

ACCREDITATION OHIO

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Conference Time!

- Due to financial difficulties encountered by many correctional agencies this year, the CAAO board decided to hold it's annual conference in conjunction with the annual OC-CSA conference. The board will be reviewing the options for future training to determine what will be the most helpful to CAAO members, including an annual conference, joint conferences, or regional training. Please check the CAAO web site for more information.

Inside this issue:

CAAO Elections and 2007 Conference Evaluation	2
Community Correctional Facility Seeks Accreditation	3
Accreditation of Jails	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Did you know???	4

The Wave of Change is Coming!

If you have ever spent time near the ocean you know that the waves relentlessly and ceaselessly crash upon the shore; some small and pleasant, and some large and powerful. If you don't pay close attention, odds are that a wave larger than the rest will come and knock you on your posterior.

Change, like the waves in the ocean is a constant, ceaseless and relentless process; budgets, philosophies, legal requirements, security threat groups, population levels and people never stop changing.

You might ask yourself:

With this constant and sometimes quite turbulent change, how do we as professionals and as organizations survive?

In my opinion to be truly successful we need to alter the way we think about this question and about change. Take the question and rephrase it to ask:

With this constant and sometimes quite turbulent change, how do we as professionals and as organizations anticipate

and become a positive, active leader in the change process?

I submit to you that the best tool we can use to ride this wave, instead of being swamped by it, is a surf board, and in this case our surf board is the accreditation process. The standards are important, but they are only a part of an overall process that leads us to self examination, openness to scrutiny, constructive criticism by others, improved communication, networking, and teamwork. Active participation in accreditation also benefits us professionally. What are the national trends? What works and doesn't work in other facilities and other states? Knowing the answers to these questions will help us to possibly anticipate the change and help us to know what to do when change does come. Chances are other "surfers" have seen waves like these and can suggest the best way to ride them out.

Be a leader and an agent in the change process; don't wait for another wave to hit you simply hoping to survive. In-

stead, go and build your own surf board: volunteer to assist with accreditation and policy at your site, join ACA, CAAO and CAMA, become an Auditor, go to conferences, read corrections today, and use all of these resources to keep abreast of change and the latest trends in corrections.

The wave of change is coming! Are you going to let this wave wash over you and hope to survive or will you get on your surf board and paddle like heck hoping for a "gnarly" ride?

Do you have your surf board?

Jim Ferrell, CAAO President, Accreditation Administrator for the Ohio Department of Youth Services, ACA Auditor

Election of the CAAO Board of Directors

2008 is a huge election year for all, including the CAAO Board of Directors. Have you considered becoming part of the CAAO Board or even holding office? Now is your time!

According to the CAAO Constitution and By-Laws, the election of the CAAO Board of Directors is scheduled to occur in the fall of even-numbered years, with the change of officers to occur the following January.

Open Board positions include:

- President-Elect/Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Adult Institutions
- Adult Local Detention Facilities
- Probation and Parole Field Services
- Adult Community Residential Services
- Juvenile Institutions
- Juvenile Detention Facilities
- Juvenile Community Residential Programs

Individuals interested in running for one of these positions must be a member-in-good-standing of both CAAO and the Correctional Accreditation Managers Association (CAMA). Board members elected during the fall 2008 elections shall serve for a two-year term, through the end of 2010.

Please e-mail a letter of interest indicating what position you choose to run for and short biographical statement to Dawn Stevens at dawnstevens@orianahouse.org. The letter of interest must confirm that you are currently a member-in-good-standing of both CAAO and CAMA. The deadline to submit nominations is August 29, 2008.

The ballot to elect the new Board of Directors will be distributed in the Fall, with the announcement of all newly elected Board members to follow.

CAAO 2007 Conference Evaluation Summary

The CAAO Board would like to take this opportunity to thank all the attendees who completed the conference evaluation forms. Your feedback is valuable in making the conference a success. Your suggestions and constructive criticism help the CAAO Board continue to improve and provide you the best service. We received over 565 evaluation forms. Of the 565 evaluations, 90% contained positive markings.

We appreciate the time you took to complete the evaluations. As a result, the CAAO Board will review and discuss the comments and suggestions you provided. This will help us plan for future CAAO Conferences.

Community Correctional Facility Seeks Accreditation

Ohio's twelve Juvenile Community Correctional Facilities (CCFs) are on the road to accreditation! In 2004 with the support of the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) these well run state of the art facilities decided to make a commitment to excellence and prove to their stakeholders that they are among the best in the business.

Ohio's CCFs treat lower-level felony delinquent youth who otherwise would be committed to a DYS facility and can vary in size with bed capacity ranging from 10 to 55. Many of these facilities serve a consortium of counties and are overseen by the Juvenile Court Systems with funding provided by the OYDS. Specific programming and special-

ized services such as substance abuse classes, behavior modification and anger management sessions are offered along with education classes.

In the last two years 8 CCFs successfully passed their audits and achieved accreditation status. These facilities are; Miami Valley Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, Multi-County Juvenile Attention System, Northern Ohio Juvenile Community Corrections Facility and Oakview Juvenile Residential Center, Butler County Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility, Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio and Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Services.

By the end of this September the following four remaining facilities will have their ACA audits; Hocking Valley Community Residential Center, Lucas County Youth Treatment Center, North Central Ohio Rehabilitation Center and Perry/Multi-County Juvenile Facility.

Join us in congratulating the eight successful CCF and in cheering on the remaining facilities in their accreditation efforts.

Christy Hauck is the Accreditation Administrator for the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

Accreditation of Jails—To Be or Not To Be?

While networking with other jail professionals, I am always asked if my facility is accredited by the American Correctional Association (the answer is yes). The second most asked question is: How much does it cost? While accreditation seems or appears to be, a costly expense for some, losing a lawsuit will usually cost much more.

Approximately 32 states have adopted some form of jail standards. Jails in states with proactive standards and inspection programs have generally experienced reduced liability exposure. So, if you supplement your current state minimum jail standards with accreditation from ACA, you will realize an even greater reduction in liability.

The accreditation process does not do away with your current standards; they compliment them and, at times, set a higher specification

or benchmark for your jail to follow. ACA has recently developed Core Standards for Jails. This does not mean that if your jail is currently accredited by ACA, that you have to change your standards. This is a set of standards that may be considered less than the current prison standards or written to fit the needs of jails.

According to Mark D. Martin's article in the American Jail Association November/December magazine, jails were historically a low priority in the local criminal justice system and were typically second to law enforcement. Funding for jails did not become a priority until the courts, in response to inmate lawsuits, pressured local jurisdictions to give jails a higher priority.

Because of lawsuits the federal courts have been involved (since the 1970's) and there is case law that defines how jails should be operated and a way to hold jail officials accountable if the case law is not followed.

In my opinion, the best way to avoid lawsuits in this era is to strengthen your jail standards, policies and procedures, and your education by becoming accredited by the American Correctional Association.

If you or someone you know, is interested in having their jail accredited contact: Mark A. Flowers, Director of Standards & Accreditation for the American Correctional Association. Mark's phone number is: 703-224-0070.

Captain Patrick Claprod, CJM is the Jail Administrator for the Licking County Jail in Newark, Ohio

**CORRECTIONAL
ACCREDITATION
ASSOCIATION OF OHIO**

CAMA is Coming to Ohio!

The 2010 CAMA Conference will be held in Ohio. This is the third time that CAMA has chosen Ohio to host its conference. CAMA has been to Cleveland and to Columbus. The site location and dates have not been determined, but this will be a great time for CAAO members who may not be able to travel to out of state conferences to meet with fellow accreditation managers from around the country. Stay tuned to the CAAO and CAMA web sites for further details.

We're on the web!
www.accreditationohio.org

Treasurer's Report—

Thanks to all CAAO members for their attendance at last year's training conference. Our conference is educational and provides valuable training in licensure areas to meet ACA, DR and C and DYS standards of operation.

The CAAO Board of Directors enjoys the opportunity to serve the membership and we promote sound fiscal practices. Our current balance of 27,400.30 displays the Board's diligence.

Allan L. Seifert, Treasurer CAAO.

A full accounting of the Board's deposits and debits is available by contacting Allan Seifert, CAAO Treasurer.