

# **Muskingum County Juvenile Court & Detention Center 2019 Annual Report**



**Eric D. Martin**  
Judge

**Robert L. Smith**  
Court Director

**Erin E. Welch**  
Magistrate

**Tara Archer**  
Chief Deputy Clerk

**D. Allen Bennett**  
Detention Superintendent

**Shawn Crawmer**  
Magistrate

**Lindsay Daniels**  
Program Administrator

**Michael Blake**  
Chief Probation Officer

**Peggi Cater**  
Special Docket Coordinator

# **Muskingum County Juvenile Court & Detention Center**

## **Annual Report 2019**

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 2019, 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*

---

**Eric D. Martin  
Judge**



This Annual Report is provided to:

Muskingum County Commissioners

The Ohio Supreme Court

Director of the Ohio Department of Youth Services

## **FOREWORD FROM THE COURT DIRECTOR**

During 2019, the Juvenile Court staff continued to settle into the new norm: embracing change; improving service and programming; and adapting to the needs of the community. During the first few years, change has involved adjustment in administration, loss of key employees, and the implementation of new court initiatives. However, in the last two years, change has come from outside the walls of the building as the Court deals with the tremendous problems associated with the so-called opium crisis. This crisis affects every aspect of this Court's operation from truancy, delinquency, to the separation and break-up of already fragile homes which has led to an explosion of child placements outside of the homes of their parent(s). Every day, the Court works closely with the staff of an overburdened Muskingum County Children Services to find stable homes for children whose parents cannot provide for their basic needs.

2019 has been a period of continued growth and maturation for two (2) important Court initiatives. The first major program initiatives are the Court's Family Dependency Court and Jr. Hope 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 neglected and 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 parents 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. In the first half of 2017, the Court celebrated the first graduation for parents participating in the Family Dependency Program. Graduation



acknowledges parents' determination to live a drug-free life and celebrates the reunification of family. During 2016, the Court received a grant to help offset the expenses associated with this program. In 2017, the Supreme Court certified our Court's specialized court docket (known as Jr. Hope Court) which focuses on delinquent youths whose criminal behavior is affected by drug and/or alcohol abuse.

The second major initiative focuses Court resources upon school truancy and failure of parents to assure attendance of their children in school. 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 the youths 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 truancy cases in the youths' home school buildings in order to stress the importance that he places on school attendance. The Court has also taken a similar approach to 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. As indicated by the Court Operation Report on page 10, status offense filing (including truancy cases) decreased from three hundred and sixty-nine (369) in 2017 to three hundred and thirty-nine (339) in 2019 while adult criminal case filings climbed to two hundred eighty-two (282) as compared to only thirty (30) cases in 2014. Many of these cases are often dismissed after school officials report marked improvements in attendance and performance. School leaders continue to report that this program has been very effective in addressing the problem of chronic absenteeism.

Overall, case filings remained steady. Unfortunately, many of the abuse, neglect, and dependency cases involve serious issues of drug abuse which prevent parents from caring for the basic needs of children. Drug affected families make up an ever-increasing portion the Court's abuse/neglect/dependency docket. As a result, many children were removed from homes and placed into foster care or into the homes of relatives while parents address the issues which led to removal. Muskingum County is not immune from the disastrous social and economic costs associated with the heroin and synthetic opiate epidemic that has infected the entire country. There was another slight rise in delinquency filings.

The Court's Diversion Program continues to be an effective option to hold youths accountable for unruly and delinquent behavior. This program, which is intended to serve first time offenders, is administered by Julie Russell. During 2019, one hundred nine (109) cases were approved for programming and services through the Diversion Program. Of the one hundred nine (109) cases closed in 2019, eighty-five percent (85%) did not receive new charges within six (6) months of closure. Seven (7) cases were closed as unsuccessful and, where appropriate, referred to the general case docket for adjudication.

The six (6) person Probation Department continues to be a workhorse for the Court despite being downsized from a staff of nine (9) 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.

The Detention Center remains a model facility having met or exceeded every State and Federal standard of operation. During 2015, the Competency Attainment Program which is managed by Detention staff, participated in our first competency attainment session at the request of the Court. Usage of this program by neighboring courts has grown over the past three (3) years and is expected to continue to grow as the Court staff has demonstrated success in restoring youth to competency for trial in a very cost-effective manner. The staff appreciates the fact that our commissioners have permitted the Detention facility to retain the net proceeds of these services which has permitted Detention staff to invest the proceeds into additional training and to purchase additional equipment. We expect that the program will continue to be a source of funds to purchase updated equipment and for staff 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 two hundred nine thousand seven hundred sixty and 65/100ths dollars (\$209,760.65) 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. This program was expanded in 2019 with more planting beds and with youths taking a more active role in maintaining the grounds inside the security fence. The opportunity to be outdoors and to contribute to a project with tangible results has proven to be a useful incentive for youths to maintain good behavior. Vegetables and fruits harvested from the garden are used by the kitchen staff in meal preparation.

In fiscal year 2019, the Court received the total sum of one hundred fifty-four thousand eight hundred twenty and 05/100ths Dollars (\$154,820.05) from the Department of Youth Services in the form of basic grant, Reclaim Ohio Competitive Reclaim and carryover funds from 2019. The funds were used primarily to fund the Juvenile Reentry Program, counseling programs, out-of-home placements, psychological evaluations of youth, and salaries of key personnel. In addition, our Competitive Reclaim Grant which is based on a complex formula which compares our usage of DYS residential facilities in the preceding years to current usage as well as our usage as compared to that of other courts, has significantly been reduced. Due to the nature of charges filed and the delinquent history of several youths, the Court has used DYS facilities as a sanction more frequently than in recent years. As the result, Competitive Reclaim funds are adversely affected. Consequently, the Court expects to expend all carry over funds in 2019 in order to meet our obligations. In fiscal year 2021, the Court expects further reduction in Competitive Reclaim funds which will significantly impact the Court's ability to offer certain programs and services as; and will affect our ability to fund necessary staff. The Court will monitor this aspect of the budget and may modify its request for appropriations in order to maintain services and programming.

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 identify eligible families and to meet compliance requirements in an effort to obtain a stable funding source to offset expenses incurred toward out-of-home placements. In 2019, the Court received reimbursement for administrative, training, and maintenance reimbursement costs in the amount of sixty-nine thousand two hundred eighteen and 39/100ths Dollars

(\$69,218.39), compared to sixty-three thousand five hundred sixty-nine and 91/100ths Dollars (\$63,569.91), in 2018 and twenty four thousand thirty-one and 31/100ths Dollars (\$24,031.31) in 2017.

In recent years, the Court collaborated with Allwell Behavioral Health Services to provide a mental health counselor who could see clients at our site. This collaboration has continued successfully throughout 2019. In 2019, the Court has developed closer ties with Muskingum Behavioral Health and Allwell Behavioral Health Services who also have assigned personnel to regular hours inside our 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 and unruly behavior. In addition, we have observed a decrease in missed counseling sessions and have eliminated some transportation issues by scheduling youths' probation appointments and mental health appointments simultaneously.

Staffing in the administrative, clerical, and probation departments stabilized in 2019. Staff turnover in the Detention Center has stabilized somewhat thanks to an agreement between the Court and the Muskingum Commissioners to raise wages over a three (3) year period. During 2018, Judge Martin, Robert Smith, and Allen Bennett met with the Commissioners and presented with statistics concerning wage rates of comparable detention and correctional facilities throughout the state. Ultimately, our commissioners agreed to a three (3) year plan (dependent upon the availability of funds) to raise and bring uniformity to the wage structure of the detention staff. This action was long overdue and we are grateful that the current administration heard our pleas and agreed to take meaningful steps to rectify this situation. We continue to work with our County Commissioners to attract and retain competent employees with an interest in corrections.

As our facility reaches middle age, maintenance and upkeep issues have become a priority. Roof leaks in our building have been a chronic issue for several years and in recent years has resulted in interior damage as well as damage to computer equipment. In 2018, the Court applied for and received a substantial grant from the Department of Youth Services to replace the roof of the detention facility. This grant required matching local funds which our commissioners have graciously agreed to provide. The roof was installed during the summer of 2019. It is an important step in the

maintenance and upkeep of our building and will assure the safety of staff, visitors, and residents of the detention facility, and we are grateful to our county commissioners for their support of this project. Also, late in 2019, we were surprised and grateful to be included in a county parking lot resurfacing project. In the last several years, the blacktop in our parking lots had deteriorated leaving dangerous sinkholes and depressions which filled with water and/ or ice during and after rains and snows. This project alleviated these problems and contributed to a more attractive appearance of our facility. Again, we are grateful that the commissioners include the court in this project. Finally, during the summer of 2019, the Court partnered with a local Boy Scout on his Eagle Scout project. As a part of this project, many older trees and shrubbery were either reshaped or removed, which created a cleaner, more attractive look. The scout also built two (2) benches which will be placed near the front entrance to the building. We hope to expand on this project in 2020 with new landscaping.

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., Allwell Behavior Health 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 enduring patience and professionalism. Teamwork within the facility and with our social service partners in the community is the linchpin to our success.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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



# COURT OPERATION REPORT

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Total Complaints Accepted For Court Action	2409	2088	1981	1986	1882	1730
Delinquency Cases Filed	593	702	578	352	389	399
Status Offense Cases Filed	237	212	285	369	344	339
Traffic Cases Filed	428	489	407	430	437	368
Abused, Dependent or Neglected Cases Filed	272	198	194	257	252	245
Paternity Cases Filed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Support Cases Filed	416	235	191	166	129	58
Custody/Visitation	2	61	42	22	4	3
Permanent Custody	5	5	6	2	26	11
Adult Cases Filed	30	114	223	263	256	282
Other (Motions to Modify, POA, etc.)	426	72	55	35	45	25

Figures Compiled by:

Tara Archer  
Chief Deputy Clerk

## **PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT**

The Probation Department continues to be the backbone of the Juvenile Court as its officers are involved in many aspects of court activities and programming. 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. In 2019, veteran probation officer, Jeff Baker left the probation department to accept employment with the Guernsey County Adult Probation Department, a move that places him closer to his residence. There were no changes in personnel to the probation staff in 2019. As of the close of 2019, 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  
Jerid Lacy, Probation Officer

From January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 the Probation Department opened four hundred ten (410) cases for supervision as compared to three hundred seventy-five (375) cases in 2018. These cases were opened either by new court referrals, transfers from other courts, or as a result of recidivist transfers. There were one hundred fifteen (115) open cases at the beginning of 2019 and 2020 begins with one hundred thirty-five (135). Closings for the year totaled three hundred eighty-eight (388). From the three hundred ninety-one (391) closings, one hundred thirty-nine (139) were terminated satisfactorily, two hundred forty-three (243) by transfer inner office or out of county, end of supervised release, and by the Court, two (2) by commitment to the Department of Youth Services, two (2) as "no further benefit," and five (5) unsatisfactory.

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 fifty-six (56). Youth placed on suspended probation are tracked by the Chief Probation Officer. Closings for the year totaled fifty-five (55). Closings included thirty-nine (39) successful terminations, thirteen (13) youths transferred to probation by the Court.

Our Intensive Probation Program saw a major increase in referrals in 2019. During the year, eleven (11) new referral were made by the Court as compared to six (6) new referrals during 2018 and one (1) new referral during 2017. Intensive Probation involves 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 have failed to comply with lower levels of supervision.

Youth placed on Intensive Probation are supervised for one hundred eighty (180) to three hundred sixty (360) days depending on his or her behavior. Offenders must complete a detention phase and a four phase program upon release. Intensive youth 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 GPS House Arrest, home visits, family intervention, cognitive behavioral therapy, and frequent drug and alcohol testing. Our intensive probation officer continued to receive traditional probation cases to supervise as well as Re-entry cases.

Our Re-entry Probation Officer, Alisha Cooper, received four (4) new referrals during 2019 as compared to eight (8) new referrals during 2018. These are youth who were released from a Community Correction Facility or released to probation or parole after a commitment to the Department of Youth Services. During 2019, five (5) youth were terminated successfully, 1 closed unsuccessfully, and two (2) were recommitted to the Department of Youth Services.

The Probation Department also continues to supervise adults placed on probation by Judge Martin. Three (3) adults were placed on reporting probation. All of these adult cases being supervised involve criminal charges of Contributing to Truancy. No adult probation cases were terminated during 2019.



Programs and Services offered during 2019 included: GPS Monitored House Arrest, Scram Alcohol Monitoring, Drug Testing, Phone and Home Visit Surveillance, Victim Empathy, Theft Awareness, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Group, Risk Assessments and completion of Dispositional Investigative Reports and Home Based Counseling through Leila L. Peyton Counseling Agency.

Counselors from Allwell Behavioral Health Service in forty-five (45) minute group settings facilitate counseling addressing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy groups consist of boys and girls of various ages. No more than fifteen (15) are permitted in each group and youth typically attend five (5) sessions. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy meets on Tuesdays. This group therapy session is provided to males and females on Intensive Probation while in detention and while in the family home. Fourteen (14) youths on intensive probation were also involved in Cognitive Behavior Therapy Groups. The families of youths on intensive probation were required to attend a Family Intervention and parent Support Groups

Educational groups continued to meet on assigned afternoons from 3:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. Topics include Victim Empathy and Theft Awareness. Forty-four (44) youth participated in these two (2) programs were during 2018. Twenty-seven (27) youths completed Victim Empathy and seventeen (17) youths completed the Theft Program. Probation Officer Jamie Parry facilitates the Victim Empathy Group and Probation Officer, Alisha Cooper facilitates the Theft Awareness classes.

Home based counseling was provided to some probation families by Sherry Hampton of the Leila Peyton Counseling Center. Mrs. Hampton also works with our youth on Re-entry probation.

During 2019, the Court continued to develop the implementation of a juvenile version of the Hope Court first established by Judge Martin in Muskingum County Court. This program is designed to help youths with substance abuse obtain and maintain sobriety. Assigned probation officers monitor those youths who enter the program and work with other professionals from mental health, the court, and substance abuse treatment agencies to achieve success. Another new program started in 2017 is titled Youth in Recovery. This program is facilitated by Muskingum Behavioral Health on Monday evenings at the court for youths who have

some level of substance abuse. Muskingum Behavioral Health and Allwell Behavioral Health Service supplied the Court with an in-house counselor to help expedite counseling services for those families who the Court and probation officers deem would benefit from their services. This program also has helped with communication between the officers and the care providers.

In 2019, Probation Officers prepared one hundred twenty-two (122) written risk assessments (compared to sixty-nine (69) in 2016). A Risk Assessment is a tool used to gather facts and to assess interests and assets of the youth, 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) the Risk Assessment suggests sanctions deemed best for the community as well as the individual involved with the juvenile justice system. Felony cases may require additional assessment and dispositional material. These are called Dispositional Investigative Reports. Both reports are prepared prior to the youth appearing before the Court for disposition. This program allows the court a real opportunity for positive service in a non-duplicated, cost effective manner.

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

During 2019, five hundred twenty (520) phone surveillance calls were attempted by Probation Officers. Probation Officers also conducted three hundred fourteen (314) home surveillance visits in 2019. Probation Officers patrolled the Muskingum County Fair to assure that probationers were not violating Court orders or terms of probation and to help supervise youths who were completing community service at the fair. Our hope is that regular surveillance checks will help hold youth 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 youths 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 and help them maintain sobriety. Probationers who test positive for drug usage are referred to education programs and may be subject to additional Court imposed sanctions if drug use persists.

The Court expanded drug testing capabilities in 2018 with purchase of Smart Screen technology from Intrinsic Interventions. The Probation Department continued to use this technology during 2019. This technology allows the probation officer to test for eighteen (18) different substances. The technology interprets the test and generates a hard copy report of the result for better court communication. The Court also 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. Detention staff are trained to use these screens. The Probation Department administered four hundred seventeen (417) drug screens in during 2019.

House Bill 525 mandates all felons and certain misdemeanor offenders submit DNA which is held in a statewide database maintained by the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation for comparison with DNA collected in unsolved criminal investigations. Seventeen (17) samples were collected and sent to BCI & I during 2019.

The Probation Department continues to use American Court Services to manage our house arrest program. Our Probation Officers install the GPS unit at the office. The client must pay a \$50.00 hook-up fee and a \$10.00 daily fee. The GPS technology allows the Probation Department to track the offender's movements from our office computers. We also have access to SCRAM units which monitor a youth's or adult's alcohol consumption. The SCRAM units will be used mostly in conjunction with the Family and Dependency Court. Our House Arrest program is designed to increase surveillance of youths 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 2019, thirty-four (34) individuals were placed on the GPS for a total of one thousand seven hundred forty (1,740) monitored days as compared to fifty-six (56) youths

placed on the GPS for a total of one thousand eight hundred forty (1,840) monitored days in 2017. One (1) youth was placed on SCRAM monitors during 2019.

No referrals were made to “16 and Beyond” or to the 3 day Theft Offender program which is hosted by the Detention staff.

The staff of the Muskingum County Juvenile Court Probation Department continues to utilize county vehicles for on-the-job purposes. The Probation Department and the Detention Staff currently operate eight (8) vehicles, including two (2) detention transport vehicles. Vehicles are used primarily for surveillance, home visits, school checks, and out-of-home placement contacts, serving summons, and transportation of youth.

During the school year, Probation Officers begin work at an assigned school. Driving a county vehicle home from the court is deemed personal. Internal Revenue Service deems a Probation Officer’s use of a county vehicle as a taxable income. 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 are not permitted to drive county owned vehicles for personal use other than to and from work.

During 2015, the Probation Department purchased two (2) used 2015 Chrysler 200 sedans. In late 2016, the Department purchased two (2) new Ford Taurus sedans. In 2017, the Department purchased two (2) new Ford Taurus sedans. In late 2019, the Department replaced the 2015 Chrysler sedans with two (2) new 2019 Ford Tauruses. Probation Officers, Community Service Coordinator, and the Detention Transportation Officer placed a combined total of thirty-four thousand six hundred forty-nine (34,649) miles on assigned County owned vehicles for the year. During 2019, fuel and maintenance cost totaled five thousand five hundred eighty-two and 17/100ths Dollars (\$5,582.17). These expenses are down from eight thousand six hundred fifty-five and 55/100ths Dollars (\$8,655.55) in 2015. Some of this savings is attributable to lower fuel prices and the purchase of more reliable and fuel efficient and reliable vehicles.

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 (Reclaim Grant) in 2019. 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 2019, the Subsidy Grant supplemented with RECLAIM dollars funded the following program areas: Motivational Interviewing Probation, Reentry Services, Diversion and Clinical Assessments. There was also specialized funding for additional staff training.

### **REENTRY SERVICES**

A core team of community stakeholders have maintained the foundation of the initiative and is comprised of the following agency representatives:

Lindsay Daniels, Juvenile Court-Reentry Program Administrator  
Alisha Cooper, Juvenile Court-Probation Department  
Mike Blake, Juvenile Court-Chief Probation Officer  
Robert Smith, Juvenile Court-Court Director  
Corey Ball, Ohio Department of Youth Services-Parole Officer  
Sheri Hampton, Lelia Payton Counseling Center-Second Chance Program Counselor  
Lea Ann Wells, Perry Multi County Juvenile Facility-Director  
Roger Birch, Mental Health and Recovery Service Board

The Reentry 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 reentry plan must begin the day the youth is committed to the ODYS or a CCF facility. 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 youths being released from Community Correctional Facilities and the Department of Youth Services' institutions.

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

Thirteen (13) youths participated in the Muskingum County Juvenile Reentry Initiative during 2019 with five (5) youths successfully completing the initiative. Four (4) youths were terminated unsuccessfully by Court order. Four (4) youths remained in the program at year's end.

## **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 youths. 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 six (5) males and no females during 2019. These services were comprised of ninety-five (95) group sessions, forty-nine (49) sessions involving parents and twenty-three (23) individual counseling sessions.

## **DIVERSION PROGRAM**

The Juvenile Diversion Program established a program of early intervention to divert youths 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 2019. 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 2019, 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 Allwell Behavioral Health Services. In addition, the youths and parent attend an online educational class. During 2019, eight (8) youths participated in this program.

During 2019, one hundred nine (109) cases were approved for programming and services through the Diversion Program. Of the one hundred nine (109) cases closed in 2019, eighty-five percent (85%) did not receive new charges within six (6) months of closure. Seven (7) cases were closed as unsuccessful and, where appropriate, referred to the general case docket for adjudication.

## **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 and Dr. Courtney Huffman to conduct psychological evaluations and competency evaluation on court



involved youth. In 2019, Dr. Beazel and Dr. Huffman conducted two (2) competency evaluations, three (3) mental health evaluations, one (1) bind over evaluation and three (3) risk assessments. These evaluations and the accompanying reports are crucial in assisting the Court in making effective dispositions.

## **COURT FUNDED PROGRAMS**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**

The Community Service Program addressed the areas of accountability and responsibility for the assigned youths. The youths 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. Twelve (12) non-profit work sites are committed to assisting the Juvenile Court with this program in an arrangement mutually beneficial for all parties. In addition, several youths were assigned to assist maintenance and clean-up crews during the Muskingum County Fair. Many of the youths in this program have not had the opportunity to work in a positive setting with responsible adult supervision.

The Community Service Program is maintained by a Community Service 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 youths; such as, the location of the site, youths' age, ability, and severity of the offense.

In 2019, one hundred fifty-five (155) youths completed their assignment through the Community Service Program for a total of two thousand three hundred twenty five (2,325) hours.

### **RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT**

The Residential Treatment Program shared funding of out-of-home placements for six (6) youth during 2019 [five (5) males and one (1) female] as compared to ten (10) total in 2010. 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, Allwell Behavioral Health Service in Guernsey County, NECCO, GSP, Foundations for Living 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.

In 2019, the Court received reimbursement for administrative, training, and maintenance reimbursement costs in the amount of sixty-nine thousand two hundred eighteen and 39/100ths Dollars (\$69,218.39), compared to sixty-three thousand five hundred sixty-nine and 91/100ths Dollars (\$63,569.91), in 2018 and twenty four thousand thirty-one and 31/100ths Dollars (\$24,031.31) in 2017.

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.

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 five (5) 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. As of December 31, 2019, there were fourteen (14) female participants and two (2) male participants that meet weekly or bi-weekly with Magistrate Smith.

Family dependency courts in over 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  
Special Docket Coordinator

## **TRUANCY INITIATIVE**

In compliance with H.B. 410 (Codified in R. C. 2151.18(B), the Court has collected the following data for calendar year 2019, in regards to truancy cases coming before the Court:

Number of children placed in alternatives to adjudication under R.C. 2151.27(G)	95
Number successfully completing alternatives to adjudication 2018	56 + 13 from
Number who failed to complete alternatives and were adjudicated unruly	7
Pending at the close of 2019	32

Prepared By:

Brady Hittle  
Truancy Court Administrator

## **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 2019, an average of twenty (20) offenders attended with a parent, per session. Each offender pays the cost of \$25.00 to the Cooperative Extension Office. During 2019, one hundred eighty-three (183) first time juvenile traffic offenders attended the program. Overall, eleven thousand nineteen (11,019) 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 more than 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:

Jenn Quinn  
Deputy Clerk, Traffic Division



**MUSKINGUM COUNTY  
JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2019**



## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2019, we hired a total of fourteen (14) staff members. This is down from twenty-three (23) in 2018. The commissioners approved a raise in starting pay from \$10.87 to \$12.37. I feel this has played a big part in our ability to keep staff. Additionally a three year plan was submitted to the commissioners to get the starting pay up to \$15.00 by 2021.

Our number of intakes rose slightly in 2019 up to seven hundred twenty-three (723) from six hundred seventy-one (671) in 2018. However, our average daily population remained steady at twenty-one (21) residents per day.

In the summer of 2019, work began on the new roof for the entire facility. Funding was made possible by being awarded grant through the state capital improvements which saved the county approximately \$170,000 on the project. Work was completed in early fall, there have continued to be several leaks but Revere roofing company seems committed to getting those taken care of.

Jax, our therapy dog, was with our facility for the whole year of 2019. He has been a great asset to the facility. He has had a tremendous impact on both the facility staff and the residents we serve. We look forward to developing more and creative ways to utilize Jax in our facility.

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 Foreverdads 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.

We also continued to operate the Muskingum County JDC garden project in 2019 with continued community support and donations especially from the Muskingum County Master Gardeners. Both residents of the detention center and community service juveniles participated. We once again 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 2020.

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

## STATISTICAL REPORT

Total Number of Youth Detained	2018	2019
COSHOCTON	52	58
KNOX	148	94
MUSKINGUM	419	505
GUERNSEY	33	44
OTHER COUNTY YOUTH	19	22
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>723</b>

Total Number of Care Days Given	2018	2019
COSHOCTON	872	866
KNOX	1,738	1,120
MUSKINGUM	4,442	4,745
GUERNSEY	409	685
OTHER COUNTY YOUTH	205	214
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7,666</b>	<b>7,630</b>

Average Number of Care Days Per Child	2018	2019
COSHOCTON	16.77	14.93
KNOX	11.74	11.91
MUSKINGUM	10.60	9.40
GUERNSEY	12.39	15.57
OTHER COUNTY YOUTH	10.78	9.73
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11.42</b>	<b>10.55</b>

Average Daily Population	2018	2019
COSHOCTON	2.39	2.37
KNOX	4.76	3.07
MUSKINGUM	12.17	13.00
GUERNSEY	1.12	1.88
OTHER COUNTY YOUTH	.56	.59
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>21.00</b>	<b>20.90</b>

Gender Breakdown	2018	2019
Male	473	492
Female	198	231

## 2018

AGE	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
#	0	14	45	77	83	118	139	179	16

**\*\* Average age of all youth detained – 15.17**

## 2019

AGE	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
#	3	11	47	76	126	127	175	141	17

**\*\* Average age of all youth detained – 15.04**

