

MEDINA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS JUVENILE & PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN • SUMMER 2018

Juvenile Court Ti-180 Program Recognized by State for Excellence in Diversion Programming



Medina County Juvenile Court has been selected for recognition by the Supreme Court of Ohio's Advisory Committee on Children and Families and its Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice for excellence in diversion programming.

Medina County Juvenile Court implemented the Teen Intervention – 180 Program (Ti-180) in November 2015 as an alternative to traditional disposition. The goal of the program is to educate youth and their parents or guardians on early intervention and warning signs for substance abuse, as well as provide skills to increase resiliency. Recently, the Supreme

Court of Ohio's Advisory Committee on Children and Families and its Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice recognized the program as an integral step to help keep youth safely in their homes and communities, and out of the juvenile justice system.

Ti-180, created and implemented by Judge Kevin W. Dunn and Tony Miller, Director of Programming and Grants, helps to identify those youth who could benefit from a substance abuse and/or a behavioral health assessment based on the results of the

screening tools administered prior to the program, as well as urine drug screen results. During the program, youth and at least one parent participate together in a one-time, three-and-a-half hour session facilitated by a licensed clinician from Alternative Paths, Inc. The agenda for the program covers topics ranging from peer pressure, self-identification, risk factors and symptoms of substance abuse, and storage and disposal of medication, among other topics. The program is only eligible to first time offenders who have an alcohol or other drug-related charge. Youth who successfully complete Ti-180 may be eligible to have their case expunged, however, expungement is not a guarantee and it is subject to the eligibility requirements and ultimately at the discretion of the Magistrates and Judge.

“There are factors we have to consider, such as positive drug screens or high risk results from the screening tools where we may find that youth need further services,” Miller said. “In those cases, the youth may be able to participate in additional programming that is more involved, such as Judge Dunn's Juvenile Drug Court, and still be offered eligibility for expungement with that program upon successful completion.”

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Court Closings and Holidays

LABOR DAY

Monday, September 3, 2018

VETERAN'S DAY

Monday, November 12, 2018

CHRISTMAS DAY

Tuesday, December 25, 2018

COLUMBUS DAY

Monday, October 8, 2018

THANKSGIVING DAY

Thursday, November 22, 2018

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MCJDC Superintendent Stollar Earns 2018 Share Cluster Community Prevention Award

Ron Stollar attended the annual Share Cluster breakfast, as he does every year, but this year was different as he was called to the stage to accept the 2018 Share Cluster Community Prevention Award. Stollar was nominated for the award by a fellow Share Cluster member based on his mentoring skills, peer leadership and asset-building abilities; his work in alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention; as well as his work in violence prevention in our community.

“I was very surprised,” Stollar said. “I thought, ‘I don’t like being the center of attention and now I have to go say something in front of all of these people, many of whom I think are more deserving than I am.’ But I am honored and appreciate the nomination and that the committee felt I was deserving of the recognition.”

Stollar has served as Superintendent for the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center (MCJDC) since 2007. His role at the MCJDC, a 30-bed, maximum security temporary holding facility, is to protect the community from juvenile offenders by providing a safe and secure environment. While the MCJDC is not a treatment facility, Stollar says their philosophy is for staff to do all they can to make a positive impact on the youth in hopes of changing their lives for the better.

Tiffany Shelton, LISW-S, LICDC, the Share Cluster member who nominated Stollar for this year’s award, says she did so because of the positive



Ron Stollar, Superintendent for the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center, was surprised as he was awarded the 2018 Community Prevention Award at the annual Share Cluster breakfast.

reinforcement he provides to detained youth.

“The work Ron is doing is giving hope and encouragement to kids that often have not had nearly enough of this,” she wrote in her nomination. “He is impacting the lives of these youth for years to come.”

Stollar has implemented new programs in the facility to help reinforce that positive change in youth. In 2017, he organized the first MCJDC Art Show. The event showcased pieces created by youth during their detainment, raising nearly \$1,050 to continue art therapy in the facility. Art-based programs have been shown to be effective in promoting positive youth development, addressing social skills, interpersonal communication and problem

solving, as well as increasing creativity, critical thinking, and emotional management.

Stollar, along with other MCJDC staff and outside support, also offers residents the opportunity to attend the E4JDC Youth Summit. The E4JDC – Educate, Empower, Engage and Equip – was developed through a collaboration with the MCJDC and United Way of Medina County to teach the youth to utilize their voice and key strengths in a positive manner to reach their full potential. The program provides residents in the facility an opportunity to examine their individual personalities, contemplate future career paths, and learn about the local resources available to them and their families.

“There are two parts to our intention with our programs,” Stollar said. “First, we are exposing the youth to opportunities and outlets they may not have contemplated for themselves before, and secondly, we want to create as positive of an environment as we can in a correctional setting while maintaining safety and security. These are not bad kids. They have made bad decisions but we don’t want those choices to define them and their futures.”

Judge Kevin W. Dunn said he is not surprised that Stollar was nominated and received this year’s Community Prevention Award and agrees that the programs are

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Probate and Juvenile Court to Upgrade Servers Thanks to Technology Grant Money



The Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court will continue to progress and utilize current technology thanks to approval from the Supreme Court of Ohio for \$52,505.60 from the Technology Grant Fund.

These funds support local Ohio courts by providing the financial resources necessary for technology-based improvements. According to the Supreme Court of Ohio, over the past three years, the Court has awarded nearly \$8 million to local courts across Ohio for technology-based projects, aiding in the completion of 288 projects in 78 of Ohio's 88 counties.

Medina County Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Divisions, will use the awarded funds to replace the current server infrastructure, which has not been upgraded since 2011.

"Our virtual environment was adequate at the time to handle the demands in 2011, but it does not meet the requirements for today's standards," said Mike Stiles, Network Administrator. "An upgraded server infrastructure will allow us to utilize the newest data transfer technologies, server software, and data securities that our current system does not."

In short, this upgrade will provide the Court with better security, ease of configurations, and would

allow for an upgrade to the case management system originally created in 1995 and implemented at the court in 2001.

"This upgrade for the server infrastructure will provide the necessary foundation to improve our case management system," Stiles said. "The effects of those improvements will not only be noticed by Court staff through improved daily procedures and a more efficient case flow, it will in turn provide the public with better service, but we need to build a reliable server infrastructure first and replace the aging host servers that are the heartbeat for our daily court functions."

Stiles added that new host servers will eliminate the annual cost for warranties and the burden of searching for replacement parts for an older system which are becoming harder to find.

Judge Dunn said he is eager to upgrade the server infrastructure in order to keep up with current technology.

"Our software is outdated. We have to evolve and continue to improve our systems to handle cases and daily court production appropriately and in a timely fashion," Judge Dunn said. "We are thankful to the Supreme Court for approving our grant application and understanding our need and purpose for these upgrades."

The process to purchase and install the software and equipment will begin immediately with expected completion within the next year.



Remembering Officer Donald L. Schroeder, Jr.

We sadly lost a vital member of our Medina County Juvenile Detention Center family. Officer Don Schroeder worked for the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center from May 2015 until January 2016 when he took a new job working with troubled youth outside Medina County. After several months, Don returned to the detention center when he told Superintendent Ronald Stollar that he missed working in the facility and having an impact on the residents. Sadly, Don passed away on July 5, 2018.

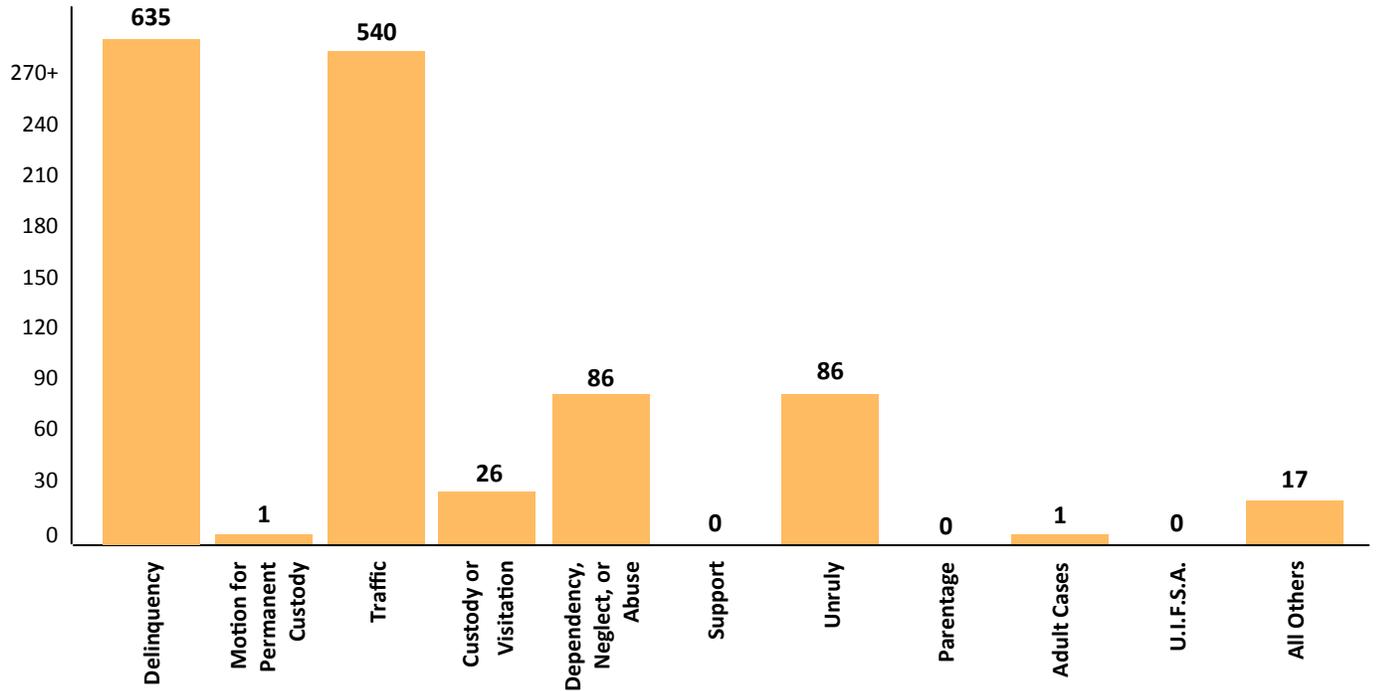
"He was proud to wear the MCJDC uniform and loved his job," Stollar said. "We feel honored to have had the opportunity to know and work alongside him. He is definitely missed."

A tree in Officer Schroeder's memory will be planted on the grounds of the detention center this fall.

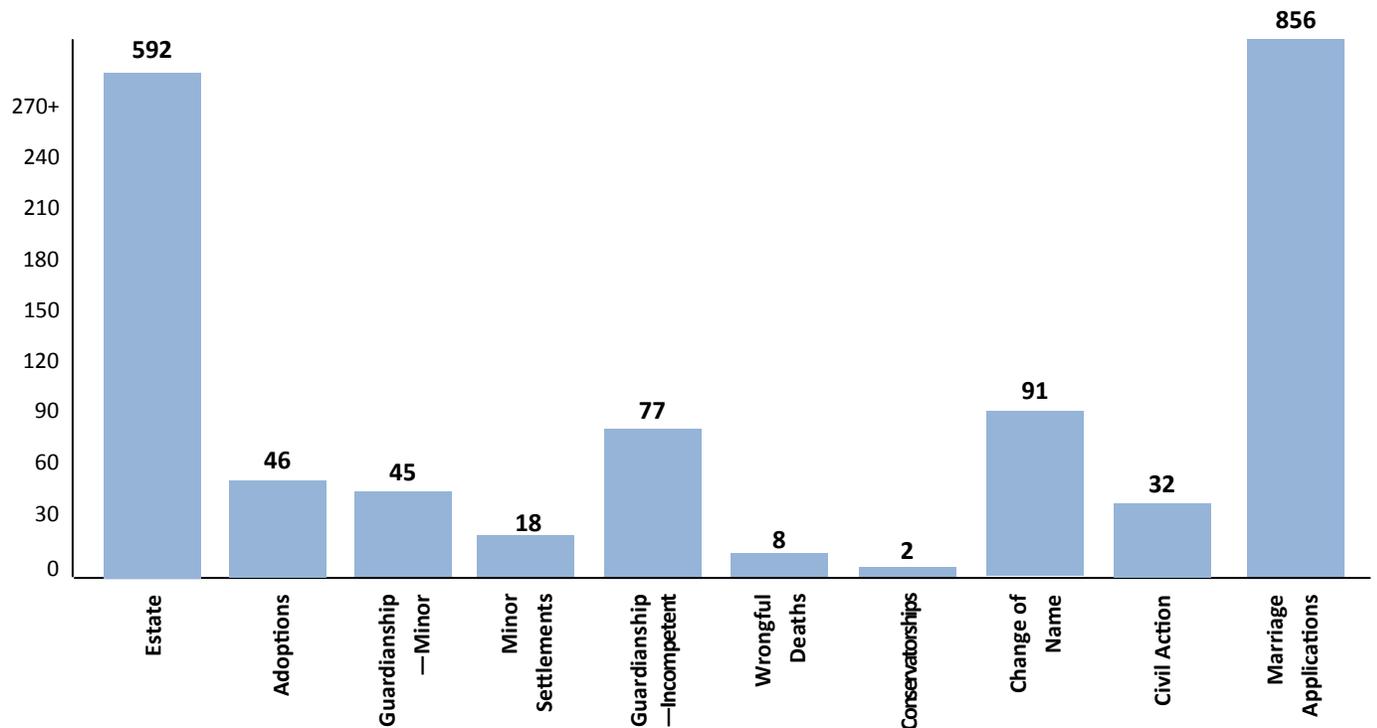
Medina County Court of Common Pleas Annual Report Breakdown

NEW CASES FILED IN 2017

JUVENILE COURT



PROBATE COURT



Juvenile Court 2017 Programming Statistics



Probation Department 142 youth placed on Probation

Probation Officers investigate all aspects of the Juvenile's case and make recommendations to the Court to protect public safety and to achieve permanent improvement in a child's behavior.



Community Service More than 5,228 service hours were completed by youth benefiting local agencies and charities



Juvenile Drug Court 28 successful graduates

The mission of Drug Court is to stop children from using alcohol and drugs. Drug Court is a coordinated effort between counseling and court services. Drug Court includes three Probation Officers and therapeutic interventions.



Parent Project 30 families participated

Parent Project is a program for parents with difficult or out-of-control adolescents. Parents learn and practice strategies for dealing with destructive behaviors such as truancy, alcohol and drug use, gangs and other criminal behavior, running away, violence and suicide.



Family Resource Court 20 families served

Family Resource Court helps reduce the need for court intervention on unruly and truancy cases. Assessments identify individual and family barriers. Through intensive probation supervision, case management and a team approach, the Court improves community safety and helps build healthy families.



Ti-180 72 youth participated

Teen Intervention-180 (Ti-180) is a program for first time offenders who receive an alcohol or other drug related charge. During the 3 1/2 hour course facilitated by a licensed clinician, the youth and at least one parent or guardian are provided education on early intervention for substance abuse and learn to identify the warning signs.



Family Resource Court— Truancy (FRC-T) 7 juveniles admitted to the program with 2 successful completions

The goal of FRC-T is to provide appropriate structure, supervision and educational support through an individual case plan for youth charged with Habitual Truancy in an effort to divert them out of the juvenile justice system.



Teen Court Program 3 participated & successfully completed

Teen Court is an intervention program that offers first-time misdemeanor-offending youth the opportunity to be heard by a jury of their peers. Under the supervision of the Court, local teens serve as attorneys, jury members and bailiffs.

Risk Screening—Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) 287 screenings completed

Risk screening assists the Court in identifying the appropriate sanction, program, or referral for each youth.

Meet the Newest Medina County Volunteer Guardianship Program Board Members



LIN HUMPAL

Lin Humpal grew up in Painesville, Ohio and graduated from Bluffton University. She began her work as a psychiatric social worker at the Cleveland Psychiatric Institute, and later as a geriatric social worker at Willowood Nursing Home before

transitioning to her career at Transitional Living Centers working with developmentally disabled individuals.

Lin has been an active member of the Medina County Volunteer Guardianship Program since 2004. In addition, she serves as a member of Medina Senior Services Network and Client Services Committee, and the Medina County Medical Corp. Lin has also previously served on the board for Medina Creative Housing.



CHRISTY RICKBRODT

Christy has lived and worked in Medina County for 24 years. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Cleveland State University. For much of her career, Christy worked at Alternative Paths providing behavior health services to

Medina County residents. She has also served as Executive Director at Medina Health Ministry, a free medical clinic serving the County. Currently, she works at Medina County Health Department in the Community Health Division as the Health Promotions and Planning Supervisor.

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AUDRA GAWOSKI

Audra Gawoski has worked in the mental health field since 2010 and continues to be passionate about serving the stigmatized population who suffer from mental illness and addiction. After receiving her bachelor degree from Kent State University in

2010, she continued on to graduate with a masters in clinical mental health counseling from The University of Akron in 2017. While completing her masters, Audra participated in the national honor society of counseling, Chi Sigma Iota.

Audra has been working at Alternative Paths since 2012. She started her employment with the agency as a community case manager, working in the community to assist individuals with independent living skills, facilitating group sessions, and working with the Mental Health Court docket to assist individuals with successful completion of requirements of probation. Audra said her experience with Alternative Paths has helped her grow over the years and she now holds a position as a Licensed Professional Counselor for Alternative Paths, providing mental health services to those inside the Medina County Jail. Audra is also a 2018 graduate of the Medina County Emerging Leaders program.



NANCY A. LIKENS

Originally from Copley, Ohio, Nancy attended the University of Akron where she received a Bachelor's degree in Family and Child Development. She spent the early part of her career in the skilled long-term care setting

before being appointed as Director of the Medina County Office for Older Adults in 1988. After twelve years of service with the county, Nancy was named Director of Development for HM Life Opportunity Services, a transitional housing program in Akron, serving there for two years before beginning her current position as Director of the Soprema Senior Center for the City of Wadsworth, where she has served for 15 years.

She is an alumna of the Leadership Medina County Class of 1999 and has served as a board of trustee member for the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, served as past president of the Medina County Family First Council and Medina County Senior Services Network. Nancy currently serves as vice chair of the Cleveland Area Long Term Care Ombudsman Board of Trustees, chair of the Medina County Public Transit Consortium and member of the Medina County Health Center Board of Trustees.

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Moore Accepted into Leadership Signature Program



Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court Administrator Jennifer Moore was accepted into the Leadership Medina County Signature Program class of 2019.

Leadership Medina County's Signature Class is a cross-industry group of established leaders in Medina County. During the class, participants network, explore county

and regional issues and increased leadership skills through civic engagement.

VOLUNTEER GUARDIANSHIP BOARD MEMBERS CONTINUED

RICKBRODT CONTINUED

Christy is involved in the community by serving as Vice-Chair of the Medina County Coalition for Suicide Prevention. She also serves on Medina County Home's Advisory Council as the Mental Health representative and is a 2017 graduate of Leadership Medina County.

LIKENS CONTINUED

She was also named as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging in 1995, received the 2005 Wadsworth Salvation Army Community Partner of the Year award, has served on the Ohio Department of Aging Civic Engagement Council, and received the Wadsworth Senior Advocate Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement award in 2012. Most recently, Nancy was named as the recipient of the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging Excellence in Leadership Award and the 2015 Promising Practices Award from Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging.

Bulldogs Visit MCJDC for a Little "Puppy Therapy"



Two bulldog puppies playing with Juvenile Correction Officer Vasicek July 16.

Medina County Juvenile Detention Center (MCJDC) staff got a special visit July 16 from six English Bulldog puppies for a little therapy and socialization session.

Owner, Shari Baker, currently brings one of her adult English bulldogs, Groot, to the facility to spend time with the residents on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Groot is a certified therapy dog through Therapy Dogs International (TDI). Another TDI certified

therapy dog, Milo—a Poodle and Bichon Frise mix—also visits the facility with his owner, Jackie, on the first and third Sunday of each month, visiting each unit for approximately 15 to 20 minutes. During the visits, three to four residents at a time get to pet and play with the very friendly and active dogs. However, Assistant Superintendent Megan Millikin said she understands that not every resident likes dogs, so they are not forced to interact.

Dog therapy began at the MCJDC in the summer of 2017 after Superintendent Ron Stollar and Millikin visited Warren County Detention Center.

"They had therapy dogs at their art and garden show through Therapy Dogs International so I inquired with one of the owners on how to get started," Millikin said. "Petting an animal can be therapeutic for individuals going through stressful situations and residents in our facility are facing some tough challenges in their life, even outside of these walls. Our goal is to recognize that and not treat our facility simply as a punishment, but utilize some rehabilitative and therapeutic tools to help them cope."

Because the bulldogs can not begin their certification process to become therapy dogs until they are one year of age, only the officers and detention center staff got to socialize with the puppies during the July 16 visit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept.
6

VOLUNTEER GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM
APPRECIATION PICNIC
Bonfire, picnic and outdoor gathering
Location: Medina County Home
Dinner to be served

Sept.
21

MEDINA COUNTY PROBATE
LAW SEMINAR
Location: Medina County District
Library
Time: 9:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Registration Required

Sept.
27

MCJDC ART EXPERIENCE
Location: Medina County Juvenile
Detention Center
Time: 3:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.
Free ice cream provided

Nov.
TBD

ANNUAL BUILD-A-BEAR BUILD
Location: Medina County Juvenile Detention
Center Multi-Purpose Room
Date and time to be determined

JUVENILE COURT Ti-180 RECOGNITION CONTINUED

Programs like Ti-180 have shown to be effective at reducing delinquency and future criminality while promoting prosocial development, according to the Supreme Court of Ohio. 72 participants were referred and successfully completed the Ti-180 program in 2017 in Medina County Juvenile Court.

“This program has been a successful tool for both parents and youth,” Judge Dunn said. “We want to redirect youth on to the correct path, but there is also a component that puts part of the responsibility on the parents. It’s just as important that they understand the dangers and reality of substance abuse with their children and what they can do at home to continue to keep them out of the juvenile justice system.”

The Supreme Court of Ohio used Evidence Based Practice evaluations, Research Based Practice evaluations, and Promising Practice classification to determine which courts would receive recognition for their programs.

“We thank the Supreme Court of Ohio for emphasizing the importance and the hard work put in to create programs like Ti-180 to help divert youth away from the juvenile justice system and on to more productive paths,” Judge Dunn said. “It’s always nice to feel that reinforcement through recognition.”

STOLLAR COMMUNITY PREVENTION AWARD CONTINUED

necessary to reinforce a positive self-awareness for youth.

“Ron works tirelessly to rehabilitate youth in his facility and get them on the right track,” Judge Dunn said. “The programs he and his staff have implemented show the youth their potential, possibilities, and provide a sense of community involvement. This helps the youth realize that they have additional support outside of themselves or

their families for their future.”

Stollar is an active member of the Medina County Suicide Coalition. He has also served on several boards such as the Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Linkage program with Alternative Paths, the Ohio Juvenile Detention Director’s Association, Medina County Red Cross, Medina Creative Housing, and is a past-president of the Ohio Crime Prevention Association.

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