Youth Treatment Center (YTC)

Tara Hobbs, YTC Administrator

Administrative Judge Denise Cubbon, center, with Tara Hobbs, YTC Administrator, right, and Tiffany Brewster, YTC Lead Primary Counselor at a recent retirement celebration pot luck luncheon in the JDC gym.

Accomplishments for 2015:

1. Enhanced visitation
   - Added a day time visitation day
   - Implemented flexible visit days based on family need
   - Implemented flexibility for visitation check-in procedures
   - Increased the number of visitors each resident is allowed to have at each visitation time
   - Eliminated visitation based on resident progress in treatment
   - Expanded visitation to include those people who are supportive of the resident
   - Monthly birthday celebration
   - Family chili day
   - Ice cream social
   - Monthly meal served at visitation
2. Quarterly Integrated Art Experience program including art exhibit of the pieces created
3. YTC Chess Club
4. Trauma training provided to all staff to increase staff knowledge and skill level in addressing youth who may have had past traumatic experiences
5. In conjunction with grants awarded to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council from the Juvenile Reentry Second Chance Grant and the Ohio Department of Youth Service/Competitive Reclaim, implemented Functional Family Therapy (FFT) for residents moving into reentry to support families after resident return home.

The mission of the Lucas County Youth Treatment Center is to rehabilitate juvenile offenders and their families by developing prosocial attitudes, values, beliefs, and skills, to increase community safety, reduce victimization, and support youth reintegration with opportunities to demonstrate accountability and responsibility.

Overview: YTC uses a cognitive-behavioral and systems-based approach to correction that believes, "Everything together is treatment." Thoughts, feelings, behaviors, moral development, social skills, substance abuse, relationship issues, and traumatic histories are addressed in individualized treatment planning. All residents work to identify and correct criminal thinking errors; they participate in individual and family therapy, and attend school. The group counseling curricula used are: Thinking for a Change; Aggression Replacement Training's skill streaming, advance practice in skill streaming, anger control and moral reasoning components; Voices for female residents; Gang Intervention; and Boosters skill streaming for residents as they reenter the community. Public service and completing any court ordered restitution assist residents in addressing the harm caused to their victims and to the community. 51 youth and their families were serviced in 2015.

Goals for 2016

1. Improve intake procedures to be more inclusive of families
2. Implement a motivation assessment
3. Develop a sensory and/or calming space for residents within the facility

PYD Positive Youth Development

is an approach in youth that is guided by the science of how adolescents develop and make positive transitions to adulthood. Success is measured by a youth developing skills and achieving positive outcomes not just avoiding negative outcomes. Promoting PYD helps youth transition to adulthood through the acquisition of pro-social skills and supportive relationships. Juvenile courts, communities and other stakeholders are utilizing a PYD approach when they are building on achieved developmental assets as the foundation for subsequent change.

Lesson plans related to the "Transformations" theme, incorporated literal and symbolic applications, incorporating biology and visual arts as a communication tool.

The basic premise of PYD is that even the most disadvantaged young person can develop positively when connected to the right mix of opportunities, supports, positive roles, and relationships.

–pg 9, PYJ; 2010 Butts, Bazemore, Meroe https://positiveyouthjustice.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/pyj2010.pdf

Toledo's professional music community has been very generous in visiting YTC with their educational outreach programming. Above, Toledo Masterwork Chorale introduces alternative holiday music selections to the youth.

Family and Court staff fill the audience for quarterly themed art shows. Youth participating in the program present their artwork. Later, their work will be exhibited in the Juvenile Justice Center's gallery areas, which are open to the public.

One youth commented, "We [are] messing our life up and they [our forefathers] would not be happy to see this."

Above; Part of the mission of YTC is to rehabilitate juvenile offenders by developing pro-social attitudes, values, beliefs, and skills. The tools utilized to accomplish this involve creating learning opportunities under the care of the treatment team within the community. This group traveled to Detroit's Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the world's largest institution dedicated to the African American experience. Observing the lifesize exhibits of slave ship quarters generated discussion on the lengths people went to be free back then and whether or not the youth were taking full advantage of their freedom and the right to learn.

All justice-involved youth… need basic supports and opportunities if they are to avoid future criminality and learn to lead positive, productive adult lives.

–pg 7, PYJ; 2010 Butts, Bazemore, Meroe

A holiday visit to the Manor House at Wildwood afforded an opportunity to try to experience life in another time period.

PYJ Positive Youth Justice is a framework that helps juvenile justice courts and staff plan and design suitable interventions and apply the developmental principles of PYD specifically to justice-involved youth.

PYJ emphasizes a strength-based, developmentally-sound approach that builds on community connections, positive peer culture and family engagement.

–pg 5, PYJ; 2010 Butts, Bazemore, Meroe

Young people learn that while they have made mistakes in the past, they are capable of learning new skills they can use to better themselves, their families and their communities.

–pg 8, PYJ; 2010 Butts, Bazemore, Meroe