

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN FEBRUARY 2016

JUNIOR LEADERSHIP MEDINA COUNTY VISITS MCJDC FOR GOVERNMENT DAY

The Medina County Junior Leadership Class of 2016 visited the Juvenile Detention Center during their Government Day February 2.

Magistrate Lewis, who is also on the Leadership Medina County Planning Committee alongside Court Administrator Sharon Danko and MCJDC Superintendent Ron Stollar, filled in as speaker for Judge Kevin Dunn who had to attend to an emergency.

To start the presentation, Magistrate Lewis asked the class how many students knew about the Juvenile Detention Center in their community. Only six students raised their hands. Junior Leadership Medina County Advisor Susan Vlcek said that is why both Leadership and Junior Leadership classes have an entire day dedicated to local government.

"This is why we have our Government Day," Vlcek said. "It's important for you to see all the people who work to make Medina a safe and desirable community to live in."

To provide a little insight about the facility, MCJDC Superintendent Stollar passed out a true and false questionnaire for the students to answer regarding the rules residents must follow while detained. Those rules include no outside contact with boyfriends or girlfriends, no television or radio, minimal talking, and generic toiletries.

"I would never survive here," one student responded.

Stollar explained that although the rules may seem strict, they are necessary to maintain the safety record that the MCJDC has consistently upheld.

To give some insight into the Court process, Magistrate Lewis held two mock hearings with volunteer actors from the class. The first hearing was set in early 1960, prior to

the landmark case *In Re Gault*, which eventually set the standard for Constitutional Rights for juvenile offenders. Magistrate Lewis admittedly dramatized the unfairness of juvenile cases prior to *In Re Gault*, acknowledging that although the Prosecution did not provide sufficient evidence, she was still going to find the Juvenile guilty of the offense and have him detained.

"That was quick but I wanted to show you the severity of the lack of Constitutional Rights for juveniles in history," Magistrate Lewis said.

Magistrate Lewis held a second mock hearing, this time including today's Constitutional Rights for juveniles.

"Juvenile law has evolved tremendously," Magistrate Lewis said. "Now, the goal of Juvenile Court is to redirect youth on a positive, productive path, rather than considering detainment as the only option."

"That second trial seemed a lot more fair," one JrLMC student said, noting that the Magistrate took the time to ask the alleged offender and his parents questions, explain his charge and possible consequences, as well as appoint him an attorney.

After the mock hearings, JrLMC students were also offered the option to try two samples of the lunches provided to MCJDC from the jail. The first option was meat and potatoes with a salad, orange and milk, which many students said they did not find much different from lunches provided at school. However, in a styrofoam container was a glob of red food called "loaf." The loaf is essentially all the food provided on a lunch tray, blended together into one pancake-shaped pile for inmates at the

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Magistrate Lewis conducts a mock hearing to demonstrate the progression of Juvenile rights throughout history.



JLMC students taste food provided by the Jail.



An example of lunches provided at the MCJDC and Jail

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VGP HOSTS FIRST IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR 2016



Volunteer Guardians, Magistrate Alicia Hathcock and Judge Kevin Dunn discuss changes to Sup. Rule 66.

The Medina County Volunteer Guardianship Program hosted its first in-service training of 2016 at Medina County Home February 4.

Eighteen volunteers and four Probate Court staff members attended the training to learn about the newest changes to Supreme Court Rule of Superintendence 66 and how the changes affect volunteer guardians.

Joyce Giles, of Medina County Home and Volunteer Guardianship Program board member, provided

desserts and coffee while she spoke of the impact Medina County Home has on the community. Giles also talked about the positive changes taking place at Medina County Home, the activity level of the residents within the community to keep them healthy, and how to make better choices involving fitness, activity and food choices.

The next in-service training for the Volunteer Guardianship Program will be held April 7.

How Do Changes to Superintendence Rule 66 Affect Volunteer Guardians?



1. They have to attend an annual three-hour training course



2. They must provide yearly annual reports now (instead of bi-annually) along with a required annual plan.



3. Expert evaluations are still required with guardians reports/annual plan unless previously ordered that they are no longer needed

JrLMC

jail with behavioral problems. Many JrLMC students tried the loaf with a uniform reaction of disgust.

JrLMC was also offered a Mid-Program Opportunity to attend Juvenile Drug Court February 9. This was the second year JrLMC was permitted to attend the Drug Court hearings, allowing the class to see a true example of how the Court works to enforce restorative justice.

“I think it’s important to have them observe Drug Court because it gives them a great insight to struggles facing their classmates that they wouldn’t otherwise see,” Magistrate Lewis said. “I hope that allowing them to observe Drug Court heightens their awareness and inspires them to help find progressive solutions to the problems that kids face in their communities. We look forward to sharing this experience leadership classes in the future.”

PRICE SWORN IN AS NEWEST JUVENILE SPECIALIZED DOCKET PROBATION OFFICER



Mary Price was sworn in as the newest Specialized Docket Probation Officer February 29.

Price, who has her Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Forensic Psychology from Tiffin University, will be responsible for monitoring Court-involved youth placed in the specialized docket programs who attend Medina and Cloverleaf Schools.

Price previously worked as Executive Secretary Evaluation Manager for the past three years at Summit Psychological Associates, an agency Medina County Juvenile Court commonly interacts with.

“I’ve already had some interaction with the other Probation Officers here in Juvenile Court so it helps that I’m familiar with some of the staff,” Price said. “I think that communication and networking will help me transition a little more smoothly.”

Price also said that her familiarity with Juvenile Court language will be helpful, which is different than in adult courts.

Price will shadow the other two Specialized Docket Probation Officers for the next couple of weeks to learn about the Court and monitoring processes, as well as meet school and law enforcement officials she will be working with in her districts.