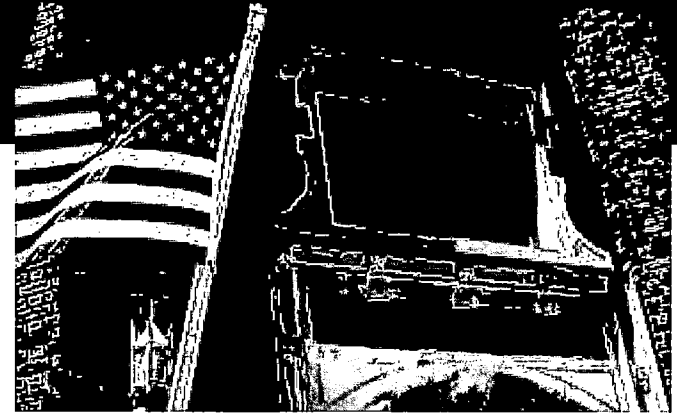

SENECA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT
2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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.
- 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. 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 believes in community involvement. Judge Meyer currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Seneca County Commission on Aging, the Board of Directors for the Tiffin-Bucyrus YMCA and on the governing board of the Northern Ohio Community Correctional Facility. He is a past member of the Tiffin Rotary Club where he had previously served as Auction Finance Co-Chair for the Tiffin Rotary Auction. He is a past member of the Support Service Committee for Tiffin City Schools and has served as a Celebrity Reader for area kindergarteners. He is a past Director of the Christian Counseling Center, Community Hospice Care, and Tiffin-Seneca United Way.
- Judge Meyer supports Seneca County youth and the Courts mission. Judge Meyer was the featured speaker at the 2018 Respect for Law Luncheon and the 2013 National Machinery Citizenship Awards, Meyer also served as Mock Trial Judge for Tiffin City Schools. In 2015, he was the keynote speaker for the Tiffin City Schools Academic Letter Breakfast. He has served as a Career Day panelist and as a drug awareness group discussion panelist at NCOESC. Judge Meyer has served as career day speaker for Tiffin City and Calvert Schools and as a mentor for the Seneca Area Career System Mentorship Program.
- 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.

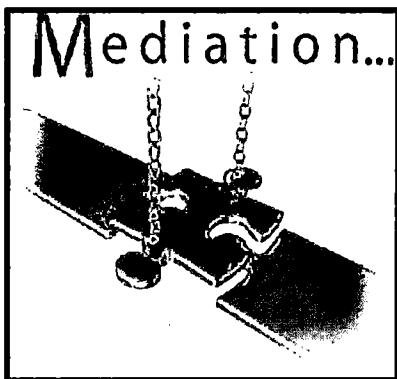
ABOUT THE MAGISTRATE



Tiffany E. Cavanaugh

- Magistrate Tiffany E. Cavanaugh was appointed by Judge Meyer in January of 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



Tiffany E. Cavanaugh

- During her legal career, Mrs. Cavanaugh participated in several mediations and gained experience negotiating settlement agreements involving multiple claims and parties. During her tenure at the Juvenile and Probate Court, Mrs. Cavanaugh has helped several families resolve conflict by assisting them with the development of parenting time schedules and shared parenting plans. 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

Teresa Copp – Court Administrator

Paul Garrett- Director of Court Services

JUVENILE COURT

PROBATE COURT

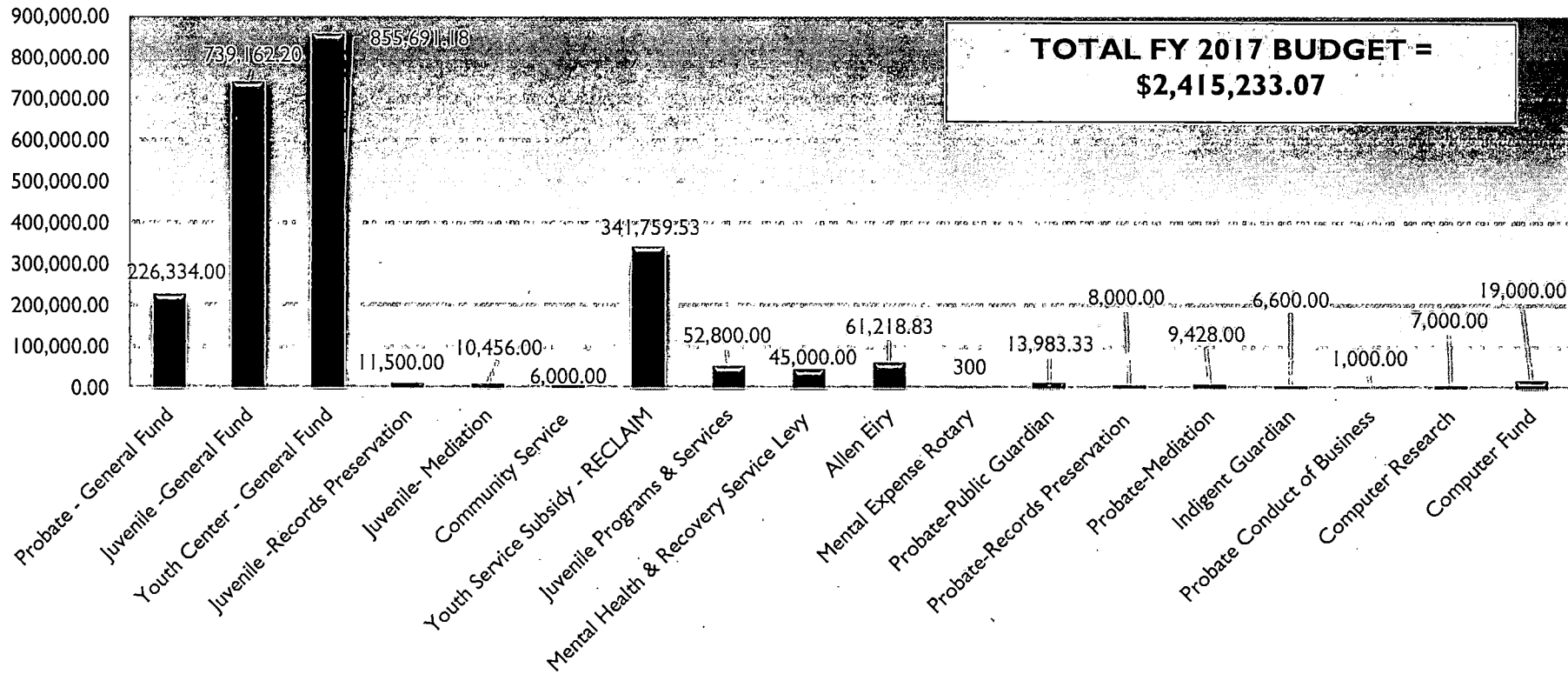
Tracy Kerschner– Administrative Clerk

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
- Cherie Anderson- Records Clerk

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

FY 2017 APPROPRIATIONS

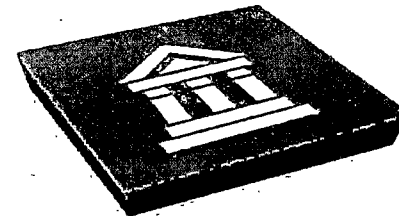


PROBATE COURT

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 YEAR IN REVIEW

Projects implemented during the year:

- A draft of updated Probate Court Local Rules were completed in 2017, and took effect February 1, 2018.
- The court continued ongoing Guardianship training to comply with Superintendence Rule 66.
- A records committee was established to look into preservation of older Probate records.
- A draft of a Guardianship Handbook was completed in 2017.
- Creation of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program.

Goals for 2018:

- Preservation of Probate records through imaging and/or microfilm.
- Continuation of hosting ongoing guardianship training to comply with Superintendence Rule 66.
- Completion of the Guardianship Handbook.
- Probate Court will be moving into the Seneca County Justice Center after renovations are complete.

PROBATE COURT CASE BREAKDOWN-2017

Marriage Licenses Issued =

319

	OPEN	CLOSED
Estates	336	340
Minor Guardianships	1	5
Incompetent Guardianships	30	19
Trusts	3	4
Civil	20	19
Adoption	20	20
Mental Illness	6	7
Minor Settlement	6	7
Name Change	30	28
Conservatorship	0	0
Wrongful Death	0	1
Delayed Birth Registration	2	4
TOTAL	454	454

SENECA COUNTY GUARDIANSHIP

- 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 Advisory Committee consists of 5 individuals, 2 of which are appointed by The Seneca County Probate Court.
- 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

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

Juvenile Delinquency and Unruly

Juvenile Traffic

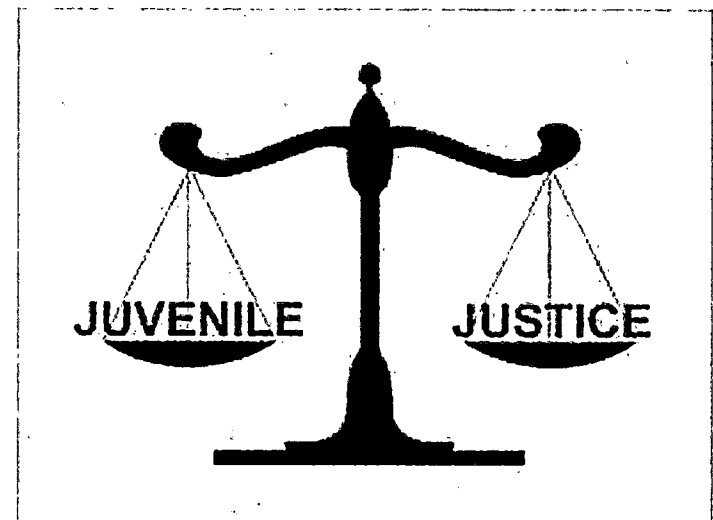
Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency

Paternity

Custody and Child Support

Some Adult Criminal Cases

The Juvenile Court System was created in 1902, 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 YEAR IN REVIEW

Projects implemented during the year:

- Juvenile Court hired a records clerk to begin the process of scanning older records to lesson our paper imprint and create ease of access to the records.
- Juvenile Court will be implementing the use of Evidence Based Programming to better serve Court Ordered Youth and their families.
- Recertification of our Family Intervention court through the Supreme Court of Ohio special docket.

Goals for 2018:

- Juvenile Court will continue the scanning of old and new records.
- Juvenile Court will be reinstating our Diversion Program.
- After the recertification of our Family Intervention Court we will continue to provide support in this program to serve our families.
- Juvenile Court will be moving to the Seneca County Justice Center after renovations are complete.

JUVENILE COURT CASES - 2017

	FILED	CONCLUDED
Delinquent	293	315
Traffic	236	235
Abuse/Neglect/Dependent	45	45
Unruly	66	80
Adult	34	37
Permanent Custody	3	0
Change of Custody	249	250
Support Modification	506	511
Parentage	12	15
UIFSA	3	3
Other	33	33
TOTAL	1480	1524

JUVENILE COURT -COURT HABILITATION

- **Strengthening Families Program**
- **Family Intervention Court**
- **Community Service**
- **Restitution Work Program**
- **Youth Center Counseling**
- **Ankle Monitoring**
- **Triangle Youth Mentoring Program**
- **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

Triangle Youth Mentoring Program—designed to assist the Court referred youth through a group mentoring process focusing on the YMCA triangle concept of Mind, Body, and Spirit.

Ankle Monitoring – alternative incarceration 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 and the YMCA

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 2017, *three students* logged 458 *hours* as part of the Juvenile Court Internship Program. The students that completed these hours were from Heidelberg University, and Tiffin University.



PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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

WHAT IS RECLAIM OHIO?

RECLAIM stands for **R**easoned and **E**quitable **C**ommunity and **L**ocal **A**lternatives to the **I**ncarceration of **M**inors. 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.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT YEAR IN REVIEW

Probation department is working diligently to provide the most effective programs for at risk juveniles based on evidence that shows that the incarceration of low risk youth **increases** that youth's likelihood of reoffending. In lieu of detention, evidence shows that community services such as mentoring, counseling, academic support, workforce development, in home case management, and family interventions are more successful in preventing recidivism.

What are we doing for our youth?

- Our Probation Department has hired a full time Director of Court Services to oversee these needed changes.
- The Department has begun a series of training in Motivational Interviewing, funded by House Bill 153 grant monies.
- Proper procedures and protocols have been developed to reinstate our Diversion Program.
- Continually educating our department on new evidence and research to provide the most effective services for our youth.

Goals for 2018:

- The probation department will be partnering with other counties to receive training in Carey Guides which is an evidence based program.
- The department will also continue to build on their Motivational Interviewing Training.
- Probation officers will begin Case Planning to better serve our youth.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT
PERSONNEL

Paul Garrett- Director of Court Services

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/Miranda Samsal – Community Service/Restitution & Probation Officer



RECLAIM FUNDS IN ACTION...

RECLAIM Grant funds pay for the following programs:

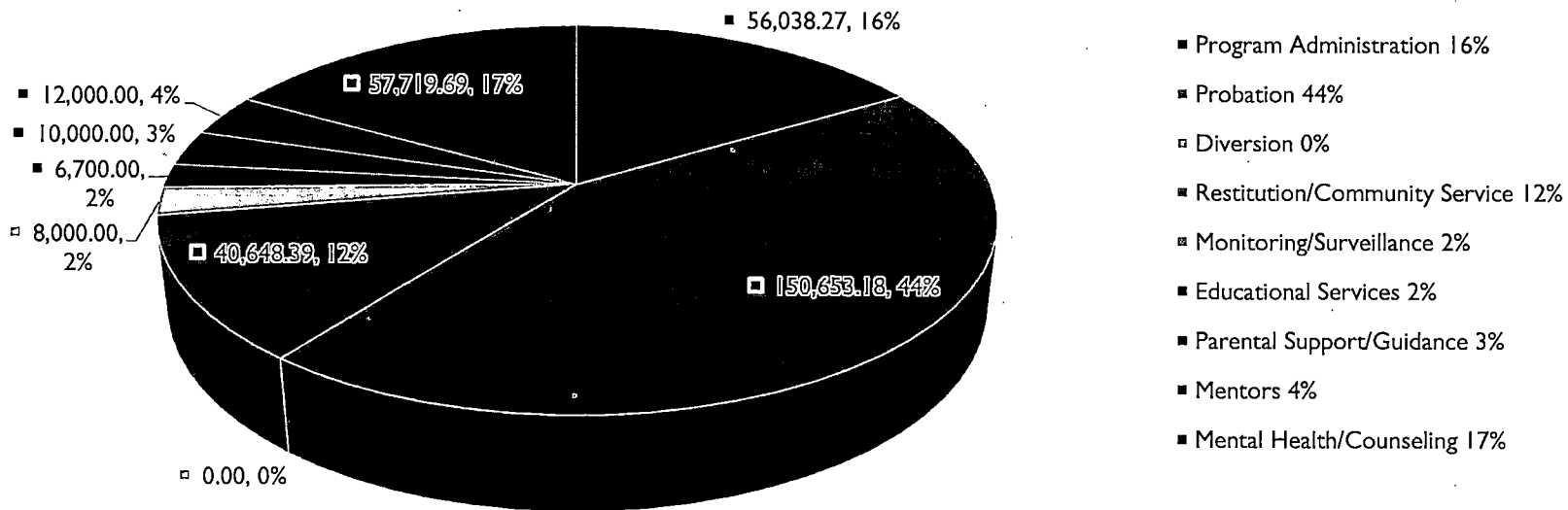
- Program Administration
- Probation
- Educational Services
- Strengthening Families Program
- Restitution/Community Service
- Monitoring/Surveillance
- Diversion
- Triangle Youth Mentoring Program

HOW WE USE OUR RECLAIM GRANT FUNDS:

Program Administration:	Used to pay for full time Director of Court services and portion of administrative clerk salary
Probation: <i>*Funds provide the salaries of 3 full-time Probation Officers</i> <i>*Served 231 adjudicated youth in FY 2017</i>	Used to provide supervision and case management of adjudicated youth with the goal of reducing subsequent delinquent behavior
Restitution/Community Service: <i>*Funds provide the salary of 1 full-time Officer</i> <i>*Served 104 adjudicated youth in FY 2017</i>	This program addresses youth that are in need of completing court ordered restitution and community service hours
Monitoring/Surveillance: <i>*Served 32 adjudicated youth in FY 2017</i>	This program uses ankle monitors to closely track youth who require intensive supervision, and an alternative to detention.
Educational Services: <i>*Served 42 adjudicated youth in FY 2017</i>	The PACE program targets youth that are struggling in school by providing contracted tutoring services through Heidelberg University
Diversion: <i>*Program was not implemented for FY 2017</i> <i>*Served 0 youth in FY 2017</i>	Used to deliver informal supervision to first-time offenders in hopes of helping them avoid an official court hearing
Mentors: <i>*Served 13 youth in FY 2017</i>	The Triangle Mentoring Program provided through the YMCA was designed to assist youth in focusing on self cognitive awareness, general life skills, enhanced social skills, and physical activity.
Parental Support/ Guidance: <i>*Served 12 youth and their families in FY 17</i>	Partnering with Firelands and the YMCA the Seneca County Family Fulfillment Program provides the youth and families the evidence based program Strengthening Families along with youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.
Mental Health/ Counseling <i>*Program not implemented for FY 17</i> <i>*Served 0 Youth in FY 17</i>	Youth will be referred to the Counselor by the Probation Department, the counselor will work closely with Probation Department as the youth follows the case plan. The Counselor will also provide group programming such as effective or model cognitive-behavioral programs, substance abuse programs and other programming.

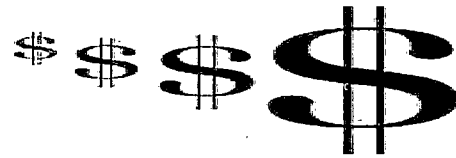
Total FY 2017 Budget = \$341,759.53

Percentage of Total Budget



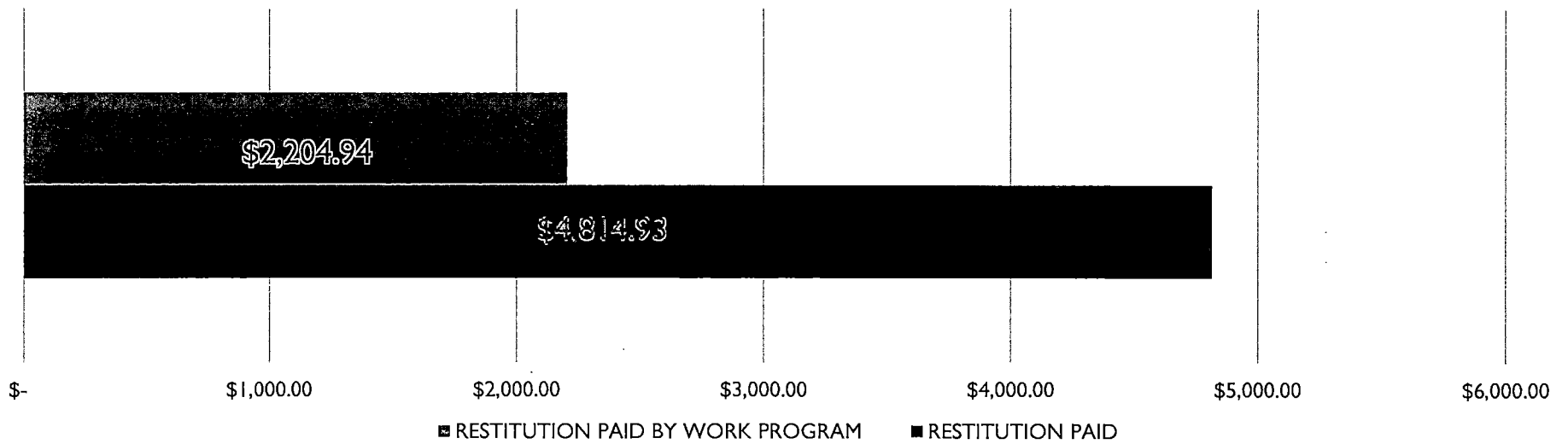
YOU KNOW...

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 \$8.15 (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 2017

RESTITUTION



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDED BY JUVENILES

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
5,921	6,734	5,467	5,223.75	6,661	6,705

2017

5,909.50 hours



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
Tiffany Mercado –Administrative Manager

Other Positions Include:

2 full time Activities Supervisors

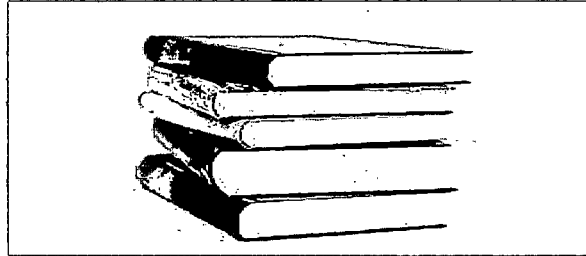
2 full time Head Supervisors

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 SANDUSKY COUNTY, LEVY FUNDS FROM MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES BOARD OF SENECA, SANDUSKY, AND WYANDOT COUNTIES.

2017

Youth who received behavioral health services	Primarily MH Service Hours	Primarily AOD Service Hours	Successfully Discharged	Unsuccessfully Discharged
328	463	463	262	0

-
- **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:**

- *Drug & Alcohol Education/Awareness

- *Life Skills

- *Job Application & Resume Education


- *First Aid/CPR

- *Arts & Crafts

- *Guest Speakers

- *Physical Education

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

PHYSICAL

EDUCATION

Life
Skills


FIRST AID



ARTS
&
CRAFTS


2017 YOUTH CENTER INTAKE STATISTICS

Felony Offenses	43
Misdemeanor Offenses	244
Other (status, tobacco, alcohol)	12
Seneca County Intakes	162
Other County Intakes	82
Seneca County Sentencing	138
Other County Sentencing	71

PARTNERSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIPS

THE SENECA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT HAVE MANY WONDERFUL PARTNERSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIPS THAT WORK TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF 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