



The Court Reporter

[A Message From Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio](#)

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The Summit County Juvenile Court has been employing the practices of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) for nearly a decade. JDAI is a philosophy that supports promoting public safety by using the Detention Center beds only for those youth who can't be effectively treated and controlled within the community, and therefore reducing the number of youth being admitted so that they can more be effectively and efficiently served within the community.

JDAI calls for objective screening of youth being brought into the Detention Center, and the use of community alternatives for those who are identified to pose no threat to the community. Partnerships with community organizations provide a level of care that is more appropriate and has less adverse long term negative effects on the youth and family. The results have been encouraging, so much so, that the Court has embraced JDAI's "deep-end" reform to address dispositions and placement of higher-risk youth than those served by the first phase of our JDAI practices. I appreciate our Court staff and stakeholders for traveling to St. Louis to learn how to put into place the methods of the JDAI deep end reforms.

I also appreciate that the Annie E. Casey Foundation found the work done by the Court's William Davis was worthy of its Whatever It Takes Award. He is certainly deserving of this recognition, and I offer my heartfelt congratulations to him.

Linda Tucci Teodosio



Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio



[Court Delegation Travels to St. Louis for JDAI Conference](#)

In early September, a 15-person delegation from Summit County, Ohio attended the 5th Annual Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Deep End Inter-Site Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

The national conference, hosted by the Annie E. Casey Foundation at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel, provided juvenile justice reform leaders and policy makers from 11 states with an opportunity to gather in an effort to strengthen their deep end reform practices in ways that promote racial and ethnic equity and inclusion.

"The inter-site conference provided us with an opportunity to identify actionable ways to sharpen our focus on reducing the number of out-of-home placements, especially for youth of color," stated Summit County Juvenile Court Special Programs Administrator Lisa DiSabato-Moore. "The delegation plans to meet again in the near future to develop a racial and ethnic equity and inclusion work plan for 2019."

The Summit County delegation was represented by the following community stakeholders who share in the belief that secure detention and out-of-home placement should only be reserved for youth who pose the greatest risk to public safety: Barberton Police Department, Case Western Reserve University, Summit County Family and Children First Council, Summit County Juvenile Court, Summit County Legal Defender's Office, Summit County Prosecutor's Office and Totally Cooked Catering (workforce development advocate). Among the Summit County Juvenile Court employees in attendance, senior staff members Lisa DiSabato-Moore and Assistant Court Administrator Curtis Howard were selected by the JDAI technical advisors to serve as conference faculty.



Court staff member Lisa DiSabato-Moore speaks at a workshop at the JDAI Conference in St. Louis

DiSabato-Moore assisted with the facilitation of a workshop entitled, *Diversion Reimagined: Not Every Kid Who Breaks the Law Needs a Probation Officer*. Howard served as a panelist for a discussion entitled *Succeeding through Succession: Ensuring that Today's Accomplishments Survive Tomorrow's Transitions*.

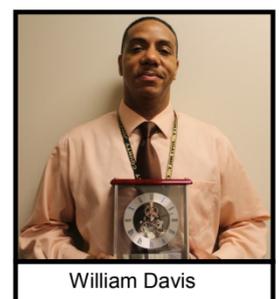
Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio's allegiance to JDAI, the nation's most effective, influential and widespread juvenile justice reform model, began in 2009. Five years later, the Court was approved by the foundation to expand its reform efforts towards the deep end, or the dispositional end, of the juvenile justice system.

[William Davis Honored by Casey Foundation](#)

William Davis was among the group Summit County stakeholders who attended the Annie E. Casey Foundation JDAI Deep-End Inter-Site Conference in St. Louis in early September. He was there to learn how to better do his job. But, little did he know that he was going to be recognized for just that – doing his job.

Davis was selected along with other individuals from across the nation to receive the Whatever It Takes Award from the Casey Foundation. Davis was honored not only for his overall work as a Case Manager in Traditional Probation (he has since been promoted to Supervisor), but for his efforts in regard to one family, in particular.

With a blend of empathy and expertise, Davis was able to assist this family navigate through a volatile and even violent home life. The obstacles facing everyone in the family unit were daunting. The parents had divorced. The mother suffered from schizophrenia and was homeless. The father battled drug addiction and the stepmother was abusive toward their children, especially the father's two young daughters, even though there were other, younger, children in the home. The stepmother created a brittle atmosphere with the emphasis on fear. The adults argued often and occasionally the arguments would erupt into violent confrontations. Many times, the stepmother assigned blame for their problems on the two girls.



William Davis

It was into that setting Davis entered the family's lives. After assessing the dynamics and the discord in the home, Davis took painstaking steps to engage each family member in individualized dialogue. He encouraged them to detail the struggles they faced on a daily basis. Once Davis completed his interviews, he went about the task of developing a support system for each family member. For the two girls, he found after-school programming that included transportation. That allowed the girls to be in a productive and constructive environment and allowed the parents to focus on the younger siblings in the home.

The parents also needed to heal their relationship with each other and the two girls. Davis knew that their willing participation was crucial to succeeding. He offered them incentives to maintain a certain level of participation that, hopefully, would result in being receptive to change.

But, Davis offered something more than rewards and recreation. He offered a willing ear, a supportive shoulder, and the knowledge to take what he learned and shape a plan of care for everyone concerned. As it is in most cases of this type, there wasn't a straight baseline of success. Davis' experience saw that when things were veering left of center, he was able to correct the course and bring things back to a workable direction.

Davis knew the myriad of issues facing this family were in need of several community-based resources. Davis enlisted the assistance of Summit County Juvenile Court staff, family guidance experts, tutors, and others to work toward a successful outcome. Davis brought together the two girls and their mother and made certain they were able to meet with Judge Teodosio. He also had them meet with a therapist and other social service representatives to address their concerns, answer their questions, strengthen their bond with each other, and hopefully, equip them to better improve the situation in their home.

William Davis' devotion to designing a plan of care for a family facing a gauntlet of issues is a testament to his professionalism and it is a clear demonstration of the type of man that he is, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation obviously felt the same way by making him the recipient of the Whatever It Takes Award.

[Court and Peace, Justice, & Equality Committee Conduct Peace Keeper Training](#)

In mid-September 2018, Summit County Juvenile Court, in partnership with the Peace, Justice & Equality (PJE) Committee, sponsored a Peace Keeper training series for professionals in the field of juvenile justice and area educators. The three-day training, facilitated by Mickelson Consultants, was held at the House of the Lord in Akron, Ohio.

The training successfully prepared 22 local professionals working with youth to serve as Peace Keepers by conducting Peace Circles in their community or school. Peace Circles are structured discussions that are used to address conflict holistically and solve problems. Moreover, Peace Circles emphasize healing and learning through a collective group process that aims to repair harm done and assign responsibility by talking through the problem.

Training participants included representatives from Akron Public Schools, Summit County Juvenile Court, Summit Education Initiative and Trumbull County Juvenile Court.