

**WOOD COUNTY
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
JUVENILE DIVISION**

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

DAVID E. WOESSNER, JUDGE

WOOD COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

PURPOSE OF THE COURT

Under Section 2151.01 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Juvenile Court's purpose is:

- (A) To provide for the care, protection, and mental and physical development of children subject to Chapter 2151 of the Revised Code, whenever possible, in a family environment, separating the child from the child's parents only when necessary for the child's welfare or in the interests of public safety;
- (B) To provide judicial procedures through which Chapters 2151 and 2152 of the Revised Code are executed and enforced, and in which the parties are assured of a fair hearing, and their constitutional and other legal rights are recognized and enforced.

WOOD COUNTY JUVENILE COURT STAFF

David E. Woessner, Judge

Mollie Hojnicky-Mathieson
Magistrate

Bridget Ansberg
Executive Director

Jessica Sautter
Fiscal Director

Ann D. Gucker
Director, Clerical Services

Cynthia Chapman
Deputy Clerk

Maureen Bressler
Deputy Clerk

Robin Roe
Deputy Clerk

Keri Niceley
Deputy Clerk

Kiley Long
Deputy Clerk

Hannah Vollmar
Deputy Clerk

Ronda Downard, Co-Director, Probation and Intake Services, Program Mgr.
Lora Graves, Co-Director, Probation and Intake Services, Case Mgr.

David Baldonado
Probation Officer

Lisa Zeigler
Probation Officer

Kayla Martin
Probation Officer

Anthony Paulus
Probation Officer

Jodi Whitacre
Director, Court Appointed Special Advocate Program

Joy Campbell
Volunteer Coordinator

Vacant
Volunteer Coordinator

Linda Hammer
Recruitment/Officer Manager

Richard D. Schmidbauer
Director, Detention Services

Holly Ramirez
Detention Supervisor

Russell Krotzer
Detention Supervisor

George Rife
Detention Supervisor

Jared Gorris
Detention Supervisor

Crystal Quinlin
Detention Officer

Josh Knoke
Detention Officer

Josh Morris
Detention Officer

Jeremy Pultz
Detention Officer

Jon-Paul Maiden
Detention Officer

Renee Williams-Boyd
Detention Officer

Josh Vantrease
Detention Officer

Diamond Young
Detention Officer

Nate May
Detention Officer

Sarah Cole
Detention Officer

Alyssa Sharninghouse
Detention Officer

Michael Maier
Detention Officer

Court Security

John Dauer
Court Constable

Mark Hanson
Court Constable

Steve Thomson
Court Constable

JUDGE DAVID E. WOESSNER

Judge David Woessner has been Judge of the Wood County Common Pleas Court, Probate and Juvenile Divisions, since December 29, 1998. While Judge, Judge Woessner has served as the Wood County Common Pleas Court Security Judge; has been and is currently serving as the Presiding Judge of the Wood County Common Pleas Court; and was a District One Trustee for the Ohio Association of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Since 2006, Judge Woessner has continuously been appointed to serve on the Ohio Juvenile Law and Procedure Committee. Judge Woessner has also been an instructor for continuing legal education courses for attorneys, Magistrates and Judges.



In addition to his regular duties, Judge Woessner oversees the 48 bed Wood County Juvenile Detention Center, which houses youth from Wood and surrounding counties. Judge Woessner also serves as the Administrative Judge for the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio. This facility accommodates up to 42 adjudicated felony level offenders and provides services for juveniles from Wood, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, and Williams County, as well as additional counties upon request.

Prior to serving as Judge, Judge Woessner had been a Magistrate for the Wood County Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division. Judge Woessner also served as a Magistrate in the Wood County Juvenile Court. From 1990 until taking office in 1998, Judge Woessner was employed by and was a partner with the law firm of Middleton, Roebke, and Woessner.

Prior to joining Middleton, Roebke, and Woessner, Judge Woessner was the Chief Assistant Prosecutor for the Wood County Prosecutor's Office. As an Assistant Prosecutor, Judge Woessner handled cases ranging from capital murder to felony theft. During his tenure with the Wood County Prosecutor's Office, Judge Woessner was also the Juvenile Prosecutor as well as an Assistant Prosecutor in the civil division, assisting in the representation of school districts, townships, and providing legal opinions to a variety of county offices. Judge Woessner also had previous experience as a Referee at the Bowling Green Municipal Court and worked as a legislative intern in Washington, D.C. for then Representative Stewart McKinney.

Judge Woessner has been actively involved in a variety of professional and community boards, agencies, and activities. He is a past President of both the Wood County Bar Association and the Wood County Law Library Association. Judge Woessner was also appointed by then Ohio Attorney General Betty Montgomery to the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Grant Advisory Board; was a member of the Board of Trustees of Behavioral Connections of Wood County; and served for over six years as a member of the Wood County Ethics, Grievance, and Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee. Judge Woessner has also been involved in a wide variety of other groups and activities, including a variety of athletic and recreational programs relating to youth.

2020 Wood County Juvenile Court **A Summary**

The Juvenile Court hears cases concerning traffic offenses, delinquency, unruliness, neglect, abuse, dependency, and custody involving individuals under the age of 18, as well as certain paternity and support cases for adults and children. The court may also hear misdemeanor cases involving adults charged with certain offenses involving children. The Juvenile Detention Center is also administered through the Juvenile Court. The Juvenile Court's jurisdiction is outlined in, but not limited to, Section 2151.23 of the Ohio Revised Code.

As with many courts throughout the State of Ohio, case filings in the Wood County Juvenile Court were impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020. Overall, the court saw a decrease in the number of cases filed -- 1,888 in 2020 as opposed to 2678 in 2019. Despite the challenges faced by the court in 2020, the court was able to maintain operations throughout the year. Utilizing technological resources provided by the Wood County Commissioners and the Ohio Supreme Court, the court conducted and continues to conduct a wide variety of hearings by video and phone.

In 2020, the Juvenile Detention Center detained 283 youth. This number included 198 males and 85 females. This figure compares to 404 detained youth in 2019.

The court's Probation Department remained active in 2020. Probation officers continued to provide more diverse and expansive case management services in response to the need to address serious underlying issues in many youth and families, including mental illness and substance abuse.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) program continued to provide invaluable volunteer advocacy services for youth in need. Twenty-seven individuals advocated for 97 alleged abused, neglected, or dependent children and provided over 1919 hours of service for youth and families in 2020. There remains an ongoing need for volunteers to assist this worthwhile program.

COURT CLERICAL DEPARTMENT

The Clerical Department is staffed with six full-time Deputy Clerks under the supervision of the Director of Clerical Services.

Various work assignments handled by the Clerical Department include:

- Serving as bailiff for the Judge and Magistrate
- Scheduling the court docket
- Processing Judgment Entries and Magistrate's Decisions and Orders
- Processing all legal filings, motions and pleadings – filed both in paper or via the court's e-filing system
- Processing and sending court summonses and notices
- Handling fines and court costs
- Setting up/processing all new complaints
- Maintaining all court files and "prior" court histories
- Preparing monthly and quarterly reports
- Entering data into the computer system
- Handling traffic citations
- Serving as a liaison between outside agencies, attorneys, and the court
- Processing court appointed attorney fee schedules
- Numerous other miscellaneous duties

COURT STATISTICS

The Wood County Juvenile Court is located in Bowling Green, Ohio, on South Dunbridge Road. The facility includes the Judge's Chambers and courtroom, a Magistrate's Courtroom, the Clerical Services Department, Probation Department, Detention Center, the Court Appointed Special Advocate Department, and Court Security.

Total court fees and fines collected in 2020 amounted to \$ 89,256.00.

In 2020, the court had 1,888 cases filed, and disposed of 1,977 cases. A complete breakdown of these cases follows in the chart below.

TYPES OF CASES FILED AND DISPOSED IN 2020

CASES FILED

| | Delinquent | Traffic | Dep/Neg/Ab | Unruly | Adult | Perm Cust | Chg Cust | Support | Parent age | URES A | All Others | Totals |
|-----------|------------|---------|------------|--------|-------|-----------|----------|---------|------------|--------|------------|--------|
| January | 79 | 47 | 31 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 45 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 238 |
| February | 48 | 53 | 41 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 41 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 206 |
| March | 31 | 33 | 27 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 123 |
| April | 33 | 7 | 33 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 11 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 103 |
| May | 30 | 20 | 34 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 111 |
| June | 41 | 20 | 28 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 28 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 146 |
| July | 37 | 27 | 34 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 145 |
| August | 35 | 21 | 35 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 36 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 152 |
| September | 50 | 44 | 40 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 36 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 194 |
| October | 66 | 25 | 24 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 28 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 174 |
| November | 45 | 41 | 31 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 25 | 14 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 170 |
| December | 16 | 30 | 35 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 22 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 126 |
| Totals | 511 | 368 | 393 | 46 | 19 | 10 | 268 | 250 | 17 | 0 | 6 | 1888 |

CASES DISPOSED

| | Delinquent | Traffic | Dep/Neg/Ab | Unruly | Adult | Perm Cust | Chg Cust | Support | Parent age | URES A | All Others | Totals |
|-----------|------------|---------|------------|--------|-------|-----------|----------|---------|------------|--------|------------|--------|
| January | 66 | 57 | 40 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 22 | 52 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 243 |
| February | 37 | 36 | 35 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 30 | 44 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 192 |
| March | 52 | 49 | 32 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 36 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 190 |
| April | 24 | 15 | 36 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 92 |
| May | 40 | 28 | 35 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 141 |
| June | 59 | 21 | 27 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 17 | 34 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 167 |
| July | 42 | 17 | 38 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 22 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 144 |
| August | 32 | 24 | 32 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 26 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 147 |
| September | 45 | 36 | 31 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 33 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 180 |
| October | 46 | 40 | 33 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 26 | 27 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 177 |
| November | 28 | 38 | 35 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 19 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 149 |
| December | 54 | 27 | 25 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 20 | 21 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 155 |
| Totals | 525 | 388 | 399 | 45 | 8 | 8 | 255 | 323 | 21 | 0 | 5 | 1977 |

Alternatives to Adjudication and Habitual Truants

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code sections 2151.354(C) and 2152.27, 5 youth were charged as habitual truants in 2020; and one youth was adjudicated.

EFLING

The Wood County Juvenile Court implemented E-filing services on April 24, 2019 for paternity, custody, support and visitation case types. E-filing provides a secure, fast, and convenient way for attorneys to submit documents to the court.

Attorneys create new case requests by selecting an available case type, initiating an action, adding party information and attaching supporting documents. In addition, attorneys can easily submit new documents on existing cases.

Attorneys receive notifications when the filing has been received or reviewed by the court. Deputy clerks review submissions and provide the filer an opportunity to modify the filing and resubmit if necessary.

Efiling creates the appropriate records for the court's case management system. The documents are also submitted to the Digital Management System for storage and online access.

JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

During 2020, the Juvenile Court Probation Department continued to provide services to the children and families of Wood County. Noteworthy achievements by the department in 2020 included:

- Despite pandemic related challenges, over 750 hours of community service work were completed by juveniles at a variety of sites. Juveniles not working at the court completed hours at area churches, schools and food banks, to name a few. The Juvenile Court's CSW crew worked primarily on the community garden located on site.
- Overseeing the return of over \$8,400 in restitution to victims of crimes committed by juvenile offenders in Wood County.
- The Juvenile Court has started a partnership with 3rd Millennium Classrooms, which offers an online option titled Stop Lifting. Stop Lifting is a three to four hour long online course designed for youth involved in theft related incidents.
- During 2020, eleven youth completed the court's innovative Safe and Healthy Sexuality Program. Modifications were made in 2020 to allow youth to complete certain components of the program off sight in a modified format. Probation staff continued to meet directly with the youth to review the information presented and individual needs of the youth or family.
- The Probation Department began an Intervention and Diversion program at the start of the 2019/2020 school year. 78 families were served by this program in 2020.
- The Probation Department continues to use the statewide Ohio Youth

Assessment System (OYAS) to determine the risk and needs of court involved youth.

- The Probation Department continued to supervise the planting and maintenance of a community garden outside the Juvenile Court Center and donated produce to local food pantries.
- The Probation Department secured the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grant sponsored by the Ohio Criminal Justice Services, to purchase laptop computers for telework, temperature scanners, desktop barriers, disinfectants, and other supplies.
- The Ohio Supreme Court's Emergency Remote Technology Grant was used to purchase additional computers and a Poly-Cam unit to conduct remote court proceedings.
- Title IV-E funds continued to be received which assist with sustaining the court's placement budget.

The Probation Department performs a variety of responsibilities within the Juvenile Court. Six full-time staff accomplish this by assessing the individual needs of the child and their family, and developing a treatment plan that is in the child's best interest. The least restrictive setting is considered, and the use of community agencies and services is an important element of the family's treatment plan.

The primary responsibility of the Probation Department is to supervise youth and adults who have been ordered to complete a period of probation, also known as community control. The majority of probationers are under the age of 18. However, adults charged with misdemeanor offenses involving child victims can be prosecuted through the Juvenile Court and serviced through the Juvenile Probation Department.

During 2020, 183 juveniles and adults were supervised through the Juvenile Probation Department.

The Probation Department prepares Pre-Dispositional Intake Reports to help determine what consequences youth appearing before the court should receive. Probation Officers interview the youth, parents, school personnel, counselors, and others with pertinent information about the youth. Victims have an opportunity to appear during court hearing and also to submit a statement to the court regarding the impact the offense had upon them. A report is then prepared for the Court by the Probation Officer, including recommendations concerning what is in the child's best interest. Probation Officers use the Ohio Youth Assessment System as a key component of our intake process. This is an objective assessment tool which measures risk and needs of the youth and is

used throughout the State of Ohio. In 2020, the Probation Department completed 46 Intake Reports. An additional 10 reports were completed on adults requesting their records be sealed or expunged.

In order for the Probation Department to receive Title IV-E funds, which assist with sustaining the Court's placement budget, it is necessary to complete case plans for all youth on supervised probation within 30 days of the date of disposition/placement on probation. Case plan reviews must then occur within 180 days of disposition. Case plans and case plan reviews are used to determine candidacy. If a child is determined to be a candidate for foster placement, the probation officer is obligated to make sure they are providing services to reduce the risk of removal from the home.

Title IV-E participation further requires the Probation Department to complete 'random moment samples'. Random moment samples are exactly what they say they are: A sampling of what activities the officer is doing at a random moment in time. The random moment sample provides data to determine what percentage of time is spent providing services to help prevent youth from being removed from their home.

Juvenile Court Probation Officers are required to complete ongoing training. The Juvenile Court encourages the completion of both the required training as well as additional training hours by the Probation Department staff. Eight staff members completed 191.5 hours of training during 2020.

THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT SUPERVISES THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK / RESTITUTION PROGRAMS

Community service and restitution to victims of juvenile crime continue to be priorities of the court. It is important that youth fully understand how their actions have made someone a "victim" of their crime. This, in part, is accomplished by having youth complete community service hours as part of their period of probation. Also, if a victim has incurred monetary damages, restitution may be made by the youth, either by paying the restitution himself or "working off" the amount owed through community service. Youth who are unable to pay fines and court costs are eligible to work community service in lieu of making payments.

The Probation Department operates a community service project on Saturdays from March to November. Funding for the crew supervisors is secured through an Ohio Department of Youth Services grant. In addition to the Probation Department's Program, youth are able to perform community service at various locations throughout Wood County.

During 2020, 55 youth performed 787 hours at over 20 different sites and organizations in Wood County.

Once again this year the Community Service Crew planted a community garden as a service learning project. After preparing the garden area for planting, staff received donations of tomatoes, peppers, squash, zucchini, eggplant and other vegetation from Cheryl Santee of Bonnie's Plants. The court also received beautiful flowers to line the garden from Denise Timm of Bostdorff's Greenhouse, Landscaping and More. Youth from the summer crew were able to sow, weed, water and pick produce from the garden. This was a new experience for a number of youth with no background in gardening. The garden provided a good learning experience for the youth. This year hundreds of tomatoes, a variety of banana and bell peppers, zucchini, squash and various herbs were harvested and donated to area food banks.

The Juvenile Court also received a donation of Hardy Mums from Diane Hoefkens of Obie's Flowers and Shasta Daisies and Lilies from Zach Edwards of Black Diamond, so the youth could landscape the premises.

Restitution is an integral part of the treatment philosophy held by the Juvenile Court. Whenever a citizen incurs monetary damages, the youth may be held accountable for reparation to the victim. When youth are unable to pay the victim, the youth can "work off" the damages by performing community service. The Court, through a Department of Youth Services grant, will then pay restitution to the victim once the youth has completed the required number of hours. During 2020, \$8,424.68 in restitution was returned to victims of juvenile crime.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TESTING

Unfortunately, many youth involved with the Juvenile Court may be abusing legal or illegal drugs or alcohol. Often, youth are under the influence of alcohol or drugs when they commit a crime. Based on this, probationers are routinely required to submit to random drug testing. The probation department utilizes the Multi Drug Rapid Test Cup to detect the presence of drugs of abuse in urine or the Quantisal Oral Fluid Collection Device to detect the presence of drugs in saliva. The following drugs of abuse can be tested for: marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, methamphetamines, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, oxycodone, morphine, buprenorphine/suboxone, methadone, ecstasy/MDMA, fentanyl, alcohol and tri-cyclic antidepressants. Prior to being discharged successfully from level two probation, a youth must produce a screen free from the presence of drugs of abuse.

In 2020, 329 drug tests were administered to youth on probation in Wood County. Of this total, 36 of the samples tested positive for drugs of abuse. When a youth on probation produces a positive urine screen, they are charged a \$5.00 fee. A total of 50 drug tests were taken from youth and adults not on probation.

Of this total, 19 of the samples tested positive for drugs of abuse. Drug testing generated revenue of \$685.00

THEFT OFFENDER PROGRAM

Since 1989, the Juvenile Court has offered a Theft Offender Program for youth who have committed theft and property related offenses. The youth and a parent attend a four-hour class covering a variety of theft related issues. The class was a positive approach to teaching the youth to make better choices in the future. Since 1989, 2,165 youth have been served by this program.

During 2020, the Juvenile Court began a partnership with an online classroom. Youth are now ordered to complete a Stop Lifting class through 3rd Millennium Classrooms. This class is interactive and has both a pre and post-test. To date, three youth have completed this new online course.

ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE

The Juvenile Court uses a portion of its Department of Youth Services (DYS) grant allocation to pay for youth under electronic surveillance. DYS funds assisted in paying for the salary of the probation officer who facilitates this program and paid for the actual monitoring services themselves. The Juvenile Court sometimes uses electronic surveillance in lieu of incarceration in the Detention Center. In 2019 the Juvenile Court entered into an agreement with Ohio AMS to provide complete and thorough monitoring. A GPS tracking bracelet allows the Court to monitor the youth's whereabouts throughout the day. When a youth leaves or returns home, tampers with the equipment, enters an exclusion zone, etc., that data is immediately relayed to the electronic surveillance officer via text message or phone call. Additionally, the Court has the ability to monitor alcohol use using a SCRAM monitor.

Electronic surveillance allows the youth to attend school, counseling services, and other pre-approved activities while being monitored. Electronic surveillance is less costly than incarceration and allows the youth to remain in a less restrictive environment with his or her family. In 2020, a total of 18 youth were monitored for a total of 939 days during the year.

SAFE AND HEALTHY SEXUALITY PROGRAM

Safe and Healthy Sexuality is an innovative and educational program designed for youth in middle school or older. This was designed to be an eight week program facilitated by the probation department. Topics discussed in this class include high risk behaviors and self-protection, consent and legal issues, sexting and internet safety, and pornography and its impact. The program was designed to address increased numbers of youth who are becoming involved with the legal system due to inappropriate sexual behavior. Many of the youth served in this program are those who have been caught looking at pornography on school or

home computers, who have been involved in a sexting incident at home, in school, or in the community, or who have been involved in inappropriate sexual touching or sexual bullying. Youth may be referred to this program by parents, counselors, school administrators, the Wood County Prosecutor's Office, probation officers, or the youth him/herself.

Due to the pandemic, in person classes were not held in 2020. The probation department prepared packets for youth to complete at home. Youth came to the office for a brief overview and pre-test and then were sent home with the packet of information to complete. Once completed, probation staff set up a meeting to go over the material with the youth. Eleven youth completed the program during 2020. Probation staff has found that one on one instruction is most beneficial, and hope to return to classroom instruction in 2021.

INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION

Intervention and Diversion is a program designed to assist when a youth's behavior, functioning or attendance in school is impacting performance and success. Youth and families referred to this program submit to a strengths and needs assessment. This assessment is used to assist the family in developing a plan for change. A case manager is assigned to the youth/family and is responsible for making sure the youth/family has access to recommended services and supports. The case manager guides the youth/family and monitors their progress over a period of time. This program is available to any school aged child who resides in Wood County and may be used as part of a school district's absence intervention plan with a youth. Youth may be referred to this program by school administrators, the Wood County Prosecutor's Office, or the Juvenile Court Judge or Magistrate.

This program began on July 1, 2019, and served 78 families during 2020.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) is the juvenile corrections system for the state of Ohio. DYS is statutorily mandated to confine felony offenders, ages 10 to 21, who have been adjudicated and committed by one of Ohio's 88 county juvenile courts.

Additionally, DYS funds and supports 625 community programs throughout the state, offering more than 93,000 youth opportunities and services to encourage positive change and decrease the number of youth who need to be incarcerated. Funding resources to the Juvenile Court include 401 Reclaim/510 Subsidies.

401 Reclaim

Beginning on January 1, 1995, the Ohio Department of Youth Services implemented a program for all Juvenile Courts in the state. RECLAIM OHIO provides substantial funding to each Juvenile Court based on the previous year felony adjudications and commitments to the Department's institutions.

The mission of RECLAIM OHIO is to provide financial resources to the Juvenile Court's to provide for the individual needs of youthful offenders by purchasing, enhancing, and developing community based programs and services. All youth involved with the court are eligible for services.

During 2020, RECLAIM OHIO funds were used to pay for services, salaries and benefits of Probation Department staff who monitor the RECLAIM OHIO grant and programs. Under a statewide formula, the court is debited RECLAIM funds for any youth committed to an Ohio Department of Youth Services facility or to a Community Correction Facility.

510 Subsidy

Additionally, the Ohio Department of Youth Services provides Juvenile Courts a 510 subsidy to fund staff and services. Separate and different from RECLAIM OHIO, the 510 subsidy is based on the county's population.

In 2020, the Juvenile Court 510 subsidy was used for staff salaries and benefits, supplies, purchasing community based services, and other related expenses.

COMMITMENTS TO DYS and ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Prior to committing a youth to the Ohio Department of Youth Services, every attempt is made to provide services to the youth while residing at home, utilizing community based resources. On occasion, youth who do not respond to these efforts or otherwise present a serious risk to the community are committed to the Department of Youth Services.

Alternatives used by the Probation Department to avoid a youth being sent to the Department of Youth Services include: Electronic surveillance, local detention time, placement at a Community Correction Facility (CCF); placement at other community based residential or outpatient treatment facilities.

Three youth were committed to Ohio Department of Youth Services in 2020, and three youth remained in placement from the previous year.

JUVENILE RESIDENTIAL CENTER OF NORTHWEST OHIO

In August, 1994, the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio (JRC) opened. JRC is a Community Correction Facility (CCF) and serves as an alternative to a Department of Youth Services commitment. Located adjacent to the Wood County Juvenile Court Center, this ten-county facility provides secure treatment for male felony level offenders, with a family counseling and graduated community reunification component. This alternative to a commitment to the Department of Youth Services allows courts to serve youth locally. Judge Woessner serves as the administrative judge for the Juvenile Residential Center.

In 2020, four Wood County male youth were placed at the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio. In 2020, five youth continued to be served by the Juvenile Residential Center from a prior year's placement.

Additionally, three Wood County female youth were placed at the Miami Valley Residential Center, a CCF that provides specialized services for girls.

TITLE IV-E

In June 2008, the court signed a sub-grant agreement with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and became a Title IV-E eligible court. The federal Title IV-E program provides funds for needy, delinquent children who require specialized residential placement. Monies are provided on a reimbursement basis to assist courts in recovering some of the costs incurred maintaining a child in residential treatment or treatment foster care homes. Title IV-E also reimburses courts for a portion of the administrative costs expended to keep youth in their own homes and avoiding placement.

For youth to be eligible for this program, the Court will look at the least restrictive environment that will best serve the youth and family's needs. Reunification with parents or guardians following successful treatment is the goal.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE/ GUARDIAN AD LITEM (CASA[®]/GAL) DEPARTMENT

The Wood County CASA/GAL Program recruits, trains and supervises community volunteers who advocate for the best interest of abused, neglected, and dependent children whose cases are being heard in the Wood County Juvenile Court. CASA/GAL volunteers serve as guardian ad litem for the child. In that role, the CASA/GAL gather information about all aspects of the child's life and, based on the facts gathered, submit written reports to the court; which include family strengths and concerns, the child's wishes, and CASA/GAL

recommendations about the child's best interest. CASA/GAL volunteers stay involved with the case until the child is in a safe, permanent home and/or the case is closed by the court.

The CASA/GAL Program has successfully provided this needed service to Wood County children since 1988. The CASA/GAL Program complies with Rules 48 of Rules of Superintendence for Courts of Ohio which guides GAL practice.

PROGRAM PROVIDES NEEDED SUPPORT TO VOLUNTEERS

The CASA/GAL Program is staffed by a full time Director, one full time and one part time Volunteer Coordinator and a part time Recruitment/Office Coordinator. The Director supervises the program staff, whose positions are funded primarily through the Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA) Grant. The Director's position is paid through Wood County funding.

Responsibilities of the Volunteer Coordinators include recruiting, training, screening and supervising the CASA/GAL volunteers' advocacy efforts. They facilitate training meetings, review all reports to the court, provide support to volunteers throughout their work on cases and maintain case records and statistics. They serve as a "sounding board" for each CASA/GAL for ideas on resources that can assist the children and families; creative ideas to work with resistive families and children; ensure receipt of court documentation and supports with the court process. They also are responsible for coordinating the Citizen Review Board (CRB) meetings and volunteer recruitment and screening of the CRB.

Responsibilities of the Recruitment/Office Coordinator are to assist with volunteer recruitment and the application process, coordinate public relations and outreach activities, maintain the program website (www.woodcountycasa.org), set up all new case files and ensure that all new case information and volunteer activities are properly inputted and maintained in the data management software. Tasks also include volunteer retention and appreciation activities.

The Wood County CASA/GAL program is a member in good standing of both the National CASA Association and the Ohio CASA/GAL Association. The Program Director ensures that State and National CASA Standards are met and that staff and volunteers understand and follow program expectations and policies, making any needed revisions as necessary. Program policies include but are not limited to, best practices for program organization and management, program governance, volunteer supports, fiscal management, human resource management, risk management, public relations and record keeping.

The Program Director also serves as the liaison between the program and the non-profit advisory board, Friends of Wood County CASA, and participates in Ohio CASA/GAL Association Program Director trainings and activities.

In addition, the Program Director serves as the GAL Coordinator for the court under Rule 48 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio. The primary duties of the GAL Coordinator are to ensure compliance with each section of the rule, including GAL qualification verification, maintaining GAL records and accepting grievances concerning the services of GALs.

The Program receives financial support through the Wood County Juvenile Court/Wood County Commissioners general fund for much of the administrative needs of the program. The Victim of Crime Act Grant (VOCA) funds costs primarily related to support staff salary. State Victim Assistance Grant (SVAA) assists with the expenses related to staff attendance at the annual Two Days in May Conference and the Ohio CASA Celebrate Kids Annual Conference. Federal Department of Human Services funding via Ohio CASA Association assists with cost of the program training of new and current volunteer events and private donations from the community.

CASA/GAL VOLUNTEERS SERVE AS ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

In 2020, a total of 27 individuals served as volunteers, advocating for at least one child alleged to have been abused, neglected or dependent. The volunteers provided over 1919.38 hours of service to the CASA/GAL Program, and traveled over 12,227 miles to obtain information regarding their cases.

All individuals who became CASA/GAL volunteers in 2020 participated in a 33 hour pre-service training facilitated by the program staff, utilizing the National CASA Association curriculum. They also participated in an additional 3 hours of time spent observing the Court process. Judge Woessner administered the oath of office to the individuals who completed pre-service training requirements. Federal Department of Human Service funds received through the Ohio CASA Association assisted with volunteer pre-service training costs. Eight individuals completed the training requirements and took the Oath of Office in 2020.

In 2020, the average volunteer tenure with the program was 8.9 years.

CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED CASA / GAL ADVOCACY

At the beginning of 2020, CASA Volunteers were serving 63 children. In 2020, Judge Woessner appointed a CASA/GAL Volunteer to advocate for the best interest of 34 children. These included cases involving abuse, neglect, dependency, and some children who were found to be dependent through their delinquency cases. CASA/GAL Volunteers closed cases involving a total of 43 children in 2020. As of December 31, 2020, 97 children continued to receive the services of a CASA/GAL volunteer.

Training strengthens advocate skills to benefit children

In 2020, the Ohio CASA/GAL Association conference was cancelled due to COVID. The program director attended the Attorney General's Two Days in May conference virtually.

CASA/GAL volunteers are required to obtain twelve hours of in-service training annually, to include three hours of topics which comply with mandatory GAL training. To assist them in completing these requirements, the CASA/GAL Program provided training opportunities throughout the year. With both the training opportunities offered to CASA/GAL volunteers by the program and those available in the community, volunteers completed a total of approximately 1055.25 hours of training collectively.

Juvenile Court Citizen Review Boards

There are two Citizen Review Boards (CRB), each comprised of five community volunteers appointed by the Juvenile Court Judge for up to three-year terms of service. The CRB meets monthly at the Juvenile Court. Four additional trained individuals serve as alternates and are able to participate on either board as needed. The responsibility of the Citizen Review Board members is to review case plans of children under the protective supervision or in the temporary custody of the Wood County Department of Job and Family Services. In 2020, the CRB members met for approximately 151 hours collectively, reviewing 213 case plans and provided recommendations to the Court regarding the appropriateness of the case plans established to assist abused or neglected children and their families.

Friends of Wood County CASA

The "Friends of Wood County CASA" is a non-profit organization which lends support to the Wood County CASA/GAL Program. Currently there are ten community volunteer members serving on the advisory board. The Board's primary responsibilities are raising public awareness of the Wood County CASA/GAL Program, fund raising, and developing recommendations for program enhancement.

The Friends of CASA\GAL continues to maintain student positions on the board with a one year term of service that may be renewed for an additional yearly term.

The Friends of Wood County CASA members attend various events in the community providing information to those in attendance about the CASA\GAL Program and the need for volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children.

In 2020, the annual Karen Swartz Memorial 5k/Walk for CASA was cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Friends of CASA has partnered in previous years with Dave's Running Shop to hold this event. Community members attend the event to assist in raising awareness about children in the community who have experienced abuse and neglect, and the CASA/GAL Program volunteer services. It is hoped that the event will resume in 2021.

In addition to awareness, Friends of CASA provides support and encouragement to CASA/GAL Volunteers, by providing special appreciation gifts throughout the year to all volunteers for their time and travel, by giving each volunteer with an active case load a gas or gift card and recognition through the "Starfish Award" those volunteers that excel in their role as advocates and in their support of the CASA/GAL Program.

Friends of CASA receives various donations from individuals and organizations in the community. These funds are used to assist with defraying the cost for volunteers to attend community trainings and the annual Ohio CASA Association conference. They also use the funding to assist with public awareness, recruitment and retention activities. In the past, fund raising events were held at Panera, Rapid Fire Pizza and Chipotle. The Kroger's Community Rewards Program and Amazon Smiles Rewards Program continues.

**CASA/GAL Volunteer
Advocates**

Active as of 12/31/2020

Connie Bailey
Patricia Bauer
Lois Bowlus
Denise Brigode
Joy Campbell
Marlene Cervenec
Mike Cervenec
Angie Corogin
Nancy Davis
Jolene Edgar
Don Gerke
Sandy Grolle
Linda Hammersmith
Steve Heckler
Linda Herman
Christian Holler
Tonya Huger
Mary Jacquot
Kim Jones
Rebecca Krukemyer
Austin Lambert
Jane McIntyre
Jessica Mehl
Pam Miller
Kathy Munger
Joyce Osterud
Ann Pantenburg
Pam Reardon
Sheila Schrag
Joan Sherwood
Kara Svendsen
Allison Taylor
Jeanne Titus
Mary Tudor
Jodi Whitacre
Bill Woycitzky

**Friends of CASA Board of
Trustees**

(Current members/Officers as of
December 31, 2020)

Officers:

Elizabeth LeMaster, Pres.
Tasha Adamski, Vice Pres.
Karrie Failor, Secretary
Kimberly Crowl, Treasurer

Committee Members:

Dr. David Gemmill
Dr. Shalini Singh-Coates
Irene Jones
Jonathan Thomas
Matt LeMaster (Student)

**Citizen Review
Boards**

(All active as of 12/31/2020)

Day Committee

Jane Robb (chair)
Mary Krueger
Don Gerke
Pam Krebs
Steve Heckler

Night Committee

Lee Welling (Chair)
Jane Eaton
Ann Hannah-Cizaukas
Claudia Lance
Tonya Huger

Alternates

Kimberly Crowl
Linda Herman
Kathy Munger

WOOD COUNTY

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

The Wood County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) is located in Bowling Green, Ohio, and is part of the Wood County Juvenile Court. It is designed to house 48 juveniles in individual rooms. The facility has indoor and outdoor recreational areas, a meal service program with dining facility, activity area, library, and two classrooms. Although the Detention Center is owned and operated by Wood County, contractual arrangements have been made with surrounding counties in order to assist them with their juvenile detention requirements. The Wood County Juvenile Detention Center complies with Ohio Administrative Rules 5139-37, and participates in regular inspections by the Ohio Department of Youth Services to ensure compliance.

The Detention Center provides both pre-trial and short term commitments for incarceration. Care is provided equally to all, regardless of court status (i.e., accused, adjudicated, delinquent or unruly).

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Detention Center saw an increase in the use of video technology for court hearings. In 2020, the Detention Center facilitated 91 video court hearings for Hancock, Putnam, Paulding, and Wood County Juvenile Courts. Besides being a more secure option for court hearing, video hearings provide outside counties significant savings associated with transporting residents for court hearings. JDC has been providing this service for contracting counties since 2016. It is anticipated this aspect of the operation will continue to grow into the future.

Youth health care services and related medical administrative services are provided through a contractual agreement with Wellpath. The contract allows for physician and nursing services to provide for proper medical care for the residents including health assessments, scheduled sick call, medication distribution and coordination of off-site medical and mental health appointments.

Psychological services are provided by the Children's Resource Center (CRC). CRC staff is granted access to detained youth on a twenty-four hour basis, as are other mental health professionals, to ensure that the complex and sensitive emotional problems some youth experience are properly addressed.

Educational programming is provided by a contractual agreement with the Wood County Educational Service Center, which provides an Educational Coordinator and two special education certified teachers.

The primary goals of the facility are to ensure the safety, security, health and welfare of all detained residents and staff, as well as to represent authority in a

manner worthy of respect and emulation. We recognize that the solutions to many of the long term problems faced by the residents are best addressed by child care professionals within the many support services available to the Court (i.e., Probation Department, Counselors/Therapists, and Children Welfare Services).

STAFFING/TRAINING

The Director of Detention is responsible for planning, directing and coordinating all functions of the Wood County Juvenile Detention Center – including overseeing a staff of 19 full-time employees, and a roster of part-time employees. There are three shifts; first and second shift each are staffed with a Shift Supervisor and three to five Detention Officers, while third shift is staffed with a Shift Supervisor and two Detention Officers.

During the calendar year 2020, Juvenile Detention Center staff completed 1,486 hours of training, an average of 67.5 hours of training per staff member. Detention officers receive training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Bloodborne Pathogen/Hepatitis B, Operational Policy and Procedures of Juvenile Detention, Juvenile Suicide Prevention, Crisis Prevention, Emergency Response, fire safety issues, proper use of fire extinguishers and use of breathing apparatus, defensive tactics and general responses to resistance and aggression, and other basic correctional officer training. This training regimen exceeds the mandatory standards set by the Ohio Department of Youth Services (40 hours per year after the first year of employment), with in-house training offered by JDC Shift Supervisors who are certified PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act), RBT (Rational Behavioral Teaching), Emergency Response and OPOTA Defensive Tactics instructors. Other training is often provided at either no cost, or for a minimal fee, by the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the Bowling Green Fire Department, and the American Heart Association. In addition to detention personnel, staff from both the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio and the Wood County Juvenile Probation Department are invited to attend training sessions.

DETENTION STATISTICS

Wood County detained 139 juveniles for a total of 2,399 days in 2020. Together with the contracted counties in Northwest Ohio, a total of 283 (198 male and 85 female) juveniles were detained for 4,543 days. This activity generated \$157,860 in revenue for Wood County. The average length of stay for a detained youth in 2020 was 11.75 days per stay.

DETENTION PROGRAMMING ELEMENTS

Below, is a summary of a wide variety of programming activities available to residents of the detention center.

RATIONAL BEHAVIOR TEACHING PROGRAM

In 2008, with the help of Dr. David Roush from the National Partnership for Juvenile Services Center for Research and Professional Development, School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University and Juvenile Justice Associates, LLC, Juvenile Detention staff underwent extensive training to learn the Rational Behavior Teaching/Training program (RBT). JDC staff continue to employ this valuable program with all detained youth.

The underlying philosophical components of RBT are based on the fact that we must separate people from their behaviors. RBT focuses on eliminating the bad choices a detained youth makes by reinforcing good behaviors.

The old model of punishing poor behaviors by reducing recreation time (time out of regular programming while in a holding room) has been replaced with much shorter and situation appropriate responses. This keeps detained youth more involved in the facility's programming components. Secondly, a system was added to keep track of daily points each youth may earn in five behavioral areas, as well as by actualization of behavioral oriented goals set for each youth every week. This system allows youth to advance through a level system with increasing privileges. Tangible rewards are distributed through earned coupons and a commissary. For example, youth who earn coupons can redeem them for a number of personal hygiene specialty items, miscellaneous snack foods and puzzle books/sketch pads or journals.

The final component to the RBT program is the use of daily teaching groups facilitated by detention staff with residents of the facility. The groups focus on "core RBT concepts," such as a rational thought model, and specific tools for helping young people determine whether their thoughts are rational vs. irrational and "needs" specific vs. "wants" specific. Youth identify specific irrational thoughts and thought patterns and learn to take time to think, not just act or react. They also learn about "thinking errors" and how to correct them.

The implementation of the RBT program demonstrates Wood County's commitment to providing the best possible learning environment for the youth served by the Juvenile Court and Detention Center, as well as helping to provide a foundation for further rehabilitative services, such as continued probation supervision and counseling.

EDUCATION

The Wood County Educational Service Center provides classroom opportunities for detained youth. The educational program has been sanctioned by the State Department of Education.

The philosophy of the educational program is to emphasize an effective detention-based program that serves the needs of each student through a variety of teaching methods. Each detention resident requires individual attention, thus demanding the best educational services possible. The education program provides detention residents the opportunity to:

- A. Stay current with home school assignments.
- B. Acquire skills for meeting success with the Ohio Proficiency Test.
- C. Experience the challenge of expanding knowledge in academic areas including Language Arts, Math and the Social Sciences.

In addition to the educational curriculum provided by two certified special education teachers, the Wood County Educational Service Center also offers a variety of programming by its Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) staff for detained youth throughout the year. Two separate sessions of a blended program containing curriculum from both the Life Skills program and a new program called Why Try were taught in 2020. Due to the pandemic, these programs were temporarily halted in the spring, but resumed in the fall of 2020 via video technology. The ESC provided lap top computers for the JDC residents and their staff conducted the programs remotely. The programs are delivered two to three days per week, for three hours per day, dependent upon youth population.

The Wood County IT department installed wireless internet services, established firewalls and provided refurbished lap top computers to JDC in 2020. This has provided residents an opportunity to work on home school assignments outside of their JDC education day and to participate in other appointments with service providers.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

The Juvenile Detention Center contracted with the Children's Resource Center (CRC) in 2020 to provide substance abuse-related services. Through its co-occurring disorder licensure, CRC provided both mental health and substance abuse specific services to individual youths. The goal of this initiative is to discover what types of issues each youth was struggling with for the purpose of linking those youth with appropriate aftercare services when they are released.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Juvenile Detention Center works closely with the Children's Resource Center to provide both crisis intervention services and ongoing mental health services for detained youth. Twenty four hour access is given to all mental health professionals to assist youth. As needed, youth are allowed to be transported to mental health appointments outside of the facility.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Non-denominational religious services are provided on a weekly basis by the Wood County Chaplaincy Committee. In addition, families can make arrangements through detention center administration to have their own pastor or minister visit youth. Due to the pandemic, in person services were suspended, however, will resume in the near future. The Chaplaincy Committee donated videos and pamphlets for the residents during this time.

LIBRARY

The center is equipped with a library containing various books and encyclopedias for use by detention residents. All library materials are generously donated by local businesses, area schools, parents and the general public.

VISITATION

The Juvenile Detention Center encourages juveniles to maintain relationships with their parents and/or legal guardians through regular visits. Flexible hours are available to accommodate visitors' working schedules. Each detention resident is afforded the opportunity for ninety minutes of visitation weekly, in thirty minute increments allotted at each of three scheduled visitation times. Due to the pandemic, in house visits were suspended and phone calls and virtual visits were substituted for in-person parent visitation sessions.

RECREATION

The detention facility provides youth with a recreation and leisure time program that includes organized large-muscle (cardiovascular) activity and structured leisure time. A large gymnasium and outside recreation yard are available.

JUVENILE COURT SECURITY

The Wood County Juvenile Court Security Department is staffed by three part time Court Constables who oversee the public entrance, ensuring that no weapons or contraband are introduced into the Juvenile Court complex, provide security in the Courtrooms, and ensure safety and security for the entire court complex.

Court Constables provide appropriate levels of security to address any foreseeable concern or emergency that may arise during the course of business. All visitors entering the Juvenile Court pass through a walk-through magnetometer, with accompanying x-ray machine for viewing of packages and handbags. In 2020, 9,475 visitors entered the Juvenile Court through court security.