

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

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

DAVID E. WOESSNER, JUDGE

WOOD COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
JUVENILE DIVISION
JUDGE DAVID E. WOESSNER
1032 SOUTH DUNBRIDGE ROAD
BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402
419-352-3554

March 30, 2020

Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D.
Mr. Craig LaHote
Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus
Wood County Board of Commissioners
One Courthouse Square
Bowling Green, OH 43402

Dear Board Members:

In accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code section 2151.18, I am hereby submitting the 2019 Annual Report for the Wood County Juvenile Court.

Descriptions of court activity, staffing and programs offered during 2019 are outlined in the areas of Court Clerical Services, the Probation Department, the Detention Center, and the Court Appointed Special Advocate Department.

Sincerely yours,

Judge David E. Woessner
Wood County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile Division

xc: Paul Dobson, Wood County Prosecutor
Clerk, Ohio Supreme Court

Enclosure

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

Timothy J. Brown
Executive Director

Jessica Sautter
Fiscal Director

Ann D. Gucker Director of 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 of Probation and Intake Services, Program Mgr.
Lora Graves, Co-Director of Probation and Intake Services, Case Mgr.

David Baldonado
Probation Officer

Lisa Zeigler
Probation Officer

Kayla Martin
Probation Officer

Garryt Kujawa
Probation Officer

Jordan Boyer
Probation Officer

Nick Jellison
Probation Officer

Jodi Whitacre
Director of the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program

Joy Campbell
Volunteer Coordinator

Pam Reardon
Volunteer Coordinator

Linda Hammer
Recruitment/Office Coordinator

Richard D. Schmidbauer
Director of Detention Services

Jared Goris
Detention Supervisor

Russell Krotzer
Detention Supervisor

Holly Ramirez
Detention Supervisor

George Rife
Detention Supervisor

Crystal Quinlin
Detention Officer

Josh Knoke
Detention Officer

Richard Hernandez
Detention Officer

Joe Cano
Detention Officer

Alexis Bonner
Detention Officer

Josh Morris
Detention Officer

Jeremy Pultz
Detention Officer

Bethany Davis
Detention Officer

Jon-Paul Maiden
Detention Officer

Rene Williams-Boyd
Detention Officer

Josh Vantrease
Detention Officer

Diamond Young
Detention Officer

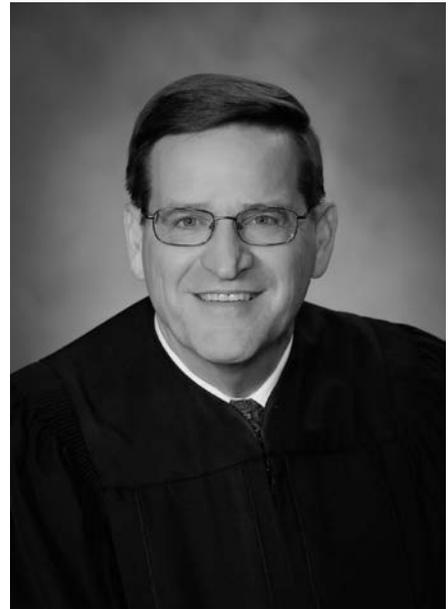
Nate May
Detention Officer

Dalton Clark
Detention Officer

Lydia Tolbert
Behavioral Health Liaison

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.

2019 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 paternity cases for adults and children. The Court may also hear misdemeanor cases involving adults charged with victimizing 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.

Juvenile Court records reflect 2,678 cases were filed in 2019. This is a decrease of 9 cases from 2018. However, the number of abuse, neglect and dependency cases filed with the court in 2019 rose again by 14. This data demonstrates the continuing impact, in part, of substance abuse and mental health issues on children, families and the court.

The Juvenile Detention Center detained 404 youth in 2018. This was an increase of 39 more youth in 2019 than in 2018. This total included 287 males and 117 females.

The court's Probation Department continued to provide more diverse and expansive case management services and programming to address underlying issues in youth and families. Youth on probation performed over 2300 hours of community service work at a variety of non-profit organizations throughout Wood County. This work resulted in payment by the juvenile offenders of more than \$5500 in restitution to victims of crime. The court's Safe and Healthy Sexuality Program and the Intervention and Diversion Program continued to be well received and utilized.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) program continued to provide invaluable volunteer advocacy services for youth in need. Thirty five individuals advocated for 146 allegedly abused or neglected children and provided over 2400 hours of service for youth and families. As of December 31, 2019, 68 children continued to receive the services of a CASA/GAL volunteer in pending matters.

COURT CLERICAL DEPARTMENT

COURT CLERICAL STAFF

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
- Maintaining the court's efilings system and data input
- Processing all legal filings, motions and pleadings
- 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
- Processing and reporting traffic citations
- Serving as a liaison between outside agencies, attorneys, and the court
- Processing court appointed attorney fee applications

Numerous other miscellaneous duties are handled by the court's clerical staff, in addition to the assignments listed above.

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, and the Court Appointed Special Advocate Department.

In 2019, the court had 2,678 cases filed, and disposed of 2,677 cases. A complete breakdown of these cases follows in the chart below.

TYPES OF CASES FILED AND DISPOSED IN 2019												
CASES FILED												
	Delinquent	Traffic	Dep/Neg/Ab	Unruly	Adult	Perm Cust	Chg Cust	Support	Parentage	URESA	All others	Totals
Jan	64	33	47	11	1	0	26	57	4	0	1	244
Feb	37	36	46	4	0	1	24	57	4	0	1	210
Mar	37	44	42	2	2	0	27	38	2	0	0	194
Apr	55	45	42	5	2	0	28	31	0	0	0	208
May	73	52	55	4	4	0	23	28	0	0	1	240
June	54	59	29	5	2	0	23	35	2	0	0	209
July	56	55	49	5	2	3	27	55	2	0	0	254
Aug	41	50	31	6	2	2	25	33	3	0	0	193
Sept	78	51	37	5	1	0	30	43	1	0	0	246
Oct	110	60	48	3	0	1	31	29	5	0	0	287
Nov	57	42	32	1	2	0	22	34	4	0	0	194
Dec	49	43	39	5	0	0	22	41	0	0	0	199
Totals	711	570	497	56	18	7	308	481	27	0	3	2678
CASES DISPOSED												
	Delinquent	Traffic	Dep/Neg/Ab	Unruly	Adult	Perm Cust	Chg Cust	Support	Parentage	URESA	All others	Totals
Jan	53	26	49	10	0	0	27	33	0	0	1	199
Feb	69	34	42	6	1	0	21	53	3	0	2	231
Mar	47	37	39	4	2	1	31	48	1	0	2	212
Apr	53	52	45	6	0	0	31	50	3	0	0	240
May	56	44	51	10	1	0	24	62	4	0	1	253
June	54	55	39	3	2	0	22	26	1	0	5	207
July	54	45	52	2	0	0	30	34	3	0	1	221
Aug	62	57	38	7	2	0	21	25	2	0	1	215
Sept	75	50	42	6	8	0	30	57	2	0	0	270
Oct	64	64	34	3	0	0	28	38	3	0	0	234
Nov	42	47	32	4	1	3	18	29	1	0	0	177
Dec	93	34	45	3	1	2	22	18	0	0	0	218
Totals	722	545	508	64	18	6	305	473	23	0	13	2677

Alternatives to Adjudication and Habitual Truants

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code sections 2151.354(C) and 2151.27, 11 youth were charged as habitual truants in 2019; 5 of those were adjudicated in 2019; and 2 were placed in an alternative to adjudication in 2019.

COURT PROBATION DEPARTMENT

During 2019, the Juvenile Court Probation Department continued to provide services to the children and families of Wood County. A sample of the work supervised or completed by the court's Probation Department included, but was not limited to:

- Over 2,480 hours of community service work were completed by juveniles at over 100 sites. Work included landscaping area churches; preparing area high school and city/township baseball, softball and soccer fields for the season; and assisting with set-up and clean-up at area festivals. Crews cleaned up high school football stadiums after games, sorted clothes at a deacon shop, and cleaned at the Wood County Humane Society on a regular basis. The crew also spent many hours sorting recyclables and cleaning at the Bowling Green Recycling Center. Additionally, crews collected litter along over 100 additional miles of Wood County roadways.
- Over \$4,800 in restitution to victims of crimes committed by juvenile offenders in Wood County was monitored and paid.
- Twenty two youth completed the Juvenile Court's Theft Offenders Program. The Theft Offenders Program has served 2,165 youth since its inception in 1989.
- The Probation Department continued to run the Safe and Healthy Sexuality program and successfully graduated twenty six youth during 2019.
- The Intervention and Diversion program served sixty nine families in 2019.
- The Probation Department continued to use the Ohio Youth Assessment System to determine the risk and needs of court involved youth.
- Planted and maintained a community garden outside the Juvenile Court Center and donated produce to food pantries.
- Successfully secured grant funding and federal reimbursement for

multiple projects implemented in 2019.

- Received Title IV-E funds which assist with sustaining the court's placement budget.

The Probation Department performs a variety of responsibilities within the Juvenile Court. Eight 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 Court Probation Department.

During 2019, 204 juveniles and adults were supervised through the Juvenile Court 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 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 the 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 2019, the Probation Department completed 52 Intake Reports. An additional 16 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.

The Probation Department staff is frequently invited to speak at functions to present information about the Court. Parent support groups and civic organizations invited Probation Officers to address their meetings in order to learn about the juvenile justice system. The Probation Department staff spoke to area high school classes and also to an introductory criminal justice class and an introductory social work class at Bowling Green State University. Members of the department spoke to the Court Appointed Special Advocates and Guardians Ad Litem. The Probation Department actively participated on numerous boards and committees in Prevention Coalition, the Supreme Court and Title IV-E Roundtables, and the County Newsletter Committee.

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 428.50 hours of training during 2019.

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. Additionally, weekday crews are often held during the summer months.

From September through May, funding for the crew supervisors is secured through an Ohio Department of Youth Services grant. Youth perform a variety of duties for non-profit organizations, including: litter collection, yard work, painting, light maintenance, and car washing. In addition to the Probation Department's Program, youth are able to perform community service at various locations throughout Wood County. During 2019, 110 youth performed 2,480.50 hours at over 100 different sites and organizations in Wood County.

Once again this year the Juvenile Court planted a community garden as a service learning project. After preparing the garden area for planting, staff received donations of tomatoes, peppers, squash, zucchini, and eggplant 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 involved Wood County youth. This year tomatoes, a variety of banana peppers and mini bell peppers, zucchini and squash were harvested and donated to area food banks.

Other noteworthy community service work projects completed during 2019 included: sorting recyclable materials and cleaning the open area of the Bowling Green Recycling Center, assisting with set up and cleanup of area festivals; assisting in cleaning up of school athletic facilities after games; working at the Wood County Humane Society; spending a number of hours moving and preparing St. Wendelin for a community sale; sorting and hanging clothing at St. Timothy's for the Clothesline project; washing and waxing countless agency vehicles and completing yard work at the Juvenile Court Center.

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 2019, \$4,846.99 in restitution was returned to victims of juvenile crime. This included \$2,911.93 paid directly by the youth, and an additional \$1,935.06 "worked off" by youth, reimbursing victims for their losses.

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. 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 urine sample clear from the presence of drugs of abuse.

In the year 2019, 741 drug tests were administered to youth on probation in Wood County. Of this total, 88 of the samples tested positive for drugs of abuse. Other drug tests were administered at the request of Wood County Children's Services, the Wood County Alternative School, Putnam County Juvenile Court and Hancock County Juvenile Court (for youth detained in the Detention Center), parents of non-probation youth, and by the court ordering adults (custody, abuse, neglect, and dependency cases) to submit to testing. A total of 79 drug tests were taken from youth and adults not on probation. Of this total, 34 of the samples tested positive for drugs of abuse. Drug testing generated revenue of \$1,835.00

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. Topics discussed are peer pressure, victim awareness, victim empathy, and decision-making. The class is a positive approach to teaching the youth to make better choices in the future.

In 2019, 22 youth completed the Theft Offender Program. Since 1989, 2,165 youth have been served by this program.

GUN SAFETY and AWARENESS PROGRAM

The Juvenile Probation Department provides a Gun Safety and Awareness course for juvenile offenders. A parent is required to attend with their child. This one-day class is designed for juveniles charged with minor weapon-related offenses, such as misuse of a paintball gun or a BB gun.

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 detention 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. A total of 23 youth were monitored for a total of 1,150 days during the year.

SAFE AND HEALTHY SEXUALITY:

Safe and Healthy Sexuality is an educational program designed for youth in middle school or older. This is 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 put together 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.

During 2019, twenty - six youth successfully completed this program.

INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION:

Intervention and Diversion is a program designed to intervene when a youth's behavior, functioning or attendance in school is impacting performance and success. Youth/families referred to this program will submit to a CANS strengths and needs assessment conducted by the court's Behavioral Health Liaison. This assessment will be used to assist the family to develop a plan for change. A case manager will be assigned to the youth/family and the case manager will be responsible for making sure the youth/family has access to recommended services and supports. The case manager will guide the youth/family and will monitor 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 your 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 was developed in July 2018 and had thirteen referrals at the end of the calendar year. During 2019, the Intervention and Diversion program served sixty- nine families.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES:

401 Reclaim/510 Subsidies

401 Reclaim

Effective 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 give Juvenile Courts the financial resources 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 2019, RECLAIM OHIO funds were used to pay for the purchase of services and for 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 the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio.

510 Subsidy

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

In 2019, the Juvenile Court 510 subsidy was used for staff salaries and benefits, supplies, purchasing community based services, and other related expenses.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES:

Commitments/Alternatives

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, by 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, detention time, placement at the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio; or placement at other community based residential or outpatient treatment facilities.

Four youth were committed to Ohio Department of Youth Services in 2019. Three youth remained in placement from last year.

JUVENILE RESIDENTIAL CENTER OF NORTHWEST OHIO/ YOUTH TREATMENT CENTER

In July of 1994, the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio opened. Located adjacent to the Juvenile Court Center, this multi-county facility provides secure treatment for male felony level offenders. This alternative to commitment to the Department of Youth Services allows the courts to serve the youth locally, with a strong family component.

In 2019, six Wood County male youth were committed to the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio. In 2019, six additional youth continued to be served by the Juvenile Residential Center from a prior year's placement.

TITLE IV-E

In June of 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. In 2019, one youth was served in an out-of-home placement through the Title IV-E program.

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 and neglected children whose cases are being heard in the Wood County Juvenile Court. CASA/GAL volunteers serve as guardians ad litem for the child. They gather information about all aspects of the child's life. Based on the facts gathered, they submit written reports to the Court; which includes 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 the case is closed by the court.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Statute 2151.281(G), the Juvenile Court appoints a guardian ad litem (GAL) for each child alleged or adjudicated as abused or neglected as soon as possible after the complaint is filed. Further, 2151.281(J) (1) indicates that the court shall appoint a qualified

volunteer whenever one is available and the appointment is appropriate. The CASA/GAL Program has successfully provided this needed service to Wood County children since 1988. The CASA/GAL Program complies with Rule 48 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio which guides GAL practice.

Program Provides Needed Supports to Volunteers

The CASA/GAL Program is staffed by a full time Director, two full time Volunteer Coordinators and a part time Recruitment/Office Coordinator. The Director supervises the program staff, whose positions are funded primarily through a 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.

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 the 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 CASA Program receives financial support through the Wood County Juvenile Court/Commissioners general fund for much of the administrative needs of the program. Victim of Crime Act Grant (VOCA) funds assist with costs primarily related to support staff salaries. A 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 the Ohio CASA Association assists with the cost of program training for new and current volunteer events. Private donations from the community also support the CASA program.

CASA/GAL Volunteers Serve as Advocates for Children

In 2019, a total of 35 individuals served as volunteers, advocating for at least one child alleged to have been abused, neglected or dependent. The volunteers provided over 2486 hours of service to the CASA/GAL Program, traveled over 20284 miles to obtain information regarding their cases, and attended approximately 300 court hearings.

All individuals who became CASA/GAL volunteers in 2019 participated in a 40 hour pre-service training facilitated by the program staff, utilizing the National CASA Association curriculum. They also participated in an additional 5 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. Six individuals completed the training requirements and took the Oath of Office in 2019.

In April, the CASA/GAL Program held its annual volunteer recognition banquet. The Citizen's Review Board, the Friends of CASA Board and CASA/GAL volunteers were recognized at the event for their commitment and years of service.

In 2019, the average volunteer tenure with the program was 6.7 years.

Children Who Received CASA/GAL Advocacy

In 2019, Judge Woessner appointed a CASA/GAL Volunteer to advocate for the best interest of 146 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 66 children in 2019 with an additional 68 children being appointed a CASA/GAL. As of December 31, 2019, 146 children continued to receive the services of a CASA/GAL volunteer.

Training strengthens advocate skills to benefit children

In 2019, the Program Director and Program Staff attended the annual Ohio CASA/GAL (OCASA/GAL) Association conference along with CASA/GAL volunteers. Some of the volunteer's cost to fund attendance at this conference were paid by the Friends of CASA. A volunteer coordinator also attended the Attorney General's Two Days in May conference.

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 614 hours of training collectively.

Juvenile Court Citizen Review Boards

The two Citizen Review Boards (CRB), are 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 are alternates and are able to serve on either board as needed. The responsibility of 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 2019, the CRB members met for approximately 46.5 hours, reviewing 207 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 was renewed for an additional yearly terms.

The Friends of Wood County CASA members attended 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 2019, the annual Karen Swartz Memorial 5k/Walk for CASA was held in October in downtown Rossford, Ohio. Friends of CASA partnered with Dave’s Running Shop to hold this event. Approximately 100 community members attended 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. Family and friends of Karen Swartz were present as well as those who remember having been taught by Ms. Swartz at Rossford schools many years back.

In addition to awareness, Friends of CASA provides support and encouragement to CASA/GAL Volunteers. They provided 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 recognize through the “Starfish Award” those volunteers that excel in their role of advocates and in their support of the CASA/GAL Program.

Friends of CASA received various donations from individuals and organizations in the community. These funds will be used to assist with defraying the cost for volunteers to attend community trainings and the annual Ohio CASA Association conference. They will also use the funding to assist with public awareness, recruitment and retention activities. Fund Raising events were held at Panera, Rapid Fire Pizza and Chipotle, Kroger’s Community Rewards Program and Amazon Smiles Rewards Program.

Reaching out to the Community

In order to recruit volunteers, increase public awareness and receive support from community organizations, the Program Director, volunteers, and Friends of CASA Board members attended various community events to share information about the CASA Program and raise awareness about the needs of abused and neglected children. In addition to the event activities of Friends of CASA, the Program Director spoke with organizations in the community about the Program.

The CASA Program ran advertisements and news articles in the local papers to aid in volunteer recruitment efforts and to increase awareness about the services provided by the CASA/GAL Program. Due to a generous donation received the program was able to increase the number of billboard advertising throughout the county and place ads in ValPak.

The CASA Program continues its efforts to increase volunteer recruitment from all parts of the county, including rural and suburban communities, in order to best meet the diverse needs of the children served.

The CASA Program maintains a website, www.woodcountyCASA.org that lists volunteer opportunities, Friends of CASA information and special program information. The program lists volunteer opportunities on Volunteer Match and receive referrals for volunteering through the National CASA Association and Ohio CASA websites. Phone calls are also accepted to give more information about the volunteer opportunities available.

Additional Community Support through Donations

As a result of awareness and outreach activities, a number of individuals and organizations have made various donations to the program which includes monetary donations for program use and holiday gifts and food baskets to benefit some of the families served by the CASA Program. Various types of donations and supports were received from groups and individuals.

2019 CASA DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERS

<u>CASA/GAL Volunteer Advocates</u>	<u>Friends of CASA Board of Trustees</u>	<u>Citizen Review Boards</u>
<p><u>Active as of 12/31/2019</u></p> <p>Connie Bailey Patricia Bauer Denise Brigode Marlene Cervenec Mike Cervenec Angie Corogin Nancy Davis Gary DeLong Carol Fox Don Gerke Sandy Grolle Linda Hammersmith Steve Heckler Linda Herman Tonya Huger Mary Jacquot Kim Jones Rebecca Krukemyer Austin Lambert Jane McIntyre Jessica Mehl Pam Miller Kathy Munger Holly Myers Joyce Osterud Missy Rothweiler Joan Sherwood Jeanne Titus Mary Tudor Lee Welling Jodi Whitacre Tresa Witker Bill Woycitzky</p>	<p>(Current members/Officers as of December 31, 2019)</p> <p><u>Officers:</u> Elizabeth LeMaster, Pres. Tasha Adamski, Vice Pres. Karrie Failor, Secretary David Gemmill, Treasurer</p> <p><u>Committee Members:</u> Steve Sherwood Shalini Singh-Coates, MD Don Helvey Kimberly Crowl Jonathan Thomas Irene Jones</p> <p>Matt LeMaster (Student)</p>	<p>(All active as of 12/31/2019)</p> <p><u>Day Committee</u> Mary Krueger (Chair) Don Gerke Harriet Hall Pam Krebs Jane Robb</p> <p><u>Night Committee</u> Lee Welling (Chair) Jane Eaton Ann Hannah-Cizauskas Claudia Lance Jan Lindemulder</p> <p><u>Alternates</u> Eldon Snyder Kimberly Crowl Ann Cizauskas Linda Herman Steve Heckler</p>

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.

In 2019, the Detention Center facilitated 60 video court hearings. This service allows counties that contract with Wood County for their juvenile detention requirements to save a significant amount of tax dollars by conserving costs associated with fewer transports (vehicle costs ranging from fuel to wear and tear, cost of deputies personally escorting kids to and from court, etc.). This service has been provided for the contracting counties since 2016.

Necessary medical services are provided through a contractual agreement with Wellpath. Psychological services are obtained from the Children's Resource Center. The Children's Resource Center 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, and includes an Educational Coordinator and two special education certified teachers.

The Wood County Juvenile 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).

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's Services).

STAFFING/TRAINING

The Director of Detention is responsible for planning, directing and coordinating all functions of the Wood County Juvenile Detention Center. The JDC operates with a staff of 19 full-time employees and a roster of part-time employees generally ranging between 2 and 5 employees. There are three shifts; first and second shift each are predominantly staffed with a Shift Supervisor and three or five Detention Officers, while third shift is primarily staffed with a Shift Supervisor and two Detention Officers.

During the calendar year 2019, the Wood County Juvenile Detention Center staff completed 1,523 hours of training, an average of just over 69 hours of training per Detention Center staff person. 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 much 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 230 juveniles for a total of 3,442 days in 2019. Together with the contracted counties in Northwest Ohio, a total of 404 (287 male and 117 female) juveniles were detained for 5,739 days. This activity generated \$205,130 in revenue for Wood County. The average length of stay for a detained youth in 2019 was 16.20 days per stay.

PROGRAMMING ELEMENTS OF DETENTION

The Detention residents have a wide variety of programming activities available to them.

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, the 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). Wood County Juvenile Detention Center 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 cash them in 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 those "thinking errors."

The implementation of the RBT program demonstrates Wood County's deep level of commitment to providing the best possible learning environment for the youths 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 education 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 youths during the summer months when school is not in session. 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 2019, one each in June and July. Another program offered by the ATOD specialists from the Educational Service Center was a psycho-educational drug and alcohol awareness workshop called *Insight*. *Insight* is a substance abuse program that focuses on detained youths suspected or reported to be using illegal substances, but who have never been in any type of treatment. This is a very effective initial introduction to substance abuse treatment for those who may need it, and an excellent educational experience for those who do not.

Each of the above mentioned programs also ran in cycles of time in 2019 during the months school was in session. The programs ran between two and three hours per day, two or three days per week, depending on the specific curriculum being taught and the number of residents attending each class.

In the fall of 2019, the Detention Center made wireless internet services available for residents of the facility as an additional effort for them to stay current with their home school work. Out-of-service laptops were made available to us by the Wood County I.T. Department and firewalls were established to help insure this privilege would not be abused. This has become a popular option for the residents of the facility who wish to stay current with their home school studies.

Also in 2019, the Detention Center began working with supervised Bowling Green State University Education students to provide one to one Reading Mentor services to detained youth struggling with their reading levels.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

The Juvenile Detention Center contracted with the Children's Resource Center (CRC) in 2019 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 was to discover what types of issues each youth was struggling with for the purpose of linking those youths with the appropriate aftercare services when they are released back into their communities.

The Juvenile Detention Center also contracted with the Wood County Educational Service Center to provide a substance abuse prevention program to all residents, taught via a combination of two evidence-based programs. Subject matter from both the Life Skills curriculum and a new program called Why Try were combined to enhance the substance abuse educational needs of detention center residents. The Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) staff from the Educational Service Center provide 6 hours of this service per week to residents. Each session begins with a pre-test and ends with a post-test and survey. This allows the Educational Service Center to carefully and accurately track the progress and effects of this very important prevention program with our residents.

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

Every Sunday afternoon detention residents have an opportunity to attend a scheduled religious service conducted by the Wood County Chaplaincy Committee, which represents various faiths and churches in the community.

LIBRARY

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

VISITATION

The detention facility encourages juveniles to maintain ties 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.

RECREATION

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

Wood County Juvenile Court Behavioral Health Liaison

Wood County Juvenile Court utilizes the expertise of the Behavioral Health Liaison (BHL) to address behavioral and/or mental health concerns, linkage to community resources, recommendations for services, and conducts intake and assessments for the Intervention and Diversion Program. The BHL meets with children and their families to address needs and advocate as necessary. The Detention and Probation officers are encouraged to consult with the BHL for questions regarding detained youth, ongoing supports and services, community resources, behavioral and/or mental health recommendations, advocacy, and de-escalation.

In 2019, the BHL conducted Trauma training for Detention Officers as well as the Detention Center and Residential Center teachers; helped to de-escalate incidents with youth who were detained or in a Probation office; investigated risks of Human Trafficking for a detained youth; provided recommendations for youth in crisis or who need additional support; provided linkage to community resources for families in need; and offered assistance to families with finding mental health providers in the area.

