



Diane Cooper-Currier
Executive Director

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How many years have you worked at OCO?

35 years. I have been Executive Director since Dec. 2007.

What do you like best about your job?

I have the privilege of seeing all the wonderful impact OCO employees from across the agency have on changing people's lives. I am so proud of their dedication to those they serve, their programs, this agency and community. Seeing OCO's mission being carried out by these dedicated employees is inspiring and to hear from those we serve about how an employee helped them through a difficult time, supported them, built trust with them and changed their life. It can't get any better than that!

What have you learned about yourself since you began working at OCO?

Since I've worked here a long time, there have been many things I've learned about myself. I've learned how to blend a caring heart with a practical, "business" sense to make decisions that consider both what's best for people and the business; I've learned how important it is to be aligned with an organization's mission and keep that in the forefront of everything I do. For me, OCO is an avocation, not a vocation – it is who I am and not just who I am at work.

Tell us about one thing you have done that has made OCO better:

I, along with a team of employees and board members, led a reorganization of the agency that streamlined processes and improved the use of technology in the organization in order to be more efficient, effective and better document the great work this organization does.

A Favorite Saying:

"Decide with the head, deliver with the heart."



Kevin Slimmer – Deputy Executive Director

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How many years have you worked at OCO?

I began my career at OCO in May of 2022. Working in human services since 1995, I have gained a lot of experience and knowledge from a vast spectrum of programs.

What do you like best about your job?

Since joining the OCO family, I have been overwhelmed with the staff's dedication, heart, and overall work ethic. I enjoy coming to work every day, tackling the complexities and difficulties that come with providing quality human services.

What have you learned about yourself since you began working at OCO?

Although I have over twenty-five years of working in human services, working at OCO has taught me that I have much to learn. This is my first time working within a Community Action Agency, and I am excited to acquire more skills and knowledge at OCO.

Tell us about one thing you have done that has made OCO better:

Maybe it is a little too early to tell, but I hope that my experience with Quality Improvement has brought a different mindset to this agency.

A Favorite saying: “A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be.” – **Rosalynn Carter**



Cindy Seeber
Director of Human Resources

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Programs: Human Resources, Training, Wellness



Maria Chatterton
Sr. Director of Finance

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How many years have you worked at OCO?

Almost 3 years – Hired November 2020

What do you like best about your job?

I like knowing that OCO will be able to support its employees and community. I support this by engaging in developing processes and efficiencies that result in OCO's financial stability.

Looking at our next step ... and the step after that means we remain available to our community to serve their needs.

What have you learned about yourself since you began working at OCO?

There is always something new to learn and see and a lesson is every experience. And though I have always believed this; OCO is definitely a place where you have to be open to new experiences.

Tell us about one thing you have done that has made OCO better:

I shall return with my thoughts when I see a few projects come to fruition.



Kristin LaBarge
Director of Operations

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How many years have you worked at OCO?

I have worked at OCO for 25 years. I just became Director of Operations at the end of August, 2023. Prior to this position, I was the Planning Coordinator for over 14 years. I started working for OCO right out of college as a Case Specialist for the OPTIONS program. Then, I gradually started growing my skills as a Program Manager / Sr. Specialist for various programs, then Program Coordinator for our new (at the time), Job Skills and Youth Enterprise program. After that, I was a Program Coordinator for a bundle of programs, including – Homeless Services, OPTIONS pregnant and parenting youth, Youth Outreach, and Youth Leadership programming. It has been a wonderful honor to work for the same organization for over 25 years!!

What do you like best about your job?

Well, I am just learning this position – but what I know I will continue to love, is working across the agency, with a variety of people, and a variety of tasks!! Not one day will look exactly like the one before, and that keeps you on your toes! What I hope I can put into place in this new role, is to bring my love for organizing and streamlining and turn it into creating efficiencies for my Department and my Team!

What have you learned about yourself since you began working at OCO?

I have learned that there is ALWAYS more to learn!! I have learned that I am always striving to make a process better, be more efficient, or find ways to streamline. In my opinion, when we are not looking to improve and make adjustments, we can become stagnant and then we aren't as competitive and viable. We have to keep up with the changing times and look at issues with different and varied lenses – that is how we will stay relevant and in the forefront!

Tell us about one thing you have done that has made OCO better:

Myself, other various leaders, and my team have led the agency in the collection and reporting of universal data, using a universal consumer database. This took years in the making and over the past couple of years has come to fruition with much planning, overhaul of service delivery procedures, development of universal processes and agency data collection standards. We now have a tool that we can use to report, agency outcomes and services and derive an unduplicated count from. With much thanks to my former Planning team members and many leaders and staff across the agency!!



Bridget Dolbear
Development Coordinator

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How many years have you worked at OCO?

More than 23 years. I have been fortunate to have worked in three OCO programs before starting my position in June, 2018 as the Development Coordinator.

What do you like best about your job?

I have the opportunity to share stories about the meaningful work OCO programs carry out every single day. I am proud to be a part of an agency that truly has a positive impact on people's lives.

What have you learned about yourself since you began working at OCO?

I started my career with OCO at the SAF program in 1999, working with survivors of domestic violence and after a number of years, transitioned to the After-School program to work with high school students. When a position became available in the Nutrition program, I jumped at the chance to assist the senior population. I have witnessed the most heartbreaking to the most heartwarming stories during my time here at OCO. I have learned that for me, job satisfaction comes from knowing the work we do empowers people from all walks of life to conquer challenges and become their best selves. As so perfectly stated by Maria Robinson, "Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending."

Tell us about one thing you have done that has made OCO better:

The fund development efforts, including events such as Bowl-A-Fun and Giving Thanks, the annual campaign and planned giving provide OCO with a source of unrestricted funds that would otherwise not be available to our agency. The funds raised are allocated to programs to cover expenses that are not allowable under their funding streams. I enjoy playing a part in providing OCO programs with resources that allow them to improve their services and meet our consumer's needs.



Shelby Fowler
Executive Assistant

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How many years have you worked at OCO?

I've worked for OCO since 2021 and I have loved every minute of it!

What do you like best about your job?

I love to assist people, both staff and the community. My time with OCO has never been dull or boring. As I talk to people in the community, I love hearing about the impact OCO has on families, people, and the community as a whole.

What have you learned about yourself since you began working at OCO?

I have learned that the job is never done. OCO's mission to help people, support communities, and change lives has been a part of my life long before working with the OCO team. As someone who came from a poverty background, I have experienced firsthand what it means to be empowered to change my own life. I am thankful to be part of an Agency that strives to do the same for individuals, families, and communities.

Tell us about one thing you have done that has made OCO better:

I strive to streamline the communication process between Executive Leaders, Directors, and the Board. In a world where we are inundated with communication, it has been my goal to make every word count.