



September 28, 2021

Dear Members of the Senate Health Committee,

The Ohio Community Corrections Association would like to go on record as supporters of House Bill 122. We represent the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction halfway houses in Ohio and the 5 non-profit run Community Based Correctional Facilities. Halfway Houses "are community residential programs providing supervision and treatment services for offenders released from state prisons, referred by Courts of Common Pleas, or as a sanction option addressing violations of community supervision. Halfway houses are a vital component of Ohio's community justice continuum providing services such as cognitive behavioral therapy, drug and alcohol treatment, electronic monitoring, job placement, educational programs, and specialized programs for sex offenders and mentally ill offenders." (ODRC Bureau of Community Sanctions Annual Report). There were 8,237 people in our residential halfway house beds in FY 2020 with an average length of stay of 108 days.

In the current climate where staff are in great shortage, physical and behavioral health needs are spiraling out of control, persons are in constant need of quality health care; expansion of telehealth services gives providers the flexibility to treat and care for our clients without the added concerns of transportation difficulties, exposure to COVID, and in the comfort of their homes.

Our facilities are operating with skeletal staff and due to the pandemic, our contract medical personnel are in high stress, high demand and an additional commute minimizes the available time for patients. With telehealth, a practitioner may connect via an electronic platform or telephone and determine the symptoms, emotional stability, and whether a person may be in crisis or in need of more intensive services. Telehealth is a way to triage and maintain levels of care for a greater number of individuals and has allowed practitioners to continue to see and communicate with people even during periods of shut-down, after hours, or while quarantining.

We applaud the Ohio Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Medicaid who realized that an office visit may not be the optimal way to address patients especially in rural, underserved locations, or areas where disrupting the patient was more harmful than helpful. When someone is physically ill or in need of immediate care, a virtual visit can allow a professional to see and speak with the client, offer a diagnosis and call-in medicine to the pharmacist. The process is efficient and allows more people to access limited care. We urge your support on the bill which has garnered widespread support from various provider organizations in the state.

Thank you,

Jeremy Simpson

OCCA President

Enclosures: Telehealth infographic created by State of Ohio

OCCA Members service provision

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Jeremy Simpson, 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



# Learn about Telehealth

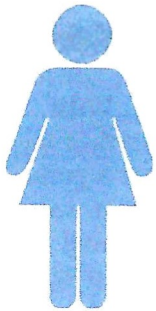
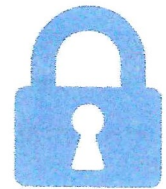
Mike DeWine, Governor  
Lori Criss, Director

**Telehealth means using phones or video chats by computer to provide health care and health-related education. You see your care provider using a computer or phone instead of in-person. Here is more to know about telehealth:**



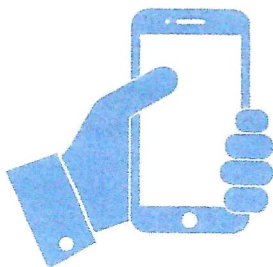
1. Find internet access at a secure spot. If you need access to the internet, try a library. All Ohio public libraries have Wi-Fi that can be accessed from the parking lot.

2. The software that providers use is secure. Ask your provider to explain the security measures that they use.



3. You will talk to a real person. Licensed practitioners can treat you via telephone or video chat. You will not be talking to an automated system or a call center.

4. Telehealth services are often covered by your health insurance. Check with your insurance plan to learn about your coverage.



5. Practice with your current mental health or substance use disorder provider. If you would like to use telehealth, but feel unsure, ask your provider to practice with you at an appointment.

6. It's easy to keep telehealth appointments! You don't need to leave the house to meet with your provider.

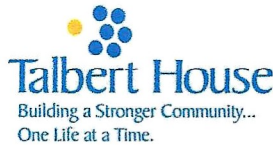




# MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH SERVICE

## OCCA MEMBER AGENCIES

Ohioans have come to rely on the wide range of critical services offered by OCCA members. We are tackling the most persistent problems confronting our communities and serving the most vulnerable.



### REENTRY/CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- ◆ Residential
- ◆ Community
- ◆ Teleservices
- ◆ Electronic monitoring
- ◆ Pre and post-sentence investigations
- ◆ Supervision for local courts
- ◆ Jail-based treatment
- ◆ Community alternative sentencing center

### EMPLOYMENT/ EDUCATION

- ◆ Workforce development to overcome barriers to employment
- ◆ Employment assistance - placement and retention
- ◆ OCCA member operated social enterprises
- ◆ Literacy/tutoring
- ◆ Adult basic and literacy education
- ◆ GED prep and testing
- ◆ Computer training

### SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT

- ◆ Outpatient treatment (including intensive outpatient)
- ◆ Residential treatment
- ◆ Driver intervention
- ◆ Behavioral health day reporting
- ◆ Detox

### HOUSING

- ◆ Recovery Housing
- ◆ Supportive Housing
- ◆ Shelters for men
- ◆ Shelters for families
- ◆ Returning Home Ohio
- ◆ Rapid rehousing

### SPECIALIZED SERVICES

- ◆ Human Trafficking
- ◆ Developmental disabilities
- ◆ Veterans
- ◆ Youth
- ◆ Geriatric care

### MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

- ◆ Mental health treatment
- ◆ Case management
- ◆ Prevention services
- ◆ Juvenile fire setters program
- ◆ School based behavioral health services

### BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES

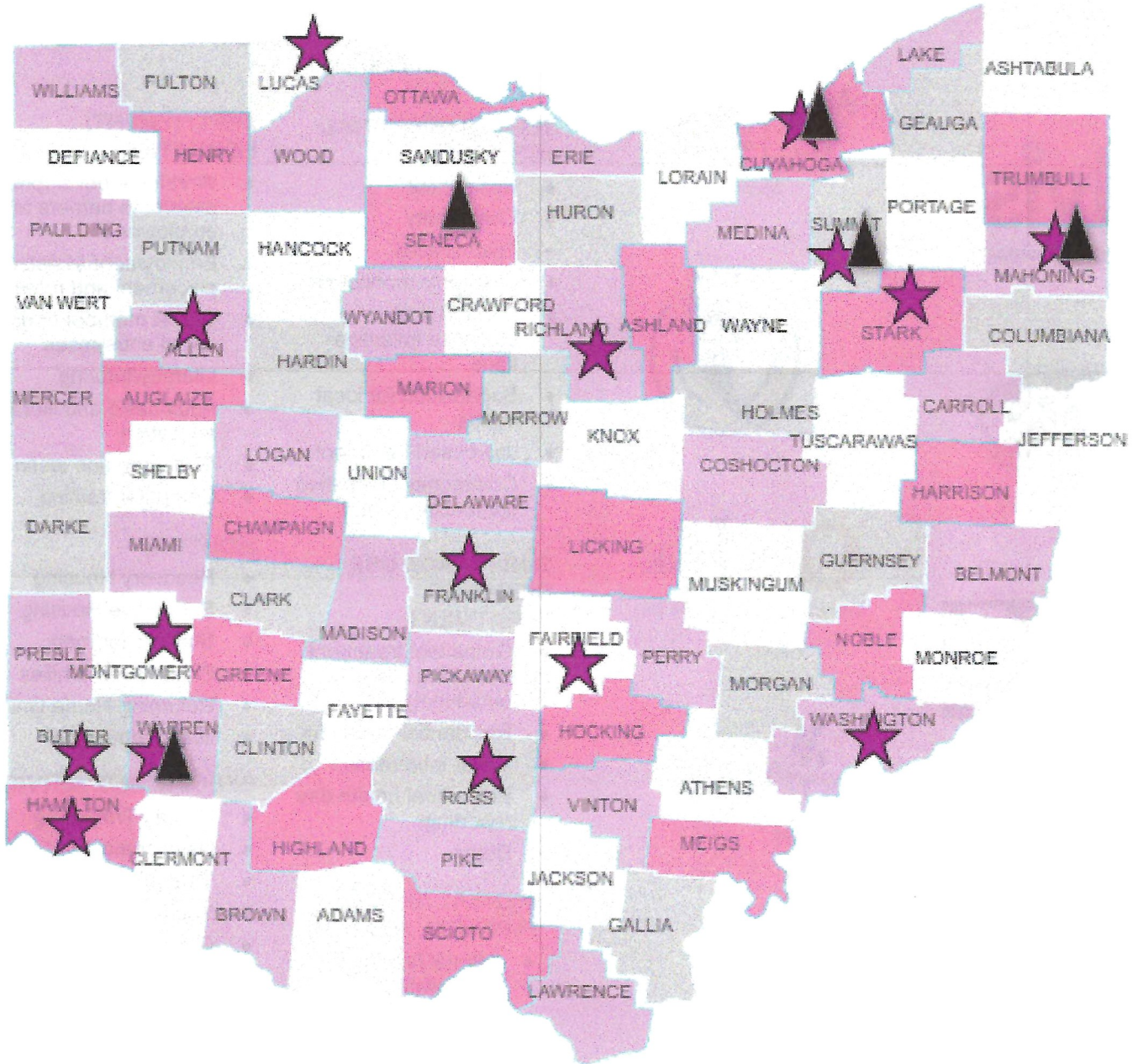
- ◆ Parenting programs
- ◆ Summer camp
- ◆ Operation Backpack
- ◆ Adopt-A-Family
- ◆ Fatherhood Project

### SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

- ◆ Food bank distribution center
- ◆ Narcan distribution
- ◆ Transportation



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE ACROSS OHIO



### OCCA Member Halfway House Location(s)

Each star represents one or more halfway house facilities in the county. The network of halfway houses works to provide services to criminal justice-involved individuals across all 88 Ohio counties.



### OCCA Member Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) Location

Each triangle represents a CBCF operated by an OCCA member agency. OCCA members operate five of Ohio's 18 CBCFs.