

ND Legislative Management  
Incarceration Issues Committee  
Written Testimony  
July 25, 2016

Good Morning Chairman Carlisle, Senators, Representatives, and all citizen members.

My name is Chelsey Williams and I am the President of the ND Community Corrections Association and I want to start off by thanking you for allowing me to speak to you today. I'm here to provide information about our association, community service, and the impact we have in local communities across North Dakota.

The ND Community Corrections Association (otherwise known as NDCCA) is a non-profit organization established in 1995 and currently consists of 13 member agencies that are located in rural/urban areas in North Dakota which include Bismarck, Devils Lake, Dickinson, Fargo, Forman (Sargent County), Grand Forks, Jamestown, Lisbon (Ransom County), Minot, Rugby, Valley City, Wahpeton, and Williston.

- **History/Current**

The first community service office opened in 1991 and was located in Williston, ND. The NDCCA was established in 1995 as a way for the community service offices to provide support to one another by training, share ideas/methods of how to better serve offenders and our communities, and making the process of transferring offenders to other regions easier. In an outward effort, we came together to continue to provide an alternative method to incarceration in the form of community service for adult and juvenile offenders. The agencies utilizing our services include adult/juvenile district courts, municipal courts, and probation departments. Since our start in 1991, each agency has established their own identity and have incorporated additional services based on regional needs such as administering victim impact panels, drug testing, 24/7 alcohol testing supervising low risk probation offenders, monitoring chemical dependency evaluations, and conducting Theft Awareness and Prevention seminars.

### **Community Service**

Community service is a multifaceted tool as it can be used as a direct sanction by the courts, ordered in lieu of jail, can be worked to pay off court ordered fines or supervision fees, or implemented as an intermediate measure for supervised probation offenders which may prevent them from returning to prison.

The NDCCA describes community service as unpaid work for non-profit organizations or government entities. Our role is to monitor offenders who are ordered to complete community service and report back to the referring agency as to the offenders' success. We also verify the integrity of the non-profit organizations we utilized, make sure the relationship between our work-sites and offenders is respectful, the work performed benefits the non-profit site as well as the community, and ensure the accuracy of any community service completed. Since many of our work-sites are physically demanding, the NDCCA covers the offenders with volunteer workers insurance in case there are injuries.