INCREASES TREATMENT OPTIONS

**O**riana House, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS), was selected to coordinate Access to Recovery (ATR) services in Summit and Cuyahoga counties. ODADAS has been awarded a \$13.9 million, three year ATR grant by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Three counties will receive the ATR grant funds: Cuyahoga, Stark, and Summit.

Ohio's ATR initiative, officially named "Choice for Recovery," will benefit an estimated 6,200 adults re-entering their communities from the prison system. The consumers receive vouchers allowing them a greater range of choice in selecting the treatment and recovery services most appropriate for their needs.

Oriana House is working with the Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board and the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County.

"This program helps ex-offenders deal with the barriers that interfere in their recovery and will hopefully result in fewer repeat offenders," said Oriana House Program Manager Christopher Richardson.

Many individuals who are in need of treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol use problem do not receive treatment.

How does Ohio's ATR initiative work?

- Clients are assessed and given a voucher for services based on individual need.
- Clients are provided a list of both faith-based and community-based recovery support service providers from which to choose.

- Services covered are non-clinical and designed to provide support and assistance as an individual reintegrates into the community. Services may include: employment coaching, spiritual support, child care, temporary housing assistance, literacy training, transportation, and budgeting classes.

What are some of the eligibility criteria?

- Must be an adult resident of Summit, Cuyahoga, or Stark counties.
- Diagnosis of alcohol and/or drug abuse is required or the client must be in remission. A chemical dependency assessment must have been completed within the past 12 months of the date of service.
- Client is involved or has a history of involvement with the criminal justice system.
- Client's income cannot exceed 200% of the federal poverty level.

Clients can also be referred for one time assistance for expenses such as rent, clothing, transportation, dental, vision, and non-treatment medications.

In addition to self referral, other referral sources include: family, friends, and employers, Community Based Correctional Facilities, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Drug Courts, County Probation, Municipal and Common Pleas Courts, Adult Parole Authority, and alcohol and drug treatment/clinical providers.

For details, call (330)996-7730 in Summit County, (216)881-7882 in Cuyahoga County, and (330) 479-1912, ext. 24 in Stark County. For more about the program, visit [www.atr.samhsa.gov](http://www.atr.samhsa.gov).

### INSIDE:

**Rehabilitation and reentry services are essential because 95% of inmates are returning to our communities.**

*See page 2 for more information.*

**In 2007, Oriana House clients performed nearly 70,000 hours of community service.**

*See page 3 for more information.*

# OHIO CAN CHANGE PRISON PROJECTIONS

by Anne Connell-Freund, Oriana House Executive Vice President of Operations

MORE THAN HALF OF THE OFFENDERS IN OHIO'S PRISONS ARE SERVING A SENTENCE OF LESS THAN ONE YEAR AND ARE UNABLE TO ACCESS REHABILITATIVE SERVICES WHILE INCARCERATED

There has been a significant amount of news coverage recently on the very important issue of record high prison populations and a historically large exodus of prisoners, both locally and nationally. As a veteran in the community corrections field and the immediate past president of the Ohio Community Corrections Association, I see strides being taken to address the reasons that people are imprisoned and find solutions to allow them to return to our community safely, in a cost effective way and most importantly, as productive citizens. I am amazed that more than half of the offenders in Ohio's prisons are serving a sentence of less than one year and are unable to access any rehabilitative services while incarcerated. Also, crime is often generational; children who have a parent incarcerated are five times more likely to go to prison themselves. It is fortunate that under the direction of Terry Collins, Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the discussion around criminal justice issues is focusing on rehabilitation and reentry services rather than prison commitments.

Ohio and Summit County are national leaders in offering community sanctions and addressing offenders with special needs; however, limited resources, a "tough on crime" orientation, and increasingly higher numbers of people with medical, mental health, and substance abuse issues have resulted in the

utilization of prisons as a catch all for everyone. Our society clearly knows how to build secure institutions to lock up people, but that is not the answer to improving public safety. Ohio spent \$1.5 billion on prisons in 2006. Prison populations are reaching an all-time high, and estimates for 2016 are at 65,000 inmates in Ohio. Community corrections programs that provide rehabilitation and reentry services can help alleviate this trend and make our neighborhoods safer.

Rehabilitation and reentry services are essential because 95% of inmates are returning to our communities. It is proven that the rate of returning to prison is significantly lower when offenders with higher needs are placed into programs like halfway houses and community based correctional facilities that teach new skills, offer rehabilitative services, and focus on successful community living. Ex-offenders face enormous challenges when they are released from prison; they are often without a job, home, education, positive life skills, or any support system. In addition, many employers refuse to hire anyone with a criminal record. If no interventions are offered, as many as two-thirds of offenders will return to prison within three years of release.

Ohio can do a better job of addressing public safety and prison overcrowding utilizing research-based reentry programs, chemical dependency treatment, and

mental health services.

In Summit County, county and city officials, courts, law enforcement, social service agencies, and Oriana House have a long and successful history of working together to develop community corrections programs that are nationally recognized as effective in changing offender behavior. Oriana House has more than 25 years of experience in operating programs such as halfway houses, work release programs, and community based correctional facilities. Many of these residential and nonresidential programs are accredited by the American Correctional Association and certified by the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. The scope of reentry programs in Summit County is unparalleled. I am proud to be part of a professional staff and a community that are committed to helping people improve their lives.

Ohio's lawmakers have made many efforts to make for safer neighborhoods and healthier communities. They can do even more by utilizing proven programs that work like those in Ohio's community corrections network. In doing so, we can make for safer and healthier communities and reduce the skyrocketing rate of short term prison stays.

# "WHAT WORKS" IS ORIANA HOUSE PROGRAMMING

Research has continually shown that community corrections programs are most effective when the right client is placed in the right program. That is why Oriana House has continued to implement *What Works* programming that has been shown to assist clients in changing their behavior and reducing the rate of recidivism.

The basic principle of these programs is to change how a client thinks, thus changing how a client behaves. "If we can change the way individuals think and how they react to circumstances, then they become capable of changing the way they behave," explained Anne Connell-Freund, Executive Vice President of Operations at Oriana House.

Oriana House starts with an objective assessment of the client's individual needs and the risk of the client's continued involvement in the criminal justice system. These identified needs can include lack of employment skills, impulse control, antisocial attitudes, poor relationships with family members and peers, and low educational or vocational achievement. As a result, Oriana House has implemented evidence-based programming and services to meet the needs of our clients.

Additionally, depending on the intensity of services needed, clients may participate

in classes called *Thinking for a Change*, and *Commitment to Change*. These courses help clients learn to identify thoughts that led to their behavior, while also learning how to actively listen, solve problems, deal with an accusation, and respond appropriately to anger. As clients progress through the programs, staff perform a vital function of allowing the

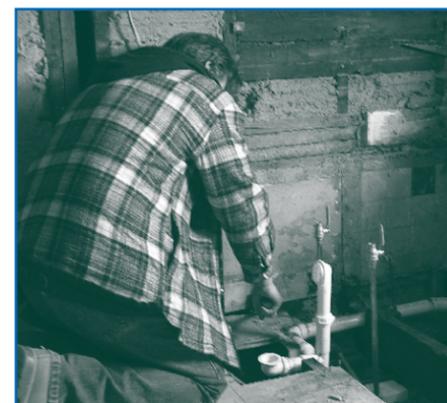
*"All Oriana House programs focus on changing client behavior, but also place great emphasis on offender accountability."*

Anne Connell-Freund  
Executive Vice President

clients to practice the new skills they have learned through role playing. Oriana House staff also present positive role modeling so that the clients see prosocial behavior in a real life situation.

"All Oriana House programs focus on changing client behavior but also place great emphasis on offender accountability," said Connell-Freund. "*What Works* provides a foundation for that accountability and allows our community corrections programs to be as effective as possible."

## Community Service Hours Serve Clients and Community Well



Each year Oriana House clients perform tens of thousands of hours of community service as part of their programming and court requirements. Linda Olinger, Community Service Supervisor for the Summit County Community Based Correctional Facility in Akron, said clients are usually very appreciative of the opportunity to be productive and help others. "Most of the guys are very willing to work hard," said Olinger. "They see the community service as a privilege and an opportunity to do something good for the community. When we're working all day together it reinforces the programming we teach - to be responsible and respectful toward others," Olinger added.

This spring Oriana House clients renovated a home that had been stripped down to the framework so that it can be used as a Sober Living Home operated by an area church. This is just one of many types of community service work contributed by Oriana House clients. Last year, 69,281 hours of community service were completed.

## Appreciation

From a letter dated May 12, 2008, from the Good Samaritan Hunger Center:

I'm writing to tell you about (Oriana House staff and clients) and what they have accomplished for our mission.

I have been the Director of the Good Samaritan Hunger Center since September 2005. During this time, Oriana House volunteers have come regularly on Tuesday and Friday mornings, every week of the year, to our Center to work. Under the supervision of a dedicated helper, these volunteers unload boxes of food, sort food items in our pantry, prepare food items for distribution at our pantry sites, and help clean up.

They (also go to our distribution site) unload, stack, and pack over 100 grocery bags with a couple of thousand of pounds of food items. As the clients pick up their grocery bags, the volunteers help the clients carry their items out to their cars.

The men that work at our center and our pantry sites have been kind, respectful and helpful.

Sincerely,  
Nan Bartlett  
Executive Director  
Good Samaritan Hunger Center

# MONITORING SERVICES PROVIDE GREATER OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY

TAMPER PROOF  
ANKLE DEVICES  
ALLOW FOR  
24-HOUR A DAY  
MONITORING

Oriana House is using newly enhanced technology to provide greater accountability of offenders. Two of the most recently expanded services are the Secured Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM) and the Global Positioning System (GPS) electronic monitoring programs. Both SCRAM and GPS require the offender to wear a small, tamper-proof ankle device that provides 24/7 monitoring.

## **Secured Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM)**

SCRAM provides monitoring of a client's compliance with a court order to abstain from alcohol. The SCRAM device samples perspiration every 60 minutes to determine alcohol consumption. If alcohol is detected, then the SCRAM ankle bracelet tests every 15 minutes until alcohol is no longer present.

"While SCRAM cannot prevent someone from drinking, it enables us to know whether or not alcohol was consumed," said Oriana House Executive Vice President Bernie Rochford.

## **Global Positioning System (GPS)**

GPS tracking offers several options on how closely an offender is monitored. The levels include passive (historical tracking information), intermediate (provides the tracking information every 4-6 hours, with the added benefit of being able to view recent tracking data that is no more than 10 minutes old), and active (real time) monitoring.

While Oriana House staff is able to monitor an offender's whereabouts 24/7, GPS also alerts staff when an offender enters exclusion zones where he or she is not allowed to frequent. Exclusion zones can include areas where an offender's victim resides or works.

Rochford said both SCRAM and GPS are useful tools that complement community corrections programs.

Oriana House monitored 327 offenders through its SCRAM and GPS programs last year.

It is the policy of Oriana House, Inc., to treat all clients regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, or religion. There is no distinction in eligibility for or in the manner of providing client services. Services are provided to clients and visitors regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, or religion. All persons and organizations having occasion to refer clients for services or to recommend Oriana House, Inc., are advised to do so without regard to race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, or religion.



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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

