



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Montgomery County Juvenile Court
380 W. Second St
Dayton, OH 45422
(937) 496-7908
www.mcjcoho.org



HELEN WALLACE, ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

Judge Helen Wallace is the administrative judge of Montgomery County Juvenile Court, leading the organization of approximately 450 employees who strive to provide individualized justice for children and to protect the community, while carefully balancing the interests of both.

Judge Wallace presides over specialized dockets including Juvenile Wellness Court and Juvenile Treatment Court. Wellness Court offers mental health support and rehabilitation to youth. Treatment Court assists in rehabilitation of juveniles who have been adversely affected by drugs and alcohol. Judge Wallace encourages family involvement and collaboration between treatment providers, probation and the youth in an effort to reduce recidivism and promote positive, healthy futures.

In 2023, Judge Wallace was appointed by Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Sharon Kennedy to the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission. She was subsequently appointed by the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission to reconvene and chair the Juvenile Justice subcommittee.

Judge Wallace earned her law degree from George Washington University Law School after obtaining a bachelor's degree in International Affairs from the University of Cincinnati.



JULIE BRUNS, JUDGE

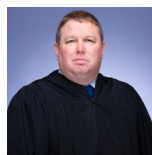
Judge Julie A. Bruns began serving as a Montgomery County Juvenile Court judge in January 2023. She had previously worked as a Juvenile Court magistrate since 2019, presiding over juvenile traffic cases and private custody cases, and serving as chief magistrate.

Judge Bruns currently co-chairs the Dayton Bar Association's Juvenile Law Committee, and the Ohio Attorney General's Criminal Justice and Mental Health Task Force. She also presides over the Court's Adult Child Support Imposition Docket.

Before becoming a magistrate, Judge Bruns was an assistant prosecuting attorney for 23 years where she prosecuted cases in the Juvenile Division, Adult Trial Division, CARE House (Montgomery County's Child Advocacy Center), and ultimately served as the Juvenile Division Chief from 2005-2019. During her employment in the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office, Judge Bruns was instrumental in developing one of the first Juvenile Sexting Diversion programs in the nation, which became a model for similar programs in multiple states throughout the US. She also served on several committees through the Ohio Supreme Court and the Governor's Office, including work on Senate Bill 10, also known as the Adam Walsh Act, and Ohio's Juvenile Competency statute.

Judge Bruns received her undergraduate degree from Miami University in 1993, and her law degree from the University of Dayton School of Law in 1996.

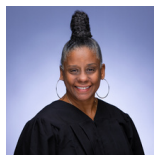
MAGISTRATES



Magistrate
Todd Calaway



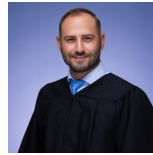
Magistrate
Kelsie Carson



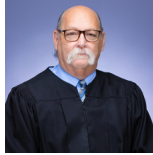
Magistrate
Paula Durden



Chief Magistrate
Gina Feller



Magistrate
Matt Kimmel



Magistrate
John Kolberg



Magistrate
Kathleen Lenski



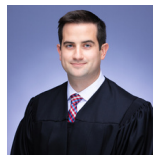
Magistrate
Jeffrey Livingston



Magistrate
Moira Murty



Magistrate
Hope Smalls

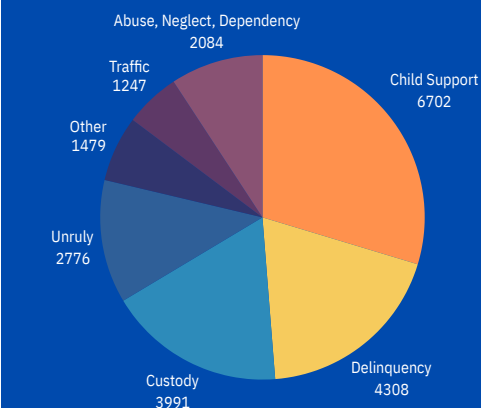


Magistrate
Trent Sulek



Magistrate
Autumn White

2024 CASE STATISTICS



FOCUSED ON YOUTH

DELINQUENCY DOCKET: The Juvenile Delinquency Docket has jurisdiction over all offenses involving children under the age of 18, as well as cases involving juvenile protection orders, unruly filings, and juvenile traffic offenders.

ABUSE, NEGLECT, DEPENDENCY DOCKET:

Juvenile Court presides over cases regarding children alleged to be abused, neglected, or dependent. The goal is to strengthen families so that children can safely remain with their families whenever possible, and to find permanent homes for children when that is not possible.

PRIVATE CUSTODY, CHILD SUPPORT & VISITATION DOCKET:

The Private Custody, Child Support, and Visitation Docket has jurisdiction involving the issues of paternity, custody, parenting time, visitation, and child support when the child's parents were not married at the time of their birth, when the child's parents married after their birth but have not filed for divorce, or when a non-parent initiates a filing.

INTERVENTION SERVES AS TRIAGE CENTER FOR YOUTH

In August, Matt Pack was named the new Intervention Center (IC) director, having worked his way through the Court, from intern in 2010, to director.

The IC is located at the Juvenile Justice Center, and is a 24-hour, 7-day a week single point of entry for court services for unruly and delinquent youth. With the onsite support of outside agencies, the IC can provide a triage for youth and their families when more in-depth intervention is needed. Youth are connected to resources such as individual counseling services, certified peer recovery services, and opportunities for restorative justice through community service activities.

In 2024, the Intervention Center conducted 1,296 administrative hearings, monitored 615 youth in the Electronic Home Monitoring program, and facilitated the placement of 70 youth into Emergency Foster Care.

Programming opportunities for diversion of low-risk youth included:

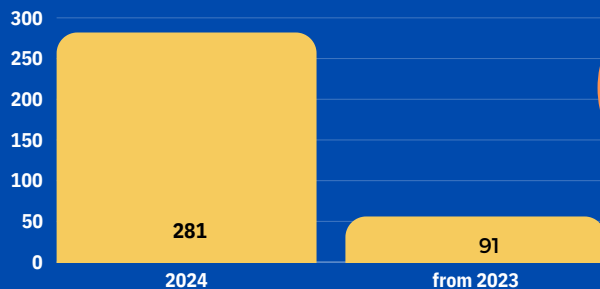
- Disproportionate Minority Contact Diversion Program (DMC/DP) - 305 referrals in 2024;
- 10 & Under Program - 103 referrals;
- Sexually Oriented Diversion Approach (SODA)- 19 accepted referrals in 2024;
- Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)-72 referrals;
- Traditional Diversion-118 referrals;
- Education Unit – 432 referrals.



Juvenile Court initiated a new summer school program that helped teens catch up during the 2024 summer break. Twelve Court-affiliated students from five different districts earned high school credits during a new collaboration between the Court, Montgomery County Educational Service Center, and Graduation Alliance, an online education program.

TRUANCY DATA:

372 CASES HANDLED INFORMALLY/ ALTERNATIVES TO ADJUDICATION



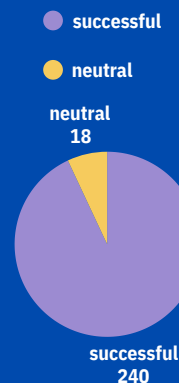
414 TOTAL REFERRALS

12 HABITUAL TRUANCY COMPLAINTS



4 cases were filed on truancy only, and 8 truancy referrals were filed officially due to the youth receiving other delinquent charges

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ALTERNATIVES TO ADJUDICATION



Neutral can be those who turned 18, or moved out of county or state.

The number of youth who failed to complete alternatives & were adjudicated unruly: 5

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UNDERGOES LEADERSHIP CHANGES



All three Court-affiliated schools received 'platinum-level' awards of Excellence in Prevention at Montgomery County Educational Service Center's December awards celebration. The awards highlight efforts to help youth develop self-regulating and coping skills, and provide a sense of safety.

Kendra Kirsch began as the new education director in July. She has previous experience working as an assistant principal at Winton Woods High School, intervention specialist, Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) coach, and administrator in the Dayton Public Schools' Office for Exceptional Children.

The Juvenile Court's Education Department has three non-public schools chartered by the Ohio Department of Education located within the county. Nichols Residential Treatment Center (NRTC), Center for Adolescent Services (CAS), and the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) are the locations that house each school within the facility. Each location offers a comprehensive middle and high school course of study through year-round programming and partners with the local school districts for Title 1, Part D funded programming and services.

The schools receive federal funding to improve the quality of education in facilities for neglected and delinquent youth who have yet to attain the credits that allow them to graduate from high school and are under the age of 21. All three locations are staffed with certified teachers in all core content areas of English, Math, Social Studies, and Science, as well as Art and Physical Education. This allows for students to either continue on their educational path toward high school graduation and/or participate in credit recovery to realign his or her path to obtain a diploma. The Court supplements services for those youth that have significant learning deficits. Additionally, the schools maintain community partnerships with Dayton Metro Library and K-12 Gallery & TEJAS to implement additional programming for students.

All schools have implemented full PBIS programming to include holiday celebrations, building-wide events, and incentives for honor roll for all students.

PROBATION ADDS INTENSIVE HOME-BASED TREATMENT

The divisions of the Probation Department include the Traditional Unit, Resource Planning Program, Adult Probation, Evening Reporting Center I & II, Community Based Services, Juvenile Court Work Program and Transportation.

In 2024, Probation began offering another service for youth and families through the addition of Intensive Home-Based Treatment (IHBT). This was made possible through a grant opportunity through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The grant was awarded in 2022; however the program was delayed due to external staffing challenges. In May, the National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP) was identified as a new partner for this endeavor, and the first youth was connected to the service in August. By December, the program had reached its capacity of 8 youth. IHBT is intended to be an intensive, short-term program with youth and families receiving counseling, case management and other services at home, school or in the community for five hours per week for a period of time not to exceed six months. By bringing IHBT to Probation, the goal is reduce the amount of time that youth with severe and persistent mental health diagnoses spend in out of home placements.

2024 Probation Data

·Total Youth Served: 778 ·Total Youth Admitted: 303
·Total Terminated: 492 ·Average Length of Probation: 9 months
The Probation department's recidivism rates (up to 1 year post termination) are: 2023 - 20.0%; 2022 - 21.3%; 2021 - 16.3%



An official unveiling of the public murals created by youth from the Probation Department's Helping Adolescents Achieve Long-term Objectives (HAALO) program was held in downtown Dayton in August.

2020 - 13.8%. The national average for juvenile offenders is 55%. Recidivism looks at if a youth has been adjudicated of a new offense one year post involvement with Juvenile Court.

DETENTION CENTER OFFERS COMPREHENSIVE CARE

Detention Services provides a comprehensive program for pre and post dispositional youth, in a safe and secure environment, while protecting the public safety. Youth range in age from 10 to 20 years old. Detention Services houses six distinct populations within its 96-bed facility. All youth housed or committed to placement are offered evidence based programming, educational, mental health, medical, physical, and life-skills programming.

In 2024, Detention Services continued to offer a variety of programming designed to inspire youth to make better decisions, encourage them to become leaders in their peer groups, and decrease their involvement in delinquent behaviors. This included a Black History Program, Professional Career Expo, Skillstreaming, Harvest Fest, assemblies with local professionals and motivational speakers, and weekend incentivized activities and tokens. The facility continued to incorporate Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports standards and practices to incentivize youth for expected behaviors.

The six distinct populations and the number of youth served in 2024 include: Detention Services - those awaiting the legal process or transfer to approved placements. (860 youth served in 2024)

The Juvenile Cognitive Alternative Rehabilitative Effort-Specialized Treatment Program (JCARE-STP) is designated for male sex offenders ages 14 to 18 of all felony levels (6 youth served).

Juvenile Cognitive Alternative Rehabilitative Effort-Aggression Replacement Training (JCARE-ART) is a treatment program for felony adjudicated male youth ages 12-19, identified as moderate to high risk to reoffend per the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) who would otherwise be committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (36 youth served).

The Corrections Program is an alternative program for adjudicated youth who have demonstrated the need for an immediate short-term commitment of either for 5 or 10 days. The program is designated for youth between the ages of 10-17 (23 youth served).

The Detention Certified Program is for youth under the age of 21, whose cases have been transferred to the adult Court for prosecution; but who can be behaviorally maintained in a juvenile setting (4 youth served).

The Detention Motion to Transfer (MTT) Program services youth under the age of 21, who are awaiting a determination of amenability or transfer to the adult Court (12 youth served).

RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES PROVIDE SAFETY, EDUCATION

In 2024, the Center for Adolescent Services (CAS) provided services to 102 youth. CAS received a total of 79 referrals during the year, with 60 being females and 19 being males. Of those, demographics include: 76 African American youth in placement, 27 white youth, 3 American Indian youth, 2 Hispanic youth and 2 other/unknown youth. The average length of stay for males was 190 days, and the average length of stay for females was 151 days.

The center also successfully completed the PREA (National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape) Audit and accreditation in May 2024.

CAS continued to provide cognitive behavioral therapy and gender specific therapy to address criminogenic needs.

In 2024 Nicholas Residential Treatment Center (NRTC) had 43 referrals to programming.



CAS hosts monthly Positive Behavior Incentives & Supports activities that include special guests and events.

Of those 43 referrals, 36 were male referrals and 7 were female. Throughout the year, NRTC provided services to a total of 51 youth. Of those 51 youth, 37 were males and 14 were females. Demographics include 37 African American youth, 12 white youth and 2 other/unknown youth.

NRTC was found to be in compliance with the Ohio Administrative Code when reviewed by The Ohio Department of Children and Youth. NRTC continued to provide services through a trauma informed care approach. In 2024, all NRTC staff were trained in the ROCA Rewire training to improve service delivery for the youth.

Both CAS and NRTC continued to collaborate on transition and re-entry services for youth completing programming as well as partnering for staff training and development.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- 128 new Court employees were hired in 2024 (not including 21 internal moves).
- 14 federal, state and local grants totaling approximately \$14.5 million were awarded to the Court in 2024.
- The Clerk's Office processed a total of 12,163 new filings.
- Tiffany Dulin was named deputy court administrator in July. She has worked for the Court for 24 years, the last nine serving as the director of the Intervention Center.
- A March presentation during the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Conference in Cleveland showcased how the Court uses neuropsychological evaluations to help youth and families to help identify learning needs, tailor case plans, and advocate for specialized educational interventions.
- Two outdoor spaces in the Court's Detention Center were renovated thanks to a Behavioral Health Grant from the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The spaces now feature security cameras, safety turf, plants and paint colors with a focus on trauma-informed design.
- The Local Court Rules were revised and published.
- The Information Technology staff completed 5,000 data support requests.
- The Court joined a new collaborative between law enforcement, social service agencies, and community providers to effectively address child exploitation. The Court's Creating Opportunities for Resilience and Empowerment (CORE) Program addresses the needs of youth at-risk or who have been affected by human trafficking.



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in November for the newly renovated outdoor spaces in the Detention Center.

TOP DISPOSITIONS FOR YOUTH

Electronic Home Monitoring	764
Court Costs-Marsy's Law	667
Probation Community Control	558
Evening Reporting Center	186
Traffic School & Restricted Driving Privileges	106

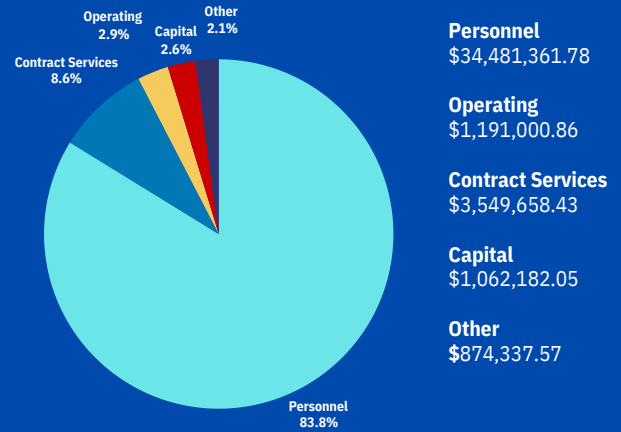
NEW COMMUNITY IMPACT DEPARTMENT BEGINS

In November 2024, the Court Appointed Special Advocates team and the coordinators of Juvenile Detention Alternatives and Race Equity and Inclusion joined to form a new department called Community Impact. Led by Director Andrina Ryhlick, this new department is poised to implement innovative initiatives and serve even more families in the community.

In 2024, CASA welcomed 7 new volunteers to its team. Volunteers received comprehensive training on crucial topics, including the impact of abuse and trauma, mental health awareness, and the challenges of homelessness. Throughout the year, CASA served 130 families, providing a lifeline to 165 children, contributing approximately 2,426 hours of time, successfully closing 61 cases, each one representing a positive change in a child's life.

The Natural Helpers Program served 20 families, receiving funding from the Montgomery County Human Services Levy. Generous contributions from community organizations, including Stitches of Love, the Rylee Sellers Foundation, and American Legion Post 776, further supported the program's efforts. The Juvenile Court Foundation also played a crucial role by providing financial support for enriching activities such as bowling, painting classes, corn maze outings, and meals for youth.

BUDGET: \$41,158,540.69



SPECIALIZED DOCKETS FOCUS: MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTION

Juvenile Court is committed to breaking the cycle of addiction and crime, and helping to lead youth and parents out of the justice system with three specialized dockets: Family Treatment Court, Juvenile Treatment Court, and Wellness Court. The dockets connect residents to evidence-based treatment, and provide accountability to people with substance use and mental health disorders.

In 2024, 19 youth were served in the Juvenile Treatment Court.

The Family Treatment Court provided individualized services to parents - 21 completed the program, resulting in 24 youth being reunified with their families.

The Wellness Court aims



Children and family members are invited to attend the graduation ceremonies for Family Treatment Court participants.

to prevent youth with mental health issues from repeatedly cycling through the juvenile justice system, and to identify the mental health needs of adjudicated youth to provide more effective treatment and improved safety. The specialized docket served 14 youth in 2024.



The Ohio CASA organization recognized local CASA volunteer Rachel Easter before a July Dayton Dragons baseball game.