

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

**2023 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

Hannah Vollmar  
Director, Clerical Services

Keri Niceley  
Deputy Clerk

Robin Roe  
Deputy Clerk

Cynthia Chapman  
Deputy Clerk

Anna Schaublin  
Deputy Clerk

Brittany Reynolds  
Deputy Clerk

MacKenzie Hinline  
Deputy Clerk

Ronda Downard, Director, Probation and Intake Services  
Lora Graves, Director, Intervention and Diversion Services

David Baldonado  
Probation Officer

Lisa Zeigler  
Intervention & Diversion Officer

Kilee Grunberg  
Probation Officer

Anthony Paulus  
Probation Officer

Kristen Leverton  
Director, Court Appointed Special Advocate Program

Elizabeth Welty  
Volunteer Coordinator

Natalie Reichert  
Volunteer Coordinator

Richard D. Schmidbauer  
Director, Detention Services

Jared Goris  
Asst. Director, Detention Services

Holly Ramirez  
Detention Supervisor

Russell Krotzer  
Detention Supervisor

George Rife  
Detention Supervisor

Crystal Quinlin  
Detention Officer

Josh Knoke  
Detention Officer

Josh Morris  
Detention Officer

Nate May  
Detention Officer

Michael Maier  
Detention Officer

Scott Spiess  
Detention Officer

Kurt Smith  
Detention Officer

Harley Schultz  
Detention Officer

D'Marco Smith  
Detention Officer

Taylor Kaminski  
Detention Officer

Emma Lau  
Detention Officer

Yarin Mercer  
Detention Officer

Court Security

Mike Christen  
Court Constable

John Dauer  
Court Constable

Guy Pinson  
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.

## **Wood County Juvenile Court** **2023 Summary**

The Juvenile Court hears cases concerning traffic offenses, delinquency, unruliness, neglect, abuse, dependency, 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 Court's jurisdiction is outlined in, but not limited to, Section 2151.23 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Wood County Juvenile Court is located at 1032 South Dunbridge Road in Bowling Green, Ohio. The court facility includes the judge's chambers and courtroom, the magistrate's courtroom, the offices of the clerical and probation departments, the offices of the Wood County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, the court security department, and the Wood County Juvenile Detention Center. The Juvenile Court is adjacent to the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio, a Community Correction Facility.

In 2023, there were a total of 2,565 cases filed with the court. This is a 4.6% decrease in the number of cases filed in 2022, which totaled 2689. The court disposed of 2,580 cases in 2023, a 5.7% decrease from 2738 in 2022.

The Wood County Juvenile Detention Center detained 403 youth (261 males and 142 females) in 2023, as compared to 438 in 2022. Of that total, 218 Wood County youth were detained for a total of 2,367 days. The average length of stay for all detained youth in 2023 was 14.14 days per stay.

The court's Intervention, Diversion and Probation Services Department remained active in 2023. Applying a variety of programming and resources, probation officers supervised 233 youth and adults in 2023. The court's Intervention and Diversion program provided services to 57 youth and families. The Wood County Educational Service Center's Community Based Diversion Services program, a collaboration with the Juvenile Court, provided services to divert 240 youth from formal court involvement.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) program continued to provide invaluable volunteer advocacy services for youth in need. 33 individuals advocated for 106 alleged abused, neglected, or dependent children.

The court collected \$153,728.76 in court costs and fees in 2023. This is a substantial increase from the amount collected in 2022, which totaled \$100,523.12.

## **COURT CLERICAL DEPARTMENT**

The Clerical Department includes six full-time deputy clerks and the department director.

The clerk's office is responsible for various duties, some of which include:

- Serving as a bailiff for the judge and magistrate
- Scheduling / managing the court's docket
- Processing Judgment Entries, Magistrate's Decisions and Orders
- Processing all legal filings, motions, and pleadings
- Managing the court's eFiling queue
- Case receipting which involves costs, fines, probation fees, restitution, filing fees, and deposits
- Initiating and processing all new complaints
- Issuing court summons and notices
- Preparing weekly, monthly, and yearly reports
- Entering data into the court's case management system
- Processing traffic citations and monitoring the eCitation queue
- Working with attorneys and outside agencies



## TYPES OF CASES FILED AND DISPOSED IN 2023

### CASES FILED

	Delinquent	Traffic	Dep/Neg/Ab	Unruly	Adult	Perm Cust	Chg Cust	Support	Parentage	URESA	Others	Totals
Jan	72	49	54	8	6	1	18	46	12	0	1	267
Feb	66	30	26	15	22	0	8	44	12	0	1	224
Mar	66	51	34	9	5	0	18	46	15	0	2	246
Apr	58	30	35	7	7	2	18	35	17	0	3	212
May	69	33	38	11	7	0	22	35	7	0	1	223
June	53	32	21	6	1	0	22	35	15	0	0	185
July	58	30	33	4	3	0	34	34	13	0	0	209
Aug	65	28	32	6	0	0	28	45	17	0	0	221
Sept	32	43	18	5	1	0	20	41	24	0	1	185
Oct	53	46	31	1	1	2	28	53	11	0	4	230
Nov	75	26	25	16	2	0	21	25	12	0	1	203
Dec	31	29	17	7	0	2	21	38	13	0	2	160
Totals	698	427	364	95	55	7	258	477	168	0	16	2565

### CASES DISPOSED

	Delinquent	Traffic	Dep/Neg/Ab	Unruly	Adult	Perm Cust	Chg Cust	Support	Parentage	URESA	Others	Totals
Jan	59	21	58	10	2	3	11	33	8	0	0	205
Feb	77	41	29	6	6	1	17	39	14	0	0	230
Mar	68	41	26	11	9	1	28	45	9	0	0	238
Apr	48	47	42	2	3	0	15	38	16	0	1	212
May	80	28	33	14	10	0	19	43	7	0	1	235
June	59	31	27	14	11	0	21	32	13	0	2	210
July	75	40	42	11	5	1	15	35	12	0	2	238
Aug	57	26	27	2	3	0	31	43	16	0	0	205
Sept	56	34	30	6	5	0	27	36	20	0	2	216
Oct	71	48	35	6	4	1	27	37	13	0	1	243
Nov	38	38	18	7	5	0	34	48	20	0	3	211
Dec	36	22	18	7	0	0	11	26	15	0	2	137
Totals	724	417	385	96	63	7	256	455	163	0	14	2580

## **ALTERNATIVES TO ADJUDICATION REGARDING HABITUAL TRUANTS**

21 habitual truancy cases were filed in 2023. 15 of those cases were diverted from formal adjudication and placed in alternative programs pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.27(G). Four youth were adjudicated unruly and placed on probation with the court, and two cases were dismissed by the State of Ohio without any additional diversion.

## **INTERVENTION, DIVERSION AND PROBATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

The Court's Intervention, Diversion and Probation Services 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. Most probationers are under the age of 18. However, adults charged with misdemeanor offenses involving child victims can be prosecuted through the Juvenile Court and supervised through the Juvenile Court Probation Department.

Noteworthy achievements by the probation department in 2023 included:

- 233 juveniles and adults were supervised through the Juvenile Court Probation Department.
- Over 1,900 hours of community service work were completed by juveniles at a variety of sites. Juveniles completed community service hours at the Juvenile Court complex, area churches, schools, and food banks, to name a few.
- 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, including the Brown Bag Project and the Cocoon Shelter.
- Victims of crime received \$9,914.59 in restitution through court programs. The restitution was paid either directly by juvenile offenders or through the

completion of community service hours by the offender, allowing the money 'earned' by the community service work to be paid through a grant from the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

- The Juvenile Court continued a partnership with 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium Classrooms, which offers online educational options to court involved youth. The online courses are designed for youth involved in incidents arising from theft, conflict, alcohol use, marijuana use, and vaping, to name a few. During 2023, 104 youth completed various courses offered by 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium.
- 11 youth completed the court's innovative Safe and Healthy Sexuality Program.
- 57 families were served by the Intervention and Diversion program.
- 240 families were served by the Community Based Diversion program.

In 2023, the Probation Department completed 54 Intake Reports. These Pre-Dispositional Intake Reports include a personal assessment of a youth's social history and includes recommendations tailored to meet the individual's needs and situation. To assist with recommendations, the department utilizes the Ohio Youth Assessment System as a key component of the intake process. Five reports were completed with juveniles no longer on probation and adults requesting their records be sealed or expunged. Two bindover reports were completed.

Probation staff are required to complete ongoing training to enhance job performance and remain knowledgeable of best practices for working with youth and families. In 2023 the department completed a combined 253.5 hours of training.

## **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

### **Community Service Work & Restitution Programs**

Community service and restitution to victims of juvenile crime continue to be priorities of the court. The Probation Department facilitates a community service program on Saturdays from March through 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 can perform community service at various locations throughout Wood County.

In 2023, 113 youth performed 1,939 hours at over 30 different sites and organizations in Wood County.

Once again, the Community Service Crew planted a community garden as a service-learning project. The garden was planted utilizing vegetable donations from David Gable and Riley Sharninghouse of Bonnie's Plants. The court also received beautiful flowers to line the garden from Bonnie's Plants. Working in the community garden provides an outstanding learning experience for many youth. In 2023, 1,201 tomatoes, 702 banana, jalapeno and bell peppers, 18 zucchini, 78 squash, 38 eggplant, 114 cucumbers, 63 yellow onions, and 12 watermelons were harvested and donated. Youth who worked were also permitted to take home a bag of produce.

The youth also learned about landscaping while working on the community service crew. Zach Edwards from Black Diamond donated perennials for the youth to plant at the entrance of the 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 2023, \$9,914.59 in restitution was returned to victims of juvenile crime.

### **Substance Abuse Testing**

Many youth involved with the Juvenile Court use or abuse drugs, therefore, probationers are routinely required to submit to random drug testing. Forensic Fluids laboratories provide drug testing kits which can be used in a safer, more socially distant fashion, and provide screening and automatic verification of any positive test result. The lab tests for a total of twelve substances and can test for additional, specific substances with a special request. Prior to being discharged successfully from level two probation, a youth must produce a screen free from the presence of drugs of abuse.

In In 2023, 477 drug tests were administered to youth on probation. Of this total, 79 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 34 drug tests were taken from youth not on probation. Of this total, 18 tested positive for drugs of abuse. Drug testing generated revenue of \$804.00.

### **Electronic Surveillance**

The Juvenile Court uses a portion of its Department of Youth Services (DYS) grant allocation to pay for youth under electronic surveillance. On a case-by-case basis, the Juvenile Court may utilize electronic surveillance in lieu of incarceration. Electronic surveillance allows the youth to attend school,

counseling services, and other pre-approved activities while being monitored. Additionally, electronic surveillance is less costly than incarceration and allows the youth to remain in a less restrictive environment with his or her family.

In 2023, 30 youth were monitored for a total of 1,458 days during the year.

### **Safe and Health Sexuality Program**

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

Youth meet at the court center to attend three, four-hour sessions. The class is very interactive with youth participating in a variety of activities and interacting with probation staff. In 2023, eight youth were served in the classroom setting. Three additional youth were served individually.

### **Social Skills**

The Probation Department began a Social Skills program in 2022. The purpose of the Social Skills program is to provide young people with education and exposure to appropriate and healthy pro-social skills. The program involves classroom style education which is reinforced by group discussion, interactive games, activities, and videos to support the skills learned in each session. Probation staff cover a variety of topics with the youth. The youth learn about recognizing risk, leadership, responding to anger, active listening, goal setting and time management to name a few. Twenty-four youth were served in the program during 2023.

### **INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION**

Community Based Diversion Services is a collaboration between the Wood County Juvenile Court and the Wood County Educational Service Center (WCESC), which serves as the centralized hub for community-based diversion services. The program is an alternative to formal court filing for youth whose school attendance and/or school/community behavior are impacting functioning. School aged youth who are identified as having behavioral, mental health, social or family issues that negatively impact school functioning/attendance or home/community functioning are referred to the program by school administrators, parents, the Wood County Prosecutor's Office, or other community agencies. WCESC staff conduct screenings and assessments to determine appropriate services, supports and resources for the youth and family to help prevent formal court involvement. WCESC staff coordinate services and provide supportive follow-up.

Higher risk youth may be recommended for the Court's Intervention and Diversion program. Youth/families who engage in the program and participate in recommended services are considered for successful release. Youth/families will be involved with the program for one to four months, however, some youth/families may be involved with the program longer, as needed.

Two-hundred-forty (240) youth/families were served by Community Based Diversion Services during 2023. Fifty-seven (57) youth/families were served by the Intervention and Diversion program.

The Intervention and Diversion program completes Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessments to ensure youth and families are referred to appropriate services and supports. These assessments are also used to determine whether youth are eligible for OhioRise services. Intervention and Diversion officers completed 10 new CANS assessments in 2023.

## **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 more than 600 community programs with over 70,000 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 a 401 RECLAIM Ohio Grant and 510 Subsidies Grant.

During 2023, RECLAIM Ohio funds were used to pay for services, salaries and benefits of the 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.

In 2023, the 510 Subsidy Grant 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; and/or other probation services.

Two youth (one male and one female) were committed to Ohio Department of Youth Services in 2023.

### **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 2023, one male Wood County youth was placed at the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio. Four youth continued to be served by the Juvenile Residential Center from a prior year's placement.

### **TITLE IV-E**

In June 2008, the court entered into 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 eligible 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 the courts for a portion of the administrative costs expended to keep youth in their own homes, avoiding placement. During 2023, one female youth was placed in out-of-home care using the Title IV-E program.

The court chose not to renew the sub-grant agreement as a IV-E Court in mid-2023.

## **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE/ GUARDIAN AD LITEM (CASA®/GAL) DEPARTMENT**

The mission of the Wood County Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad litem (CASA/GAL) Program is to recruit, train, guide, monitor, and retain qualified CASA/GAL volunteers. These valued community members are appointed by the Wood County Juvenile Court Judge as guardian ad litem, tasked with advocating for the best interests of children who are before the court because of abuse, neglect, and dependency as defined by state child welfare laws.

The Wood County CASA/GAL Program has provided this needed service to children in Wood County since 1988. The CASA/GAL Program complies with Rule 48 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio, which outlines guidelines for guardian ad litem. The Wood County CASA/GAL program is a member in good standing with both the National CASA Association and Ohio CASA.

A full-time director and two full-time volunteer coordinators staff the Wood County CASA/GAL Program.

The program director serves as the liaison between the program and the non-profit advisory board, Friends of Wood County CASA, and participates in training and activities hosted by Ohio CASA for program directors state-wide. In addition, the program director serves as the GAL Coordinator for the Juvenile 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.

Responsibilities of the volunteer coordinators include recruiting, training, screening, and supervising the CASA/GAL volunteers in their advocacy efforts. The volunteer coordinators are also responsible for overseeing the Citizen Review Board (CRB) meetings as well as recruiting and training CRB volunteers. The volunteer coordinators organize public relations and outreach activities on behalf of the program, maintain the program website ([www.woodcountycasa.org](http://www.woodcountycasa.org)), and maintain the data management system.

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. Funds received through the Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant support staff salaries. The State Victim Assistance Act (SVAA) Grant assists with the expenses related to staff attendance at the annual Ohio Attorney General's Two Days in May Conference. Federal Department of Human



Services funding via Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and Ohio CASA assists with the cost of training new and current volunteers

### **CASA/GAL Volunteers serve as Advocates for Children**

In 2023, 33 individuals served as Wood County CASA/GAL volunteers, advocating for at least one child alleged to have been abused, neglected, or dependent. The volunteers provided over 1,700 case hours of service to the CASA/GAL program and traveled over 16,700 miles to obtain information regarding their cases.

All community members who became new Wood County CASA/GAL volunteers in 2023 participated in 30 hours of pre-service training facilitated by the program staff, utilizing the National CASA Association curriculum. They also participated in an additional 3 hours of court observation. In 2023, 8 individuals completed the pre-service training requirements and took the Oath of Office administered by Judge Woessner.

In 2023, the average tenure for an active volunteer with the program is 4.1 years. Two volunteers have been advocating for the children of Wood County for over 20 years.

### **Children who received CASA/GAL Advocacy**

At the beginning of 2023, CASA volunteers were serving 51 children. In 2023, Judge Woessner appointed a CASA/GAL volunteer to advocate for the best interest of 61 additional children. CASA/GAL volunteers closed cases involving a total of 61 children in 2023. As of December 31, 2023, 46 children continued to receive the services of a CASA/GAL volunteer.

### **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. Each CRB meets monthly at the Juvenile Court. Two additional trained volunteers serve as alternates and can 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 of, or in the custody of, the Wood County Department of Job and Family Services. In 2023, the CRB members met for approximately 193 hours, reviewing 265 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

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

Friends of CASA receive various donations from individuals in the community. These donations are used to assist with public awareness, recruitment, and retention activities. Donations are also used to assist with defraying the cost for volunteers to attend community training and the Ohio CASA Celebrate Kids! Conference held annually in September.

The following chart is a listing of the active CASA/GAL Volunteer Advocates; the Friends of CASA Board; and the Citizen Review Board members as of 12/31/2023.

<b><u>CASA/GAL Volunteer Advocates</u></b> as of 12/31/2023	<b><u>Friends of CASA Board</u></b> as of 12/31/2023	<b><u>Citizen Review Boards</u></b> as of 12/31/2023
Lois Bowlus Kevin Braun Denise Brigode Anne Clark Susan Conner Sue Danes Nancy Davis Lisa Eppink Colleen Fitzgerald Sallie Gardner Don Gerke Shanna Gerken Linda Hammersmith Courtney Iler-Bailey Kim Jones Kristen Leverton Jane McIntyre Kathy Mikolajczak Kathy Munger Erika Myers Joyce Osterud Ann Pantenburg Natalie Reichert Deborah Schocket Sheila Schrag Amy Sheldrick Pat Smith Kara Svendsen Betsey van de Heijning	Danielle Beamer Deb Blevins W. David Gemmill Don Gerke Irene Jones Matt LeMaster Kelly C. McEwen, Secretary Sarah Nidiffer Sheila Schrag Shalini Singh-Coates Lia Snell-Rivalsky Kara Svendsen, President Jonathan Thomas	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Board</u> Jane Robb (chair) Don Gerke Pam Krebs Steve Heckler Kathy Munger  <u>1<sup>st</sup> Friday Board</u> Lee Liebetreu (Chair) Jane Eaton Ann Hannah-Cizaukas Claudia Lance Debra Veeck  <u>Alternates</u> Linda Hammer Suzanne Johnson

Elizabeth Welty Amber Windom Ryan Wright Eva Zuchowski		
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## **WOOD COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER**

The Wood County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) is in Bowling Green, Ohio, and is part of Wood County Juvenile Court complex. 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 to assist them with their juvenile detention requirements.

JDC provides both pre-trial and short-term commitments for incarceration. 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. Solutions to many of the long-term problems faced by the residents are best addressed by childcare professionals within the many support services available to the Court (i.e., Probation Department, Counselors/Therapists, and Children’s Services).

A total of 403 youth (261 males and 142 females) were detained in the detention center in 2023, for a total of 4,741 days. Of that total, 218 Wood County youth were detained for a total of 2,367 days. The average length of stay for a detained youth in 2023 was 14.14 days per stay.

Contracts for detention with other counties generated \$215,728 in revenue for Wood County in 2023.

In 2023, the detention center facilitated 315 video court hearings for numerous counties (Hancock, Putnam, Paulding, and Wood). This number is a 7% increase over the number of video hearings performed from the previous year. JDC has been providing this service for contracting counties since 2016. This service allowed for a much safer avenue to hold court hearings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as decrease the amount of sheriff related transportation from the detention center to the home court.

JDC staff also facilitated a wide variety of other types of video services and meetings for the residents by facilitating 76 other types of virtual appointments and assessments including counseling appointments (both clinician and psychiatrist appointments), virtual counseling assessments, school meetings

(suspension, expulsion, and I.E.P. meetings), admission assessments for the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio, and physician appointments for various medical reasons.

In addition to facility operation duties, JDC staff collected 198 sets of fingerprints and 17 swab samples of DNA material from court users who were statutorily required to submit to these processes in 2023.

## **DETENTION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

### **Medical and Mental Health Services**

Necessary medical services are provided through a contractual agreement with Southern Health Partners. Mental health, crisis intervention and 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.

### **Rational Behavior Teaching Program**

The Juvenile Detention Center has a lengthy history of endorsing and utilizing Rational Behavior Teaching (RBT) when working with residents. The underlying philosophical components of RBT are based on separating youth from their behaviors and focuses on eliminating the bad choices a youth makes by reinforcing good behaviors.

Staff conduct teaching groups to 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.

### **Staffing and Training**

The Director of Detention is responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating all functions of the Wood County Juvenile Detention Center, 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. The first and second shifts each are predominantly staffed with a shift supervisor and three to five detention officers, while third shift is primarily staffed with a shift supervisor and two detention officers.

In 2023, the Wood County Juvenile Detention Center staff completed 1,265 hours of training, an average of 44.38 hours of training per staff member. Detention officers receive training in emergency medical response, operational policy and procedures, juvenile suicide and crisis prevention, fire safety issues, defensive tactics and general responses to resistance and aggression, as well as

other basic correctional officer training. This training regimen exceeds the mandatory standards set by the Ohio Department of Youth Services of 40 hours per year.

### **Education**

Education in the Juvenile Detention Center is facilitated by the Wood County Educational Service Center (ESC), who provides an education coordinator and two full time teachers. Students are administered the Test of Adult Basic Education at intake, and again one week later. This provides grade equivalency scores in the areas of reading, math, and spelling. Contact is made with the home school district the first day that the student is placed at JDC. Requests are made for current copies of any IEP, ETR and 504 Plan as appropriate. These documents are kept on file for the academic year. The JDC Education Program is an educational option written in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Education.

In addition to classroom instruction, all residents are offered the opportunity to remain current with their home school requirements, by utilizing the detention center's secure, wireless internet services and secure laptops.

The Wood County Educational Service Center also offers a variety of programming through its Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) staff after school and during the summer months. Two separate sessions of a blended program containing curriculum from both the Life Skills and Why Try were taught in 2023.

### **Substance Abuse Treatment Services**

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

### **Religious Services**

In 2023, non-denominational religious services were provided on a weekly basis via a combination of two different entities: the Wood County Chaplaincy Committee and St. Mark's Lutheran Church. In addition, families can request to have their own pastor or minister visit youth.

### **Visitation**

The detention center encourages juveniles to maintain ties with their parents and/or legal guardians through regular in-house visits. Each resident is afforded

the opportunity for ninety minutes of visitation weekly, in thirty-minute increments allotted at each of three scheduled visitation times.

In addition to family visits, JDC staff facilitated 239 counselor visits; 330 attorney visits; 127 JFS Caseworker visits; 42 Probation/Parole visits; 101 Religious/Chaplain visits; and 10 Law Enforcement visits.

### **Recreation and Leisure Activities**

The detention center provides youth with recreation and leisure time programs that includes organized large-muscle activity and structured leisure activities. A large gymnasium and outside recreation yard are available. The center is equipped with a library containing various books and encyclopedias for use by residents. All library materials are generously donated by local businesses, area schools, parents, and the public.

## **JUVENILE COURT SECURITY**

In 2023, the Wood County Juvenile Court Security Department was staffed by one full time and two part time court constables who oversaw the public entrance, ensuring that no weapons or contraband were introduced into the Juvenile Court complex; provided security in the courtrooms, and ensured 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 business. In 2023 12,942 visitors entered the Juvenile Court through court security.

All visitors entering the complex pass through a walk-through magnetometer, with accompanying x-ray machine for viewing packages and handbags. There were 7,650 items scanned and 17 items were held at security. During 2023 two adults were detained by court security.