

Seneca County Juvenile and Probate Court 2016 Annual Report

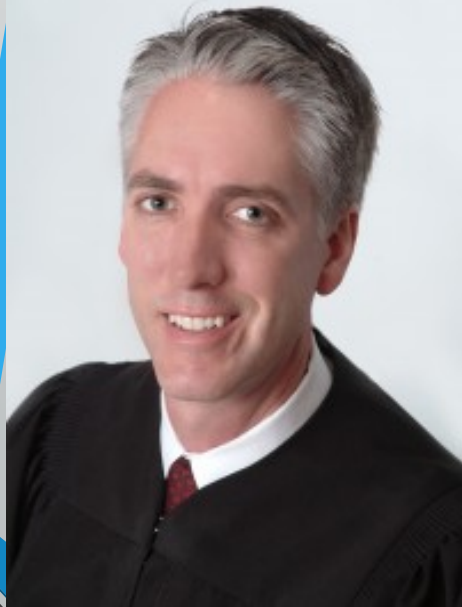


Our Mission



- We promise to uphold the Constitution of the United States, the laws of the State of Ohio and the purposes of the Juvenile and Probate Court. We promise to serve the citizens of the community with dedication, integrity and professionalism. We will strive to assure the safety, security and best interests of those we serve to the best of our abilities.

About the Judge



- The **Honorable Judge Jay A. Meyer** was elected by the Seneca County Voters to serve as their Juvenile and Probate Judge in 2008. Public service is a core family value that was passed down to him by his parents, the Honorable Gerald D. Meyer (Seneca County Juvenile and Probate Judge 1978-1998) and Jo Ann Meyer.
- Judge Meyer is a graduate of Tiffin Columbian High School. He received his B.A. from Ohio Northern University, and went on to earn a Juris Doctor from Ohio Northern University. After Law School, Judge Meyer served as an Assistant County Prosecutor for Seneca County and worked with the Seneca County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) to pursue parents who failed to pay child support and the Seneca County Department of Job and Family Services (SCDJFS) to prosecute those who would cheat the welfare system.
- In 1998, Judge Meyer went into private practice working for the Shuff Law Offices until he became a partner in 1999. During his 10 years as partner of the law firm of Meyer & Kerschner, Judge Meyer focused primarily on business/institutional representation, litigation and probate.
- Judge Meyer and his wife, Heidi, have four children.

About the MAGISTRATE



DONALD S. BENNETT

- Magistrate Bennett was appointed by Judge Meyer in June of 2009. Prior to appointment to the Court, Magistrate Bennett was in private practice for 20 years, concentrating in the areas of juvenile, domestic, and criminal trial practice.
- Magistrate Bennett is a graduate of the University of Toledo College of Law and holds a Bachelors Degree in Social Studies from Oakland University. Prior to earning his Law Degree, Magistrate Bennett was a high school educator in Michigan.

About the MAGISTRATE



Tiffany E. Cavanaugh

- Magistrate Tiffany E. Cavanaugh, was appointed by Judge Meyer in January 2016. Mrs. Cavanaugh received her Juris Doctor degree from the Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law in 2006 and received her undergraduate degree in Journalism with a minor in Business Administration from Ohio Northern University in 2003. Prior to becoming a Magistrate, Mrs. Cavanaugh was an associate in the Business Litigation section of the Toledo, Ohio based law firm of Eastman & Smith Ltd.
- Mrs. Cavanaugh is originally from Tiffin, Ohio, and currently resides in Holland, Ohio with her husband and two children.

About the COURT MEDIATOR



Tiffany E. Cavanaugh

- During her legal career, she participated in several mediations and gained experience negotiating settlement agreements involving multiple claims and parties. Mrs. Cavanaugh completed the following classes required by Supreme Court of Ohio to become a qualified mediator:
 - Basic Mediation Training
 - The Uniform Mediation Act Training
 - Domestic Abuse Issues: Training for Mediators and Other Professionals
 - Specialized Family & Divorce Mediation Training
 - Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Mediation Training

COURT PERSONNEL

Teresa Copp – Court Administrator/Director of Probation Services

Tracy Kerschner– Administrative Clerk

JUVENILE COURT

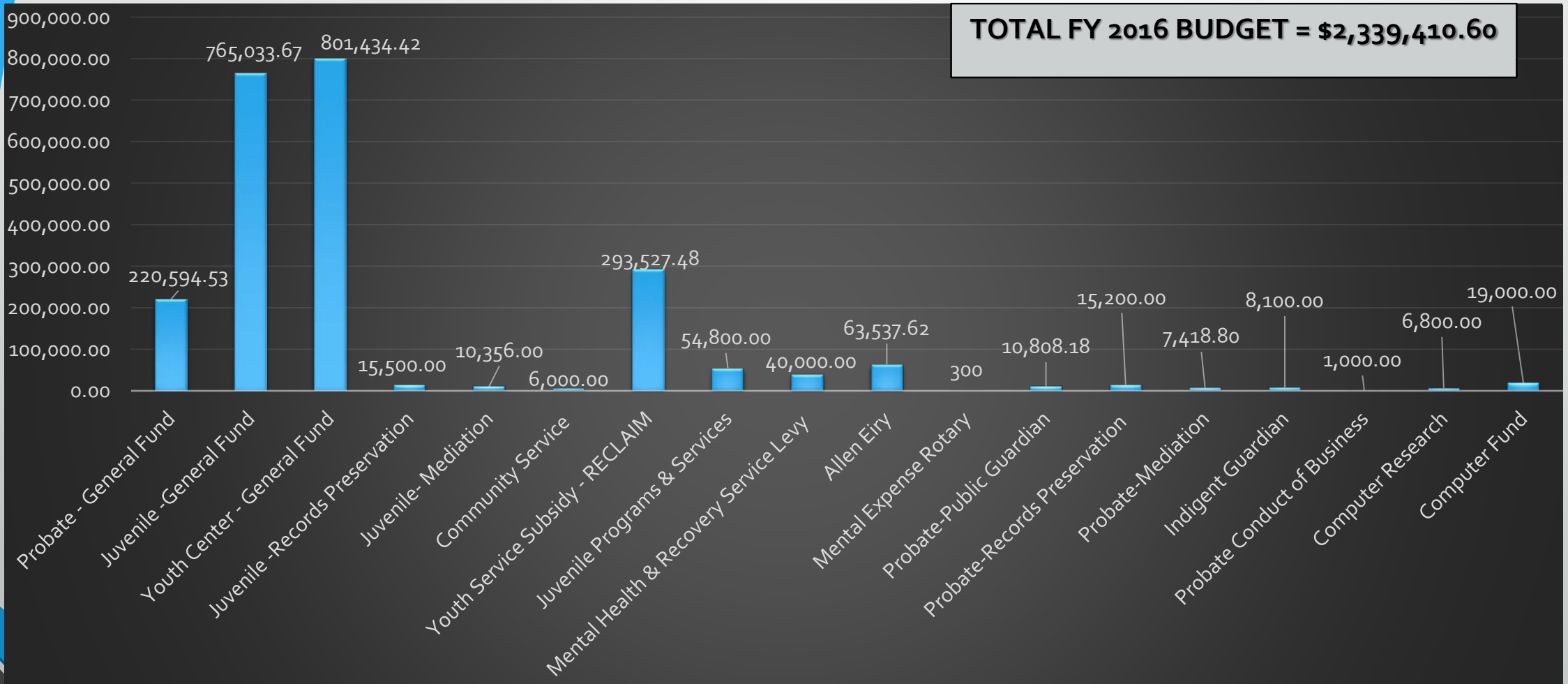
Beth Brown – Chief Deputy Clerk/Bailiff

- Cathy Bean– Deputy Clerk
- Linda Frank –Deputy Clerk
- MeKenna Klaiss– Deputy Clerk
- Jenny Harris – Deputy Clerk
- Karis Tyree– Deputy Clerk

PROBATE COURT

- Dana Eborg – Deputy Clerk
- Samantha Gruss – Deputy Clerk
- Amy Littlejohn – Deputy Clerk
- Beverly Foos – Public Guardian
- Brenda Eisenhower – Asst. Public Guardian

FY 2016 Appropriations





PROBATE COURT

PROBATE COURT

What is Probate Court?

Every county in Ohio has its own probate court, which handles wills, administration of estates and trusts, adoptions, marriage licenses, name changes, and appointments of guardians for minors and incompetent adults. [Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 2101.24]

Seneca County's Probate Court was established in 1851. William Lang was the first Probate Judge serving From 1851 – 1855. He wrote *History of Seneca County: From the Close of the Revolutionary War to July 1880*.



PROBATE COURT CASE BREAKDOWN - 2016

Marriage Licenses Issued =

300

	OPEN	CLOSED
Estates	307	291
Minor Guardianships	2	3
Incompetent Guardianships	24	26
Trusts	3	4
Civil	28	25
Adoption	20	14
Mental Illness	10	10
Minor Settlement	9	6
Name Change	9	15
Conservatorship	0	0
Wrongful Death	1	0
Delayed Birth Registration	8	8
TOTAL	421	402

Seneca County Guardianship Program

- The **Seneca County Guardianship Program** provides guardianship and conservatorship assistance to indigent incompetent elderly. This life maintaining and life sustaining program would not be possible without the generous grant funding provided by the Allen Eiry Fund.
- The Allen Eiry Fund was created in 1983 in Mr. Eiry's name for the benefit of elderly citizens in Seneca County.



GUARDIANSHIP TRAINING

- Modified Superintendence Rule 66 implemented by the Supreme Court of Ohio went into effect June 1, 2015. The new rule significantly impacts guardianship training requirements. All guardians of adults are now required to receive six (6) hours of fundamental training followed by three (3) hours of continuing education each year thereafter. Unless exempt by the Seneca County Probate Local Rule 66.



JUVENILE COURT

JUVENILE COURT

The Seneca County Juvenile Court handles the filing and processing of the following types of matters:

Juvenile Delinquency and Unruly

Juvenile Traffic

Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency

Paternity

Custody and Child Support

Some Adult Criminal Cases

The Juvenile Court System was created in 1906, The Honorable Hal W. Michaels was serving as Probate Judge during this time. When the Juvenile Court System was created the Probate Judge assumed responsibility over Juvenile Court as well. At age 29 he was the youngest judge to be elected as Seneca County Probate Judge. He served as Judge from 1903-1909.



JUVENILE COURT CASES - 2016

	FILED	CONCLUDED
Delinquent	406	391
Traffic	202	189
Abuse/Neglect/Dependent	40	27
Unruly	78	68
Adult	18	12
Permanent Custody	0	4
Change of Custody	240	217
Support Modification	449	445
Parentage	15	19
UIFSA	4	5
Other	34	33
TOTAL	1486	1410

JUVENILE COURT

-Court HABILITATION PROGRAMS-

- **Strengthening Families Program**
- **Family Intervention Court**
- **Community Service**
- **Restitution Work Program**
- **Youth Center Counseling**
- **Ankle Monitoring**
- **Nicotine Prevention**
- **Substance Abuse & Alcohol Education**
- **Anger Management**
- **Reality Works**
- **PACE Program**
- **YES Shoplifting Program**
- **CARTEENS**

Program Descriptions:

YES Program – an educational rehabilitative program offered to juveniles for first time petty theft/shoplifting offenses

Family Intervention Court – specialized docket program certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio designed to help families break mental illness and/or substance abuse cycles causing continued contact with the court system

Community Service Program – juvenile is able to complete court ordered community service hours

Restitution Work Program – allows youth to work for state minimum wage with their compensation being paid directly to their victim

Ankle Monitoring – alternative to detention concept that allows participants to remain in the community rather than being incarcerated

4-H CARTEENS Program –
a teen facilitated traffic safety
program for first time juvenile
traffic offenders

Partnership with OSU Extension

Nicotine Prevention Program –
designed to educate youth on
the harmful effects of smoking
cigarettes and smokeless
tobacco

**Substance Abuse & Alcohol
Education Program** – designed
to educate youth on the harmful
effects of using drugs and
consuming alcohol

Anger Management Program –
gives youth an opportunity to
learn strategies and techniques
to control anger

Strengthening Families Program –
evidence-based family skills training
program to improve parenting skills,
family relationships, and reduce
problem behaviors, delinquency and
alcohol and drug abuse in children.

Partnership with Firelands Counseling and Recovery

Reality Works –
interactive technology used to
educate youth on topics such as
fetal alcohol syndrome, prenatal
drug exposure, shaken baby
syndrome, and pregnancy
prevention



PACE Program –
academic tutoring offered in
partnership with Heidelberg
University



JUVENILE COURT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



Seneca County Juvenile Court works closely with area higher education institutions to provide internship opportunities to qualified students.

In 2016, *four students* logged 621.50 *hours* as part of the Juvenile Court Internship Program. The students that completed these hours were from Heidelberg University, Tiffin University, and Ohio University.



PROBATION SERVICES

PROBATION DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Teresa Copp - Director of Probation Services

Tracy Kerschner – Administrative Clerk

Jim Jarrett – Director of Intensive Probation and Coordinator of Family Intervention Court

Kendra Shearer – Probation Officer

Linda Cohen – Probation Officer

Jason French – Probation Officer

Jay Rishty – Probation Officer

Rachel Briggs – Community Service/Restitution & Probation Officer



ABOUT OUR PROBATION DEPARTMENT...

The Seneca County Probation Department is largely funded by RECLAIM Ohio.

WHAT IS RECLAIM OHIO?

RECLAIM stands for Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors. It is a funding initiative which encourages juvenile courts to explore community-based options to meet the needs of juvenile offenders and youth at risk of offending.

RECLAIM FUNDS IN ACTION...

RECLAIM Grant funds pay for the following programs:

- Program Administration
- Probation
- Educational Services
- Restitution/Community Service
- Monitoring/Surveillance
- Diversion

HOW WE USE OUR RECLAIM GRANT FUNDS:

Program Administration:

Used to pay a portion of yearly salaries for two employees

Probation:

**Funds provide the salaries of 3 full-time Probation Officers
Served 291 adjudicated youth in FY 2016

Used to provide supervision and case management of adjudicated youth with the goal of reducing subsequent delinquent behavior

Restitution/Community Service:

**Funds provide the salary of 1 full-time Officer
Served 95 adjudicated youth in FY 2016

This program addresses youth that are in need of completing court ordered restitution and community service hours

Monitoring/Surveillance:

**Served 32 adjudicated youth in FY 2016*

As an alternative to secure detention, this program uses ankle monitors to closely track youth who require intensive supervision

Educational Services:

**Served 40 adjudicated youth in FY 2016*

The PACE program targets youth that are struggling in school by providing contracted tutoring services through Heidelberg University

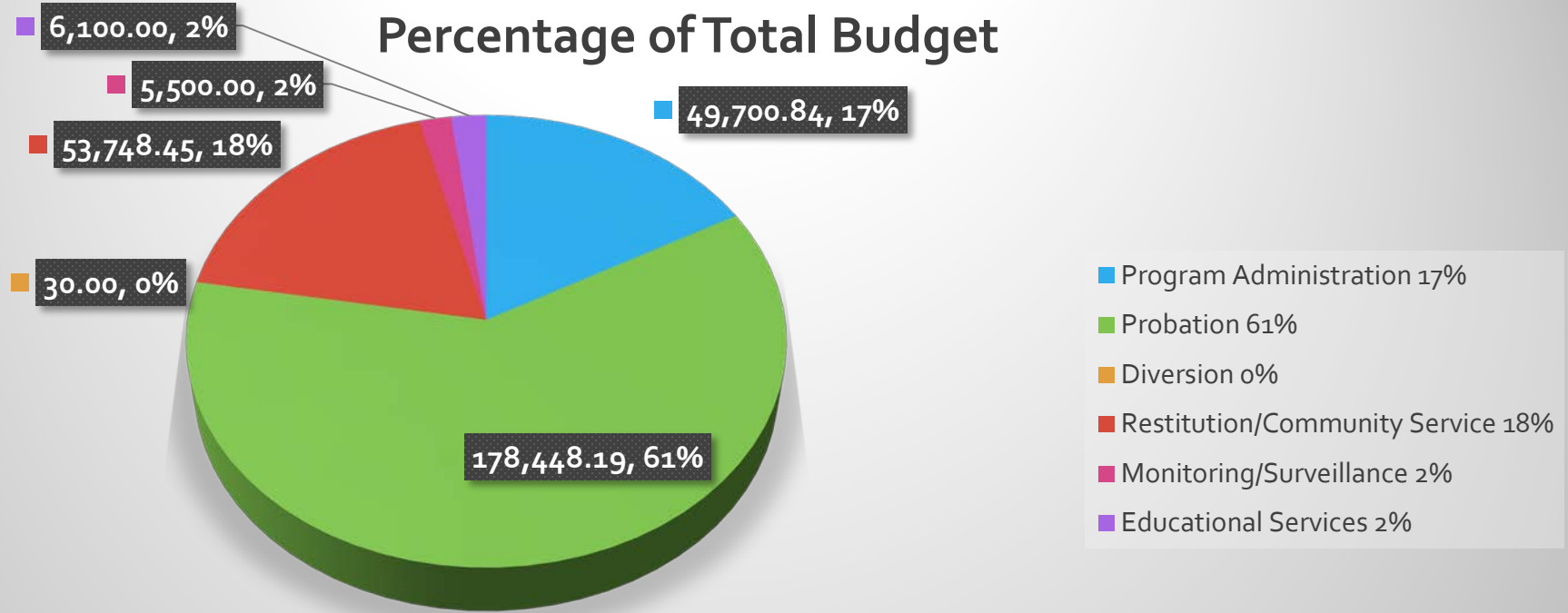
Diversion:

**Program was not implemented for FY 2016
Served 0 youth in FY 2016

Used to deliver informal supervision to first-time offenders in hopes of helping them avoid an official court hearing

FY 2016 Reclaim GRANT

Total FY 2016 Budget = \$293,527.48

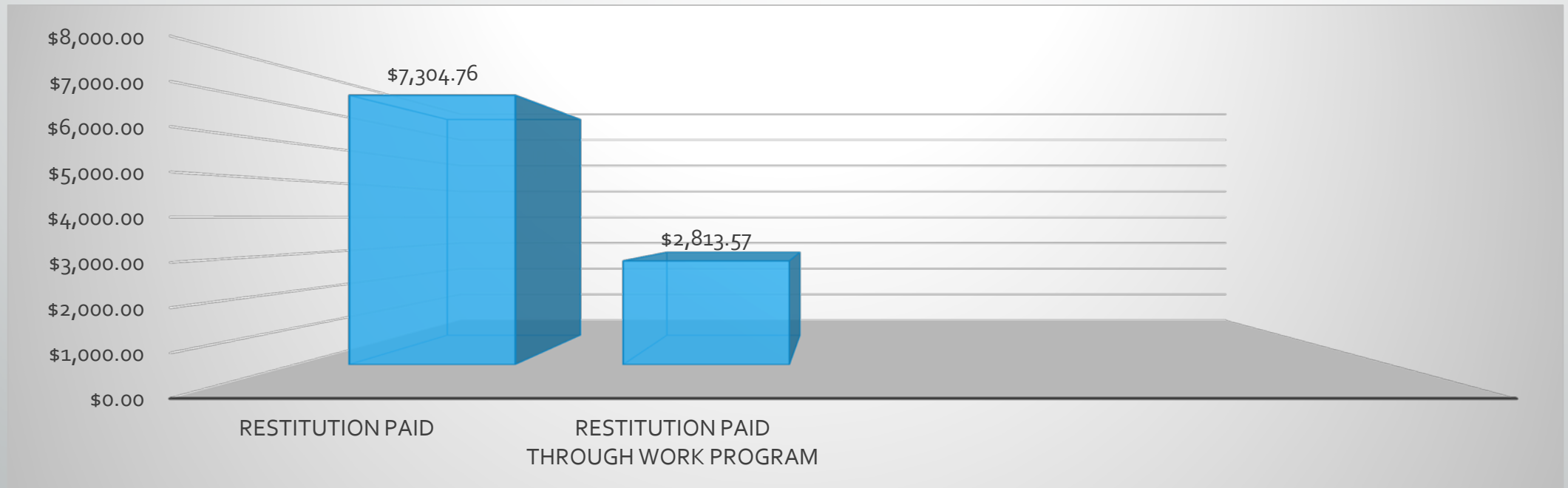


Did you know...

As part of the Restitution/ Community Service Program, Seneca County Juvenile Court offers youth an opportunity to participate in a **Work Program**. The **Work Program** allows the youth owing victim restitution a chance to earn an hourly credit of \$8.10 (state minimum wage) to be paid to their victim. Youth can earn up to a maximum credit of \$1,000.00.



Restitution Paid To victims 2016



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDED BY JUVENILES

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
5,921 hours	6,734 hours	5,467 hours	5,223.75 hours	6,661 hours



6,705 hours





YOUTH CENTER

ABOUT the youth center....

- Construction on the 24-bed facility began on March 1st, 2012.
- The Youth Center opened its doors on February 7th, 2013. The opening allowed the county to discontinue use of the 1950's orphanage building that previously housed the Center.
- The Ohio Department of Youth Services contributed \$1,878,000.00 and Seneca County contributed \$1,252,000.00 to cover the cost of the project.



YOUTH CENTER Staff....

Ben Yourkvitch – Director
Greg Selhorst – Operations Manager
Sarah Canalos – Program Manager

Other Positions Include:

2 full time Activities Supervisors

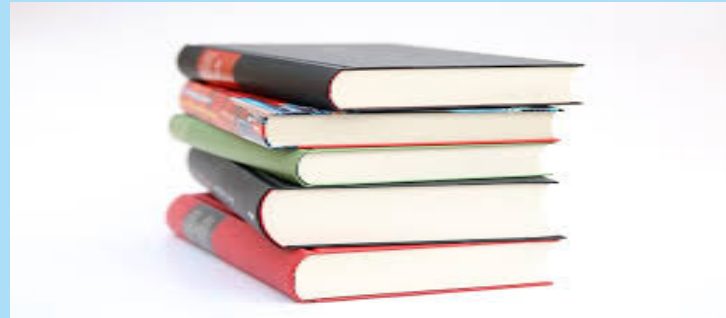
2 full time Head Supervisors

4 full time Shift Leaders

8 full time Juvenile Corrections Officers

Numerous part time Juvenile Correction Officers (based upon need)

EDUCATION at the Youth Center...



- North Central Ohio Educational Service Center (NCOESC) provides all educational services for the youth at the Youth Center.
- All of the youth are required to attend school while detained. This includes a minimum of 5.5 hours per weekday during the school year and a minimum of 2.5 hours per weekday during the summer.
- Residents receive individual work assignments from their respective schools. Basic skills in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies are available through electronic education programs.

Counseling at the Youth Center

Residents have the opportunity to participate in mental health counseling during his/her time spent at the Seneca County Youth Center.

Funding for the SCJC Behavioral Health Program is paid in part by local Seneca County levy funds from the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky, and Wyandot Counties.

2016

Number of Group Sessions provided to youth	Group Session Hours	Number of Diagnostic Assessments provided to youth	Number of consultation hours provided to the youth
165	195.40	5	360

- ***Along with school, youth in detention are kept active from breakfast until bedtime. The Youth Center offers an array of programs and each youth attends approximately 20 hours of programming per week. Some of programs offered include:***

- *Life Skills

- *Job Application & Resume Education

- *Drug & Alcohol Education/Awareness

- *First Aid/CPR

- *Arts & Crafts

- *Guest Speakers

- *Physical Education

- *Activities to Work on Self-Esteem, Anger Management, Trauma, and Peer Pressure



2016 YOUTH CENTER INTAKE STATISTICS

Felony Offenses	48
Misdemeanor Offenses	253
Other (status, tobacco, alcohol)	8
Seneca County Intakes	178
Other County Intakes	131
Seneca County Sentencing	111
Other County Sentencing	73

Partnerships and Relationships

The Seneca County Juvenile and Probate Court have many wonderful partnerships and relationships that work together for the benefit the residents of Seneca County.

- COMMUNITY ACTION FOR REDUCING SUBSTANCE ABUSE (CARSA)
- FIRELANDS COUNSELING AND RECOVERY SERVICES
- SENECA MENTORING YOUTH LINKS (SMYL)
- TIFFIN PARK AND RECREATION
- SENECA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
- MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES BOARD OF SENECA, SANDUSKY AND WYANDOT COUNTIES
- SENECA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES
- ALL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICTS
- AREA COUNSELORS AND COUNSELING SERVICES
- HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY
- TIFFIN UNIVERSITY
- SENECA COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNSEL
- FIRST CALL FOR HELP
- OHIO STATE EXTENSION SERVICE
- UNITED WAY
- OTTAWA, SANDUSKY, SENECA COUNTY JOINT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
- TIFFIN COMMUNITY YMCA
- COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA)
- ST. FRANCIS EARTH LITERACY CENTER
- CAMP GLEN
- CAMP FIRE BOYS AND GIRLS
- FOSTORIA COMMUNITY YMCA
- PATCHWORKS HOUSE