

**CCA Directors' Meeting  
December 5, 2008**

**BCS Staff Changes**

Chris Galli introduced Cheryl Lacey Adams who will serve as a temporary Community Corrections Specialist (CCS) covering Portia Cox-Walter's area. She will also be covering some of Chris Neuffer's areas as well. Cheryl is from the Office of Victim Services. She will assist BCS for at least 60 days.

**Recognition of Chris Nuhfer's Retirement**

Kim Switzer, President of OCPOA and Chris Galli recognized Chris Nuhfer for his years of service, knowledge and service in the field of community corrections. Congratulations to Chris on his retirement.

**New BCS Audit Process**

Chris Galli reported that many programs that scored over 95% on last year's full audit will do a self audit this year. The CCS assigned to your area will inform you if your program will be assigned a self audit or a full audit this year. Programs that conduct a self audit this year will have a full program audit next year. Stacy Lomax indicated that, if a jurisdiction has multiple programs, a separate self audit must be done for each program. You may provide some documentation if that is helpful in explaining a special circumstance. Once your self audit is completed, submitted and reviewed, you will receive a response from BCS with your audit results.

**Ohio Risk/Needs Tool Update**

Chris Galli reported that 12 pretrial programs are participating in a four-week pilot program testing the Ohio Risk/Needs Tool on pretrial defendants. Richard Lempke is the contact at University of Cincinnati (UC) for this pilot. Programs will then follow the defendants assessed through pretrial completion or for 90 days (whichever comes first) and report those results to UC. There is an instruction manual which explains proper use of the tool. Those programs using the tool so far reported that it is generally simple to administer. There are currently seven main questions on the tool. Pretrial programs currently testing the tool are linked via a listserv to communicate and share questions and problems with each other and UC.

Alicia reported that the roll out of the tool to everyone is now planned for between January-March 2009. Cliff Crooks, from ODRC, will coordinate the training across the state. The plan is to bring the tool online by December 2009 in a web-based form.

**Halfway House/CBCF Study**

Alicia Handwerk reported that Chris Lowenkamp is leaving UC in January for a position with the Federal Court system. Ed Latessa will be the contact person for the HWH/CBCF project. The study is still on schedule.

### **FY09 and FY10 Budget Status**

Alicia Handwerk reported that the state budget for the next few years continues to look bleak with projections of a large deficit. There may be no announcements until at least January on how the budget cuts may affect ODRC, CCA and community corrections programs. Many things could affect how much, if any, budgets could be cut including a possible federal stimulus packages. BCS will move forward with CCA program plans as if no cuts are coming at this point.

Chris Galli has contacted some programs about a reported history of unspent funds. Unspent funds are down from prior years. Please make sure there are no unspent funds returned to ODRC. Continually turning back money may result in cuts to your program budget. If you are having problems spending down funds, please let BCS know as soon as possible.

Chris Galli asked that you contact BCS if you need to make budget revisions past the April deadline.

Gayle Dittmer reminded everyone that some programs may have 27 payroll periods in Calendar Year 2009, depending on your pay schedule. Please plan ahead as this may affect your FY10 budget.

### **408 Focus Group**

Alicia Handwerk reported that the plan for two separate grant application will go forward in FY10. One application is to be used by programs intended to change offender behavior. The other application is to be used by programs whose purpose is jail reduction. Talk to your CCS if you are not sure what type of program application you should use.

Combining the funding lines (407 and 408) is still under consideration.

### **Community Corrections Collaborative (CCC)**

Gayle Dittmer reported that the CCA representatives on the CCC are Gary Yates, Dan Peterca, Gayle Dittmer and Kelly Miller.

The CCC meet on October 29, 2008 to discuss the results of the recommendations made to ODRC, BCS concerning what issues the committee felt should be taken into consideration when considering possible budget cuts and/or reallocation of funds for CCA Programs, CBCFs and Halfway Houses. As previously discussed, the issues identified for CCA programs were related to history of unspent funds and program performance. BCS was unable to report results for CCA Programs because some programs had not yet submitted their final reports. Program Directors were reminded to submit reports timely. If BCS does not receive the reports, they will have to make determinations based on the information they currently have. This is intended to be a fair process with all the information necessary to make important decisions. Please make sure that your program reports are submitted timely. Chris Galli will begin making phone calls to programs identified through this process to make sure there is agreement on the information submitted before decisions are made.

### **Audit Standards Review**

Alicia Handwerk reported that on October 2, 2008 a meeting was held to clarify the current audit standards. The meeting included representatives from CCA programs, CBCFs, Halfway Houses, BCS staff and a representative from the University of Cincinnati. There were no major changes to the standards. BCS staff are waiting for results of the HWH/CBCF follow up study from UC before determining whether any significant standard changes need to be made. A set of draft standards are being reviewed by the work group for possible implementation in FY10.

### **BCS Strategic Planning**

Alicia Handwerk reported that the Division of Parole and Community Services is undergoing an overhaul and developing new strategic plans. The Bureau of Adult Detention is revising jail standards to reflect evidence-based practices, implementing Ohio jail information system, conduct jail assessments at the request of the jurisdiction. Meetings have been held with Judges from counties which receive courtesy supervision from Field Services/APA to update county agreements bringing them more in line with EBP, adhere to R/N principles for supervision, engagement with offenders families/social supports in at least 75% caseloads, and implement positive incentive program for offenders.

The Audits and Investigations unit will track internal investigations to detect emerging trends, expedite the investigation process, and increase recognition and awareness of exceptional work.

Victim services will expand outreach and training including cognitive behavioral program.

The Parole Board will increase positive post release contacts and use R/N principles to develop special needs conditions.

BCS identified the following goals: 1) to reduce recidivism rates in community corrections programs by 5-10% in three years. 2) Increase outside funding streams. 3) Improve communication & training, staff motivation and enhancement.

The next CCA Directors' Meeting will be held on Friday, February 13, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Columbus, OH.

Meeting Adjourned,

Respectfully Submitted by  
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