

2010

# ANNUAL REPORT

## OCC

Responsibility

Accountability

Recovery

Kalamazoo County Government  
Community Corrections



# Forward

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I have often compared "good corrections" to "good parenting". Every good parent must balance the need for appropriate discipline and praise. It takes an abundance of patience and often the parent must wait years to determine if the seeds they have planted will blossom and bear fruit. Like a good parent, criminal justice practitioners working with offenders must balance patience, understanding, sanctions and community safety. The Staff at Community Corrections (OCC) embody all the qualities of "good parents". It is a pleasure to watch staff guide, motivate, support and apply appropriate amounts of praise and sanctions with offenders enrolled in programming.

2010 mirrored economic hardships experienced by the community and the State for the past few years. These fiscal constraints presented challenges for OCC Staff to provide the appropriate interventions for offender's substance abuse and mental health needs. Staff rose to the challenge and used all available resources to enhance client recovery.

In 2010, OCC again collaborated with the Sheriff's Department, MSU Extension Services and local greenhouses to plant a Garden at the Jail. The Garden supplemented fresh produce for the jail kitchen and provided an opportunity for inmate workers to learn about gardening.

This Annual Report provides information and data on programming at OCC. We encourage citizens seeking more information on our programs to contact us for a site visit.

**Grace Anne Kalafut**

Community Corrections Director

Since 1990, the Office of Community Corrections (OCC) has been a model program for alternative programming in the State. OCC administered the first Drug Court Program in Michigan in 1992 and hosted the first Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference in 1999. OCC staff members work closely with other criminal justice professionals in the community, to coordinate the effective supervision of offenders.

Community Corrections receives approximately 1.5 million dollars annually in funding from the Michigan Department of Corrections/Office of Community Corrections. This funding is available through Public Act 511, the Community Corrections Act, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining programs that provide alternatives to incarceration. Programs and services are designed using a rehabilitative approach, with careful consideration for public safety. Program participants are screened for educational needs, substance abuse and mental health issues and are referred to appropriate agencies to address those issues.

The following programs are administered or funded by Community Corrections



Drug Testing  
Electronic Monitoring  
Intensive Supervision



Jail Screening  
Life Skill Training Classes  
Mental Health Assessments



Pretrial Supervision  
Probation Residential Services  
Substance Abuse Assessments

# Drug Testing

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To ensure that Community Corrections program participants are actively engaging in their recovery, random drug testing is performed. Participants in the drug testing program can include offenders who are under OCC Pretrial Supervision, enrolled in OCC Electronic Monitoring or on District or Circuit court Probation. OCC also provides drug-testing services to the Family Court and the Department of Human Services (DHS). The DHS Children's Protective Services unit refers parents for drug testing, whose homes have been raided by drug enforcement officers or parents suspected of abuse and/or neglect.

A urine specimen is collected from the participant and forwarded to a laboratory for testing. The laboratory tests the specimen for the presence of:

- Amphetamines
- Cocaine
- Benzodiazepines
- Cocaine
- Ecstasy
- Marijuana
- Opiates
- Alcohol



The creatinine level of the specimen is tested to detect potential tampering of the specimen. The Court or referring agency is notified of positive tests, for use in determining any potential sanctions.

In 2010, OCC had 2,000 new enrollments in the drug-testing program and over 15,000 specimens were collected.

## *Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) and Intensive Supervision Program (ISP)*

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The Electronic Monitoring Program was established in 1991. It serves as a direct alternative to incarceration, with a primary goal of diverting offenders from incarceration and offering sentencing options for District Court probation violators. The program has expanded the use of monitoring technologies since the initial implementation of "tether" equipment, to include in-home alcohol monitoring. Global Positioning Satellite (G.P.S.) monitoring can be used if required.

Offenders enrolled in programming are required to pay the daily fees for the monitoring equipment. They are considered to be under "house arrest" and receive permission to leave for authorized activities such as court hearings, probation appointments and for employment. In 2010, 679 adult offenders were supervised in the EMP and ISP. In addition to monitoring, offenders enrolled in programming receive substance abuse and mental health screenings, employment and life skill training and referrals to local social service agencies.

This program also serves as a jail overcrowding option. Inmates are released from jail with Electronic Monitoring as a condition of their pretrial bond.

All EMP/ISP participants are required to:

- ⇒ Seek and maintain employment
- ⇒ Attend weekly case management sessions
- ⇒ Attend all Court hearings
- ⇒ Submit to random drug and alcohol testing
- ⇒ Comply with all bond conditions
- ⇒ Attend appropriate Life Skill Training Classes



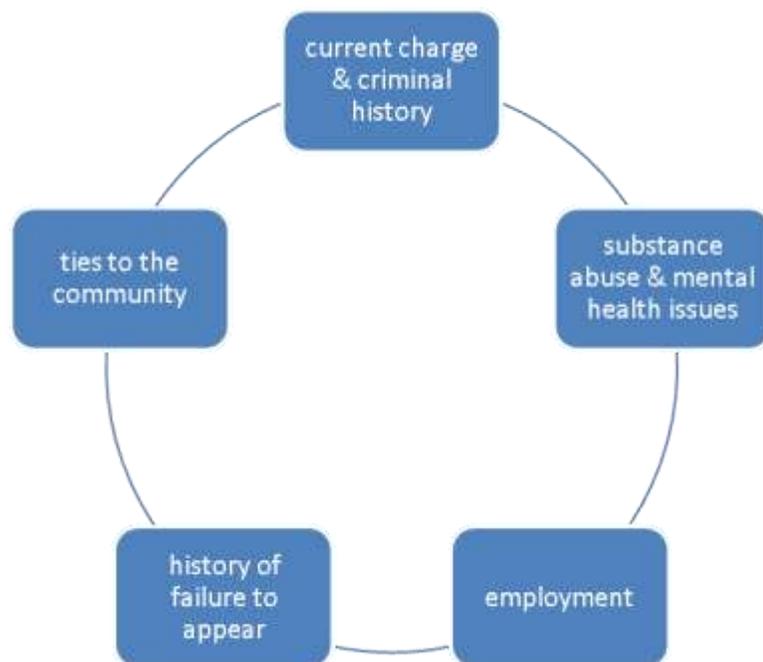
# Jail Screening

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An important part of the Community Corrections comprehensive plan, is to assist in the monitoring of the jail population. The Kalamazoo County Jail books approximately 12,000 inmates per year.

At the request of a Judge, Community Corrections staff conduct a screening on post arraignment inmates, to determine if they are appropriate for community supervision. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of non-violent inmates housed at the Kalamazoo County Jail and ultimately, make more jail beds available for sentenced offenders without adversely affecting public safety.

The following are some of the critical factors in determining bond reduction recommendations:



Based upon the results of the screening, OCC staff may recommend the bond remain the same or recommend a reduction in bond with placement in alternative programs such as Electronic Monitoring and Substance Abuse treatment. In 2010, 56 inmates were screened for alternative placement and/or bond reduction. OCC does not have staff solely dedicated to this function. It is added to the duties of existing staff.

## *Life Skill Training Classes (LST)*

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Offender education, job training and employment, are recognized by researchers and practitioners as critical factors linked with positive offender outcomes. OCC provides LST classes on Employment Searches, Interviewing Skills, How to Address Criminal History in an Interview, How to Keep a Job, Budgeting and Stress Management. A resume creation class is also offered, which includes basic instruction on the use of "Windows" based software. LST classes are available to OCC clients, Probationers, Parolees and Drug Court participants. In 2010, there were 69 enrollments in Life Skill Classes. This programming is provided at no cost to the participant.

The following life skill classes are available:

"From Parole to Payroll" - key aspects of employment searches are covered with specific emphasis placed on discussing criminal history with prospective employers.

"Healing the Heart" - participants learn how anger and the inability to forgive can create barriers to healthy living and relationships.

"Intelligent Money Management" - participants learn how to make the most of their income and how to avoid budgeting pitfalls.

"Self Assessment I & II" - participants learn to define their skills and how to transfer those skills to the job market.

"Stress Management" - examines how to understand the impact of stress and techniques to manage stress.

"Job Survival Skills" - explores the reasons people lose jobs such as absenteeism and the inability to get along with co-workers.

"Resume Creation" - provides access to a computer to create and print a resume on site.

*"The greatest thing in  
this world is not  
so much where we  
stand, as in what  
direction we  
are moving."*

*-Goethe*

## *Mental Health Assessments*

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All offenders referred to OCC receive a mental health screening during program enrollment. This screening is to identify any barriers the offender may have in complying with supervision or that may have contributed to their pattern of criminal behavior. Offenders identified as having significant mental health issues are referred for further assessment.

Kalamazoo Community Mental Health (KCMH) provides a mental health clinician who comes to OCC weekly to interview offenders. The expertise of the clinician provides insight on an offender's mental health and assists OCC staff in supervision and referral issues. The CMH clinician also provides assistance in obtaining emergency medicines and follow-up appointments with CMH case management staff. CMH also provides a mental health clinician in the Jail. The Jail clinician assists jail staff with an inmate's mental health issues.

When the inmate is released to OCC programming, the Jail clinician provides valuable information on what has transpired with the inmate's care and recommendations for any follow-up.

KCMH also provides training to OCC staff on mental health issues. In 2010 CMH provided services to 69 offenders.



## *Grief Counseling*

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A supplemental mental health program was added to OCC in 2008. Staff had observed that offenders with unresolved issues with grief were vulnerable to relapse. A local certified grief counselor donates time to meet with offenders, to assist them with processing their issues related to the loss of friends and relatives. In 2010, 17 offenders benefited from the program.

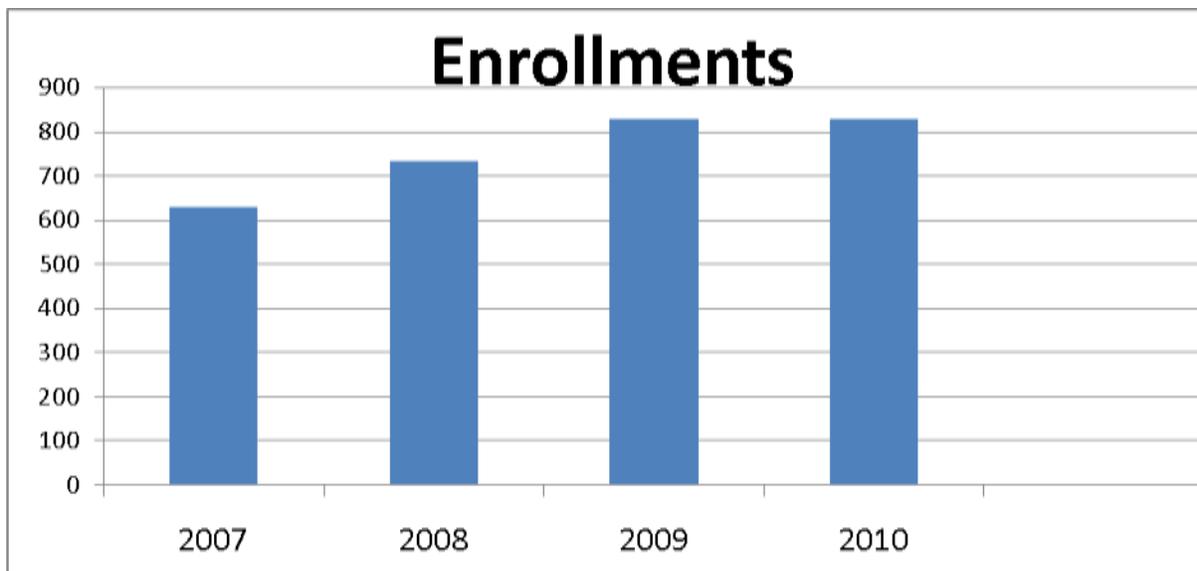
## Pretrial Supervision Program

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Pretrial supervision is an option for the Court to consider when setting bond conditions for offenders. It provides for the conditional release of an offender at arraignment. Pretrial supervision helps ensure the justice system's integrity by identifying offenders who are appropriate for alternatives to pretrial detention and incarcerative sentences. Participants are screened for substance abuse, mental health, education and employment issues.

OCC utilizes the "What Works" theory and "Principles of Effective Supervision" established by the National Institute of Corrections in supervision protocol. It is believed that engaging criminal offenders in programs and services early on may enhance the opportunity to affect positive case outcomes. Progress in the program is reported to the Judge and the probation agent, for use in sentencing recommendations. In 2010, 768 offenders were supervised in Pretrial supervision, with 87% of the participants successfully completing the program.

Community Corrections has experienced an increase in the number of offenders referred for programming. This increase demonstrates the confidence Judges have in OCC programming and a desire to use alternatives to jail.



## *Probation Residential Services (PRS)*

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Community Corrections received approximately one million dollars in funding from the State Office of Community Corrections for Probation Residential Services (PRS) in 2010. This funding supported the placement of adult offenders convicted of a felony, and who meet specific eligibility criteria, to be sentenced to a PRS center. A total of 17,173 bed days were provided, saving valuable jail and prison beds.

At the PRS facility, the offender receives treatment for substance abuse issues, anger management, and employability skills training. Participants also perform community service while residing at the PRS center. A goal of the PRS is to provide Circuit Court probationers with the skills and opportunities necessary to become productive and law abiding members of the community. Probationers who are in violation of the terms of their probation can be sent to the PRS center as a sanction for their non-compliance.



*"It is believed that engaging criminal offenders in programs and services early on, enhances the opportunity for the offender to be successful."*

OCC contracts with the Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program (K-PEP), Pine Rest in Grand Rapids and Community Programs Incorporated (CPI) in Waterford, for probation residential and in-patient substance abuse services. Separate facilities for men and women are available.

On average, offenders receive a 90 day stay at the PRS facility. The actual length of stay at the PRS facility is determined by the Judge, using the current charge, criminal history and recommendation from the probation agent. The PRS program provides an alternative to jail and prison for many offenders.

## *Substance Abuse Assessments*

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All offenders referred for OCC supervision receive a substance abuse screening. Offenders identified as having significant substance abuse issues receive an in-depth substance abuse assessment. The offender meets with a Community Mental Health clinician at OCC. The clinician determines the level of intervention necessary and works closely with OCC staff on placement and follow-up of treatment recommendations. Random drug testing is also used to monitor the offender's commitment to recovery.



## *Strategic Planning*

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The Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB) completed an extensive Strategic Planning process in 2004. Implementation of strategic planning goals has been ongoing since that time. Working with stakeholders within and outside the criminal justice system, a plan was created that went beyond the traditional scope of the CCAB, by addressing issues and concerns that affect the entire community corrections system in Kalamazoo County.

A strategic plan can only be successful if it addresses the strengths and weaknesses of the current system, and understands the trends facing community corrections. Trends were defined as "future external events that may have a positive or negative impact on the operation and service delivery of the community corrections system." Ongoing Strategic Planning issues are addressed at the bi-monthly CCAB meetings.

# Jail Garden Project

In June 2009, Community Corrections, the Sheriff's Department and MSU Extension, collaborated on a project to create a Garden on the Jail property. Appropriate Inmates were assigned to work in the Garden. The Garden was so successful, that the Garden was again planted in 2010. It not only provided produce for use in Inmate meals but was a positive outlet for the inmate workers. All seeds and plant materials were donated by area greenhouses. The produce from the Garden saved the Jail over \$1,500. Some produce was donated to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission.

The following crops were harvested in 2010:

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| ○ Cucumbers     | 20 Bushels  |
| ○ Carrots       | 1 Bushel    |
| ○ Green Beans   | 5.5 Bushels |
| ○ Green Peppers | 6 Bushels   |
| ○ Tomatoes      | 17 Bushels  |
| ○ Zucchini      | 30 Bushels  |



## *Community Corrections Staff Members*

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Grace Anne Kalafut - Director

Kristin Anderson - Drug Testing Coordinator

Kaylin Heverly – Drug Testing Assistant

Sharon Huber - Pretrial Case Manager

Edee Hunter - Intake Specialist

Kathy Kronke– Tether Agent

Jason Kuiper - Tether Agent

Eric Leith - Pretrial Case Manager

Tyler J. Smith - Program Assistant

## *Community Corrections Advisory Board Members*

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Public Act 511 requires that the Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB), consist of 13 voting members, from specific populations in the community. The following individuals are current CCAB members:

Linda Vail Buzas

Steve Burnham

Bob Butkiewicz

Julie Clark

Jeff Fink

Richard Fuller

Gary Giguere

Jeff Hadley

Brian Johnson

John McNeill

Keith Turpel

Milton Wells

Vincent Westra

Human Services

Probate Court Administrator

Community Mental Health

Department of Corrections

Prosecuting Attorney

Sheriff – Vice Chair

Circuit Court Judge – CCAB Chair

Kalamazoo Public Safety Chief

County Board Representative

Media Representative

Defense Attorney

Business Community

District Court Judge