

Muskingum County Juvenile Court & Detention Center 2015 Annual Report



Eric D. Martin
Judge

Robert L. Smith
Court Director

Erin E. Welch
Magistrate

Shelia Halsey
Chief Deputy Clerk

D. Allen Bennett
Detention
Superintendent

Shawn Crawmer
Magistrate

Lindsay Daniels
Program Administrator

Michael Blake
Chief Probation Officer

Peggi Cater
Program Director

Muskingum County Juvenile Court & Detention Center

Annual Report 2015

In compliance with Section 2151.18 of the Ohio Revised Code, I submit herewith the Annual Report of the Juvenile Court and Detention Center of Muskingum County, Ohio, for the calendar year 2015, showing the number and kind of cases that have come before it, and other data required by statute or of interest to the general public.

Eric D. Martin
Judge



This Annual Report is provided to:

Honorable County Commissioners
for
Muskingum County, Ohio

**CINDY CAMERON
JERRY LAVY
JAMES PORTER**

&

Director of the Ohio Department of Youth Services

HARVEY REED

FOREWORD FROM THE COURT DIRECTOR

Once again, change was the operative word at the Muskingum County Juvenile Court in 2015. After being appointed by Governor John Kasich to complete the remainder of Judge Gormley's term in August 2014, Judge Martin began his first full term on February 8, 2015.

Perhaps the most significant changes at Juvenile Court involved two (2) new programming initiatives. Almost immediately after taking the bench, Judge Martin announced an aggressive approach to dealing with school truancy. Pursuant to this initiative, complaints alleging truancy violations were placed on an expedited track in order to get these cases before the Court within two (2) to three (3) weeks from the date of filing. Judge Martin traveled to schools on Fridays and held hearings on delinquency cases in the youths' home school buildings in order to stress the importance that he places on school attendance. The Court also encouraged the filing of criminal cases on parents in situations where it was apparent that parents were neglecting their parental responsibility to see that their children attend school on a regular basis. School leaders have indicated that this program has been very successful in addressing the problem of chronic absenteeism.

The second major program initiative is the Court's Family Dependency Court. So-called "special docket courts" are created under the auspices of, and certified by the Ohio Supreme Court. In September of 2015, Muskingum County Juvenile Court received initial certification from the Supreme Court to operate Family Dependency Court. On January 15, 2016, the Commission on Specialized Dockets awarded Muskingum County Juvenile Court Family Dependency Court its final certification. Inspired by, and modeled after Judge Martin's Hope Court in Muskingum County Court, this program provides intense supervision, scrutiny, and case plan services to parents of dependent children who have drug and/or alcohol issues which affect their ability to parent their children. Through a combination of positive reinforcement for case plan progress and remedial sanctions for negative conduct, the Family Dependency Court seeks to provide them with the tools to maintain sobriety; to care for their children; and to hold parents accountable for their actions. Success of similar programs has shown that regular feedback from the Court and the social

service agencies involved in these programs leads to faster reunification of parents with their children as well as more stable families after the conclusion of court involvement. During 2015, the Court received two (2) grants to help offset the expenses associated with this program. As we begin 2016, the Court is pursuing certification of a similar specialized court docket which will focus on delinquent youths whose criminal behavior is affected by drug and/or alcohol abuse.

Overall, case filings were down from 2014 figures which represented a peak for recent years. Child abuse, neglect, and dependency cases, which have been trending upward for the past few years, declined by seventy-four (74) cases. Some of the decline may be attributed to smaller family sizes as case numbers are assigned to each child in an affected family. Delinquency cases and traffic cases were up significantly. Adult criminal cases were also up significantly in 2015. This rise is attributable to the new emphasis by law enforcement in holding parents accountable for truancy issues of their children.

The Court's Diversion Program continues to be an effective option to hold youth accountable for unruly and delinquent behavior. This program, which is intended to serve first time offenders, is administered by Julie Russell. During fiscal year 2015, two hundred twenty-three (223) youths were offered diversion in lieu of formal court proceedings. Of the one hundred twenty-seven (127) youths who completed the program during fiscal year 2015, one hundred twenty-three (123) did not have any other incidents requiring court involvement of the court in the following three (3) months, a success rate of ninety-seven 6/10ths per cent (97.6%).

The Probation Department is a workhorse for the Court despite being downsized over the years. In addition to their traditional role of supervising youths in the community, Probation Officers assist with drug testing and electronic monitoring of participants in the specialized docket courts; assist with court security in the lobby; act as bailiffs in the Courtroom; serve on the court's Reentry initiative; prepare pre-sentence investigations and risk assessments for the Court; and facilitate several therapeutic counseling programs. Less than two percent (2%) of probationers were unsuccessfully terminated from probation. One (1) of the unsuccessful terminations was committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services. Of the one hundred seven (107) youth who were placed on Suspended Probation, only eleven

(11) failed to complete their Court obligations and were added to the probation roles.

The Detention Center remains a model facility having met or exceeded every State and Federal Standard of Operation. During 2015, the Competency Attainment Program participated in our first competency attainment session at the request of the Court. Usage of this program by neighboring courts has been less than expected but is expected to grow in coming years. If so, the program may be a source of funds to purchase updated equipment and training. The detention center continues to serve our neighboring counties as a safe and secure placement for delinquent youths, pre and post disposition. Last year, client counties paid over Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$351,402.55) for detention services. These funds were paid into the County General Fund.

Finally, during 2015, the Detention Center, with the assistance of volunteers from the Master Gardeners Society of Muskingum County, established a raised-bed garden that was tended and maintained by youths in custody. The opportunity to be outdoors and to contribute to a project with tangible results proved to be a useful incentive for youths to maintain good behavior. Vegetables harvested from the garden were used by the kitchen staff in meal preparation.

In fiscal year 2016, the Court received an additional four hundred eleven thousand one hundred seventy-six and 34/100ths Dollars (\$411,176.34) from RECLAIM Ohio for the year, which was used primarily to fund the Juvenile Reentry Program, counseling programs, out-of-home placements, and psychological evaluations of youth. This marks the second straight year that the Court has received RECLAIM funds. Due to a slight increase in our use of DYS bed space during 2013, the Court did not receive any additional RECLAIM funds.

Two (2) significant changes in Juvenile Court operations in 2013 and 2014 resulted in the Court accessing two (2) sources of federal funding for programming and child placements. The Court was officially granted Title IV-E status by Ohio Jobs and Family Services in 2014. This status makes the Court eligible for partial cost reimbursement for certain children in court ordered placements. This project continues to be a work-in-progress as the Court works diligently to meet compliance requirements in an effort to

obtain a stable funding source to offset expenses incurred toward out-of-home placements.

Additionally, 2013 was our initial year as a Title IV-D Court. As a Title IV-D Court, we are entitled to reimbursement from the federal government for the costs of a magistrate who is assigned to hear child support enforcement cases involving lower income families that may be receiving governmental financial assistance. This designation resulted in Muskingum County receiving four thousand seven hundred sixty-five and 00/100ths dollars (\$4,765.00) as partial reimbursement for the Court conducting child support hearings in 2014. In 2015, three thousand three hundred ninety and 00/100ths dollars (\$3,390.00) was returned to the general fund of Muskingum County as partial reimbursement for conducting those hearings.

In 2013, the Court collaborated with Six County Inc., to provide a mental health counselor who could see clients at our site. This collaboration has continued successfully throughout 2015. In 2015, the Court has developed closer ties with Muskingum Behavioral Health and Thompkins Child and Adolescent Services who also have assigned personnel to regular hours inside the court building. By having immediate access to mental health services, the Court is in a better position to fashion dispositions that address issues that contribute to criminal behavior. In addition, we have observed a decrease in missed counseling sessions and have eliminated some transportation issues by scheduling a child's probation appointment and mental health appointment simultaneously.

During 2015, five (5) employees left the Court for greener pastures. Angela Carder and Mary Cassady, two (2) longtime employees who were involved in facilitating court programs, left to join Muskingum County Children Services. Steve Desrosiers left the Probation Department to pursue a different career path while Jessica Chandler left the Probation Department to become a full time mother. Also, Cindy Cameron, who had been a part-time deputy clerk, resigned after being appointed to be one of our County Commissioners. Staff turnover in the Detention Center has become a chronic problem as staff seek better paying positions, both in the profession and elsewhere. Although this situation has not resulted in any security or safety issues, we are constantly looking for competent recruits and we continue to work with our County Commissioners to develop a

compensation structure for detention staff that will help us attract and retain competent employees with an interest in corrections.

In closing, I would like to recognize and thank our many community partners who have assisted us in a variety of ways. A special note of gratitude goes to Muskingum Families and Children First, Muskingum County Child and Adult Services, Six County Inc, Thompkins Child and Adolescent Services, the Muskingum Counseling Center, the Lelia L. Payton Counseling Center and the Muskingum County Master Gardeners Society.

Most importantly, I want to thank all of the employees of the Court and the Detention Center for their patience and professionalism as we continue to build upon the successes of the past. Change can sometimes be difficult. Ultimately the influx of new ideas, in combination with suggestions from seasoned veterans, will result in a more efficient and more effective court dedicated to serving the families and children of Muskingum County.

Respectfully submitted,

**Robert L. Smith, Esq.
Director of Court Services**

COURT OPERATION REPORT

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total Complaints Accepted For Court Action	2409	2088
Delinquency Cases Filed	593	702
Status Offense Cases Filed	237	212
Traffic Cases Filed	428	489
Abused, Dependent or Neglected Cases Filed	272	198
Paternity Cases Filed	0	0
Support Cases Filed	416	235
Custody/Visitation	2	61
Permanent Custody	5	5
Adult Cases Filed	30	114
Other (Motions to Modify, POA, etc.)	426	72

Figures Compiled by:

Shelia Halsey
Chief Deputy Clerk

TRAFFIC PROGRAMS

CARTEENS

The CARTEENS Program is a traffic safety program for first time juvenile traffic offenders. The CAR in CARTEENS stands for “caution and responsibility” while TEENS refers to the teenagers who help prepare and present the program. The program’s primary goal is to reduce the number of repeat juvenile offenders by educating teen traffic offenders of the consequences of unsafe driving and by providing tips for safer driving. Participants in the program attend one session which lasts approximately two (2) hours. Program topics include drinking and driving, seatbelt safety, distracted driving related to use of cell phones and other handheld devices, consequences of unsafe driving, and tips for safer driving.

The CARTEENS Program was implemented by the Muskingum County Juvenile Court in January 1995 with the assistance of The Cooperative Extension Office and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. It is held monthly at the Muskingum County Juvenile Court. During 2015, an average of twenty-five (25) offenders attended with a parent, per session. Each offender pays the cost of \$25.00 to the Cooperative Extension Office. During 2015, two hundred forty-nine (249) first time juvenile traffic offenders attended the program. Overall, ten thousand one hundred eighty-one (10,181) first time juvenile traffic offenders have attended the program since its inception.

PROGRAM FORMAT

- Introduction of CARTEENS program
- Court procedures and State of Ohio Driving Laws
- Decision-making and the possible consequences from accident victim
- State Trooper presentation in regards to the outcomes of “bad choices” regarding alcohol and the importance of not drinking/driving.

The most important part of the program is the teen presenters who take their time to come in and speak to their peers. They read poems, speak about consequences, and talk to the teen offenders. The program was designed so the offenders could relate to their own age group instead

of several adults speaking to them and telling them the same thing. A peer, who is highly motivated toward safety, can be the effective catalyst to change a juvenile traffic offender's behavior.

The number one goal of the program is a chance for us to save at least one life through our efforts. The CARTEENS program has had an impact on our community for the past twenty (20) years.

THE EFFECTS THE CARTEENS PROGRAM HAS HAD ON OUR COMMUNITY:

- Reduced the number of second time juvenile traffic offenders.
- Helped teens make responsible lifestyle choices.
- Increased awareness of driving decision and the impact they have on others.
- Established a network between juvenile court, law enforcement officials, and the 4-H program.
- Made the community more aware of the effects of drinking and driving.
- Made the parents/guardians aware of their responsibilities.

At each CARTEENS session, each teen offender and parent receive an evaluation form in which they are asked to rate the effectiveness of the CARTEENS program there is an evaluation form given to each teen offender and provide feedback on program content. Teenagers regularly report that the program will affect their decisions and driving habits in the future.

Prepared By:

Kathie Davis
Deputy Clerk, Traffic Division

PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Despite a reduction in personnel, the Probation Department continues to be the backbone of the Juvenile Court as its officers are involved in many aspects of court activities and programing. There were a couple of changes to the probation staff in the year 2015. Jessica Chandler chose not to return to work after maternity leave. She was not replaced as remaining officers who had been monitoring her caseload, absorbed her caseload on a permanent basis. Steve Desrosiers, Intensive and Reentry Officer, left the department to pursue other employment opportunities. Alisha Cooper transitioned into the vacant Intensive and Reentry Officer position. Annie McCarthy was hired into the department after several years as a Juvenile Corrections Officer. As of the close of 2015, the Probation Department consisted of:

Mike Blake, Chief Probation Officer
Rose Oliver, Probation Officer
Alisha Cooper, Intensive & Re-Entry Probation Officer
Annie McCarthy, Probation Officer
James Parry, Probation Officer
Jeff Baker, Probation Officer

In 2015, the Probation Department began using new GPS and SCRAM monitors on youths and adults. Previously, the Department had relied on equipment borrowed from other county departments. However, as that equipment became obsolete, the Department located a new vendor. These new monitors have resulted in a considerable unbudgeted expense; but we hope that use of monitors will reduce the number of detentions and out-of-home placements. We also expect to observe a decrease in probation violations and additional criminal activity by youths while under Court supervision. The Probation Department also has benefited from the presence of an onsite therapist from Thompkins Adolescent and from Six County, Inc. in the building on a regular basis. The Probation Department is also an active participant in the Family Dependency Court and Jr. Hope Court programs which started during the year.

From January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 the Probation Department opened three hundred eighty-seven (387) cases for supervision. These cases were opened either by new court referrals,

transfers, or as a result of recidivist transfers. There were one hundred seven (107) open cases at the beginning of 2015 and 2016 begins with one hundred twenty-five (125) cases. Closings for the year totaled three hundred seventy-four (374) cases. Of those closings, one hundred seventy-two (172) were terminated satisfactorily, one hundred sixty (160) by transfer out-of-county or inner office, one (1) by commitment to the Department of Youth Services, six (6) as no further benefit, twenty-four (24) by the Court, one (1) unsatisfactory and ten (10) after the Court ended supervised release.

There were also four (4) adults placed on reporting probation through the Juvenile Court in 2015. One (1) of those cases was closed successfully while the remainder are still under supervision. There were also two (2) adults placed on five (5) years non-reporting probation. One of those cases has been closed successfully. There are currently ten (10) adults on non-reporting probation to start the year of 2016. All but one of the adult cases being supervised involve Contributing to Truancy while the other is for Child Endangering.

Our Intensive Probation Program received seven (7) new referrals during 2015 with three (3) successful termination and one (1) closed due to transfer for out of home placement. Our intensive probation officer continued to receive traditional probation cases to supervise as well as reentry cases.

Intensive Probation serves both felony and misdemeanor offenders who have been assigned by the Judge or Magistrate. Most of these offenders have failed in completing prior court orders or complying with lower levels of supervision.

Youths placed on Intensive Probation are supervised for one hundred eighty to three hundred sixty (180 to 360) days depending on his or her behavior. Intensive probationers are subjected to increased face-to-face contact with the Intensive Probation Officer, a thirty (30) day detention sentence followed by thirty (30) days of Electronic House Arrest, home visits, family intervention, cognitive behavioral therapy, and frequent drug and alcohol testing.

Our reentry officer served ten (10) youths during 2015. These are youth who were released from a Community Correction Facility or released

to probation after a commitment to the Department of Youth Services. There were five (5) successful terminations, one (1) unsuccessful, and two (2) closing with no further benefit during the year. P.O. Alisha Cooper took over as our Re-entry officer late in the year.

Suspended Probation is a means to ensure youth receiving court orders complete their orders. Youth failing to complete orders are brought back before the court for further disposition.

Suspended probation cases opened for the year totaled one hundred seven (107). Youths placed on suspended probation are tracked by the Chief Probation Officer. Closings for the year totaled one hundred ten (110). Closings included ninety-three (93) successful terminations, eleven (11) transferred to probation, five (5) by the Court, and one (1) by the Court as no further benefit with conditions.

Programs and Services offered during 2015 included: Electronic Monitored House Arrest, Drug Testing, Phone and Home Visit Surveillance, Victim Empathy, Theft Awareness, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Group, Weekend Theft Offender Program, "16 & Beyond", Risk Assessments and completion of Dispositional Investigative Reports and Home Based Counseling through Leila L. Peyton Counseling Agency.

One referral was made to "16 and Beyond" during 2015. This program is geared toward youth who appeared before the court on alcohol related offenses. Parents must attend this program with their child. Chief P.O. Blake is the facilitator of this group. Representatives from Genesis were introduced as community supports. Program goals include understanding consequences or outcomes of this behavior, constructive ways to deal with situations involving alcohol, and awareness of community support systems.

The Movie, "16", filmed by a local cast, deals with the problem of a parent-hosted teen alcohol party. This film delivers consequences for this behavior in a vivid, eye opening manner.

Counselors from Six County Mental Health Services in a forty-five (45) minute group settings facilitate counseling addressing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy meets on Tuesdays. This group is also provided to males and females on Intensive Probation

while in detention and again while out of detention. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy is also offered for boys and girls in detention who may or may not be on probation. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy groups consist of boys and girls of various ages. No more than fifteen (15) are permitted in each group and youth attended five sessions. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy non detention youth totaled ten (10) during 2015. There were eight (8) males and two (2) females.

Intensive probation youth seen in this therapy totaled seven (7) for 2015. Intensive probation families were also required to attend Family Intervention and the parents of Intensive probationers were required to attend the Parent Support Group. Seven (7) families participated in the parent support group and family intervention.

Educational groups continued on assigned evenings from 3:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. Topics include Victim Empathy and Theft Awareness. Mary Cassady and Lindsay Daniels facilitated the Victim Empathy program while Detention Specialist-In-Charge, Heath Girton, facilitated the Theft Awareness program.

Total youth served in these two (2) programs were sixty-one (61) for the year. Twenty-five (25) youths completed Victim Empathy and thirty-six (36) youths completed the Theft Program.

Sherry Hampton of the Leila Peyton Counseling Center provided home based counseling to some probation families. Mrs. Hampton also works with our youth on reentry probation.

The Muskingum County Detention Center offers a Three Day Juvenile Theft Offender Program. This program was conceived to address a growing problem in our communities. With the high number of juvenile theft related offenses, it was determined that there is a true need for specific juvenile theft offender programming. The program is designed to re-educate theft offenders on three levels. Those levels involve the offender understanding the impact of their offenses on themselves, their victims, and the community. The three (3) day detention based program uses a cognitive approach based on the THEFTtalk© system. Muskingum County youth accounted for all ten (10) of the youth who attended and completed all three days. Five (5) weekend programs were offered during 2015.

A Risk Assessment is a tool used to gather facts and assesses interests and assets of the child, the family, the community, the victim, and any special interest group or treatment concern. An objective appraisal of the dispositional alternatives and resources is prepared and presented as a recommendation to the court. Using the balanced approach, (Community Protection, Accountability, and Competency issues) Risk Assessment looks at what is best for the community as well as the individual involved with the juvenile justice system. This program allows the court a real opportunity for positive service in a non-duplicated, cost effective manner.

In 2015, Probation Officers completed one hundred one (101) risk assessments. Felony cases often require additional assessment and dispositional material. These are called Dispositional Investigative Report. Both reports are prepared prior to the youth appearing before the court for disposition.

Probation Officers continued their effort to enforce compliance to court ordered curfews with phone and in person home surveillance. Probation Officers were compensated with time and a half for home surveillance and flex time for phone surveillance. Probation officers also performed additional checks in which they were paid.

During the year, five hundred seventy-nine (579) phone surveillance calls were attempted by Probation Officers along with six hundred fifty (650) home surveillance visits. Probation Officers were also at the county fair walking the grounds. The Court believes that surveillance helps hold youths accountable to their court assigned curfews, while reducing violations occurring after curfew.

The Probation Department routinely tests for drug usage by probationers. The purpose of this testing is to identify youth who are using drugs or have substance abuse problems. The goal of this program is to deter or control a juvenile probationer's use of drugs.

The court currently purchases testing equipment through 1-Step Detect Associates and Integrated Corporate Solutions, Inc. These tests allow the Probation Department to complete drug screens and obtain positive or negative results in five (5) minutes.

We continue to test for: Cocaine, Amphetamines, Barbiturates, Ecstasy, Benzodiazepines, Marijuana, Opiates, Alcohol, Oxycodone and Methamphetamines. Drug testing supplies costs totaled One Thousand Ninety-seven and 50/100ths Dollars (\$1,097.50). These expenses are expected to rise due to the increased use of SCRAM monitors and due to the more intense scrutiny created by the special docket courts.

House Bill 525 mandates all felons and certain misdemeanor offenders submit DNA. DNA samples are sent to Bureau of Criminal Investigation where they are held on file for criminal investigations. Probation staff collected and sent thirteen (13) samples to BCI during 2015.

The Department seen a major change to its Electronic House Arrest Program in 2015. Muskingum County Common Pleas Court Felony Division phased out their house arrest equipment, so the Juvenile Court needed to find a new service. The Court now uses American Court Services to manage our house arrest program. Our probation officers install the unit at the office. The client must pay a \$50 hook-up fee and a \$10 daily fee. We are using up to date GPS technology in which we can track the offender's movements from our office computers. We also have access to SCRAM units which monitor an offender's alcohol consumption. The SCRAM units will be used mostly in conjunction with the Family and Dependency Court. Our Electronic House Arrest program is designed to increase surveillance of youth released from the Juvenile Detention Facility by the Judge or Magistrate prior to an arraignment hearing, dispositional hearing, or as part of a disposition. In 2015, twelve (12) youths were placed on electronic house arrest for a total of three hundred sixty-two (362) monitored days. One (1) adult was placed on SCRAM during 2015.

The staff of the Muskingum County Juvenile Court Probation Department continues to utilize county vehicles for on-the-job purposes. We currently operate ten (10) vehicles including one (1) detention transport vehicle and a Community Service Van. Vehicles are used primarily for surveillance, home, school and placement contacts, serving summons, and transportation of youth.

Internal Revenue Service deems Probation Officer use of a county vehicle as a taxable income. For this reason, Probation Officers pay for IRS deemed personal use. Probation Officers are not permitted to drive county owned vehicles for personal use other than to and from work.

During the school year, Probation Officers begin work at an assigned school. Driving a county vehicle home from the court is deemed personal. Therefore, officers are responsible for \$1.50 per day when reporting from their homes to their assigned school. On days they are unable to begin at their assigned school and report to the court, they pay \$3.00. Officers maintain personal use records and submit this information every month for appropriate payroll deduction.

Probation Officers, Community Service Coordinator, and the Detention Transportation Officer placed a combined total of 49,441 miles on assigned County owned vehicles for the year. During 2015, fuel and maintenance cost totaled Eight thousand six hundred fifty-five and 55/100ths Dollars (\$8,655.55).

Submitted by,

Mike Blake,
Chief Probation Officer

COURT PROGRAMS AND GRANTS

GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMMING

The Ohio Department of Youth Services awarded Muskingum County Juvenile Court the Subsidy Grant and a Supplemental Award in 2015. The Subsidy Grant is allocated to juvenile courts in Ohio to assist in programming in the areas of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation for adjudicated unruly and delinquent children, or children at risk of becoming unruly and delinquent. In 2015, the Subsidy Grant supplemented with past RECLAIM dollars funded the following program areas: Probation, Aftercare Reentry Initiative, Family Preservation/Home Based, Mental Health/Counseling Services, Diversion, Youth Intervention and Clinical Assessments.

AFTERCARE RE-ENTRY INITIATIVE

A core team of community stakeholders have maintained the foundation of the initiative and is comprised of the following agency representatives: Saroya Mulligan, Ohio Department of Youth Services; Lori Moore, Muskingum County Children Services; Solomon Curtis, Avondale Residential Center; Sheri Hampton of the Lelia L. Payton Counseling Center; Dan Carpenetti of Thompkins Center Inc.; Brandi Baughman of Perry-Multi County Juvenile Facility, Roger Birch of the Mental Health Recovery Board, and Robert Smith, Alisha Cooper, and Lindsay Daniels representing the Muskingum County Juvenile Court.

The Re-entry Initiative focused on providing the Court with a comprehensive, individualized plan to transition each youth within the juvenile justice system back into the community. Court system personnel recognized that a successful reentry plan is created through the collaboration of, not only the community stakeholders, but also, the youth and family, and that the re-entry plan must begin the day the youth is committed to the ODYS. With the collaborative efforts of all involved, a holistic approach has been designed and implemented to develop a transitional plan which incorporates community protection as well as the juvenile's competency and accountability through counseling services, routine surveillance checks, employment preparation and education monitoring.

The Muskingum County Juvenile Court continued to utilize the grant funds to assign Probation Officer Alisha Cooper to specifically provide intensive supervision and programming to youth being released from Community Correctional Facilities and the Department of Youth Services' institutions.

In effort to assist the Reentry youth, the Court utilized grant funding to contract with the Lelia L. Payton Counseling Center to administer services to the youth and family during the incarceration period and upon transition back to the community. The Center provided the Second Chance Program for the youth and the Step Teen Program for the parents, as well as out-patient mental health counseling and home based counseling.

Thirteen (13) youth participated in the Muskingum County Juvenile Re-entry Initiative during the calendar year of 2015 with five (5) youth successfully completed the initiative, four (4) youths were terminated unsuccessfully by court order.

FAMILY PRESERVATION/HOME BASED COUNSELING

Muskingum County Juvenile Court contracted with the Lelia L. Payton Counseling Center to provide home based counseling services to the youth and families. The Family Preservation /Home Based Counseling Program addressed the family's issues and concerns, crisis intervention and stabilization. The goal of program is to empower the family to address difficulties directly and effectively. The Lelia L. Payton Counseling Center provided home based counseling services to four (4) families during the 2015.

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

In addition to the home based counseling, the Court contracted with the Lelia L. Payton Counseling Center to provide individual counseling services to adjudicated youth. Individual counseling sessions were tailored to address the specific needs of the youth. The individualized care included a psychological assessment and clinical evaluation. A structured treatment plan was developed including social, psychological, and behavioral goals. Models of treatment utilized were Cognitive Behavioral, Cognitive Problem Skills, Conflict Resolution, Interpersonal Skills and

Solution Focused. The Lelia L. Payton Counseling Center provided services to nine (9) families.

DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Juvenile Diversion Program established a program of early intervention to divert youth from involvement with the Juvenile Justice System. This program is supported by Juvenile Rule 9(A) that “in all appropriate cases formal court action should be avoided and other community resources utilized to ameliorate situations brought to the attention of the court.”

Julie Russell, Diversion Coordinator, maintained the Diversion Program in 2015. The Diversion Program provided an opportunity for low risk unruly and delinquent offenders to be diverted from formal adjudication with the attempt to hold the youth accountable for his or her actions and to minimize penetration into the juvenile justice system. In 2015, the Diversion Program continued to accept youth charged with “Sexting” offenses. Sexting is the act of sending sexually explicit photos, images or messages electronically, primarily by mobile phone or the internet, that are taken with or without consent. The Sexting Diversion Program provides the youth with opportunity to address the charge through the Diversion Program and participate in four (4) group therapeutic sessions facilitated by the Thompkins Child and Adolescent Services. In addition, the youth and parent attend an educational class.

During 2015, two hundred twenty-three (223) cases were approved for programming and services through the Diversion Program.

CLINICAL ASSESSMENTS

The Clinical Assessment Program provided the Court with the opportunity to contract with a psychologist to complete psychological evaluations on youth to assist the Court in appropriate dispositional options. Upon conclusion of the evaluation, the psychologist will provide the court with a written report or verbal testimony at a court hearing. The Court contracted with Dr. Howard Beazel to conduct psychological evaluations and competency evaluation on court ordered youth. In 2015, nine (9) youth were court ordered to submit to a psychological evaluation, as well as two (2) youth were order to complete a competency evaluation.

COURT FUNDED PROGRAMS

WORK DETAIL PROGRAM

The Work Detail Program addressed the areas of accountability and responsibility for the assigned youth. The youth are assigned to the program by the Court, Probation Department or the Diversion Department to complete assigned hours as a consequence for their unruly or delinquent behavior. Eight (8) non-profit work sites are committed to assisting the Juvenile Court with this program in an arrangement mutually beneficial for all parties. Many of the youth in this program have not had the opportunity to work in a positive setting with responsible adult supervision.

The Work Detail Program is maintained by a Work Detail Coordinator, Scott Bunting, who meets with each youth and their parent(s) to review program rules, discuss the site alternatives, and to complete necessary paperwork. A number of issues are taken in account when determining the most appropriate work site for the youth; such as, the location of the site, youth's age, ability, and severity of the offense.

The majority of youth were accompanied by the Work Detail Coordinator to their work site to meet with the site coordinator and to insure their promptness. Youth are more inclined to complete their hours if they are comfortable at their site and with their coworkers. The work sites are monitored periodically by the Coordinator. Upon completion of the program, the Work Detail Coordinator documents the assigned hours in the computer.

In 2015, two hundred forty-three (243) youth completed their assignment through the Work Detail Program for a total of four thousand thirty-five (4,035) hours.

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT

The Residential Treatment Program funded out-of-home placements for four (4) males during the calendar year 2015. The Program offered out-of-home placement alternatives for adjudicated youth whose criminal

behavior required intensive supervision and/or specialized treatment. Placements utilized were Avondale Residential Center in Muskingum County, Thompkins Child and Adolescent Services in Guernsey County and The Village Network/New Horizons Youth Center in Belmont County.

Placement investigations were conducted by the Court in determining the most appropriate placement for the youth. The out-of-home placement providers conducted pre-placement interviews and assessments with the youth and families to determine youth's eligibility for their program.

Youths served through the out of home placement program are under probation supervision. Probation Officers maintained contact with the youth through office visits, school visits, telephone calls, and by attending meetings with the placement staff and parents to discuss youth's behavior and progress in the treatment plan.

All placement cases are expected to be on temporary basis and with the anticipation that the youth being reunified with his or her parent or guardian. Parental involvement throughout the placement is vital to this goal. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in counseling sessions and visitations with their children while in placement.

TITLE IV-E

On June 5, 2013, the Muskingum County Juvenile Court entered into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to receive funds under the Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. This agreement provided the Court with the ability to access claims for the cost of foster care placements. In order to be eligible for the foster care placement cost, the youth would be mandated to follow the same requirements as our local children services are required by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Additionally, the Court could be eligible to receive reimbursement for administrative and training costs.

Two (2) youth ordered into the Temporary Custody of the Court for placement outside the home were found to be eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement. In 2015, the Court received reimbursement for administrative, training, and maintenance reimbursement costs in the

amount of One Hundred Forty thousand Eight hundred Forty-three and 44/100ths Dollars (\$140,843.44).

Prepared by:

Lindsay Daniels
Program Administrator

SPECIALIZED COURT DOCKETS

In September of 2015, Juvenile Court received initial certification from the Supreme Court of Ohio to conduct Family Dependency Court. To receive this certification, Muskingum County Juvenile Court had to submit an application to the Supreme Court Commission on Specialized Dockets, undergo a site visit by commission members, and provide specific program materials in compliance with certification standards. [On January 15, 2016, the Commission on Specialized Dockets awarded Muskingum County Juvenile Courts Family Dependency Court final certification pursuant to Sup. R. 36.26 effective through December 31, 2017.]

This specialized docket was conceived by Judge Martin to provide collaborative evaluation and treatment services for substance dependent parents who have lost or are at risk of losing custody of their children due to abuse, neglect, or dependency. These intensive services are provided with the expectation that the parents will eliminate substance abuse and will address mental health resulting in a more fully functioning parent, which facilitates case plan compliance and expedited permanency.

This specialized docket is a collaboration between Muskingum County Juvenile Court and local agencies such as Muskingum County Children Services, Muskingum Behavioral Health, Thompkins Child and Adolescent Center, Six County Inc., Mental Health and Recovery Services, members of the prosecutor's office as well as those in the legal community.

In order to qualify to participate in Family Dependency Court, a parent must have a moderate to severe drug or alcohol problem or ongoing mental health issues which contributed to a finding by the Court that his/her/their child/children were abused, neglected, or dependent. Family Dependency Court is a voluntary program and parents must be willing to take part in a three (3) phase program and comply with all treatment and case plan requirements. Treatment team members provide that extra support and accountability to parents as they work to achieve and maintain sobriety and stability in their lives.

Judge Martin offers incentives such as certificates of achievement, public recognition, and gift certificates to local restaurants, movie theaters, and places of business. Those who do not comply with the program

requirements may face sanctions or dismissal from the program. Family Dependency Court applied for two (2) grants in 2015 and were able to obtain both to offset funding for Family Dependency Court. A two thousand five hundred and 00/100ths dollar grant (\$2,500) was awarded through The Energy Cooperative Operation Round Up for incentives and a Forty thousand three hundred seventy-eight and 00/100ths dollars (\$40,378.00) grant was awarded through Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services SYF 2016 Specialized Dockets Payroll Subsidy Project.

The first participant entered Muskingum County Family Dependency Court on November 18, 2015. Currently there are six (6) female participants that meet weekly or bi-weekly with Judge Martin. The average age is 29 (twenty-nine) and four (4) of the participants have their children in their physical custody. Capacity for Muskingum County Family Dependency Court is approximately fifteen (15).

Family dependency courts in twenty-one (21) other Ohio counties, and throughout the country have a documented history of success in keeping families afflicted with mental health issues and/or drug abuse issues intact through therapy, education, intensive supervision, and an emphasis on personal responsibility. Early indications are that the Muskingum Count Juvenile Court will experience similar success, which benefits the children of these families as well as the Muskingum County community.

Prepared by:

Peggi Cater
Program Director

**MUSKINGUM COUNTY
JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER
ANNUAL REPORT
2015**



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In looking back at 2015, it was our first full year under the new administration. I feel like the transition has been smooth for Detention and look forward to continued growth in the future. In April of 2015, the Detention Center received a grant from JBIG for equipment, the grant was for ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) with a five thousand dollar (\$5,000.00) match from the County Commissioners. We were able to purchase a new time clock system, new shower doors for the pods and various other items. In May, food service coordinator Jody Pyle received a Sixteen thousand dollar (\$16,000.00) grant to replace our dish washer.

In 2015, we had a lot of staff turnover. In total, we hired seventeen (17) new employees during 2015 up from ten (10) in 2014. Having this much turnover has resulted in a lot more staff training and a less experienced staff as a whole.

We saw a slight decrease in our number of intakes in 2015 from 2014, in 2014 we had eight hundred fifty-nine (859) intakes in 2015 we had eight hundred forty-three (843) intakes. However, we saw an increase in total bed days going from nine thousand five hundred seventy-four (9,574) days in 2014 to ten thousand four hundred two (10,402) days in 2015. Our average daily population increased as a result going from 26.03 in 2014 to 28.50 in 2015.

Zanesville City Schools continues to operate our education program. I am very pleased with how the program has worked out and see it as a benefit to the residents we serve. I look forward to continuing and enhancing our relationship with ZCS.

The facility also operated the MCJDC Transition Program to provide coordination of educational services in an effort to minimize educational loss while students are in our facility. The program looks to assist MCJDC students transitioning back to their home school to improve the likelihood of graduating and to reduce recidivism through academic success. In order to accomplish these goals, Zanesville City Schools has allocated \$70,000 of federal Title I monies annually to collaborate with Six County Inc. and Foreverdads providing support services for MCJDC youth and their families. Program services include group counseling focusing on problem

solving and building positive relationships, individual support, counseling with case managers and family wellness at Forever Dads through a Survival Skills for healthy families program. As a result, any youth detained more than seventy-two (72) hours receives some form of services through the Transitions program.

In 2015 we continued to operate our 3-day theft offender program (Theft Talk). We ran the program five (5) times in 2015 serving ten (10) youth.

We also started the Muskingum County JDC garden project in May of 2015. Thanks to community support and donations especially from the Muskingum County Master Gardeners, we were able to have a garden inside our gated grounds. Both residents of the detention center and community service juveniles participated. We had a great experience with the garden, it was well received by both the residents and staff. We look forward to continuing and expanding the program in 2016.

Staff members received numerous hours of training during the course of the year.

We continue to receive federal funding from the School Food Lunch Program.

The Center continues to focus on our primary goals of providing a safe and secure environment for our residents, visitors, and our communities. The JCO's do an excellent job of conducting watch tours. On an average day, over two thousand (2,000) room checks are completed within the appropriate time frames. Beyond our primary goals, the Center's staff does a remarkable job of offering care for the residents and tending to their personal, educational, nutritional, and medical needs. Because of the dedication of the maintenance crew and kitchen staff to cleanliness, the facility gets positive remarks from inspectors and visitors alike.

Submitted by:

Allen Bennett
Detention Superintendent

MUSKINGUM COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

DETENTION CENTER OPERATION REPORT

2015

STATISTICAL REPORT

Total Number of Youth Detained	2014	2015
COSHOCTON	79	80
KNOX	232	134
MUSKINGUM	491	514
GUERNSEY	39	88
OTHER COUNTY YOUTH	18	27
TOTALS	859	843

Total Number of Care Days Given	2014	2015
COSHOCTON	1,668	1,593
KNOX	2,019	1,860
MUSKINGUM	5,309	5,582
GUERNSEY	420	1,084
OTHER COUNTY YOUTH	158	283
TOTALS	9,574	10,402

Average Number of Care Days Per Child	2014	2015
COSHOCTON	21.11	19.91
KNOX	8.70	13.88
MUSKINGUM	10.81	10.86
GUERNSEY	10.77	12.32
OTHER COUNTY YOUTH	8.78	10.48
TOTALS	11.15	12.34

Average Daily Population	2014	2015
COSHOCTON	4.57	4.36
KNOX	5.53	5.10
MUSKINGUM	14.55	15.29
GUERNSEY	1.15	2.97
OTHER COUNTY YOUTH	.43	.78
TOTALS	26.23	28.50

Gender Breakdown	2014	2015
Male	602	577
Female	257	266

2014

AGE	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
#	10	10	49	70	167	153	192	181	27

**** Average age of all youth detained – 15.10**

2015

AGE	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
#	4	24	60	94	122	156	196	168	18

**** Average age of all youth detained – 14.98**

**** 1 Resident was 19 years old at admission**