



Community Based Correctional Facilities

**Eastern Ohio Correctional Center
Wintersville, OH**

Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Guernsey,
Harrison, Jefferson, Monroe, Noble

**Franklin County CBCF
Columbus, OH**

Franklin

**Lucas County Correctional
Treatment Facility**

Toledo, OH

Lucas

**MonDay Community Correctional
Institution**

Dayton, OH

Darke, Green, Miami, Montgomery,
Preble, Fayette

**NEOCAP
Warren, OH**

Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake,
Portage, Trumbull

**NorthWest Community Corrections Center
Bowling Green, OH**

Defiance, Fulton, Henry,
Williams, Wood

**STAR Community Justice Center
Franklin Furnace, OH**

Adams, Brown, Clinton, Highland,
Lawrence, Pickaway, Pike, Ross,
Scioto

**Stark Regional Community
Correction Center**

Louisville, OH

Holmes, Stark, Tuscarawas, Wayne

**West Central Community Correctional Facility
Marysville, OH**

Champaign, Clark, Delaware, Logan,
Madison, Marion, Morrow, Union

W.O.R.T.H. Center

Lima, OH

Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Mercer,
Putnam, Paulding, Shelby, Van Wert

House Finance Committee

HB 49

Proponent Testimony of: Bud Hite

Executive Director, Lucas County Correctional Treatment Facility

April 6, 2017

Good afternoon, Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Ryan, Ranking Member Cera and members of the Finance Committee. My name is Bud Hite and I am the executive director of Lucas County Correctional Treatment Facility and a trustee for CorJus, a collaborative and innovative trade association for Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCF). Lucas County is a part of the five county Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison (TCAP) pilot, which also includes Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams counties. Our TCAP program afforded us the opportunity to create CBCF like programming in our regional jail. We also had the ability to create a deviation cap of individuals that the Judges really felt needed to be sent to prison. The regional TCAP program we created includes non-violent felony 4 and 5 offenders. As you learn about each of the pilot TCAP programs you will hear that each of us are very different in design. The reason we are able to be different, is that the TCAP process afforded us the discretion to fill the needs of our individual communities and our courts. One of the main criticisms from county and local officials we have heard in committee thus far is this language minimizes discretions and does not provide enough funding at \$23.00 per diversion to do anything with. Let me dispel the myths.

First, the \$23.00 per day language is being misinterpreted. Local courts will still have the ability to utilize CBCFs and other community programs on top of the diversion funding. Nearly \$60 million will be invested by the state to divert to local supports and helps save the state prison budget \$20 million over the biennium and will work towards reducing our historically high prison population. Our local TCAP pilot has not only received financial support from the state, but has also increased our collaboration in Northwest Ohio. Both pieces are critical in achieving our shared goals of rehabilitating and keeping Ohio safe.

Second, I have heard on many occasions that TCAP will eliminate discretion. This concern is only true if we are satisfied with the "Status Quo". As TCAP really relates to discretion, these dollars are able to be used for local incarceration, local outpatient services, local aftercare services, and local programs to enhance offender access. TCAP could be used to enhance Intervention-in-Lieu of conviction options, and TCAP could enhance the availability of Prosecutorial Diversion programs. We had found that the cost to access some of our diversion programs prohibited offenders in poverty from participating. These are just some of the possibilities that come to life through TCAP dollars as we look to improve local services based on local needs.

Each County throughout Ohio has very different criminal justice and behavioral health needs. TCAP and Probation Improvement and Incentive Grants (PIIG) afford us the discretion and creativity to deal with our local issues. This isn't funding to just not incarcerate offenders in prison. This is funding to create local and regional collaboration and reform that will afford the system the ability to provide a meaningful opportunity for offenders to change. If the opportunity to change and tailor programs to individual community needs is available, we will see less recidivism, we will see less technical violations and most important we will see our

communities become healthier and safer. Every elected official regardless of party affiliation and branch of government has these goals in common.

Through the Counsel of State Governments review of Ohio, and with all of the available research information on best practices, we now have the information to be a more effective and sophisticated system. What we also know, is that placing the wrong offenders in prison, not only is an inefficient practice, but it actually makes many offenders worse than they ever were when they were sentenced. Knowing this, tells us that this practice is not making our communities safer, and we are definitely not operating in the most efficient or effective ways possible.

As we stand here and evaluate whether TCAP is an effective idea or the legislature infringing on local “discretion”, I believe the real concern is this: TCAP is challenging the system to change, and change is the most difficult thing we can ask any human being to do. TCAP is a way to provide staff in the system a meaningful opportunity to be change agents.

As a member of CorJus, I would also like to mention two items we are pursuing in this budget.

- 1) With a \$4.8 million investment in line 501501 funding directed at specific needs within CorJus CBCFs, we can expand and create treatment efforts directed at the opiate epidemic, strengthen mental health services, increase and develop outpatient and aftercare services, divert additional offenders through our residential programs, and ensure qualified and dedicated staff are in a position to help offenders succeed. CBCFs are a natural fit for beginning opiate addiction treatment because of their existing treatment components, built-in community linkage, and cost-effectiveness. For opioid antagonist therapy to be effective, it must be provided in conjunction with other alcohol or drug recovery programs. Treatment programs at CBCFs are already comprised of evidence-based programs to combat substance abuse and criminal thinking. The expansion of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services to existing programmatic components in CBCFs would allow the offender to address both the cognitive and physical devastation wrought by opiate addiction. An increase in funding in this area would allow approximately 550 more Ohioans to begin opioid addiction treatment in a safe and secure environment.
- 2) Several of the areas proposed for increase in the 501 line could be remedied through providing CBCFs direct access to alternate funding sources, notably, PIIG grants. Allowing CBCFs access to these funds would enable them to develop community programs that target Felony 4/5 offenders in the community. Access to this funding could also be used to expand existing MAT, outpatient, and aftercare programs. We appreciate your consideration of these amendments.

Thank you for your time to discuss TCAP and how CBCFs can be utilized to keep Ohio safe and better fight the opiate epidemic and I will answer any questions.