

Juvenile Sexual Behavior Treatment Program

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For over thirty years, the Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Program has served the youth and families of Lucas County in a variety of different treatment approaches. Since 2007, this program has been a national leader in the field of juvenile and emerging adult problematic sexual behavior treatment, partnering with Harbor Behavioral Healthcare to provide a wide range of treatment interventions.

Reflecting the move to a treatment philosophy which emphasizes a holistic approach combined with developing and strengthening the individual's protective factors, the Court has decided to adapt a different and more inclusive name for our program. Our new name, the Lucas County Juvenile Sexual Behavior Treatment (JSBT) program reflects the comprehensive approach to working with and helping juveniles who experience difficulties with problematic sexual behaviors.

The JSBT Program is committed to reducing the incidence of sexual abuse by developing community partnerships which promote community safety, victim restoration and public education by: enhancing healthy relationships, holding youth and parents accountable, and ensuring an effective continuum of care for both survivors and youth who sexually offend. The Lucas County approach stresses collaboration, community education, valid and reliable assessment, effective treatment, competency development, supervision/management and transition to different levels of care.

The program emphasizes community-based supervision and a cognitive-behavioral treatment model and features:

- 1) Specialized Probation Officers to provide increased supervision and support;
- 2) Family involvement including parental engagement and accountability;
- 3) Frequent juvenile court review hearings in a specialized juvenile sex offender docket;
- 4) Enhanced service collaboration among community agencies including law enforcement, schools, mental health, board of Developmental Disabilities, and juvenile court; and
- 5) Involving participants in a variety of positive youth development opportunities in an effort to build well-rounded individuals while introducing pro-social activities.

Together with Harbor Behavioral Healthcare, the Lucas County Juvenile Court has developed a comprehensive JSBT Program that addresses the key components of an effective community-based treatment program. Using this model, therapists and probation staff are able to address and treat a wide range of populations including adolescent males, females, pre-adolescent offenders & lower functioning offenders by using individual, group and family therapy. In 2018, the JSBT Program team members presented at a national conference in Boston, Massachusetts and a state-wide conference in Columbus, Ohio in addition to giving a number of local community presentations.

In 2018, 21 youth were referred for specialized juvenile sexual behavior treatment assessments. All assessments were completed successfully and follow-up referrals for treatment were made where required, usually to intensive group therapy or community-based out-patient treatment. During 2018, 18 youth were active in community-based treatment, while 23 were in intensive group treatment. In this year, four youth were terminated from the group treatment program with a 100% successful completion rate. Youth who were involved in community-based treatment programs were terminated successful at a rate of 100% (8 out of 8 clients). For the year 2018, the JSBT team worked with four youth in group homes and two youth who resided in residential placements. The Court was financially responsible for only three of these placements. Finally, of the 41 youth who were involved in the JSBT Program during the 2018 calendar year, 83% (34 out of 41 youth) were engaged in some form of Positive Youth Development activity within the community, including school sports, extra-curricular events, working, or Court sponsored activities such as glass-blowing, resin painting, glass mosaic, boat building, bike building, trips to the zoo and Toledo Mud Hens baseball, metal working or jewelry making at the Toledo Museum of Art.

The Lucas County Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Program will continue to emphasize three key priorities:

- First, assure community safety.
- Next, continue to develop a comprehensive approach to providing community-based treatment to moderate/higher risk juvenile sex offenders designed to increase positive outcomes.
- Finally, increase cost-effectiveness by collaborating with stakeholders to deliver effective an intensive community-based services to youth and families.