



MIAMI COUNTY JUVENILE COURT 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

JUDGE W. MCGREGOR DIXON JR.

Home. Grown. Great.

The Juvenile Court of Miami County is a division of the Miami County Common Pleas Court. Its purpose is to counsel and rehabilitate youth who commit crimes; protect the Miami County community from juvenile crime; assist the victims of juvenile crime; protect children from abuse, neglect and dependency; and provide allocation of parental rights for children whose parents were never married. Under the direction of Judge W. McGregor Dixon, Jr., the court provides a broad range of community based programs. This summary is intended to help the community understand the services the Court provided in 2015.



Judge Dixon

Court initiates a new Diversion Program: Sexting 101

In 2015, the Court saw an increase in Juveniles being charged with sexually related offenses due to texting photos of themselves or others in a state of undress, also known as sexting. In response, the Court in cooperation with the County Prosecutor's office developed a diversion program for these youth who were not your typical "sexually related offender". The program was developed and facilitated by Probation Officers Stephanie Henning and Gerald Dornbusch Jr..

Each youth in the program were initially screened and if deemed appropriate accepted into the program, provided that their parents had to agree to the terms of the program. The program consisted of multiple educational sessions, with the parents having to participate in one of the sessions. The youth were provided information concerning the laws, the affect of the offense on them and others, the choices they make, the Adam Walsh Act (sex offender registration law), and healthy vs. unhealthy relationships. Parents were educated on how to appropriately monitor their children's use of an electronic devices and what safety precautions you can put in place to keep them safe. When a youth successfully completes the program their charge is dismissed and expunged by the Court.



In 2015 the Court successfully diverted 13 youth with felony level offenses through this program. All of the youth referred to the group have successfully completed and have not committed new offenses.



Volunteerism

The staff of Miami County Juvenile & Probate Court learned what it meant to give a helping hand. 2015's staff development topic was "How to grow thru volunteerism". Brian Raison and Pam Bennet of the Ohio State University Extension Office spoke about the benefits of volunteerism, not only to the community but also to the individual volunteer. Staff was surprised to learn about the actual amount of volunteerism done by their co-workers, whether it was volunteering at a local food pantry, serving on a nonprofit board of directors or coaching a youth sports league.

Shane Carter then spoke about how crucial the role of the volunteer was to the success of the Lincoln Community Center. It was clear that all communities are made better through volunteerism. Then the staff was given the opportunity to demonstrate what they had just learned, by planting trees at Brukner Nature Center.

Probation earns grant to conduct specialized training

In our work with youth, families and other professionals, we repeatedly hear, "We need tools that work to help change offenders' behaviors." In early spring we began to research Evidence Based Practices (EBP) for Juvenile Probation. We found The Carey Group had designed a program in direct response to that need by building the skills and the abilities of the probation officers working with youth in the community.

Their program provides an effective case management system for engaging probationers in the assessment process through their term of supervision working with Guides and BITS handouts. The Guides provide a concrete way to address problems with probationers that meet each youth's need depending on where they are in the juvenile justice system.

In May of 2015 we were awarded \$7,000 grant to purchase the program and began the 18 month training course for staff to become proficient in EBP utilizing The Carey Group tools. We kicked off the training by having Erin King from the Carey Group present an overview of the training and highlights of what the program had to offer. Since then the entire probation officer staff has met bi-weekly for two hour training sessions to learn how to effectively probation through structured one-on-one interactions that are based in cognitive-behavioral theory.



Erin King presents to Probation staff

Our goal is to complete initial training and move into the Quality Assurance piece of the program by fall of next year. It has been an exciting venture and we are pleased to have The Carey Guides provide a framework for promoting positive change in our youth for a safer community.

West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center



The West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility (WCJRF) opened in 1993 as a Community Correctional Facility for male felons between the ages of 12 and 20, receiving youth from the original six counties: Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Miami, Preble and Shelby County. However, WCJRF also accepts youth from other counties in Ohio. In 2015, WCJRF admitted 39 youth from 16 different counties. WCJRF is one of 11 Community Correctional Facilities within the state and is operated under a renewable one-year grant from the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

All youth receive individual and family counseling, as well as participate in Cognitive Behavioral Groups, which are geared to their specific needs as specified in their Individualized Treatment Plan. Each youth works toward accomplishing their academic goals. In 2015, 10 students earned enough credits to graduate while at WCJRF. In 2015, students collectively earned 238 high school credits.

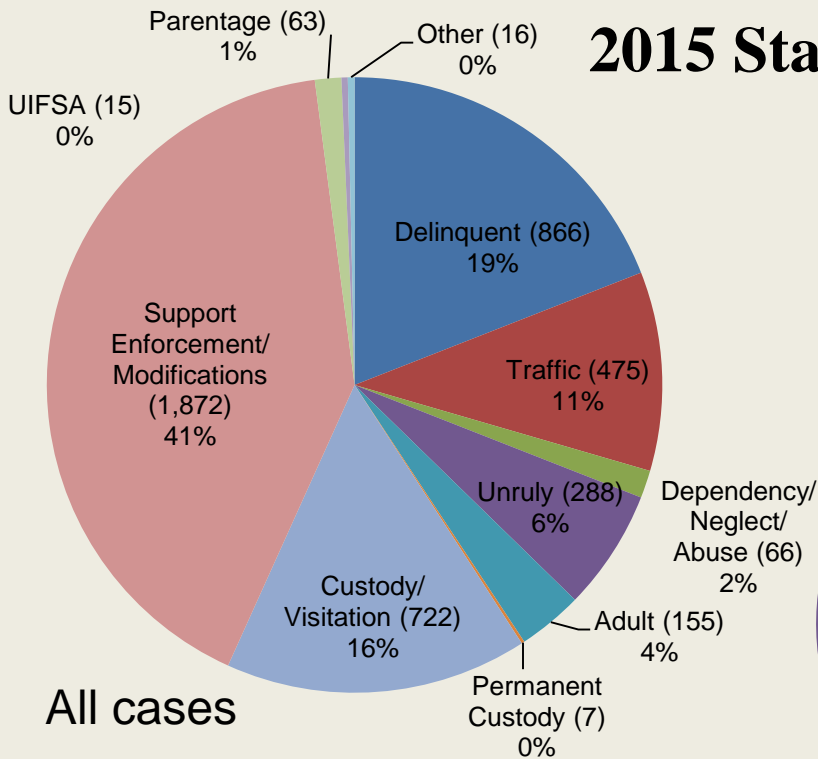


In 2015 WCJRF had some exciting changes to our Facility. Our gym, which was originally built in 1992, along with all exercise and weight equipment received a much needed and long overdue facelift. We replaced the gym floor and basketball backboards. The weight room was painted and new equipment was purchased. The gym walls were painted and adorned with murals that reflect our core values of Integrity, Honor, and Respect.

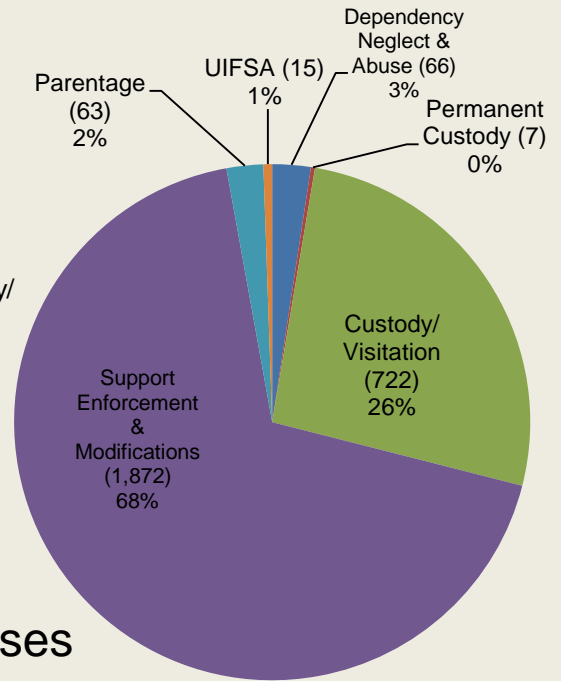
In October of 2015, WCJRF was audited by the United States Department of Justice in regards to the Prison Rape Elimination Act Standards (PREA). PREA requires a zero tolerance policy to protect against rape and sexual harassment within a facility. WCJRC was found to be in 100% compliance with all standards.

WCJRC is comprised of 32 staff under the supervision of Brent Knackstedt.

2015 Statistical Summary



All cases



Civil cases

Court Dispositions

Bind over to adult court	0	E.M.H.A	49
Commitment to DYS	0	House Arrest	209
Detention	212	Temp. Custody CSB	17
David L. Brown	7	Protective Super. CSB	25
W.C. Day Treatment	48	Perm. Custody CSB	1
W.C. Rehab	1	Jail Sentence (Adult)	63
Other CCF	0	Restitution	48
Susp. Commit. to DYS	18	Cases with Fines	546
Community Service	349	Cases with Costs	690
Probation	76	Cost waived (Indigency)	674
		Fines and Court costs	\$147,337.00

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For a copy of the entire annual report call 440-5990