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A NON-PROFIT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS AGENCY

Oriana House Press Release

For Immediate Release: January 26, 2021

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Oriana House will see a change in executive vice president leadership

Oriana House Executive Vice President of Operations Anne Connell-Freund is retiring from a successful 32-year career in community corrections and substance abuse treatment.

Oriana House is a private, nonprofit agency that provides community corrections, substance abuse treatment, and mental health services. It is headquartered in Akron, Ohio and has facilities throughout the state.

Connell-Freund received a Bachelor of Science degree followed by a Master of Science degree in Technical Education from the University of Akron. She served in active duty for the U.S. Army from 1977-1981, and worked as a Military Intelligence Analyst during her career as a Reservist from 1985-1992, when she left the service as a Captain. Connell-Freund began working at Oriana House in Akron in 1989 as a caseworker coordinator, then progressed through various positions leading to Executive Vice President of Operations where she was responsible for overseeing the operations and management of residential, non-residential, and diversionary community corrections programs and substance abuse treatment. During Connell-Freund's tenure, Oriana House expanded its footprint from Summit County to include facilities located in Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Sandusky, Seneca, Stark, and Washington counties and provides services well beyond those counties.

"Anne has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those we serve in community corrections. She dedicated her time to assist a staff of more than 700 employees with implementing programs that were proven to reduce recidivism," said Oriana House President/CEO James Lawrence.

"Anne helped lead our agency through an opiate epidemic and expanded our substance abuse treatment. She has always been determined to break the stigma of addiction and help others understand addiction as a disease," Lawrence added.

Connell-Freund's dedication and commitment span beyond Oriana House. She has served in leadership roles with many professional organizations including the International Community Corrections Association; the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections; and the Ohio Community Corrections Association. Additionally, she serves on numerous statewide coordinating and collaborating committees for community corrections and is also Board Chair of Summit County Children Services. Throughout her career she has worked closely with legislators and local, state, and national leaders to effect changes that increase opportunities for returning citizens who have criminal records while protecting public safety.

Anne is highly regarded in the field of community corrections and has been honored to receive many professional awards including the 2003 Professional Achievement Award from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, 2008 Leadership Award from the Ohio Community Corrections Association, 2008 Simon Dinitz Award, 2016 James Wichtman Award from the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections, and the 2018 Arthur McDonald Leadership and Service Award from the International Community Corrections Association.

Mike Randle is being promoted to the position of Oriana House Executive Vice President of Operations. Randle joined the Oriana House leadership team in 2010 and has served in management roles in Cuyahoga County and Summit County.

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Randle's career in corrections spans over 30 years with nearly 20 years at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) where he served in a variety of positions including Mental Health Administrator, Warden, Deputy Director of Business Administration, and Assistant Director for the Agency. Randle left ODRC when he was appointed Director of the Illinois Department of Correction, serving under Governor Pat Quinn. Randle returned to Ohio in 2010 to work for Oriana House first as the Program Manager of the Cuyahoga County Community Based Correctional Facility and most recently as the Regional Vice President of Correctional Programming in Summit County.

As Executive Vice President of Operations, Randle will be responsible for the overall operation and management of residential, nonresidential, and diversionary community corrections programs including cognitive skills, treatment, employment, and education programming. Randle will also oversee the development and implementation of new programs.

Randle received his Bachelor's degree in Criminology from The Ohio State University and his Master in Business Administration from Ashland University. Randle is a member of American Correctional Association, National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ), North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents, and Ohio Community Corrections Association, having served as president 2017-2019. He is the 2019 recipient of the NABCJ Jonathan Jasper Wright Award and is currently the Chair of the Cleveland affiliate of the NABCJ. He also serves on the board of the International Association of Community Corrections. He is routinely requested to provide expert testimony on legislative issues, present at various conferences, and is a consultant for the Nakamoto Group on various correctional issues.

"Oriana House is fortunate to have Mike's extensive experience in corrections and leadership skills. His advocacy for offender rehabilitation is an asset on the local, state, and national level." Lawrence added. "Our executive team has worked tirelessly to guide us through the current challenges of the pandemic and to help build Oriana House's 40-year history. Their efforts and the daily commitment of our staff put us in an excellent position to continue providing rehabilitation and addiction treatment services for years to come."

Randle will assume the Executive Vice President position when Connell-Freund retires on January 29, 2021. Also serving on Oriana House executive staff are Executive Vice President of Administrative Services and Business Relations Bernie Rochford, Vice President of Finance/CFO Carl Ebner, Vice President of Administration and Legal Counsel Mary Jones, Vice President of Correctional Programs in Summit County Lori Lawrence, Vice President of Correctional Programs in Cuyahoga County Illya McGee, Vice President of Services Christine Savage, and Vice President of Correctional Programs in North Central and South East Ohio Jason Varney.

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