

2019 Annual Report

William P. Kannel
Juvenile Court Center

**Summit County Court of Common Pleas
Juvenile Division
Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio**



Turning lives around one child at a time.



Linda Tucci Teodosio, Judge

**Robert Bickett, Court Administrator
David Horner, Asst. Court Administrator
Curtis Howard, Asst. Court Administrator**

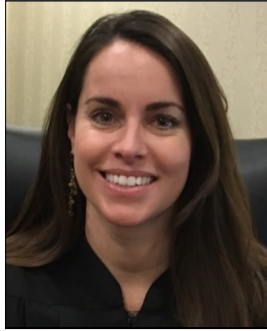
Summit County Juvenile Court Vision Statement

"The Summit County Juvenile Court strives to serve the best interests of our children through outreach, early intervention, community education and innovative programming, while fairly administering justice to all whose lives are impacted by the juvenile justice system."

The Magistrates of the Summit County Juvenile Court



Katherine Bertsch



Jamie Blair



Daniel Cody



Thomas Freeman



Brett Hammond



Laura Lynd-Robinson



Rob McCarty



Doug McDougal



Denise McGuckin



Mary Ann Mendlik



Milton Rankins



Rita Rochford



Lee Ann Schaffer

Court Finance

Prepared by Robert A. Bickett, Court Administrator

*The 2019 Summit County Juvenile court budget, consisting of both county and state/federal funding, totaled **\$17,523,092***

General Office/Judicial	\$4,388,644	RECLAIM Ohio	\$5,048,000	Personnel/Salaries & Benefits	\$10,702,709
Probation/Administration	1,886,122	Title IV-E	558,000	Contract Service	2,073,789
Detention Center	3,381,125	TitleXX/TANF Job Re-entry	115,000	Other	4,746,594
Total County Funding	\$9,655,891	Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice	359,888		\$17,523,092
		Victims of Crime	211,175		
		Victims of Human Trafficking	129,876		
		National School Lunch Program	45,959		
		Title XX Guardian ad Litem	316,291		
		TANF XX Family Resource Center	425,000		
		State Victims Assistance	3,286		
		Supreme Court Improvement Funds	20,503		
		CASA Volunteer Board	79,199		
		Ohio MHS Specialized Docket Subsidy	120,000		
		Summit Co. ADM Detention MH Services	245,346		
		Casey Foundation JDAI	33,000		
		Home Choice	83,926		
		National CASA	72,752		
		Total State/Federal Grant Funding	\$7,867,201		

STATE/FEDERAL FUNDED

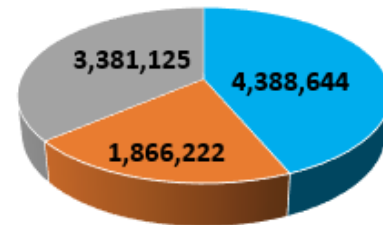
SERVICE PROVIDER CONTRACTS TO COURT

SERVICE PROVIDER AMOUNT

CONTRACT

Electronic Monitoring Oriana House, Inc.	115,000.00
Out of Home Placement Shelter Care Youth Assessment Shelter Juvenile Court share of Summit County Family And Children First Council/Summit County Cluster for Youth Funding Agreement	137,750.00 131,084.00
Short Term out of Home Placement Shelter Care Youth Assessment	245,000.00
Integrated Co-Occurring Treatment (ICT) Child Guidance & Family Solution	140,000.00
Drug/Alcohol Assessments Services Community Health Center	27,000.00
Mentoring Akron Area YMCA	25,000.00
Competency Evaluations Summit Psychological Associates	15,000.00
Community Service/Restitution Program Funds to Victims	50,000.00
Long Term out of Home Placement Various Placement Agencies	300,000.00
Diversion Programming Distributed in varying amounts to 14 Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices	208,575.00
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Model Program Village Network	165,000.00
Youth & Family Counseling Greenleaf Family Center	55,000.00

Court Funding



■ General Office ■ Probation/Admin ■ Detention Center

2019 RECLAIM Ohio Funding

For over a decade, the Court has been one of the top two counties in Ohio in receiving RECLAIM Ohio funds. The Court received those funds based on the number of felony adjudications and Ohio Department of Youth Services bed-day usage. Those numbers are factored into a formula and compared to the activity of other counties in the state. The funding is a product of responsible management at the Court while providing innovative programming and education at the community level. This has allowed the Court to enhance its rehabilitation for youth who remain under Court supervision. This has resulted in a decrease in bed-days, which is becoming a positive trend. Our bed-day usage did decrease by 379 bed-days (a decrease of 9.4% from the previous fiscal year) our RECLAIM funding stayed strong. As a result, the Court yielded \$3,810,106.74, or a 12.5% share of available variable RECLAIM funds. The Court also received allocations of \$719,199.95 from the Youth Services Grant, \$351,896 for Targeted RECLAIM, and \$50,000 for Competitive RECLAIM. All totaled, in Fiscal Year 2019, the Court received \$4,931,095.95 from the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

Additional 2019 Funding

Prepared by Grants Administrator, Woody Tyrrell

In addition to the county's general fund and formula funding from state and federal sources that sustain its operation, the Court actively pursues additional revenue through local, state and federal agency grant funding. These funds are typically used to create, maintain or expand programs at the Court aimed at meeting our goal of assuring that each child entering the Court leaves with increased opportunity for success in school, work, family relationships and the community. ***In 2019, grant funding to the Court for special programing totaled \$2,168,732. Thirty-two (32) full- and part-time Court positions and several positions/programs for partnering community service providers are supported by these funding streams.*** The programs either fully or partially operated by this funding in 2019 are:

The Family Resource Center (FRC), \$664,000: Intensive case management is delivered to court-referred, at-risk youth and their families at the court and in the community. The FRC is also a resource for other youth and the community as a whole. It serves as a central point of referral for all services available throughout Summit County for youth and their families. The FRC served 338 youth and family members in 2019. ***Federal Title XX/TANF funds are provided and administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.***

The Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice Program, \$334,000: Intensive probation and case management services, drug/alcohol/mental health treatment and/or cognitive behavioral therapy is delivered in home families of youth who are at the greatest risk of commitment to Department of Youth Service institutions. Approximately 45 youth families are served annually. ***Funding is provided by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Ohio Department of Youth Services and the program is administered in collaboration with the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board.***

Jobs Re-entry Program, \$115,000: Provides intensive case management services to youth in the custody of the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the Detention Center or a Community Corrections Facility. Upon their release, the funding is aimed at developing life and job skills, linking them to education and training opportunities, jobs, higher education, providing mentoring and generally helping to transition them successfully back into their families and the community. ***Federal Title XX/TANF funds are provided and administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.***

Restore Court Specialized docket for victims of human trafficking, 405,234: Intensive supervision and case management services, safety planning, drug/alcohol/mental health treatment and mentoring are provided to approximately 25 youth annually who are victims of human trafficking or at high risk to become victims. Restore is a state certified specialized docket that it is the only such program for juveniles in Ohio and one of only a handful in the country. ***Federal Title XX/TANF funds are provided and administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.***

Specialized Docket funds were received in 2019 for the Court's three Ohio Supreme Court certified specialized dockets: ***Crossroads, a co-occurring mental health and substance abuse Court; Restore Court, for victims and those at risk to become victims of human trafficking Court; and the Family Reunification through Recovery Court.*** Combined, the three problem-solving Courts received **\$120,000** from the **Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services** under state of Ohio House Bill 483.

CASA/GAL Child Advocate Team, \$330,819: provides a team of Licensed Social Workers (LSW) GAL positions devoted to directly providing child advocacy/case management services to children removed from their homes. Typically, these professionals are assigned in place of volunteer CASAs when the youth removed from the home are also involved in delinquency cases, when they are placed outside of Summit County and extensive travel will be involved for the assigned worker or in otherwise complicated/complex removals. ***Funding is provided by Federal Title XX/TANF funds administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.***

Additional CASA/GAL Program Funding awarded in 2019 was again provided by a variety of sources including:

Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds, \$196,393 for operating costs and State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA), \$3,286 for supplies and technology were received through and administered by the **State of Ohio Attorney General's Office.**

The Summit County CASA Volunteer Board Association also generously contributes significant funds to the CASA program as reported in the CASA Program section of this annual report.

Detention Services
Melissa Gerney, Superintendent

The Summit County Juvenile Detention Center consists of seven main housing units plus two annex units, making the total capacity for 100 juveniles, although the daily population average for 2019 was 27.48 youth.

Full-time Detention Center staff members are required to receive a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education and training annually. All Detention staff members are responsible for providing a safe and secure environment for juveniles, personnel and other persons, and assist with the security of the facility. Detention Officers are also responsible for transporting juveniles to Court hearings, medical appointments, counseling appointments, diagnostic evaluations, placements and other appointments deemed necessary by the Court.

The Detention Center continues to maintain the high standards set forth by the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and strives to adhere to the aspirational standards of JDAI. Additionally, the Detention Center staff remains motivated to continue to perform to the strict standards advanced by the American Correctional Association (ACA). The Detention Center received their initial certification in May 2015 and successfully achieved their reaccreditation in May 2018, scoring a 99.7%. A third reaccreditation audit is slated for Spring of 2021.

During the summer of 2019, the detention facility was afforded the opportunity to receive three murals that were part of a large scale community project initiated by a local artist from Akron. These murals were hung in strategic areas of the detention facility where the message of their designs: hope, love, and inspiration could be viewed by all.

Education remains an important facet of Detention Center operations. Akron Public Schools provides all educational programming and has enlisted the assistance of many community partners to present on various topics such as bullying, social skills, and current events. In July of 2019, Kent State University, a long-time partner in providing writing classes to the Detention Center, conducted a design-based education learning scenario that seeks to answer the following questions: "What does it mean to do for others?", "How can we do for others?" and "What is the impact of doing for others?" Kent State was able to partner with Hands of Gratitude, a non-profit organization that builds prosthetic hands for children in need. Juveniles at the detention facility assembled the hands resulting in 21 prosthetic hands being delivered to children in the United States and Honduras.

Mental Health specialists continue to provide daily support to the juveniles admitted to the facility. Mental Health specialists administer mental health screenings and assess the individual needs of each juvenile. Weekly groups are conducted as well as individual sessions to address the needs and concerns of each juvenile. Art Therapy was introduced and provided another avenue for juveniles to deal with the stressors that being housed in a juvenile detention facility presents. Peace Circles were also initiated and are conducted on a weekly basis by specially trained individuals from the community. The goal of the Peace Circles is to equip the juvenile with tools and options to combat the forces and situations that put them where they are and or keep them in their current mindset and emotion.

The Detention Center's garden continues to provide a variety of fruits, vegetables and flowers and provides a wide selection of produce to be served on the salad bar for our youth in the Detention Center. The greenhouse provides a great environment during the winter months to plant seedlings to transfer to the garden in the spring.

The Women's Board continues to provide weekly rewards parties, holiday parties and most recently has put together "Exit Bags" to be given to each youth who have spent 30 or more days in Detention. These bags consist of hygiene items to be used upon release from the facility. Yoga, religious services, and art programs continue to be offered to all youth in the Detention Center. It is also imperative that youth in the Detention Center maintain close family and community ties through weekly visits and telephone calls to parents and/or guardians.

2019 Detention Center Admission Statistics

2019	Secured Admits	Released from Se-cured Admit
Jan	43	36
Feb	33	35
Mar	40	43
Apr	31	39
May	32	28
June	36	36
July	34	36
August	41	33
Sept	34	29
Oct	32	43
Nov	33	36
Dec	29	38
Totals	418	432

2019 Secured Admits to Detention by Gender/Race													
2019	Female					Male					Total	Female % of Total	Male % of Total
	Black	White	Bi-Racial	Other	Total	Black	White	Bi-Racial	Other	Total			
Jan	13	4	1	0	18	17	7	1	0	25	43	42%	58%
Feb	13	2	0	0	15	15	2	1	0	18	33	45%	55%
Mar	12	3	1	1	17	16	4	2	1	23	40	43%	58%
Apr	13	0	0	0	13	12	4	2	0	18	31	42%	58%
May	4	4	0	0	8	15	8	1	0	24	32	25%	75%
June	3	1	5	0	9	20	6	1	0	27	36	25%	75%
July	7	1	0	0	8	15	8	3	0	26	34	24%	76%
Aug	6	3	0	0	9	24	7	1	0	32	41	22%	78%
Sept	6	2	1	0	9	18	5	2	0	25	34	26%	74%
Oct	3	3	1	0	7	16	6	3	0	25	32	22%	78%
Nov	3	6	1	0	10	18	4	0	1	23	33	30%	70%
Dec	3	4	1	0	8	14	4	3	0	21	29	28%	72%
Totals	86	33	11	1	131	200	65	20	2	287	418	31%	69%

Project has Detention Youth Construct Prosthetic Hands

Community service for Court-involved youth normally entails volunteerism at a local venue or maintenance work. But, for the youth in the Summit County Detention Center, a summer project took such service to a new level. They spent a portion of the summer providing the very definition of a helping hand.

For the past ten years, Dr. Kristy Pytash and Dr. Lisa Testa from the School of Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum Studies at Kent State University, have partnered with the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center staff and teachers on a learning program for Detention Center youth entitled, "Designing Identities," encouraging youth to explore their creativity. This year's project took the term "hands-on" literally. Through funding from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, the non-profit organization, Hands of Gratitude, introduced an opportunity for youth in the Detention Center to build 21 prosthetic hands for children in the United States and Honduras and helped supervise the youth during the project along with Dr. Pytash and the Kent State students. The youth assembled the plastic parts of the hand, the palm, wrist, and fingers. Once they assembled parts that didn't involve metal or wire, the pre-service teachers continued the assemblage and completed the prosthetic.



Pictured are two of the prosthetics hands that were assembled by Detention Center youth.

The prosthetic has Velcro straps that can be attached to the arm. Using muscle control in the arm, the recipient can manipulate the prosthetic, allowing it to flex and clench, and there are rubber grips at the end of each finger to aid it picking up items.

The project taught the youth more than how to construct the prosthetics. What they learned could last a lifetime. Through a series of inter-disciplinary lessons, they considered the following questions: 1) what does it mean to do for others?; 2) how can they do for others?; and; 3) what is the impact of doing for others?

Some of the youth personalized the experience in a letter to some of the recipients of the prosthetic hands. One youth wrote the following to a boy in Honduras who lost his hand and was going to receive one:



Kent State's Dr. Kristy Pytash, left, and Judge Teodosio hold two of the prosthetic hands constructed by youth in Detention. Also pictured, right, is Detention Superintendent Melissa Gerney.

"Hola: I'm from Ohio which is in the United States of America. I'm 17 and I really had fun building your hand. I hope the best for you and your family for the hard times. You just got to keep your head up high because there is a whole lot of good things that are coming your way. Always remember there's someone thinking and praying for the best for you and your family. Sincerely, your friend from Ohio."

Another wrote: "I hope you benefit from your new hand. It was made from a lot of love and kindness. But remember, despite your disabilities you are perfect no matter what. Be true to yourself and never let hate bring you down."

The work the youth did was recently displayed before Court staff, including Judge Teodosio, and community and family members. A demonstration of how the prosthetics worked was performed by the youth and they answered questions about the experience and the lessons learned during the project.

"I used to take my hands for granted," said one girl. "Now that I've seen everything it takes to make a hand work, and how difficult it would be to not be able to use it, that really made me think and it made me work harder on getting the hand we built done."

Said another youth, "It makes me feel good knowing that we did something that's going to help someone who had something bad happen to them."

Needless to say, the project was a success, and the least surprised person was Dr. Pytash.

"It was so encouraging from the very start to see how engaged and excited the kids were when we brought this to them," she said. "But, it's the same reaction we get so often when you allow them to reach beyond what they think are their limitations, only for them to find they can accomplish anything when they put their mind to it."

Perhaps the most impressed person who saw the demonstration was Judge Teodosio.

"This project was so unique in so many ways," she said. "It went beyond the construction of the prosthetics, which was remarkable enough. It was the devotion the kids in Detention applied to the project, and the genuine reactions they had knowing their hard work was going to help other people."

Clerk's Office
Stacey Mathieu, Chief Deputy Clerk

Judge Teodosio said it best when describing the Clerk's Office: "When someone comes to the Clerk's Office to pick up a file, it's not just a collection of paper. That's a child's life in that file. That's a child's family background. It could even be a child's future. Every person that is greeted at the windows of the Clerk's Office has had something disruptive happen in their lives or the life of their child. They come there asking for help, and the staff of the Clerk's Office understands that, and that is important."

The Clerk's Office is the clearinghouse for the Juvenile Court. Every single document from every single case that comes to the Court will be filed with there. Whether it be a Court staff member, a family member, an attorney, a prosecutor, or the public, if they need information regarding a case, the request must go through the Clerk's Office.

The staff of the Clerk's Office works diligently to accommodate those requests in a responsive and responsible manner.

The Clerk's Office is also charged with the collection and accounting of fines and fees yielded during the course of the year. In 2019, the office collected a total of \$173,468.78. Here is a breakdown of the monies collected:

Computer and Legal Research, Victims of Crime. Fees: \$90,348.82

Traffic Fines & Costs, Indigent Drivers Treatment and Defense, Legal Aid: \$63,131.50

SAFTE Driver Intervention Program: \$6,650.00

Restitution: \$9,292.51

Fines and Costs for Delinquency, Unruly and Adult Cases: \$1,585.00

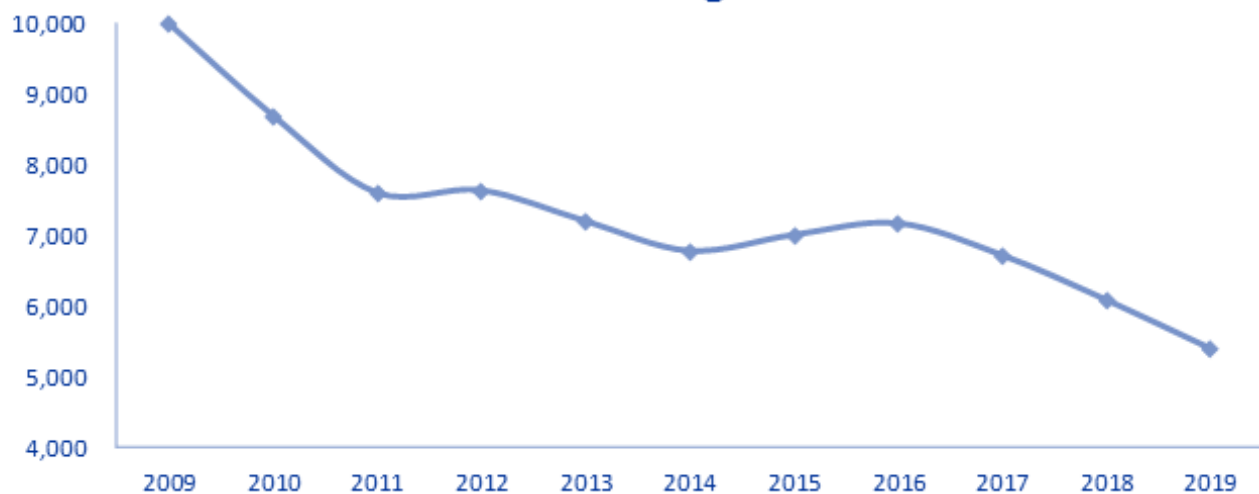
Court Clerk Fund: \$900.00

Merchant Services: \$1,560.95

2019 By the Numbers—Case Filings

Case Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
DL	4,319	3,601	3,139	3,064	2,682	2,591	2,700	2,687	2,232	1,626	1,429
TR	2,351	2,016	1,709	1,549	1,625	1,458	1,442	1,441	1,591	1,292	1,207
DN	980	915	858	805	832	843	915	1,062	1,022	1,289	1,030
FS	592	526	464	420	492	431	607	532	277	102	123
UN	654	549	388	401	283	259	253	257	244	349	287
RF	649	695	625	902	776	703	664	655	884	1,016	503
RT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	439
LC	270	261	254	312	293	288	272	343	299	278	251
GP	136	103	115	123	165	148	88	129	127	85	98
PS	38	9	9	14	14	10	11	13	9	7	4
CT	18	17	18	17	13	19	15	12	10	13	7
PO	-	10	25	33	30	34	40	43	28	33	24
Total	10,007	8,702	7,604	7,640	7,205	6,784	7,007	7,174	6,723	6,090	5,402

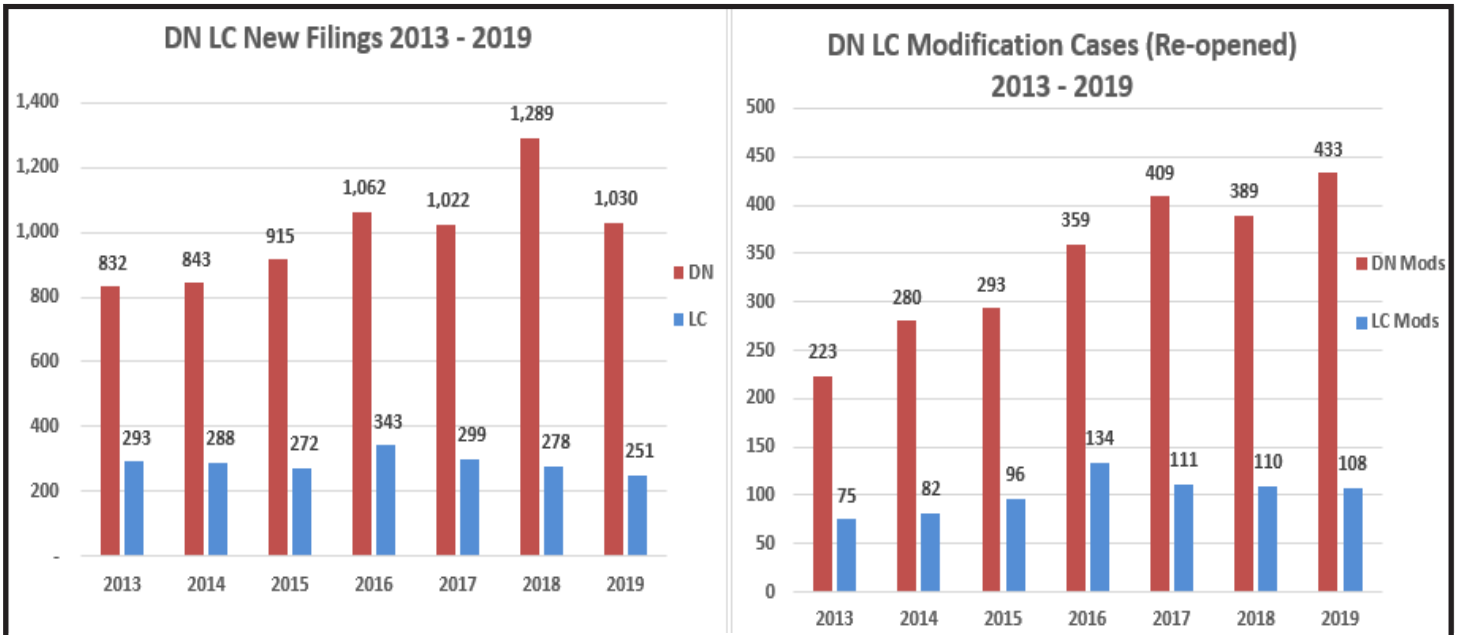
Case Filings 2009 - 2019



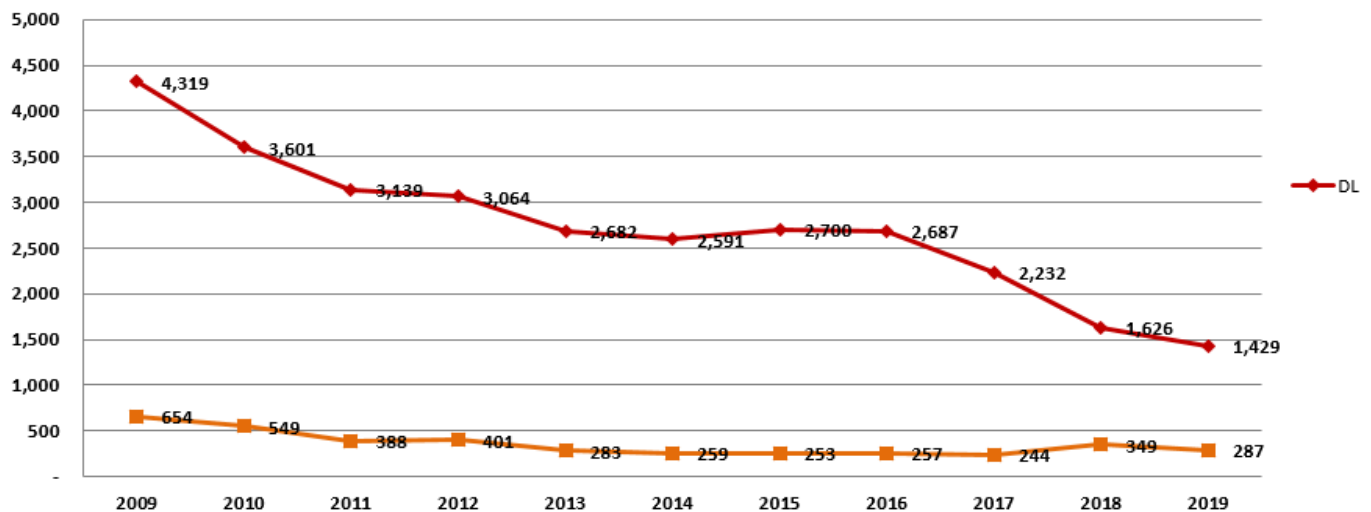
Key v

DL Delinquency RF Unofficial GP Grandparent CT Contributing(Adult) DN Dependency, LC Legal Custody
 TR Traffic RT Truancy FS Failure to send (Adult) PS Permanent Surrender PO Protection Or UN Unruly

2019 By The Numbers—Dependency & Neglect Legal Custody Cases & Unruly Filings



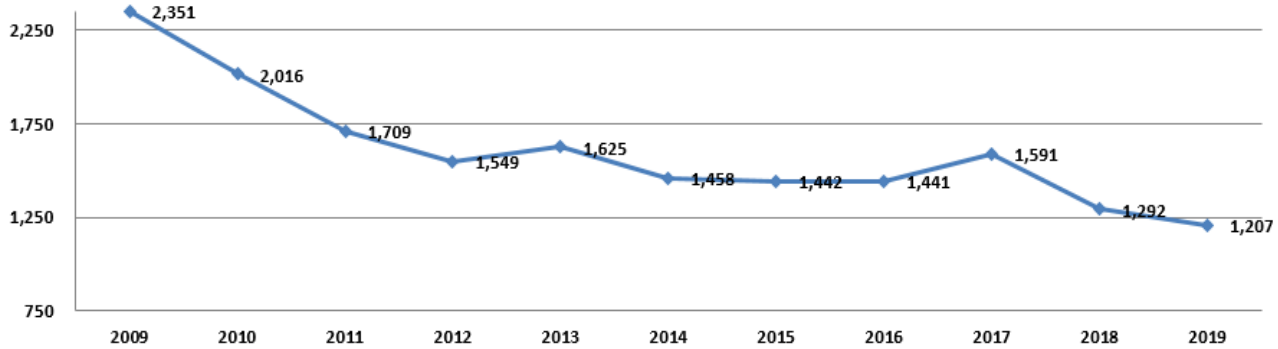
Delinquent - Unruly Case Types New Filings Trend - 2009 to 2019



Top DL Dispositions by Race/Gender for Current Reporting Month	Female						Male						Total
	Not Noted	Asian	Black	Bi-Racial	Native American	White	Not Noted	Asian	Black	Bi-Racial	Native American	White	
CONTINUE PRIOR ORDERS	-	-	20	2	-	19	-	-	59	16	-	17	133
OTHER ORDER OR DISPOSITION	-	-	22	1	-	17	-	1	48	7	-	19	115
EXPUNGE IMMEDIATELY	3	-	32	2	-	15	1	-	14	12	-	23	102
OBEY HOME AND SCHOOL RULES	-	-	8	1	-	3	-	-	30	2	-	7	51
SEAL IMMEDIATELY	-	-	8	-	-	4	-	1	13	-	-	23	49
HOLD IN DETENTION	-	-	2	1	-	5	-	-	24	5	-	4	41
NO CONTACT	-	-	10	1	-	-	-	-	22	2	-	4	39
RESTITUTION TBD	-	-	9	1	-	2	-	-	18	4	-	4	38
RELEASE FROM DETENTION	-	-	4	1	-	3	-	-	18	9	-	1	36
NOTIFY SUPERINTENDENT/PRINCIPA	-	-	10	-	-	6	-	-	10	-	-	5	31
PROB/PLACEMT/PAROLE TERMINATED	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	18	3	-	5	28
CONTINUANCE	-	-	4	1	-	1	-	-	11	4	-	7	28
WARRANT CANCELLED BY JURIST	-	-	6	-	-	1	-	-	14	1	-	5	27
CHILD TO ATTEND SCHOOL	-	-	3	-	-	5	-	-	13	2	-	2	25
NO ILLEGAL CONTACT	-	-	7	1	-	2	1	-	10	-	-	1	22

2019 By the Numbers - Traffic Cases

New Traffic Case Filings - 2009 - 2019



Traffic Offenses	Dec-19			2019 Totals			2018 Comparison Totals			Percent Inc/Dec Over Last Year		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
SPEED LIMITS	15	21	36	163	281	444	147	261	408	11%	8%	9%
ASSURED CLEAR DISTANCE	9	5	14	84	106	190	97	118	215	-13%	-10%	-12%
FAILURE TO CONTROL	3	3	6	17	30	47	28	37	65	-39%	-19%	-28%
STOP SIGN	4	1	5	18	23	41	15	27	42	20%	-15%	-2%
OPERATING VEHICLE WITHOUT REASONABLE CONTROL	4	1	5	15	32	47	16	30	46	-6%	7%	2%
RIGHT OF WAY	3	1	4	13	9	22	21	14	35	-38%	-36%	-37%
NO DRIVER'S LICENSE	-	4	4	9	31	40	11	34	45	-18%	-9%	-11%
RIGHT OF WAY WHEN TURNING LEFT	2	1	3	10	12	22	11	6	17	-9%	100%	29%
EQUIPMENT VIOLATION (LOCAL)	-	3	3	7	14	21	9	30	39	-22%	-53%	-46%
IMPROPER LANE USAGE	3	-	3	15	14	29	22	20	42	-32%	-30%	-31%
LEAV/FLEEING/SCENE	-	3	3	3	6	9	1	2	3	200%	200%	200%

Traffic Dispositions	Dec-19			2019 YTD Totals			2018 Comparison Totals			Percent + / - Over Last Year		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
COST ORDERED	27	33	60	325	512	837	422	660	1,082	-23%	-22%	-23%
TRAFFIC FINE	28	30	58	322	496	818	406	637	1,043	-21%	-22%	-22%
SEAL IMMEDIATELY	12	32	44	145	272	417	139	300	439	4%	-9%	-5%
DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE	10	20	30	113	183	296	112	200	312	1%	-9%	-5%
TRAFFIC ESSAY	14	14	28	176	226	402	266	331	597	-34%	-32%	-33%
OTHER ORDER OR DISPOSITION	12	14	26	149	238	387	128	455	583	16%	-48%	-34%
EXPUNGE IMMEDIATELY	12	10	22	99	219	318	1,104	2,070	3,174	-91%	-89%	-90%
SAFTE PROG - DIVERSIONARY	9	12	21	89	126	215	86	149	235	3%	-15%	-9%
DRIVING PRIVILEGES GRANTED	4	13	17	86	183	269	119	169	288	-28%	8%	-7%
SAFTE PROG - NON-DIVERSIONARY	9	6	15	85	143	228	95	167	262	-11%	-14%	-13%

Traditional & Intensive Probation Department

Keith Luhring, Chief Probation Officer

The Probation Department has shifted from traditional objectives of community safety, offender accountability and practical rehabilitation of offenders to the focus of improving youth's behavior while on probation. The shift involves training officers to provide behavior interventions such as EPICS (Effective Practices in Community Settings), cognitive behavior techniques, motivational interviewing, and contingency management. This department was responsible for the supervision and investigation of 550 cases, which included 140 new assignments on probation, 213 probation cases that were carried over from the previous year and 197 Intake cases. The number of cases served in 2019 is less than the previous year's total of 550 cases.

Probation case assignments are based on geographic districts, allowing Probation Officers to establish and maintain rapport with clients, families, schools and agencies within a district. The Probation staff consists of Probation Officers, Case Managers, a Probation Supervisor, an Administrative Assistant, and the Chief Probation Officer. The department collaborates internally and with community partners to serve our youth and families.

There were 10 youth who were committed or revoked to the Ohio Department of Youth Services in the 2019 calendar year. In 2019, 23 cases were transferred from the Juvenile Division of Common Pleas Court to the General Division. Of the 2 bind-over cases, 11 were mandatory and 12 was discretionary. In 2019, 142 cases were terminated from probation supervision.

The Probation Department and the community continued to benefit from two grants that supported evidence-based programs. The Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice Grant supported two community-based programs that provided intensive in-home therapy for youth and parents. In 2019, 35 families engaged in intensive home-based therapeutic programs. The Targeted RECLAIM Grant supported additional services including the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy model "Thinking for a Change" groups which served 32 detention and community youth. The Family Liaison case managers facilitated the Parent Project which is a curriculum-based model designed to provide assistance to parents looking to apply some behavioral interventions in the home.

Summit County Juvenile Court and the Probation Department continue to maintain working relationships with community agencies and committees. These efforts seek to enhance the development and security of the Summit County community, while holding juvenile offenders accountable for their actions. The collaboration of community agencies and court programs and services have provided opportunities for our youth to engage in educational, counseling, substance abuse treatment and mental health services.

Crossroads Program and New Paths Probation Unit

Katy VanHorn, Program Supervisor

Crossroads is the first program Judge Teodosio sought to implement when she became Juvenile Court Judge in 2003 and it has become one of the most respected and decorated programs of its kind in the nation. The program is grounded in community collaboration and aims to offer youth facing the challenges of substance misuse and mental health issues a chance to be held accountable for their actions while working to unveil the core impulses that led to those actions and find a way to correct them.

The Crossroads Program views substance misuse and mental health issues as co-occurring disorders and develops an intensive probation program for each youth who are referred to and accepted into the program. While Crossroads is largely a diversionary program, a non-diversionary track was introduced in 2016 so youth who have more serious delinquency offenses can now participate in the program and receive the services the program provides without receiving an automatic dismissal at the case closure.

Judge Teodosio's visionary program has resulted in national acceptance and recognition. It has become a model for other Juvenile Courts statewide and beyond. The Crossroads Program received further validation in 2014 when the Ohio Supreme Court granted the program final certification as a specialized docket. As noted on the adjacent page, the program received recertification in 2016. Crossroads received official recertification in June of 2019.

The Crossroads Program consists of one Probation Officers and a Program Supervisor. An attorney is contracted to provide legal representation for each youth throughout their participation in the program. Crossroads is incentive-based and places a premium on accountability. Magistrate Brett Hammond presides over the Crossroads docket. He conducts weekly Review Hearings to determine whether youth have earned the ability to move forward in the program or receive sanctions for failing to adhere to the strict guidelines contained in their case plan. Family members play an essential role in the progress a youth makes in the program, which usually takes one year to achieve graduation.

In 2019, 31 youth were served by the program, including the admission of 13 new families. The program saw 11 of its participants graduate after successfully completing program requirements. Graduation for the youth in the Diversionary Track of Crossroads means that their admitted offenses and any subsequent violations will be dismissed and sealed and for the Non-diversionary Track it means they are eligible to have their cases sealed in six months or after they turn 18 years old on the condition they have no further involvement with the Court. But, more importantly, they leave the program with the tools to live a clean, happy, and sober lifestyle. 15 youth remained in the program into 2020.

The Crossroads concept has been applied to another Court program, the New Paths Probation Unit, which is staffed by the same employees who work in the Crossroads Program. New Paths is a specialized intervention service designed to address the needs of Court-involved youth with a developmental disability, autism spectrum disorders, and traumatic brain injuries by connecting them and their families to supportive services through schools, community agencies, and, if appropriate, Summit DD. The program served 26 youth in 2019. Staff members act as Intake Worker, Probation Officer, and Case Manager for the youth and their families. They will help them navigate through the Court process while seeking suitable care for the youth through appropriate referrals to community providers.

The hallmark of New Paths is creating continuity of care and consistency. Magistrate Thomas Freeman has been assigned the New Paths docket and he will hear nearly every New Paths case. In the event a youth is adjudicated delinquent and placed on probation, the same staff member will follow the youth throughout the duration of the probationary period. Progress is monitored through regular school visits, contact with service providers and regular review hearings.

Diversion Services
Lynda Mullins, Supervisor

The Intake Department at Summit County Juvenile Court officially became known as Diversion Services in September of 2018. This change was long coming and is considered to be a crucial part of the broader probation reform movement here. With this change, Court Intake Officers are now referred to as Diversion Case Managers.

The Diversion Services unit handles status and misdemeanor referrals. Research has shown that many low-level offenses can be effectively handled by diverting those cases from formal prosecution. Minimizing penetration into the criminal justice system benefits youth by reducing exposure to those youths who have been charged with serious offenses. This allows the family and community to guide the youth to better decision-making by offering support and understanding, and doesn't burden youth with a criminal record. The Diversion Unit continues to address individualized needs identified by interviews and use of standardized assessment tools, while emphasizing community safety. At the conclusion of a diversion session, the Case Manager makes recommendations to the family as to what services may benefit the child to lessen the likelihood of continued contact with the juvenile justice system. Family members are expected to invest in services they feel are best suited to their child.

Some youth referred to Court and handled by Diversion Services will still appear before a Magistrate. The goal is to minimize contact with the Court regardless of how a case is processed. Even if handled in an official manner, the Court will still try to emphasize use of community organizations as partners in hopes that they can be the added support the family needs to remain on a good path.

The Court hopes to use restorative justice practices such as Peace Circles, restitution, and Teen Court as a disposition in many of our diverted cases. Cases handled in this fashion allow youth to see the harm they may have caused to our community, in general, or the victim of their case specifically and to explore a means to make amends.

Child Responsibility Project/Community Service
Jeffrie Pope, Program Coordinator

Making youth accountable for their actions is at the forefront of the Child Responsibility Project (CRP). Two common dispositions in Juvenile Court are restitution to the victims of crime and community service. The Child Responsibility Project oversees both sanctions.

CRP staff supervises youth at work sites where youth earn a wage of \$10 an hour that will be paid directly to the victim up to \$600. The wages are paid through a grant provided by the RECLAIM Ohio program. CRP staff track the amount of hours each youth in the program works. In 2019, 103 youth were referred to the CRP and five more had their community service disposition carried over from 2018. In total, 69 youth completed 2,328 work hours which resulted in \$23,274.49 in restitution that was paid to victims.

CRP staff also work closely with the Intake and Probation Departments to assure youth complete their community service sanction. In 2019, 287 hours of community service were ordered and, through 2019, 193 hours have been completed.

The CRP also is responsible for tracking items donated by youth to the Special Projects program. Devised by Judge Teodosio and implemented in 2003, the program offers youth the option to earn credit for eight hours of ordered community service by purchasing \$40 worth of toys, food or school supplies that will be donated to the needy in Summit County. In 2019, 24 youth took part in the Special Projects program, resulting in a donation of \$960 to purchase those items.

Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) Program

Beth Cardina, Program Director

With a blend of compassion, commitment and conscientiousness, the CASA/GAL volunteers and staff work vigilantly to assure that the Court is given information that compels the Court to act in the best interests of the child.

Volunteers complete a thorough, mandatory 40-hour training program to become advocates for abused, neglected and dependent children who come in contact with the Court system through no fault of their own. Through collaboration with key service agencies and legal counsel and utilizing other community resources, the volunteers make recommendations on behalf of the child during Court hearings. The CASA/GAL volunteers investigate and monitor many facets of the child's background and make assessments to the Court based on their findings.

The Juvenile Court funds the CASA/GAL Program, but the program also receives grants from the Victims of Crime Act and the State Victims Assistance Act. Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro offers funding from Federal Title XX/TANF funds administered through the county's Department of Job and Family Services. Several local foundations, businesses and organizations also provide much-needed funding. Additionally, the local CASA Board Volunteer Association partners with the Court to assist in the mission of the program and its volunteers. The CASA Board is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that contributed over \$80,000 to the program's general operating costs in 2019.

The CASA/GAL Program also benefits from donations from the Kimberly S. Denholm Charities, as well as other community grants to under-write the program's annual Holiday Toy Shop, which purchases gifts that are selected and delivered to the children by their CASA volunteer. In 2019, over 500 children received an early and happier holiday because of the efforts of the CASA/GAL Program and their advocates. Additionally, the Andrea Rose Teodosio Foundation's "Rosebuds" program provided holiday attire for children during the Toy Shop.

It is the task of the 19-member staff of the CASA/GAL Program to assure that the volunteers have the materials and support that they need to see each of their cases through to a successful end. In 2019, 250 volunteer child advocates provided a voice for over 900 dependent, abused, or neglected children in Juvenile Court proceedings. The number of children served by the program ranks as the highest of any CASA/GAL Program in the state of Ohio and positions the program as one of the largest in the nation.

Citizens Review Board

Magistrate Rita Rochford, Coordinator

The Citizen's Review Board (CRB) consists of four separate boards of community volunteers with a background in social work, criminal justice, education, medicine or other significant community involvement who were appointed by Judge Teodosio. The function of the CRB is to determine whether the best interests of children in Dependency, Neglect and Abuse cases are being met. Each board meets twice a month to review the standing of children who have been placed in the permanent custody of Summit County Children Services. The reviews seek to ensure that the children are receiving proper assistance and that Children Services is working to expedite the child's permanency plan, which is typically adoption.

CRB members review each case at least once every six months and, if necessary, more often than that. Working with Magistrate Rochford, the Board has the authority to issue orders during review hearings.

In 2019, the Citizen's Review Board reviewed the cases of 223 children in permanent custody, conducted 244 hearings while logging 976 volunteer hours.

The Citizen's Review Board operates pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code and is supervised by Magistrate Rita Rochford under the direct authority of Judge Teodosio.

Restore Court Program

Andrea Lisowski, Program Coordinator

With the passage of the Safe Harbor Law by the Ohio General Assembly in 2012, local jurisdictions had the template established to begin addressing the growing epidemic of human trafficking in earnest. The Summit County Juvenile Court was on the cutting edge of confronting this disturbing issue when it established the Restore Court docket in January 2015. Magistrate Jaime Blair presides over the Restore Court docket. Restore Court is the first juvenile human trafficking docket certified as a specialized docket by the Ohio Supreme Court.

When a youth is brought to the attention of the Court demonstrates risk factors of human trafficking, an assessment is complete. If the assessment reveals that the youth could be a victim of human trafficking, the youth is referred to Restore Court. This will give youth an opportunity for a second chance at a normal life; a chance to make decisions on their own, a chance to be drug-free, and free of the hold another has on them, to end their victimization.

Each case receives thorough examination by the Restore Court Treatment Team which provides recommendations to the Court prior to and during review hearings which are held to track the progress each youth is making while receiving services provided by the program.

Since its inception, the Restore Court docket has made remarkable strides in identifying trafficked youth and those at high risk of being trafficked. The mission of Restore Court is to empower youth involved with human trafficking and those who are at high risk, to achieve successful lives by providing appropriate support. This is accomplished in a variety of ways emphasizing the importance of wrap-around-services for holistic help. These services include:

- Mentoring - Through RAHAB Ministries in Akron, each youth in the program is paired with a mentor. This person builds a positive relationship with the youth through fun activities and outings, including the community center, Selah's Place
- Counseling - Partnering with agencies in the community, each participant engages in trauma-informed therapy with counselors who are educated on human trafficking.
- Case Management - Each youth and family in the program is paired with a case worker to help link them to community resources and offer other case management services.
- Supervision & Accountability - Depending on the case, youth will be assigned intensive probationary supervision or will be monitored by a court intake worker.

Participating youth may receive services through Safe Harbor Diversion or the Traditional Track of the program.

Safe Harbor Diversion was launched in September 2014 as part of the Restore Court specialized docket program. Safe Harbor is for youth involved in human trafficking with charges related to their victimization. Participants could be eligible to have their charges dismissed and immediately expunged upon graduation from the program. The program is based on the Safe Harbor statute, utilizing a human trafficking program coordinator to organize the efforts between attorneys, court staff, guardians ad litem, and service providers.

Both Safe Harbor and Traditional Track empower youth involved in human trafficking and those at high to achieve successful lives. The program continues evidence-based practices, such as trauma informed treatment.

There has been significant progress made since the Restore Court docket was implemented. No doubt, there are challenges that will always confront those who are victimized and those who are offering relief from their debilitating lifestyle. Yet, Restore Court offers something even greater than the myriad of services it provides to them. It offers them hope.

Special Programs

Lisa DiSabato-Moore, Special Programs Administrator

Probation reform was the focus of the Summit County Juvenile Court's reform energy in 2019. A considerable amount of expert training and technical assistance was provided to all workers who have direct service responsibilities with families. The Ohio Department of Youth Services presented four regional core-strategy trainings in 2019. Summit County was selected to host each of those trainings. Over 200 workers from the northeast region of Ohio attended. Additionally, direct service staff were all trained on the use of the Carey Guides, an empirically-based assessment instrument designed to translate evidence-based practices into a series of strategies and tools that are quick and to-the-point and intended to promote behavior change among our youth.

Data development and analysis, as well, was a focal point for Special Programs in 2019. Court personnel met monthly to review data and identify trends in attempt to use the data to drive the work plan for the coming year. As consistently experienced since CY 2009, Summit County Juvenile Court's delinquency filings continued to decline with a total of 1,429 filed in 2019, a 12% decrease over the previous calendar year (1,626), and a 67% decrease from CY 2009, the year considered by the Court as its base-line year for formal reform efforts.

The role of the Case Expeditor continued to develop in 2019 and became integral in controlling the detention population, which was the lowest in 2019 as the county has ever seen, with an average daily population of 28. *(the average daily population in 2009 was 56.5)* An additional impact of reform saw the Court Intake Department become "Diversion Services" manned not by intake workers, rather by Diversion Case Managers.

Summit County continued to develop the use of restorative justice Peace Circles in 2019 as both a diversionary and dispositional practice in the continuum of care. Court staff are facilitating Peace Circles internally and leading controlled conversations intended to be swift and effective resolutions to conflict and harm that has been caused by a youth brought to the attention of our system. Summit County continues to garner attention for being an innovative and effective juvenile justice system, and 2019 brought with it many opportunities to continue working with community partners to implement best practices for the families and youth served by the Court.

Dually Involved Youth Initiative

Rashara Walker, Program Coordinator

The Dually Involved Youth (DIY) Initiative was implemented in August 2018. The DIY process allows for the early identification of youth involved in both systems and provides Juvenile Court and Children Services the opportunity to provide case coordination at the earliest point of intervention.

The Dually Involved Youth Initiative calls for a synchronized response by the partner agencies to identify families we have in common early in the process with the intent of coordinating responses and avoiding any redundant service delivery. While Summit County Juvenile Court and Summit County Children Services remain the two lead partners of this initiative, the continued involvement and support of other community agencies drives the team approach that is an integral part of the process.

Dually Involved Youth practices allow for a structured method for all involved to remain current on all matters facing the youth and their families, whether it involves a delinquency issue or a child welfare concern. Additionally, the DIY work provides for continuity of care for the family by having one judicial officer preside over both the delinquency and dependency neglect proceedings brought before the Court.

The collaboration between Summit County Juvenile Court and Summit County Children Services has continued to benefit the children and families involved in both systems through early collaboration. Workers from both systems communicate with each other to address the needs and concerns related to the family and their involvement with both systems. This early collaboration allows for early interventions and possibly early case resolution.

Family Resource Center
Lisa Karas, Program Coordinator

The Family Resource Center (FRC) is unique to any Juvenile Court in the state of Ohio. The concept was devised by Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio in 2006. The philosophy of the FRC is that short-term assistance could result in preventing a youth from becoming Court-involved, or if a youth is Court-involved, lessening the possibility of recidivism.

The FRC offers services for youth and families faced with the challenges of community re-entry, domestic violence, teen parenting, truancy and other school-related issues and unruly behavior. Most clients are referred to the Family Resource Center as a result of a Court action. There are eligibility requirements that must be considered, although exceptions are made in some instances. FRC staff case managers provide the case management, but on occasion if the FRC cannot directly provide services for the issues facing the family, referrals will be made to the wealth of community service providers that have partnered with the FRC. Clients do not need to be Court-involved, and walk-ins are welcome. The FRC receives a number of referrals from the community, in particular Police Departments, Summit County Schools, and therapeutic agencies.

Additionally, the FRC offers tutorial and educational enrichment programs. The Court's Women's Board, the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation, and the county's Department of Job and Family Services made key funding and equipment donations to facilitate the start-up of the educational component of the FRC. Community volunteers provide the tutoring that has proven helpful to get at-risk youth back on track academically. A computer lab offers youth remedial help with school-based curriculum. Students are encouraged to bring with them homework and other projects that have been assigned. In the 2019 year, 10 youth participated in the tutoring program. Court involvement is not a requirement. Any student can take advantage of the tutoring program.

In the grant year ending in September 2019, 338 youth and adults received case management through the FRC, with 74% of those participants successfully completing the goals of their service plan and /or Court orders.

The FRC continues to offer the Responder Program, a school-based intervention and diversionary program, which has been coordinated through the FRC for nine years. An FRC Case Manager serves as the Responder when a youth is identified as at-risk for chronic truancy, has displayed signs of mental health issues, is engaged in disruptive behavior or is lagging academically. The Responder works to bring school administrators, the youth and their parents to the table to address specific concerns and devise a work plan to correct them and, in the process, avoid a referral to Juvenile Court. In 2019, 10 schools in the Summit County area regularly participated in the Responder Program. The case management provided has proven to be successful in diverting youth away from the court system, as well as linking youth to needed services within the community. Implemented in the last quarter of 2016 is the Responder Diversion Program. Youth referred to the court on a school related offense are eligible for the Responder Diversion Program.

In April of 2017, the State of Ohio General Assembly made multiple changes to the state's truancy law. House Bill 410 calls for the elimination of the designation of "chronic truant" and charged the schools with monitoring truancy in a different manner. The FRC facilitates the Truancy Mediation Diversion Program, a program which addresses the truancy issue and is working with schools, in particular, to network and create methods to adapt to the new language of the law. An FRC case manager mediates a meeting between school administrators and the family to resolve the truancy by developing a mediation agreement, by addressing the issues that may be contributing to the attendance issues. In most cases attendance is monitored and ongoing support is offered. In 2019, the FRC Case Managers mediated 299 cases.

FRC Program Coordinator Lisa Karas and other FRC staff members have taken an active role on the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking which was empaneled in 2014. Ms. Karas assists in the identification and assessment process of those at risk youth.

In 2019 The Summit County Juvenile Court unveiled a new program developed in partnership with The Akron Public Schools, and The Akron Police Department to address the School to Court Pipeline issue. The team worked together for nearly a year to develop this program aimed at reducing the number of referrals to Juvenile Court on offenses that occur in the school environment. The project entitled "The School -Justice Partnerships and Diversion Pathways Program", aims to give school Resource Officers at their discretion the option of referring the youth to the FRC for case management via a citation rather than a formal referral to Juvenile Court. From September 2019 – December 2019, 30 youth were issued a citation with only one youth receiving additional charges after the citation was issued.

Offender Specific Unit

Kevin Floyd, Felony Disposition Supervisor

The Offender Specific Unit (OSU) has the challenging task of working with youth who have committed a serious offense against another. That task falls to the three full-time probation officers and the Felony Disposition Supervisor which comprise the Offender Specific Unit. Each specialized probation officer supervises an average caseload of fifteen youth who have been charged with or adjudicated for a sexually aggressive offense as described in the Ohio Revised Code. In 2019, twenty-nine youth were referred to this department, reflecting an increase of three youth from 2018. The average term of probation for this population is fifteen to twenty months.

These specialized probation officers serve a multidisciplinary role in that they supervise their youth from intake through termination of probation, including any out-of-home placements and commitment to community correction facilities that may occur.

The probation officers make face-to-face contacts with youth at home, school, office, community, counseling appointments and placement facilities. Using evidence-based practices, the unit collaborates with Child Guidance & Family Solutions to provide community-based treatment to their clients. The OSU also co-facilitates two treatment groups each week. This unit served an additional thirteen youth by offering "Wise Guys" and "Smart Girls" as an alternative for less serious offenders. Teaching victim empathy is a key element to rehabilitation and treatment and that is addressed by assigning youth projects through the "Amends" program. These projects benefit local victim and advocacy groups and allows for the offender to give back to the community. Additionally, social skill building remains a high priority with this population of youth which is achieved through ongoing group counseling and community service work.

In 2019, the Offender Specific Unit continued to provide a parent group in collaboration with Child Guidance & Family Solutions. The parent group meets regularly to provide education, support and guidance to parents of youth with sexual behavior problems.

The members of the Offender Specific Unit are generous with their time and expertise. They provided thirty-three educational presentations to police diversion units, school districts and various community support organizations. OSU Probation Officers also sit on several important committees and boards within the county and state. They are members of the Supreme Court of Ohio's Roundtable which provides additional training on statewide issues. These collaborations provide the probation officers with the opportunity to discuss best practices in order to develop new services to successfully manage juvenile offenders in the community.

Family Re-unification through Recovery Court (FRRC)

Constance Sales, Program Coordinator

There is nothing more important than family, and when that bond is threatened because of the actions of one member of the family, the effects of that action resonates throughout the entire family unit. Once a case has been referred to The Family Re-unification through Recovery Court (FRRC), the FRRC staff and its community partners are determined to complete a twofold mission: to strengthen the family unit and to assist a parent with finding the inner-strength to recover from the addiction that led to an official action that resulted in the separation of parent and children from the home.

The process is set in motion when Summit County Children Services identifies a parent with substance misuse issues serious enough to intervene and take temporary custody or protective supervision of any children in the home, it contacts the Court and makes a referral to the FRRC. If program qualifications are met, the parent will be given a case plan from the FRRC Treatment Team aimed at recovery. The Treatment Team also makes recommendations and reports progress to the FRRC Magistrate during regular review hearings. Other family members will have services provided for them to assure their individual needs are addressed.

Once the parent successfully completes the requirements of the program, which places a premium on remaining substance-free, the program will move to reunite the family.

The FRRC received its re-certification as a Specialized Docket in 2015 from the Ohio Supreme Court. Selected staff members from the Court, Children Services and other agency professionals associated with the FRRC program received specialized training underwritten by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. At the end of 2018, the program once again received recertification from the Supreme Court.

In 2019, nine parents graduating from the program and 19 participants remain in the program as carryovers from 2018. The program's population remains largely female, with the majority of them in the 25-35 age range. Their children typically are in the 0-3 age range. 2019 saw the continuation of the opiate crisis reflected in our FRRC population, though this trend was turning at the end of 2018 with more participants presenting with methamphetamine abuse as well as alcohol.

Since the program's inception, it has enrolled 93 participants and 35 have successfully completed the program. Most of the children in the FRRC program are in kinship homes as opposed to foster care, which supports the emotional well-being of children as well as assists in transitioning back to their parent's care.

In 2017, the FRRC worked with the Ohio Supreme Court as a part of the Statewide System Reform Project. This initiative is designed to help Ohio and other states to infuse best practices and expand the number of family drug courts around the country and the FRRC continued to embrace those practices throughout 2019.

The Women's Board to the Juvenile Court

For 62 years, the Women's Board has provided a unique service to the Juvenile Court performing countless acts of kindness and charity for the youth in the Detention Center and the staff members of the Court.

The Women's Board continued to support the highly successful gardening program it helped launch ten years ago by purchasing bedding materials, seeds and a greenhouse to sustain the program during the autumn and winter months. The Women's Board, in 2018, conducted a Plant Sale, offering items that were grown in the gardens and greenhouse by Detention youth. The proceeds were used to sustain the garden and greenhouse projects.

Board members also routinely hold reward nights in the Detention Center for youth who have earned it by performing at positive levels. The members provide more than occasional treats for the Detention youth. The ladies also host a luncheon for Court staff every February. Six of its members have been named the Court's Volunteer of the Year including current members Jane Hutmacher (2012) and Kim Ray (2013) and, in 2018, Carol Reagan.

The members of the Women's Board continued their incredible dedication to the Court, logging nearly 3,000 volunteer hours. It is believed that the Women's Board is the only such organization serving a Juvenile Court. That is appropriate, because the Women's Board is truly one of a kind.

Teen Court

Teen Court is a diversionary program that provides local high school students an introductory to the juvenile justice system. Teen volunteers hear actual cases in Juvenile Court and they actually participate in the proceedings.

Teen Court accepts referrals from Court staff to have youth receive their dispositional orders in the Teen Court setting. Almost all cases involve first-time offenders who have admitted to committing a low-level misdemeanor. The youth and his or her parents or guardians must agree to have the case referred to Teen Court for a dispositional hearing literally before a jury of their peers.

With the Court's shift to sending cases to the Diversion Services as a first option, referrals to Teen Court were reduced in 2019. There were seven cases referred covering the following charges: three counts of theft, two counts of possession of drugs, and one count each of carrying a concealed weapon, disorderly conduct, making false alarms, resisting arrest, and trafficking.

Volunteers assume the roles of jurors, defense attorney and prosecutor. Akron Bar Association attorneys and assistant county prosecutors give their time to assist the teen attorneys in shaping their opening and closing statements, as well as the questions they will ask witnesses during the hearing. Once testimony has been delivered the jurors begin their deliberations and return with a disposition. Should the youth abide by the conditions of their disposition to the satisfaction of the Court, the charge against them will be dismissed.

2019 Employees of the Year

Each year, High Point Awards are given to County Government staff members in each office. In a recent ceremony at the Court, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio announced the Summit County Juvenile Court's selections for Employees of the Year for the past year. They are:



Jon Booher: A 16-year member of the Juvenile Court staff, Mr. Booher is the Placement Officer for the Offender Specific Unit. He works with youth who have committed serious offenses and face the prospect of being placed in an out-of-home facility. Mr. Booher applies his experience and expertise to strike the proper balance of providing a strong adult presence for the youth with whom he works knowing when their accountability for their offense needs to be addressed.



Beth Cardina: As the Director of the CASA/GAL Program, Ms. Cardina has developed a reputation bringing innovative thinking to a program that represents youth who are Court-involved through no fault of their own. Under her leadership, the Summit County CASA/GAL Program has become the largest in Ohio and 4th largest in the nation. Integrity, a leader by example, and a devotion to staff, program volunteers, and the youth they serve are hallmarks of her professionalism.



Tillman Manuel: As the Training Officer for the staff in the Court's Detention Center, Mr. Manuel sets the annual training agenda for his colleagues. He also serves as the Disciplinary Hearing Officer, which could put him at odds with those colleagues. However, his professionalism and even-handedness has only served to enhance the respect he enjoys among staff members. He is also known for being a calming influence with youth in Detention involved in conflict situations, encouraging them to engage in appropriate behavior.

CASA Named Juvenile Court Volunteer of the Year



Since 2006, Cheryl Hoover has aided 46 children through her work as a CASA Volunteer. That is a remarkable number. But Cheryl Hoover is a remarkable woman.

A business owner, she still finds time to advocate for children who are Court-involved through no fault of their own. She examines several facets of the child's background and makes recommendations to the Court to assure that the child's best interests are being addressed. It is a time consuming job, but Ms. Hoover is not only thorough, but tenacious. Confronted with a recent situation involving a youth on her case load facing a complex custodial issue, she devised a creative plan of shared custody to which all parties agreed, and allowed the youth to remain in the school he wanted to attend. It is that kind of diligence and extra-step devotion to her children that makes her so worthy of this award.

Perhaps the best representation of Ms. Hoover's work came from Judge Teodosio: "When I look at a case file, and I see that Cheryl Hoover has been assigned as the CASA, I breathe a sigh of relief. Knowing she's on the job, knowing that she is going to passionately represent this child is such a benefit. I know that she will leave no stone unturned and that she is going to do everything she can to assure that the youth will have everything needed to be successful."

Employees of the Summit County Juvenile Court *

Bruce Alexander Rebecca Armstrong Benjamin Asiedu	Francine Freeman Thomas Freeman Alan Futo	Donald Lomax Mary Lorenzo Keith Luhning Laura Lynd-Robinson	Kynasia Sherman Tiffany Sieg Cheryl Simpson Robert Singletary Annie Skapin Triston Smead Alisha Smith Deseria Smith Kathy Smith Thomas Smith Clint Spencer Tammy Stiles
Nicole Bachman Joseph Baglieri Ebenezer Baiden Kenzie Barclay Tammy Barnes Dalcynthia Barnett Terry Bendo Pamela Bennett Sarah Benson Kathy Bertsch Bob Bickett Jaime Blair Christina Bollman Jennifer Bond Jon Booher Welby Broadaddus Bryan Bryce Justin Burton DeShayla Bush Alex Byard	Israel Garrett Susan Gatts Laura Geer Melissa Gerney Kevin Gladney Yvonte Glover Katherine Good Don Guthrie Leila Halay Heidi Day Hall Brett Hammond Adam Harris Jasmine Harris Angela Hart Sarah Harvan Xavier Hayes Jibreel Hazly Maria Heard Jessica Hemric Nathan Hendon Katie Herman Gregory Higgins Darrell Hill LaTonya Hill Kandy Hixson Chennel Holley Karen Holmes Deon Horn David Horner Chad Horstman Franklin Hosey Curtis Howard Katherine Hullum Nicole Huntsman	Robert McCarty Douglas McDougal Denise McGuckin Rochelle Hodoh McLane Adam Magyarics Tillman Manuel III Dawne Marlowe Lance Maroney Lavar Martin Mary Martin Romey Martinez Stacey Mathieu Tonya May S'Jauna Mayfield Mary Ann Mendlik Reese Miller David Molis Kandy Monroe Leslie Morris Lynda Mullins Lora Mycoskie Jimmy Oliver Kobe Oppong Terrie Pfeil Zachary Pfeil Lori Phillips Victoria Pinnix Andrew Poda Jonathan Pooler Jeff Pope Milton Rankins Janota Ray Justin Rebovich Beverly Reddick Jordan Repress Rhonda Riddle Latina Ridgell Sharon Martin Ringer Angel Robinson Rita Rochford Janie Rodkey Ralph Roebuck Lisa Rotondo Sally Roupe Becky Ryba	Tameaka Taylor Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio Adam Testa Sarah Testa Cathy Richardson Thomas Jody Tolley Steven Toth Brittany Tuel Woody Tyrrell Mariah Uhl Don Ursetti Katy Van Horn Denver Wade Fred Wagner Rashara Walker Dr. Thomas Webb DeMarco Wells Staci Westren Emanie Wheeler Justin Whitfield Timothy Williams Tracy Williams Jasmyne Wilson Eddie Winstead Lisa Woods Kara Workman Quin Wychanko Joshua Young Joan Zito
Armondo Canady Beth Cardina Rose Carlyon Rollin Clayton Daniel Cody Jill Coleman Renee Conlon Alexis Cooks Laconia Crandall Joseph Cregan Jordan Cupps John Dalessandro Felicia Daniels Mark Davenport William Davis Stephanie DeLeo Thomas Dillingham Lisa DiSabato-Moore Amanda Dodson Carmen Dorman	Thaddeus Ingol Perry James Brian Jeter Demetria Johnson Michael Johnson Kenneth Jones Lisa Karas Christine Kasper Joe Kernan Maria Kissinger Richard Kramer Getta Kutuchief Kandice Lacy Elizabeth Lashley Bethany Lee Jennifer Lewis Zaire Lewis Richard Lindgren Andrea Lisowski		
Lisa Eagle Erin Ehrhart Natasha Ervin Cheryl Evans Tatanina Evans Chanin Faith Holly Farah Chris Fergus Tremain Fields Kevin Floyd Brian Fogle Darin Ford Dylan Fouse Jazmyn Fowler		Constance Sales Stephen Saxon Jolynn Schaetzle Lee Ann Schaffer Todd Schaufler Cory Schweigert Taylor Sedlak Anthony Serapiglia	

* list includes part-time employees, interns and employees who worked a portion of 2019 at the Court.

