

Lucas County Juvenile Detention Center

Dan Jones, Administrator

The Lucas County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) provides temporary, secure detention for delinquent youth until their case is disposed of. As set forth in the Ohio Revised Code, JDC 1) provides temporary, secure detention for youth who present a danger to themselves or the community or who may abscond pending the disposition of cases and; 2) coordinates social, psychological or psychiatric evaluations in order to assist and advise the court in dispositional recommendations; ultimately finding the right service for the right youth at the right time.

Lucas County Juvenile Court and Detention Center continue to follow the principles set forth in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) framework to ensure that youth are being served in the most appropriate yet least restrictive environment. The eight core strategies in this framework include community collaboration; data-driven decision making; objective admissions into secure confinement; alternatives to detention; expedited case processing; serving the needs of special populations; addressing racial and ethnic disparities; and improving conditions of confinement. In concert with protecting the community, JDC residents learn a set of skills that help them identify thinking patterns that guide feelings and behaviors. Rational Behavioral Training (RBT) is the cognitive-based program utilized with staff facilitating three groups a day. Lucas County remains committed to continually assessing and improving juvenile justice services. Lucas County Juvenile Court offers four (4) levels of detention: 1) Secure detention, 2) Level II detention reporting center, 3) Level III home detention and 4) Level IV electronic monitoring. Level 2, 3 and 4 youth are monitored by the Community Detention program. During 2018, 78% of the 229 youth who participated in the program were successfully terminated. Continuing with the JDAI framework, additional visitation hours were also added to secure detention to accommodate and reinforce family engagement. Visitation is now offered 7 days a week, including holidays. Furthermore, on the first Sunday of every month, JDC provides a meal for our residents to share with their loved ones during visitation. In order to improve communication and expedite the scheduling process, JDC has select staff who facilitate special visits 5 days a week. As a positive incentive, these special, scheduled visits can include siblings, extended family, coaches, teachers, and mentors, with guardian permission. In addition, JDC residents who have children



Dan Jones, Detention Administrator, presenting an award during an all staff meeting.

are afforded opportunities for safe, meaningful visits while cultivating positive, prosocial parental connections. Over the course of 2018, 68 special visits were conducted with up to 3 visitors attending each session. More information can be found about JDAI at www.aecf.org.

It is important to clarify how JDC defines admissions and bookings. A booking is a process in which a youth enters secure detention intake, separate from the general population. At

this time JDC intake staff gather demographic information, complete the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI), process the complaint and set a later court date. An admission is when a youth gets booked in and is admitted, joining the detention population until their court date. As a result of JDAI and the court's efforts developing safe alternatives, bookings and admissions into secure detention have continued to decrease since 2000. From 2000, detention bookings have decreased by 80% from 5,215 bookings to 1,053 in 2018, with 805 of those youth being admitted into secure detention. The makeup of the 806 youth were 598 males and 207 females. Out of the 805 residents admitted, 578 were minorities, 211 were Caucasian, and 16 residents had an unidentified (other) ethnicity. Domestic Violence once again was the leading charge for residents booked into detention, accounting for 16% of the bookings and 20.3% of the admissions. However, with the onset and success of the Assessment Center, Safe School Ordinance filings (SSO) have dropped 95% from 434 being booked in 2010, to 20 youth being booked in 2018. Likewise, the Average Daily Population (the average number of youth in JDC on a given day) decreased from 52 in 2010 to 34 in 2018, showing a decline of 35%.

The opening of the Lucas County Assessment Center that resulted from numerous years of community planning and collaboration contributed to the reductions in detention bookings. After October 1, 2014, non-violent misdemeanor offenses began to be served upon arrest by non-secure assessment center staff. Cases that had previously been served in JDC such as safe school ordinance, unruly, and non-injury domestic violence now meet with case managers in the assessment center and are linked to services in the community that can immediately help meet the youth's and family's needs. Every youth who enters the assessment center receives the OYAS and GAIN-SS. The Lucas County



Assessment Center screened 1,214 youth in 2018. Prior to October 1, 2014, these youth would have been booked into secure detention.

The Lucas County Juvenile Detention Center also strives to meet the highest quality conditions of confinement. In 2018, JDC took on the task of conducting its second self-assessed, conditions of confinement evaluation. This assessment included team members from the community and other agencies who dedicated time in detention and assessed all things from policies to practices. Some of the subjects evaluated were: classification; health and mental health; access; programming; environment; restraints; and safety. A work plan and timeline was developed from the findings, and JDC will continue to prioritize and refine confinement conditions. During 2018, ensuring that youth's educational needs were being met continued to be a priority as well. Toledo Public Schools provide educational services in JDC. Over six hours of education are currently offered every weekday, year-round, for every youth in JDC. JDC offers a mix of online educational material to be completed at one's own pace as well as traditional learning classes. Youth also participate in summer school for 8 weeks. In addition, all residents get to take part in an Art Integrated Math (A.I.M.) program five days a week, year round. All of the art projects encompass math and are facilitated by a certified art teacher with degrees in education and art therapy. Several of these art pieces can be found proudly displayed throughout The Lucas County Juvenile Court today. Individual G.E.D and O.G.T preparation are also provided for youth through tutoring. An educational specialist helps youth transition out of detention back into their home school environment, assisting with any needs throughout the process. With the assistance from our lead teacher, out of district youth can stay on task with their course work by their educational materials being delivered to them to complete in detention. In 2018, JDC had 3 youth earn their final credits in detention, successfully graduating from Toledo Public Schools.

After school hours, youth participate in psycho-educational groups conducted by the Juvenile Detention Officers that use Rational Behavioral Training pro-social skills, effectively learning how to make healthy and safe decisions. RBT also provides the fundamental basis for the cognitive-based behavior management system utilized in JDC. This approach, which incorporates praise, logical consequences, and dis-involvement, greatly reduces the need for seclusion. In 2018, JDC continued to revise the behavioral management system to include less restrictive consequences for identified behaviors. Every youth admitted into JDC receives a pamphlet on behavioral expectations, their rights, and what they can expect from staff. Moreover, the pamphlet clarifies what appropriate behavior is expected from each youth to earn positive incentives and what consequences are earned if inappropriate behavior is displayed. The youth in JDC spend their days learning in school or engaged in the common areas in the units. In 2018, JDC made preparations and measures to move forward with Boy's Council, circle groups for some residents. These groups consist of 6-8 residents

and a certified facilitator. The groups are designed to create a safe atmosphere where residents share an assortment of individual experiences and situations. Through trust, activities, and reflection, the youth converse on how they relate to personal challenges and goals. To reinforce self-respect and positive incentives, youth who reach level 3 in the RBT program can earn a haircut by a certified barber at no cost to the youth. Here at JDC, youth are only confined to their rooms during sleeping hours or earned consequences, consistent with the program.

JDC staff continued to work diligently in 2018 to comply with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). Safety for both staff and youth in the facility is of the utmost importance. The Lucas Juvenile Court recognizes how imperative safety is by prioritizing equipment purchases and policy reviews, resulting in a safer, cleaner environment. JDC implemented a new systematic sign-in/out procedure for all assigned keys, court employees, and visitors entering detention. This helps to ensure the residents are safe as well as accounting for the service providers visiting our youth. JDC continues to update the new digital camera system. Coupled with additional mirrors throughout JDC to enhance eyes-on-supervision, the new system offers a safer setting for all. With safety remaining priority, youth are taught multiple ways that they can report sexual abuse in the facility. Each youth entering the facility signs for and receives a PREA informational pamphlet with all pertinent material printed on it for their reading. The Juvenile Court website was also updated, per policy, for any interested party to file a concern about sexual abuse in a Lucas County Juvenile Court Facility: <https://www.co.lucas.oh.us/FormCenter/PREA-8/PREA-Sexual-Misconduct-Reporting-Form-43>. With resident safety being one of our utmost responsibilities and objectives, Rescue Mental Health staff are on site to work with youth on a daily basis, referred by staff or a youth request. Our current assigned rescue licensed independent social worker is trauma trained and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR) trained. Although crisis intervention is a significant portion of her responsibility, she has accomplished a total of 2,157 counseling sessions with JDC residents in 2018. JDC residents also have access to medical care with nurses available seven days a week and weekly physician visits. In 2018, our physician completed approximately 210 full health physicals for our residents.

JDC youth and staff significantly benefited from a large renovation project replacing and adding digital cameras for safety. Moreover, in 2018 JDC continued to refine the access system, making JDC and the court more stable and secure for all. The Lucas County Juvenile Detention Center and the court look forward to building upon the successes of 2018 in 2019. JDC is committed to continuous quality improvement in its operations. JDC staff accept the great responsibility of caring for and respecting residents while teaching those fundamentals that will give residents the tools they need to make healthier, more responsible decisions once transitioned back into the community.