

2017 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

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



Tavia Baxter Galonski



Katherine Bertsch



Daniel Cody



Thomas Freeman



Laura Lynd-Robinson



Rob McCarty



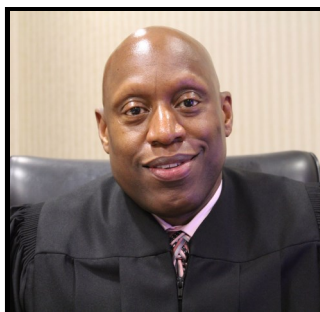
Kristin Maxwell



Denise McGuckin



Mary Ann Mendlik



Milton Rankins



Rita Rochford



Lee Ann Schaffer

Court Finance

Prepared by Robert A. Bickett, Court Administrator

*The 2017 Summit County Juvenile court budget, consisting of both county and state/federal funding, totaled **\$16,851,211***

General Office/Judicial	\$3,962,551	RECLAIM Ohio	\$5,143,892	Personnel/Salaries & Benefits	\$11,808,121
Probation/Administration	2,131,634	Title IV-E	758,385	Contract Service	2,665,534
Detention Center	<u>2,933,531</u>	TitleXX/TANF Job Re-entry	112,370	Other	<u>2,377,556</u>
Total County Funding	\$9,027,716	Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice	302,629		\$16,851,211
		Victims of Crime	145,044		
		Title II DMC	9,185		
		OJJDP FamilyDrug Court	95,192		
		National School Lunch Program	86,165		
		Title XX Guardian ad Litem	281,398		
		TANF for Family Resource Center	457,614		
		State Victims Assistance	2,976		
		Supreme Court Improvement Funds	11,136		
		CASA Volunteer Board	91,721		
		Ohio MHS Specialized Docket Subsidy	81,104		
		Summit Co. ADM Detention MH Services	211,949		
		Casey Foundation JDAI	<u>32,735</u>		
		Total State/Federal Grant Funding	\$7,823,495		

STATE/FEDERAL FUNDED SERVICE PROVIDER CONTRACTS TO COURT

SERVICE PROVIDER

CONTRACT AMOUNT

Electronic Monitoring

Oriana House, Inc. 115,000.00

Out of Home Placement

Shelter Care Youth Assessment Shelter 137,750.00

Juvenile Court share of Summit County Family 131,084.00

And Children First Council/Summit County
Cluster for Youth Funding Agreement

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

Summit County Health District 55,346.00

Mentoring

Akron UMADAOP 8,276.00

Akron Area YMCA 8,276.00

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 435,368.00

Diversion Programming

Distributed in varying amounts to 14
Police Departments and Sheriff's Office 208,575.00

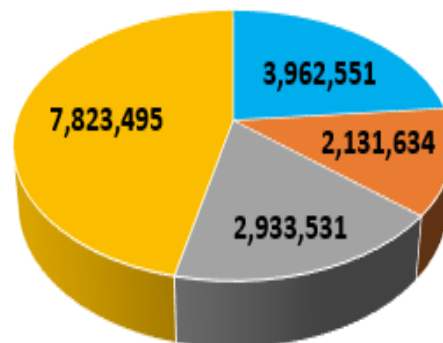
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Model Program

Village Network 165,000.00

Youth & Family Counseling

Greenleaf Family Center 55,000.00

Court Funding



■ General Office ■ Probation/Admin ■ Detention Center ■ State & Federal Funding

Additional 2017 Funding

Prepared by Grants Administrator Woody Tyrrell

In addition to the county's general fund and formula funding from state/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 2017, grant funding committed to the Court for special programming totaled \$1,391,071.58. Twenty-seven (27) full- and part-time Court positions and several positions for community service providers are supported by these funding streams.** The programs either fully or partially operated by this funding in 2017 are:

The Peace Justice and Equality Committee received **\$9,185.00** to continue providing innovative Restorative Justice programming in targeted communities as a way of addressing Disproportionate Minority Contact in Summit County. ***Funding is provided by Federal Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Funds and administered by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. Program was funded through September, 2017.***

The Family Resource Center (FRC), \$462,172: 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. More than 450 families were served in 2017. ***Funding is provided by Federal TANF/PRC funds administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.***

The Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice Program, \$355,011.00: 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 50 youth and their 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 20-30 youth/year in the custody of the Ohio Department of Youth Services and after their release 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. ***Funding is provided by the Federal Title XX/TANF funds administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ilene Shapiro, Executive.***

Family Reunification through Recovery Court program was granted an extension of one additional year that ended September 2017. In 2017, the remaining **\$103,085** from the original award of \$538,636, 4-year total was spent. It created a specialized docket intended to re-unite and stabilize family units through the provision of suitable intensive treatment and intervention for families who have had their children removed as a result of substance abuse or when it has been determined to be a major contributing factor to the children's removal. The Court closely collaborates with Summit County Children's Services and a host of other county agencies and providers in partnership with the county's federally funded STARS program. ***Funding is provided by the United States Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.***

Statewide Systems Reform Project granted **\$20,000** in 2017 to the Family Reunification through Recovery Court Program and its partners to provide training, treatment team consultation and program evaluation. ***This funding is also provided by the United States Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and administered by the Ohio Supreme Court.***

2017 Addition Funding, con't

Restore Court was also supported beginning in 2016 through an Innovation Grant for \$61,300 by the State of Ohio Supreme Court. Funding was exhausted by September 2017. In 2017, \$59,620 funds were spent. The grant specifically funds the creation of a Mentoring/activity Center in Akron operated by Rahab Ministries staff. The project provides space and structured activities for the Restore Court victim population as well as other non-court involved victims/at-risk youth in the community.

Specialized Docket funds were received in 2017 for the court's two Ohio Supreme Court certified specialized dockets—**Crossroads Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Abuse Court** and the **Family Reunification through Recovery Court**. Combined, the two problem-solving courts received **\$92,537.00** from the **Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services** under state of Ohio House Bill 483.

CASA/GAL Child Advocate Team, \$281,398: 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 2017 was again provided by a variety of sources including: ***Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds, \$171,175.58 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/GAL Program section of this annual report.

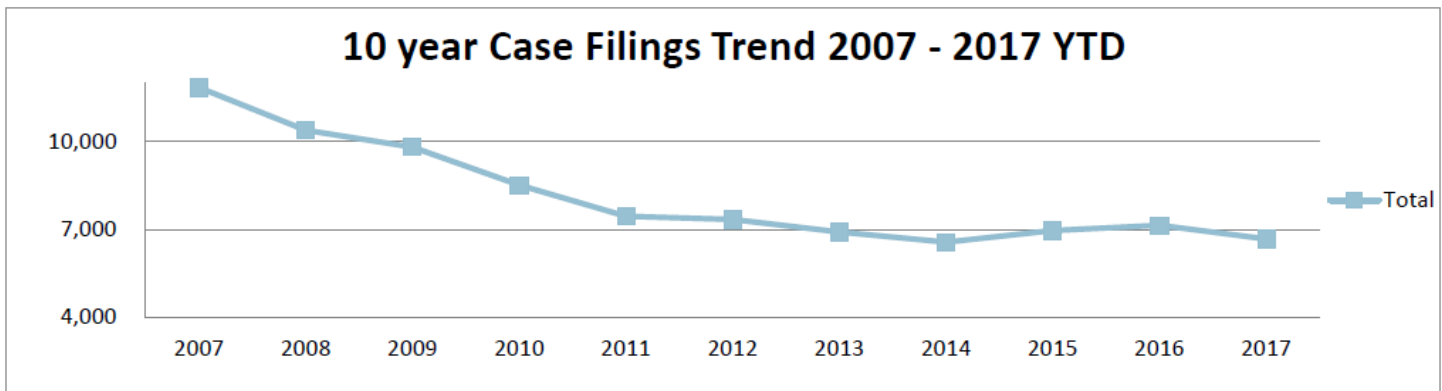
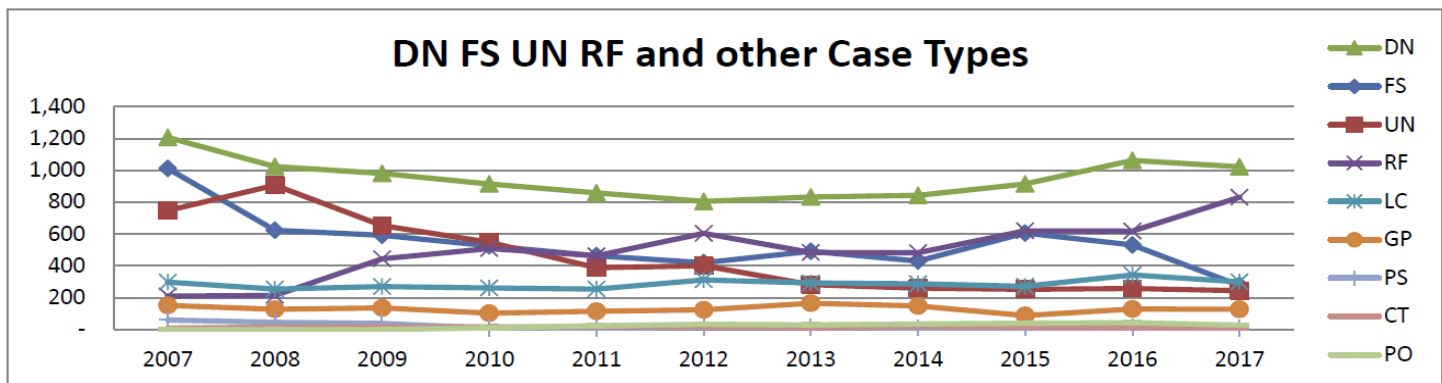
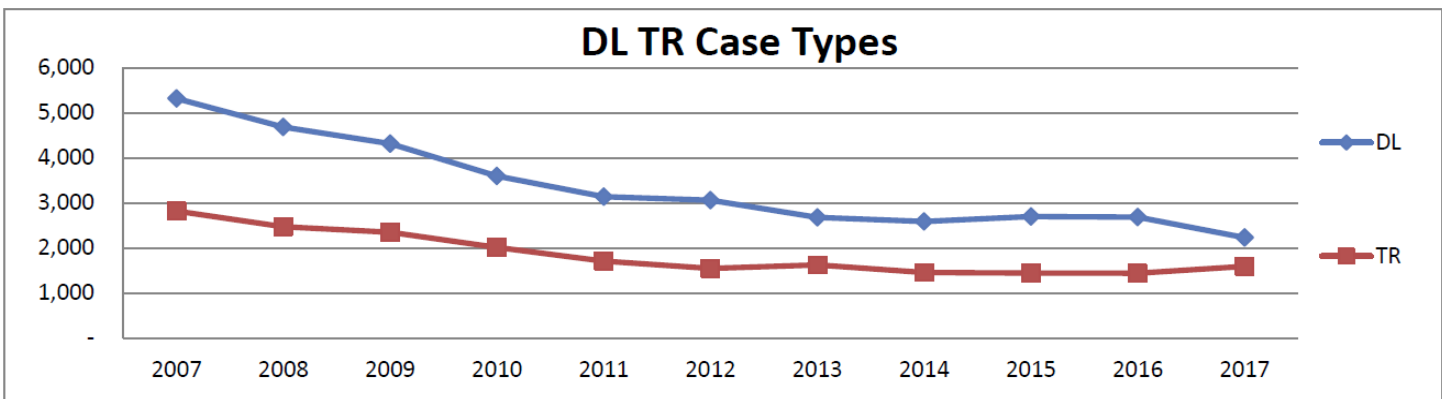
2017 RECLAIM Ohio Funding

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. Although our bed-day usage did increase by 579 bed-days (an increase of 16.7% from the previous fiscal year) our RECLAIM funding stayed strong. As a result, the Court yielded \$3.943 million, or a 12.3% share of available variable RECLAIM funds. The Court also received allocations of \$726,589 from the Youth Services Grant, \$351,896 for Targeted RECLAIM, and \$300,000 for Competitive RECLAIM. All totaled, in Fiscal Year 2017, the Court received \$5,321,485 from the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

2017 By the Numbers

Case Type - Ten Year Trend

Case Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
DL	5,320	4,688	4,319	3,601	3,139	3,064	2,682	2,591	2,700	2,687	2,232
TR	2,821	2,475	2,351	2,016	1,709	1,549	1,625	1,458	1,442	1,441	1,591
DN	1,207	1,025	980	915	858	805	832	843	915	1,062	1,022
FS	1,012	623	592	526	464	420	492	431	607	532	277
UN	747	907	654	549	388	401	283	259	253	257	244
RF	210	214	444	509	463	605	485	483	621	618	831
LC	298	255	270	261	254	312	293	288	272	343	299
GP	151	128	136	103	115	123	165	148	88	129	127
PS	60	46	38	9	9	14	14	10	11	13	9
CT	9	16	18	17	18	17	13	19	15	12	10
PO	-	-	-	10	25	33	30	34	40	43	28
Total	11,835	10,377	9,803	8,516	7,444	7,343	6,914	6,565	6,964	7,137	6,670

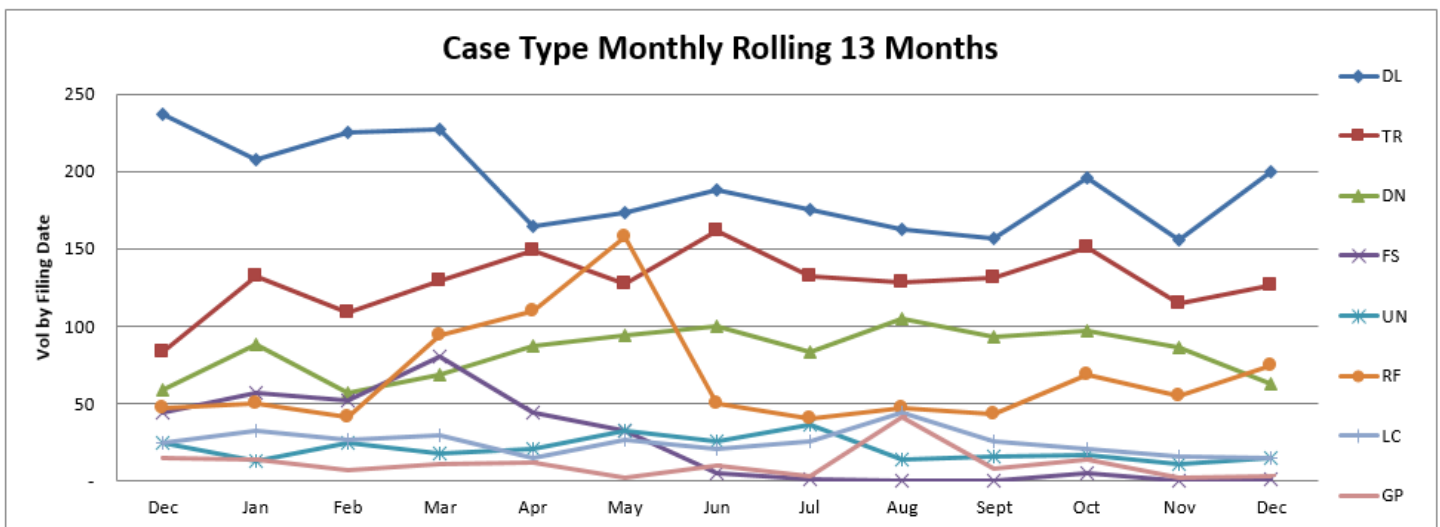


Key v											
DL	Delinquency	UN	Unruly	GP	Grandparent	CT	Contributing (Adult)	DN	Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	LC	Legal Custody
TR	Traffic	CR	Criminal (Adult)	FS	Failure to send (Adult)	PS	Permanent Surrender	PO	Protection Order	RF	Unofficial

2017 By the Numbers, continued

Case Type Monthly Breakout

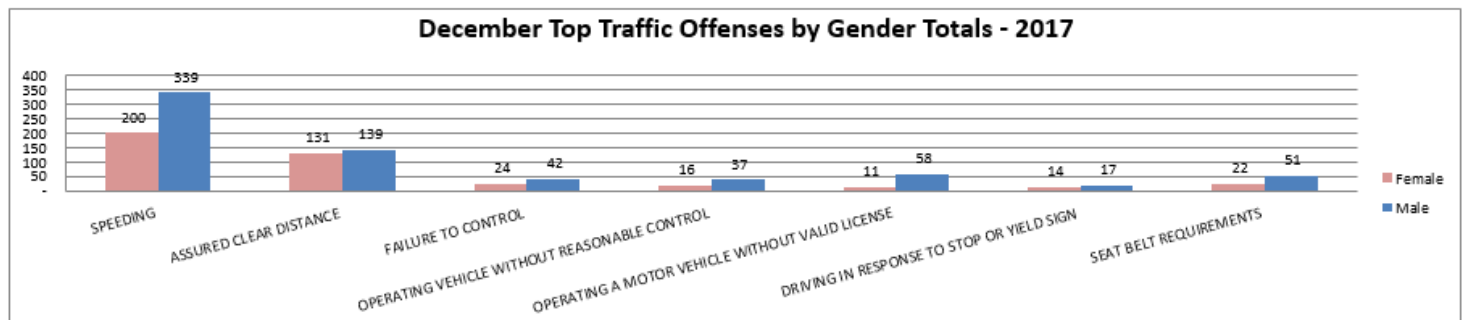
	2016	2017													2017 %
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	2017 YTD	of Total
DL	237	208	225	227	164	173	188	175	163	157	196	156	200	2,232	33.46%
TR	83	132	109	129	149	127	162	132	128	131	151	115	126	1,591	23.85%
DN	59	88	57	69	87	94	100	83	105	93	97	86	63	1,022	15.32%
FS	44	57	52	80	44	32	5	1	-	-	5	-	1	277	4.15%
UN	25	13	25	18	21	32	26	36	14	16	17	11	15	244	3.66%
RF	47	50	41	94	110	158	50	40	47	43	69	55	74	831	12.46%
LC	25	32	27	29	15	27	21	26	44	26	21	16	15	299	4.48%
GP	15	14	7	11	12	2	10	3	41	8	14	2	3	127	1.90%
PS	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	-	1	1	1	9	0.13%
CT	-	2	2	-	1	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	10	0.15%
PO	2	2	2	1	3	-	3	2	2	5	4	2	2	28	0.42%
Total	541	598	547	658	606	647	567	501	548	479	575	444	500	6,670	100.00%



Key v

DL	Delinquency	UN	Unruly	GP	Grandparent	CT	Contributing (Adult)	DN	Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	LC	Legal Custody
TR	Traffic	CR	Criminal (Adult)	FS	Failure to send (Adult)	PS	Permanent Surrender	PO	Protection Order	RF	Unofficial

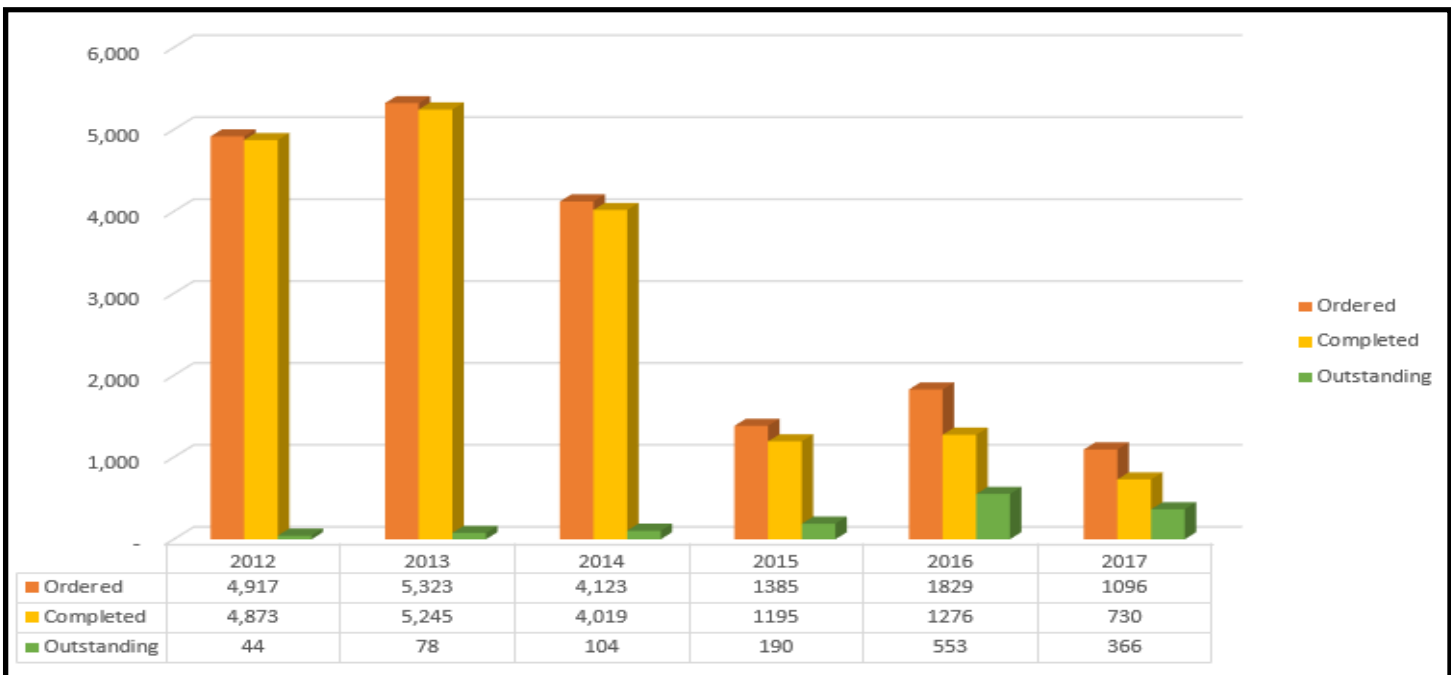
Traffic Offenses	Dec-17			2017 Totals			2016 Totals			Percent Inc/Dec Over Last Year		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
SPEEDING	16	25	41	200	339	539	194	297	491	3%	14%	10%
ASSURED CLEAR DISTANCE	14	16	30	131	139	270	104	145	249	26%	-4%	8%
FAILURE TO CONTROL	5	3	8	24	42	66	24	42	66	0%	0%	0%
OPERATING VEHICLE WITHOUT REASONABLE CONTROL	2	5	7	16	37	53	15	24	39	7%	54%	36%
OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT VALID LICENSE	-	7	7	11	58	69	6	41	47	83%	41%	47%
DRIVING IN RESPONSE TO STOP OR YIELD SIGN	2	3	5	14	17	31	15	8	23	-7%	113%	35%
SEAT BELT REQUIREMENTS	-	5	5	22	51	73	19	51	70	16%	0%	4%



2017 By the Numbers, continued.

<u>Yearly Statistical Analysis of Charges</u>	2016		2017		YTD % +/-
	Dec	YTD	Dec	YTD	
FELONY					
BURGLARY	5	101	26	102	0.99%
RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY	12	88	11	122	38.64%
THEFT	3	34	5	38	11.76%
POSSESSION OF DRUGS	6	48	3	45	-6.25%
IMPROPERLY HANDLING FIREARMS IN A MOTOR VEHICLE	-	5	3	6	20.00%
BREAKING AND ENTERING	11	46	3	44	-4.35%
ASSAULT	3	25	3	25	0.00%
ILLEGAL USE OF MINOR IN NUDITY	1	7	3	26	271.43%
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ORDER OR SIGNAL OF OFFICER	-	8	3	21	162.50%
MISDEMEANOR					
THEFT	37	417	44	396	-5.04%
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	18	336	36	380	13.10%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	17	254	23	328	29.13%
POSSESSION OF DRUGS	19	179	20	196	9.50%
CRIMINAL DAMAGING OR ENDANGERING	13	145	18	140	-3.45%
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	17	188	18	177	-5.85%
STATUS					
UNRULY CHILD DEFINED	37	460	47	485	5.43%
FAILURE TO GO TO SCHOOL	-	-	-	1	100.00%

Community Service Hours



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 averages for 2016 was 41 youth, 36 males and five females.

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 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. Last year, the Detention Center was assessed by a team of community members serving on the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) review team. It was the second assessment in which the Detention Center participated, the first such assessment taking place in 2012. The final report indicated that Detention staff are well trained, professional and dedicated to serving the mission set forth by Judge Teodosio.

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 ACA accreditation in May 2015. In 2017, the Juvenile Court applied for recertification from the ACA and will undergo the same comprehensive examination of Detention Center practices and operations with the goal to receive recertification in August of 2018.

In an effort to continue to build our professionalism within the facility and during Court proceedings, the Detention Center has recently purchased shirts, pants, and sweatshirts for all Detention Center staff. This provides a structured and uniformed attire for all staff representing Summit County Juvenile Detention Center.

Education remains an important facet of Detention Center operations. Certified Akron Public School teachers offer courses in health, history, language arts, math, reading and science. When the youth re-enters school upon release, a school representative assures that the curriculum the youth studied while in Detention is reported to the school he or she attends. Credit recovery from the courses studied while in the Detention Center can now be applied to their record and assist in receiving the necessary credits needed to graduate from high school. Additional tutorial services are provided by Akron Public Schools through the Title I Program.

The Detention Center has expanded the garden area to include a variety of fruits, vegetables and flowers. The garden flourishes during the summer months and provides a wide selection of produce to be served on the salad bar for our youth in the Detention Center. The greenhouse has recently undergone some renovations to include a water line, new tarp and heat lights.

Creative writing, 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 and telephone calls to parents and/or guardians.

In 2017:

- 1,845 juveniles were brought into the Summit County Juvenile Detention Facility. Whenever a juvenile is brought to Detention they go through the Intake process which consists of reviewing all paperwork and having the Detention Risk Assessment completed to determine whether the juvenile should be held or released.

Detention Services, con't

- 561 juveniles were held in the detention facility; 454 were males and 107 were females.
- **1,284** were released through the aforementioned admission process which consists of having the Detention Risk Assessment completed and the juvenile scoring below a level established by a multi-disciplinary team.
- The average daily population of the facility was **35.69**.
- The average bed days in Detention were **12.80 days** (the average bed days represent the number of days a juvenile held in Detention spends in the facility from the time assigned to a unit until departure/release). There were nine juveniles who had motions filed to have them bound over to the adult system. The Detention Facility continues to use the Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment device which provides information to allow staff make better decisions as to which juveniles should be to be held in Detention and which can be released.

2017 Detention Admits/Releases				
2017	Start of Month	Admits	Releases	End of Month
Jan	27	79	59	47
Feb	47	54	58	43
Mar	42	53	49	46
Apr	46	35	44	37
May	37	51	53	35
June	35	48	53	30
July	30	47	44	33
Aug	33	42	49	26
Sep	26	53	47	32
Oct	32	52	47	37
Nov	37	49	54	32
Dec	32	48	54	26
YTD	424	611	611	424

2017	ALOS	ADP
1st QTR	14	41
2nd QTR	24	37
3rd QTR	22	31
4th QTR	21	37

Key Definitions

ALOS - Average Length of Stay

ADP - Average Daily Population

YTD - Year to Date

2017 New Detention Admits by Gender/Race													
2017	Female					Male					Total	Female % of Total	Male % of Total
	Black	White	Bi-Racial	Other	Total	Black	White	Bi-Racial	Other	Total			
Jan	6	7	2	0	15	40	18	5	1	64	79	19%	81%
Feb	7	1	1	0	9	38	6	1	0	45	54	17%	83%
Mar	5	2	0	1	8	34	10	1	0	45	53	15%	85%
Apr	2	3	2	0	7	16	9	3	0	28	35	20%	80%
May	7	7	0	0	14	28	6	3	0	37	51	27%	73%
June	5	3	0	0	8	21	13	5	1	40	48	17%	83%
July	5	5	0	0	10	21	9	7	0	37	47	21%	79%
Aug	7	3	1	0	11	28	3	0	0	31	42	26%	74%
Sep	3	7	0	0	10	27	11	5	0	43	53	19%	81%
Oct	6	4	1	0	11	27	11	3	0	41	52	21%	79%
Nov	2	6	2	0	10	25	13	1	0	39	49	20%	80%
Dec	3	2	0	0	5	32	10	1	0	43	48	10%	90%
YTD	58	50	9	1	118	337	119	35	2	493	611	19%	81%

Clerk's Office

Donald Lomax, Chief Deputy Clerk

The Clerk's Office is the clearinghouse for the Juvenile Court. All case documentation is processed through the Clerk's Office. The office also responds to requests for information from appointed counsel, attorneys, prosecutors, law enforcement, agencies and private citizens. The office is also charged with mailing notification to all parties involved in Court hearings.

The Clerk's Office staff likely comes into contact with more members of the public than any other office in the Court. Staff members realize many of the visitors to the Court are there not of their own volition. The Clerk's Office works diligently to do their best to accommodate their requests for information in a responsive and responsible manner.

Another function of the Clerk's is the accounting of fines and fees collected during the course of the year. In total in 2017, the Clerk's Office collected a total of \$219,374.61. Here is a breakdown of the monies collected:

- Computer & Legal Research, victims of crime, fees - \$113,231.73
- Traffic Fines & Costs, Indigent Defense, Legal Aid Society - \$82,513.15
- SAFTE Program - \$8,450
- Restitution - \$5,724.78
- Court Clerk Fund - \$4,492
- Delinquency Fines & Costs - \$3,321
- Merchant Services - \$1,641.95

2017 Totals Reported to the Ohio Supreme Court by the Clerk's Office

MONTH	TRIAL JUDGE	TRIAL MAGISTRATE	DISMISS	ADM JUDGE	ADM MAGISTRATE	CERTIFICATION	UNAVAILABLE	TRANSFER	REFERRAL PRIVATE JUDGE	INTERLOCUTORY	OTHER TERM
January	9	7	124	25	297	0	42	3	0	0	12
February	5	48	97	20	252	0	57	16	0	0	15
March	13	74	83	48	329	0	91	9	0	0	20
April	8	71	82	21	255	0	56	11	0	0	13
May	7	150	130	37	323	2	80	14	0	0	31
June	17	77	289	29	301	0	89	13	0	0	14
July	10	68	99	38	224	1	37	18	0	0	25
August	8	120	89	43	314	0	38	31	0	0	30
September	2	95	53	28	275	0	35	19	0	0	25
October	11	90	111	25	269	0	44	11	0	0	20
November	13	115	76	28	262	0	33	7	0	0	6
December	6	88	73	33	311	2	32	10	0	2	64
Total	109	1003	1306	375	3412	5	634	162	0	2	275

Traditional & Intensive Probation Department

Curtis Howard, Chief Probation Officer

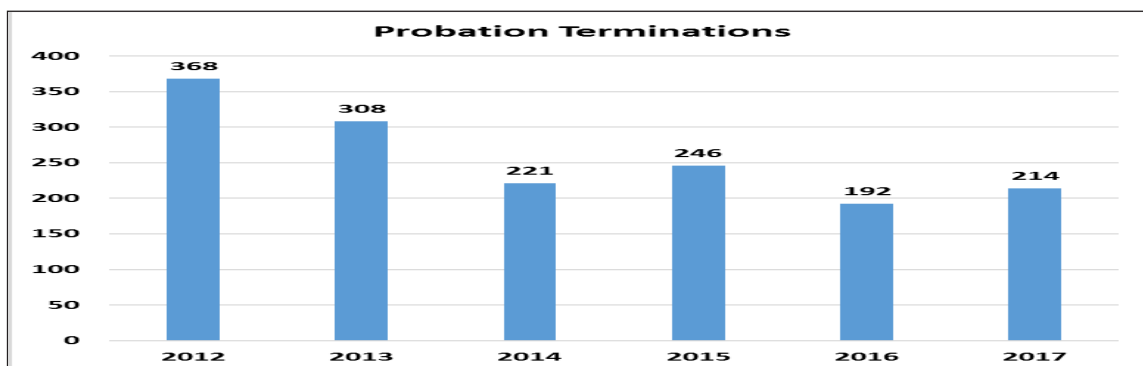
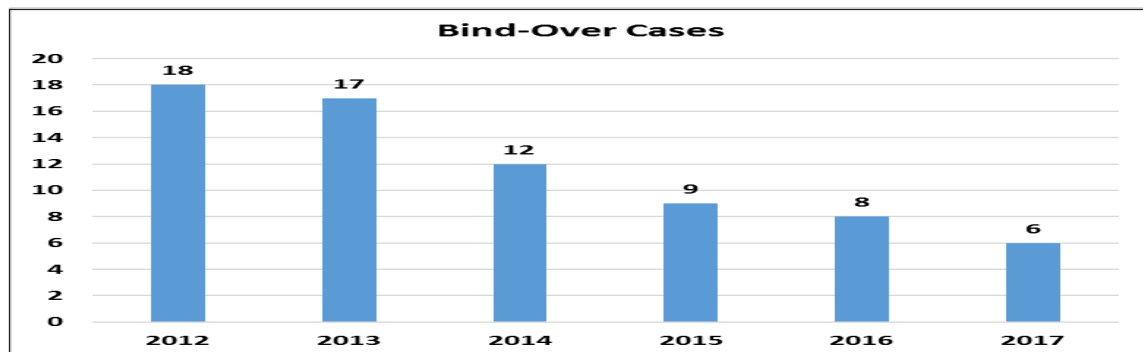
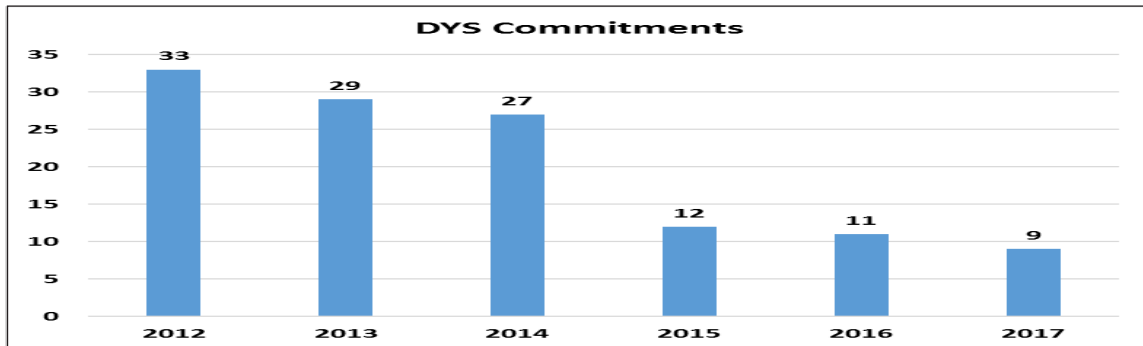
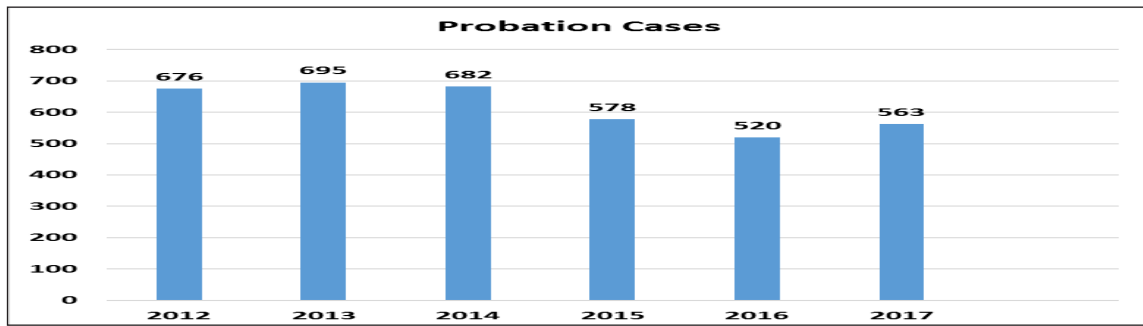
The Probation Department has shifted from traditional objectives of community safety, offender accountability and practical rehabilitation of offenders to the focus of improving youth's behavior while on probation. The shift involves training officers to provide behavior interventions such as EPICS (Effective Practices in Community Settings), cognitive behavior techniques and contingency management. This department was responsible for the supervision and investigation of 563 cases, which included 201 new assignments, 250 cases that were carried over from the previous year and 112 Intake cases. The number of cases served in 2016 is slightly more than the previous year's total of 520 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 average caseload for Probation Officers in 2017 was approximately 26 cases for each Probation Officer. The Probation staff consists of Probation Officers, Probation Community Workers, 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 9 youth who were committed or revoked to the Ohio Department of Youth Services in the 2016 calendar year. Four were on probation in this department at the time they were committed to DYS. In 2017, 9 cases transferred from the Juvenile Division of Common Pleas Court to the General Division. Of the nine bind-over cases seven were mandatory and two were discretionary. In 2017, 214 cases were successfully 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 2017, 78 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 47 detention and community youth. The Probation Officers and Probation Community Workers delivered over 420 EPICS (Effective Practices In Community Settings) sessions and evidence-based interventions and practices.

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 community agencies, services and court programs have provided opportunities for our youth to engage in educational, substance abuse treatment and mental health services.



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 2017, 135 youth participated in CRP, completing 3,057 work hours and \$21,366.53 was paid to victims.

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 2017, 86 youth took part in the Special Projects program, resulting in a donation of \$2,320 to purchase those items.

Intake Department
Lynda Mullins, Supervisor

The Intake Department is often the first contact youthful offenders have when becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. Upon referral, the staff of the Intake Department is charged with the important task of gathering pertinent information about the youth's background, family dynamic and demographics, and other information that can be assessed to determine the recommendations the staff members render to the Court for disposition.

The Intake Department went about the business of implementing changes that were devised after undergoing some re-evaluation in the manner in which it goes about performing its duties. This has been a work in progress as it reviews practices, scheduling and available programming at the Court and in the community and the staff continues to make inroads toward improving the methods of service it provides. The primary goal, however, remains intact: to address individualized needs while emphasizing community safety and assuring compliance to Court policies and procedures.

Intake staff continues to rely on Motivational Interviewing techniques to help break down barriers and reach resistant clients. The Intake Department also works closely with Information Technology staff to review data and to examine referral numbers, trends and recidivism. The Intake staff receives weekly updates from Information Technology, particularly regarding felony assignments.

Intake staff adheres to the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) philosophy which seeks to keep youth in the home and providing community-based services without compromising public safety. With this in mind, early intervention and use of diversion are key components applied in the Intake Department. Intake Supervisor Lynda Mullins is a member of the Detention Admissions Review Team. This is a weekly meeting of department heads that take a critical look at the detention population to ensure that the Court is holding only the youth that absolutely need to be detained. This has proven valuable to reducing bed days in the Detention Center.

The Intake Department has also had to adjust the manner in which it accepts truancy referrals. State legislators have mandated that schools take a greater responsibility in addressing those students struggling with attendance. With the passage of Ohio House Bill 410 in late 2016, the Intake Department was presented with the task of adjusting to a new method of processing and referring truancy cases. House Bill 410 decriminalized truancy referrals, so the Intake Department has been handling them as unofficial referrals, which means the cases will not be heard by a Magistrate. The bulk of these cases will be seen by the Family Resource Center.

Restore Court Docket
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. Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio presides over the Restore Court docket.

When a youth is brought to Court on charges, an assessment is taken and if the answers given reveal that the youth could be a victim of human trafficking, the process is set in motion to refer the youth to the Restore Court docket. This action 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 vital recommendations to the Court prior to and during review hearings 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. It is difficult to truly account for activity on the Restore Court docket on a yearly basis because so many youth remain on the docket for extended periods of time. In fact, the average amount of time a youth spends on docket is 207 days.

The Restore Court assessments have also led to some statistics that give the Treatment Team, Court staff and Judge Teodosio a more comprehensive overview of triggers that could lead to a youth becoming a target of traffickers. Several youth in the Restore Court program have participated more than once; a total of 87 cases have been served. 78% of them came from troubled home lives, with SCCS intervention in their family background, and 41% of them have been removed from their homes.

Another stunning statistic: all of the youth who are referred to the Restore Court docket have some sort of mental health and substance abuse diagnosis. The most common:

50% Disruptive, Impulse-Control and Conduct Disorders
44% Substance Related and Addictive Disorders
37.5% Trauma and Stressor Related Disorders
34% Depressive Disorders
25% Neurodevelopmental Disorders

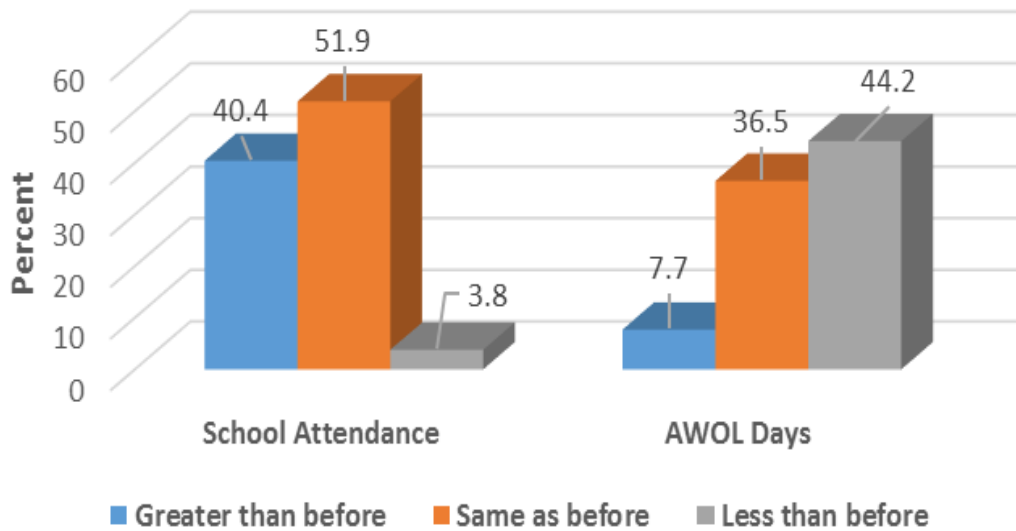
The demographic breakdown of youth served in Restore Court:

- 45% Caucasian
- 42% African-American
- 12% Mixed Race
- 1% Asian

The most common charges filed are unruly, theft, domestic violence and chronic truancy (see graph on next page).

There has been significant progress made in the relatively short amount of time 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.

School Attendance and Days AWOL



87 Restore Cases

(Several youth have participated in Restore multiple times)

27 Successful Completions
23 Closed due to AWOL
13 Closed due to noncompliance or other
4 Neutral Closings
20 Youth currently in Restore
Victims/ High Risk Served:
48 Victims
39 High Risk

Gender:
 84 females
 2 males
 1 transgender youth
Race:
 37- African American
 1- Asian
 39- Caucasian
 10- Mixed Race

Ages: 12 to 19
Level of Offenses: Unofficial to Felony in the 2nd degree
 4% have Unofficial Charges
 43% have Unruly Charges
 88% have Misdemeanor Charges
 43% have Felony Charges

Program Outcomes:

Average Length of Stay:

Successful= 254,

Unsuccessful= 169

Age:

Successful= 15

Unsuccessful= 15.9

High Risk average age: 14.9

Victim average age: 16.1

Category (Victim or High Risk):

High Risk= 55% successful completion

Victim= 28% successful completion

Restore Court Receives Specialty Docket Designation

Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio recently announced that the Summit County Juvenile Court's Restore Court has received final certification as a specialized docket from the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Specialized Dockets. The Restore Court docket addresses the challenges facing youth who become Court-involved and have been identified as victims of human trafficking or at high risk of being trafficked. By receiving final certification, Restore Court becomes one of over 200 specialized dockets in Ohio Courts, and Restore Court is the first juvenile human trafficking specialized docket in Ohio.

In order to receive the certification, the Court had to submit an application, undergo a site visit, and provide specific program materials in response to certification standards that went in to effect in January 2014. The designation will be in effect until December 31, 2018, at which time the Court will apply for re-certification.



Pictured is the certificate the Court received after Restore Court received final certification as a Specialty Docket.

The Court implemented Restore Court in January 2015 and applied for specialized docket certification later that year. It received initial certification as a Specialized Docket on June 2, 2016. That was critical to the Restore Court process because it allowed Judge Teodosio to take an active role on the Restore Court Treatment Team. This panel is comprised of Court staff and community professionals who review the cases of each youth referred to the Restore Court docket and tracks the progress the youth is making to break the behavioral cycle that brought them to the Restore Court docket. Such collaboration is integral to providing services and establishing goal-setting for the youth in order to graduate from the program. Once that occurs, the charges against them could be dismissed and their record expunged. To date, 61 youth have been served by the Restore Court docket.

"It is very gratifying that Restore Court has received its specialized docket designation," said Judge Teodosio. "This will allow the Court to continue to work with our community partners to offer youth a second chance at a normal, productive life and free them from the hold of those who victimized them."

Restore Court becomes the third Summit County Juvenile Court program the Ohio Supreme Court has certified as a Specialty Docket. Previously, the Crossroads Program and the Family Re-unification through Recovery Court received the same designation.

Restore Court Statistics

<u>Family History Statistics:</u>	<u>Mental Health/ Substance Use Diagnosis:</u>
<p>Youth's relationships with their biological or adoptive mother:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11% have healthy relationships • 15% have OK relationship • 69% have conflict ridden relationships • 5% have no contact <p>Youth's relationships with their biological or adoptive father:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4% have healthy relationships • 10% have OK relationship • 40% have conflict ridden relationships • 46% have no contact 	<p>Percent of youth who have each category of diagnosis (youth may have more than one diagnosis):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% Disruptive, Impulse-Control and Conduct Disorders 44% Substance Related and Addictive Disorders 37.5% Trauma and Stressor Related Disorders 34% Depressive Disorders 25% Neurodevelopmental Disorders 20% Anxiety Disorders 4.5% Bipolar and related Disorders 1.5% Schizophrenia Spectrum/Other Psychotic Disorders 1.5% Gender Dysphoria 1.5% Personality Disorders 1.5% Elimination Disorders
<p>78% of families have been involved with children services at some point in the youth's life</p> <p>41% of youth have been removed from their home by children services at some point in their life</p> <p>At least 20% of youth have a family member who is in the life of human trafficking</p>	<p><u>Summit County Juvenile Court Statistics</u></p> <p>68 human trafficking assessments complete in 2017:</p> <p>118 youth identified as high risk or a victim since Jan. 2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 111 females • 6 males • 1 transgender youth • 65 high risk • 53 victims <p>Youth are identified from 26 zip-codes in Summit County</p>

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 2017.



Judge Teodosio, back right, stands with the CASAs who graduated from the 2017 winter training.



Chief Magistrate Rob McCarty, front, far left, joined the CASAs who graduated from training in the spring of 2017.

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 2017, 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 created Rosebuds, a program that 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 2017, 250 volunteer child advocates provided a voice for over 1,070 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.

Citizen's Review Board

Magistrate Rita Rochford, Director

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 2017, the Citizen's Review Board reviewed the cases of 190 children in permanent custody, conducted 224 hearings while logging 896 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.

Special Programs

Lisa DiSabato-Moore, Special Programs Administrator

Summit County Juvenile Court has a long-standing reputation for innovation and judicial leadership. 2017 was a time of reflection and reform for the Court. Summit County is known both nationally and within the state for its strong partnerships and collaborations. A specific reform initiative embedded within the Juvenile Court is the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) established and supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Summit County has been a JDAI site since 2010, and in 2013, the Court extended its efforts to become a JDAI Deep End site, one of only twelve in the nation, including three in the State of Ohio.

This reform work affords the Court the opportunity to take an all-inclusive look at our system, both the “front end”, for those youth who are first being introduced to the justice system, and at the “deep end” for those youth who have a history of involvement with the justice system, and are at highest risk to be placed out of home, or to eventually enter the adult justice system once they have aged out of the juvenile system. This reform is founded on a set of core strategies that are engrained within Summit County’s mission.

Summit County Juvenile Court and its community partners continuously evaluate outcomes to ensure we are making a positive impact on the lives of the youth and families we service, while still protecting and promoting public safety. This is achieved by applying multiple evidence-based interventions and practices, and by utilizing our community partnerships and relationships to achieve goals and results beyond what would be possible without such collaborations.

Since the inception of JDAI reform, Summit County Detention Center admissions have decreased from 1,565 youth in 2009 to 561 in 2017, a 64% decrease, while delinquency case filings have decreased as well. In 2009, there were 4,319 filings compared to 2,232 in 2017, demonstrating there has been no negative impact on public safety.

Much more is known today about the adverse effects of detention on a young person, and research continues to support the reduction of the use of a secure confinement, except for those who pose the highest risk and the most threat to the community. The Juvenile Court’s philosophy toward reform supports promoting public safety by using the Detention Center beds only for those youth who cannot be effectively treated and controlled within the community, thereby reducing the number of youth being admitted to secure detention. By effectively and efficiently serving those youth within the community, evidence shows the outcomes for those young people significantly increase once they become adults.

Outcomes for Summit County Juvenile Court:

	2009	2017
Detention Average Daily Population	56.5	35.69
New Commitments to Ohio Dept. Of Youth Services	80	7
Admissions to Secure Detention	1,565	561
Delinquency Case Filings	4,319	2.232

Juvenile Court Program Earns Statewide Award

On November 30, 2017, the Summit County Juvenile Court accepted a Community Recognition Award from the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The Youth Re-entry program was recognized during a luncheon at the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges Meeting.

The Youth Re-entry program is a key element in Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio's goal of providing meaningful support for all youth re-entering the community from lengthy stays in an ODYS facility, residential treatment facilities, community correctional facilities, and detention to help them successfully transition back into their homes. Occasionally, the Court has also made the Re-entry Program available to youth with shorter term exposure to the juvenile justice system. The Court seeks to ensure that the youth in the program are in the best position to integrate successfully, particularly from a social, educational and employment perspective.

The staff member who works with these youth is Re-entry Case Manager Tremain Fields. He receives referrals from Judge Teodosio, the Court Magistrates and Re-entry Specialist Carmen Dorman. The most recent tracking of youth in the Court's Re-entry Program indicated that Fields worked with twenty-seven youth, most of whom committed deep-end felonies. Of those twenty-seven, sixteen have obtained and sustained employment, thirteen have completed the Back-On-Track educational curriculum and the remaining youth remain in the program and are working toward completion. Adult mentors have been referred to twenty-four of the youth and, perhaps most importantly, all twenty-seven were back in school.

Normally, the program award is tied to another award that is given to a youth who has benefitted and thrived through the work done while a particular program. A week before the banquet, the youth who was selected for the award was giving Fields names of people he would like to attend the banquet. But, in the interim, there was a sudden and unforeseen change of heart. He became incommunicado and he could not attend.

Still, the Department of Youth Services Awards Committee understood the circumstances of the setback and informed the Court it was willing to move forward. Those sentiments were reflected in the introduction by ODYS Director Harvey R. Reed.

"We firmly believe that the hard work that was being done by the staff needed to be recognized," said Director Reed. "Things don't always go the way you want, but the effort was still there. They never stopped; they kept fighting for this young man."

With that, he called Fields forward to accept the award.

"One of the things I appreciate about the way my co-workers approach this program is that they are always encouraging these kids to make it once they leave the program," stated Fields. "We work with the most recalcitrant kids in the system and occasionally things don't go as planned."

But that only gives Fields the motivation to bring the youth in question back into the program.

"Our doors are always open for these young men and women even after they turn 18 or 21," he said. "Often, they still call us; they still communicate with us, and we are hoping to do the same with this young man. I talk to his family all the time and I am determined to bring him back so we can continue to work with him."

It is the fourth time the Court has received the ODYS award. The Court-supported Youth Outreach Center, the Crossroads Program and the Family Reunification Through Recovery Court were previous program honorees.



Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio, Case Manager Tremain Fields and Re-entry Specialist Carmen Dorman after the Court received the ODYS Community Recognition Award.

Offender Specific Unit

Kevin Floyd, Felony Disposition Supervisor

The Offender Specific Unit 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 (OSU). 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 2017, forty-seven youth were referred to this department, reflecting an increase of five youth from 2016. 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 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 and Family Solutions to provide community based treatment to their clients. The OSU also co-facilitates three treatment groups each week, including a group which serves youth with developmental disabilities. This unit served an additional twenty 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 2017, the Offender Specific Unit continued to provide a parent group in collaboration with Child Guidance and 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-eight educational presentations to Police Diversion Units, school districts and various community support organizations. In February, 2017 the Offender Specific Unit presented on effective juvenile sex offender case management and supervision at the 33rd annual Inter-Court Conference. 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.

Crossroads Program and New Paths Probation Unit

Katy VanHorn, Program Supervisor

It 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, called Crossroads, 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 will begin the recertification process in 2018.

The Crossroads Program consists of two Probation Officers and a part-time Probation Community Worker who report to the Program Supervisor. An attorney Guardian ad Litem is contracted to provide legal representation for each youth throughout their duration in the program. Crossroads is incentive-based which places a premium on accountability. In 2016, Magistrate Denise McGuckin assumed the Crossroads docket. She 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 2017, 45 youth were served by the program, including the admission of 23 new families. The program saw 10 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 6 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.

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 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 who have become Court-involved with a delinquency issue. The program served 30 youth in 2017. 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.

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 and there are some income requirements that must be considered, although there are exceptions made in some instances. FRC staff members offer case management, and 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.

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 also encouraged to bring with them homework and other projects that have been assigned to them. In the 2017 year, 10 youth participated in the tutoring program.

In fiscal year 2017, 451 youth and adults received case management through the FRC, and nearly 71% of those participants successfully completed the goals of their service plan.

The FRC expanded its reach into the community with the advent of the Responder Program, a school-based intervention and diversionary program, which has been coordinated through the FRC for the past seven 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 2017, 13 schools in the Summit County area participated in the Responder Program. The case management that is 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 staff member mediates a meeting between school administrators and the family to resolve the truancy. The overall success rate for the mediation program is 78%, meaning 78% of youth who participated in mediation improved their attendance by at least 50%.

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. Lisa Karas remains an active team member and assists in the identification and assessment process of those at risk youth.

Truancy Task Force and Schools Face New Challenges

On April 6, 2017, things changed for school districts throughout Ohio. That is the date the Ohio General Assembly chose to make effective the policies contained in House Bill 410. The new law significantly changed the manner in which the school districts addressed truancy.

For instance, in the past, students who failed to attend school a significant amount of time were termed “chronic truants.” That term has been expunged and replaced with the term “habitual truant.” The standard for applying that term to a student has changed, too. In HB 410, no longer will a student’s absence be recorded by the amount of consecutive days missed, but rather by the amount of hours. The new standards are 30 or more hours without a legitimate excuse, 42 or more hours in a school month, or 72 or more hours in a school year.

HB 410 added another layer to the policy by adding the term “excessive absences” for 38 or more hours in one school month and/or 65 or more hours in one school year without a legitimate excuse.

Districts have always been responsible for tracking attendance and filing at Court once the youth’s attendance reached the threshold for filing. One of the changes brought about by HB 410 is the development of intervention teams and intervention plans, which fall on the districts to implement. Districts are developing programming to address truancy and working with families and students. Although this is not new, HB 410 requires the development of the intervention teams and plans, leading districts to be creative and to develop or enhance existing programming.



Nicole Huntsman, left, and Lisa Karas co-chair the Truancy Task Force.

The Truancy Task Force Committee has been meeting consistently over the past several years. The committee consists of Juvenile Court staff, representatives from school districts and mental health agencies. The focus this year has been HB 410 and the effects it has had on districts and families. The Family Resource Center (FRC) Coordinator Lisa Karas and FRC Case Manager Nicole Huntsman co-chair the Truancy Task Force Committee and both are noticing positive outcomes.

“There are school districts that have developed their intervention programs and tracking elements that have been effective,” Ms. Huntsman said, “They are using the meetings as a forum to share ideas with each other”.

If the intervention plan fails, the school district can file a complaint at Court. As required by HB 410 these complaints are diverted. The FRC provides mediation as the diversion option for those complaints that are directed to the FRC. If diversion fails, the complaint is filed as official.

“Prior to filing a complaint, a referral for case management through the FRC is an option that has been available and utilized by districts for years to assist with truancy and truancy-related issues,” Ms. Karas stated. “What we have seen this year are more schools inquiring about how the FRC can be involved in their intervention plans.”

Ms. Karas pointed out that the Court’s Responder Program is already in some school districts and has continued to work with families and school administrators to address a student’s truancy and other issues, as well as to promote parental involvement in their child’s schooling before the child comes to the attention of the Court.

The Truancy Task Force Committee recognizes some of the challenges that come with the guidelines of HB 410 and is pleased to note the members are utilizing the meetings to address concerns and offer ideas that have worked for them.

Family Re-unification through Recovery Court (FRRC)

Becky Ryba, 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.

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. The FRRC received its re-certification as a Specialized Docket in 2015 from the Ohio Supreme Court.

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.

In 2017, there were 21 new admissions to Family Reunification Through Recovery Court. A total of 41 families were served in 2017. 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. 2017 saw the continuation of the opiate crisis reflected in our FRRC population, though this trend was turning at the end of 2017 with more participants presenting with methamphetamine abuse as well as alcohol.

Thirteen parents completed the FRRC program in 2017, which translates into 14 children reunifying with their parent(s). 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.

Five parents were unsuccessfully discharged in 2017. This typically happens in Phase I, but occasionally in Phase II. In each case, these children found permanency through legal custody to relatives.

Dually Involved Youth Initiative
Rashara Walker, Program Coordinator

2017 was a year of reform and growth for the Dually Involved Youth (DIY) Initiative, formerly the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) work at the Juvenile Court. The Court was able to receive technical assistance and training from the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice through a collaborative agreement with the Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board. Oversight by the experts from RFK afforded the Court the opportunity to expand upon the practice of identifying and serving families involved simultaneously in both child welfare and the juvenile justice systems at the earliest possible point of identification.

The Dually Involved Youth Initiative calls for a synchronized response by the partner agencies to identify families they have in common at the earliest possible point 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.

The unified team approach of the initiative provides the structure in which the recommendation and facilitating of services for the youth and family can be accomplished. DIY practices allow for a structured method for all involved to remain current on all matters facing the youth and their family, 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.

Prior to the reform and policy development undertaken in 2017, a “Crossover Youth” was one who had an open delinquency case within the Juvenile Court and an open dependency neglect case with Children Services. Beginning 2018, the definition of a Dually Involved Youth will expand to include any family concurrently involved in the juvenile justice system and involved in any capacity with Summit County Children Services, either through an open investigation, Assessment or Family in Need of Services; Voluntary Involvement or Alternative Response service plan or an open Dependency, Neglect and/or Abuse.

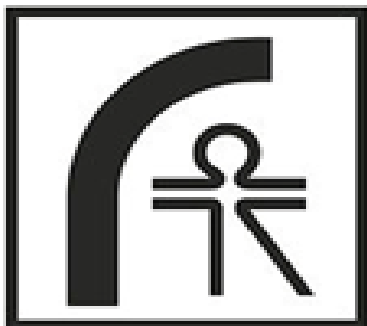
By identifying dually involved families as early as possible, Juvenile Court and Children Services can offer families earlier intervention, and hope to be more proactive with resources that may ultimately prevent the family from deeper involvement and penetration into both the justice and child welfare systems.

The Women's Board to the Juvenile Court

In 2017, the Women's Board celebrated its 60th anniversary at the Summit County Juvenile Court. The previous 59 years have seen the organization perform 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 nine years ago by purchasing bedding materials, seeds and a greenhouse to sustain the program during the autumn and winter months. The greenhouse began to show some wear, so, in 2016 the Women's Board provided funding to repair and restore the greenhouse.

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. In the words of Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio, "They know that the members of the Women's Board are there because they want to be." The ladies also host a luncheon for Court staff every February. Five of its members have been named the Court's Volunteer of the Year including current members Jane Hutmacher (2012) and Kim Ray (2013) and Barbara Mattern (2016).



Some current members of the Women's Board

Teen Court

Teen Court is a diversionary program designed to provide 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. It is also designed to hold youthful offenders accountable while offering an opportunity to avoid landing on a Court docket.

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. Volunteers receive training on Court procedure and how to apply the principles of restorative justice to their dispositional orders.

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.

In 2017, 61 active volunteers from 15 high schools participated in 23 cases that came before Teen Court. The charges were as follows: eleven theft, two disorderly conduct, two criminal trespass, two criminal mischief, two receiving stolen property, and one each for assault, complicity to theft, criminal damaging, ethnic intimidation, menacing, obstruction of official business, possession of drug paraphernalia, and riot.

2017 Employees of the Year

On May 25, 2017, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio named the following staff members as winners of the High Point Award given annually to the Court's Employees of the Year:



Kandy Monroe: A former CASA/GAL Volunteer, Kandy Monroe has become a Lead Volunteer Coordinator with the largest CASA/GAL program in the state. Ms. Monroe was cited for her punctuality, professionalism, program knowledge and her aptitude in compiling precise program data that has drawn praise from statewide and national CASA organizations.

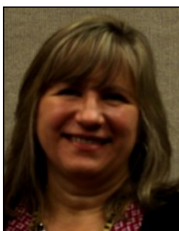


Jonathan Pooler: As a Detention Supervisor, Mr. Pooler presents a quiet confidence with the people with whom he works. He firmly believes the youth in Detention need positive reinforcement and makes every effort to provide that guidance. A 17-year veteran in Detention, Mr. Pooler brings organization and professionalism to the workplace every day.



Adam Testa: As a Probation Officer in the Offender Specific Unit, Mr. Testa makes it a point to communicate with the youth on his caseload regardless of the time of day. He tries to cultivate trust with the youth referred to the OSU and fully embraces the opportunity to provide the kind of guidance that has a lasting impact on the youth with which he works.

2017 Volunteer of the Year: Barbara Varley



Ms. Varley

Described as the very definition of the word, Citizens Review Board member Barbara Varley was named the Court's Volunteer of the Year. Ms. Varley has been a member of the Citizens Review Board since 2008. The Citizens Review Board meets at least once monthly to examine the cases of children in the permanent custody of Children Services.

"As an engineer, she brings thoroughness; as a mother, she brings thoughtfulness," said Judge Teodosio during Ms. Varley's introduction.

Ms. Varley has taken on additional volunteerism at the Court, accepting an appointment to the Dually Involved Youth committee. Ms. Varley's has also lends her energy and expertise to such organizations as Copley-Fairlawn Schools, its Parent Teacher Association and Akron Children's Hospital's Women's Board.

Past Employees of the Year

2005

Patty Blasio
Todd Schauffler

2010

Kandy Hixson
Cathy Thomas

2014

Carmen Dorman
Jimmy Oliver
Kevin Prevo

2006

Bryan Bryce
Ursula Gould
Esther Thomas

2011

Lisa Eagle
Curtis Howard
Rashara Walker

2015

Kenzie Barclay
Keith Luhning
Sarah Sapper
Tracy Williams

2007

Martha Jeffries
Jody Tolley

2012

Bill Davis
Sarah Testa
Donald Lomax
Terry Walton

2016

Cheryl Evans
Tremain Fields
Kathy Hullum
Woody Tyrrell

2008

Lisa Hawes
Jeff Pope

2013

Chris Brown
Keysha Myers
Shanda Nagle
Robert Singletary

2009

Allen Kelly
Lynda Mullins

Past Volunteers of the Year

2007: Nancy Patton, Citizens Review Board

2008: Carol Kohar, Women's Board

2009: Linda Sinar, CASA/GAL

2010: Ruth Dodridge, Women's Board

2011: Becky Retzer, True North

2012: Patty Harris, CASA/GAL

2013: Jane Hutmacher, Women's Board

2014: Kim Ray, Women's Board/CASA/GAL

2015: Bathsheba Phillips, CASA/GAL

2016: Barbara Mattern, Women's Board

Employees of the Summit County Juvenile Court *

Bruce Alexander	Kevin Floyd	Kendra McCoy	Cory Schweigert
Kale Anderson	Brian Fogle	Tedayla McCrandy	Taylor Sedlak
Rebecca Armstrong	Darin Ford	Douglas McDougal	Kynasia Sherman
	Johntay Fort	Denise McGuckin	Tiffany Sieg
Nicole Bachman	Thomas Freeman	Rochelle Hodoh McLane	Hannah Simionides
Joseph Baglieri	Alan Futo	Lisa Mancini	Cheryl Simpson
Beric Banos	Tavia Galonski	Tillman Manuel III	Robert Singletary
Kenzie Barclay	Denzel Gambrell	Dawne Marlowe	Annie Skapin
Gregory Barnes	Susan Gatts	Lavar Martin	Eric Small
Tammy Barnes	Melissa Gerney	Mary Martin	Triston Smead
Terry Bendo	Katherine Good	Romey Martinez	Alisha Smith
Linda Bennett	Cijaya Gordon	Stacey Mathieu	Kathy Smith
Pamela Bennett	Trent Gordon	Kristin Maxwell	Thomas Smith
Sarah Benson	Cody Grice	Mary Ann Mendlik	Kyle Snyder
Kathy Bertsch	Don Guthrie	Cornelius Miller	Tammy Stiles
Bob Bickett		Reese Miller	Kristin Stricklett
Jaime Blair		Sean Millhouse	Maureen Sullivan
Christina Bollman	Leila Halay	Monique Mingo	
Jennifer Bond	Heidi Day Hall	Duane Mitchell	Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio
Jon Booher	Adam Harris	Twanysha Mitchell	Adam Testa
Welby Broadus	Jasmine Harris	David Molis	Sarah Testa
Christine Brown	Angela Hart	Kandy Monroe	Cathy Richardson Thomas
Bryan Bryce	Sarah Harvan	Joanne Moore	Esther Thomas
Justin Burton	Xavier Hayes	Leslie Morris	Jody Tolley
DeShayla Bush	Katie Herman	Cierra Motley	Woody Tyrrell
Alex Byard	Jessica Heropulos	Lynda Mullins	
	Gregory Higgins	Lora Mycoskie	Dante Ursetti
Ron Cable	LaTonya Hill	Keysha Myers	Don Ursetti
Beth Cardina	Kandy Hixson		
Crystal Chillious	Chennel Holley	Shanda Nagle	Katy Van Horn
Rollin Clayton	Deon Horn	Nate Nevels	
Daniel Cody	David Horner		Denver Wade
Jill Coleman	Chad Horstman	Jimmy Oliver	Fred Wagner
Kyle Collins	Curtis Howard		Rashara Walker
Renee Conlon	Katherine Hullum	Remarr Parnell	Terry Walton
Alexis Cooks	Nicole Huntsman	Ariel Perusek	Michael Ward
Matthew Coppa		Terrie Pfeil	Kali Wartko
Laconia Crandall	Thaddeus Ingol	Zachary Pfeil	Dr. Thomas Webb
		Bathsheba Phillips	Justin Whitfield
Felicia Daniels	Perry James	Lori Phillips	Timothy William
William Davis	Michael Johnson	Rachel Pike	Tracy Williams
Stephanie DeLeo	Tammy Johnson	Andrew Poda	Jane Wilson
Candace Derry	Kenneth Jones	Tiffany Poole	Jasmyne Wilson
Lori Diaz		Jonathan Pooler	Eddie Winstead
Thomas Dillingham	Lisa Karas	Jeff Pope	Quin Wychanko
Lisa DiSabato-Moore	Katie Keele	Wesley Poulson	
Jonathan Dixon	Joe Kernan		Joshua Young
Amanda Dodson	Tamar King	Milton Rankins	Robert Young
Carmen Dorman	Getta Kutuchief	Janota Ray	Tawanna Young
		Rhonda Riddle	
Lisa Eagle	Kandice Lacy	Latina Ridgell	Joan Zito
Sally Ede	Elizabeth Lashley	Rita Rochford	
Erin Ehrhart	Jeremiah Latimore	Ralph Roebuck	
Margaret Esterle	Bethany Lee	Lavell Roscoe	
Cheryl Evans	Jennifer Lewis	Tysha Ross	
Tatanina Evans	Kristin Leuchtag	Lisa Rotondo	
	Andrea Lisowski	Sally Roupe	
Laddie Fair	Donald Lomax	Derek Rucker	
Chanin Faith	Mary Lorenzo	Becky Ryba	
Holly Farah	Keith Luhning		
Chris Fergus	Laura Lynd-Robinson	Jolynn Schaetzle	
Tremain Fields		Lee Ann Schaffer	
Dierre Fleetwood	Robert McCarty	Todd Schauffler	

* list includes part-time employees, interns and employees who worked a portion of 2016 at the Court.

