

# MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN MARCH 2014

## Specialized Docket Hits Decade Milestone

The Drug Court Program, which began in Medina County in 2004, is a specialized docket within Juvenile Court aimed to help stop children from using alcohol and drugs.

The program is a coordinated effort between counseling and court services. There are two Drug Court

Probation Officers who supervise juveniles in both the Non-Intensive and Intensive components, as well as a coordinated collaboration with local schools to monitor attendance, improve academics and correct bad behavior. The program also offers individual,

group, home-based, equine-assisted and mental health treatment to help teach families effective problem solving and parenting skills.

As Drug Court turns ten this year, we look back at the changes and successes of the program over the past decade.

## 10 YEARS OF DRUG COURT

In 2004, Phillip Titterington, Director of Programming, and Judge John J. Lohn create the Medina County Juvenile Drug Court Program.

The specialized docket program utilizes one contracted counselor through Solutions Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. and one probation officer. The team has since expanded to include a second P.O., two clinicians, a coordinator, a Director of Programming, as well as a Drug Court Advisory Panel.

The Drug Court Advisory Panel is made up of professionals representing both public and private sectors from the following agencies:

**Juvenile Court · ADAMH Board · Police Departments · Local Schools · Defense Attorney · County Prosecutor · Mental Health Agencies · MCDAC**

Based on enrollment and component status during the year, many Drug Court participants will not graduate until 2013, decreasing the amount of graduates for 2012.

Medina County Juvenile Drug Court expands its supervision with two probation officers in 2006 and begins to offer mental health assistance in collaboration with Solutions Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

Drug Court Probation Officers can now perform onsite testing for synthetic marijuana use in Drug Court participants.

In May 2010, Drug Court also incorporates Parent Project, a guidance and support program for parents.

# 2014

In January 2014, Medina Drug Court staff submitted an application for Supreme Court Certification for the specialized docket program. The application has been recommended for initial certification and will be passed to a committee for vote.

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

22

29

31

44

43

44

23

46

26

35

# of graduates each year

Drug Court offices move from the Courthouse to the Juvenile Court Annex building on Independence Drive in 2007.

Drug Court also begins utilizing Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP). The program, now contracted with Mary Waickman Stables, uses horses to teach juveniles respect, patience, assertiveness, trust, empathy, positive communication and responsibility.

Six years after participating in the initial assessment, Medina County Juvenile Drug Court earns an "effective" rating in its second University of Cincinnati evaluation. Out of 10 Drug Court programs evaluated, only two scored "effective."

Medina Juvenile Drug Court earns mention in the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Journal of Law and Health in 2005. The author explains operations of therapeutic courts, basing the procedures on the Medina Juvenile Drug Court model and interviews of its personnel.

Medina County Drug Court also participates in the Correctional Program Assessment Inventory (CPAI) to determine which areas of the program require improvement.

In 2008, Tony Miller, the original Drug Court Probation Officer, transitions from Drug Court Case Manager to Drug Court Coordinator.

The next year, harmful effects from synthetic drugs are reported in the U.S., according to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, and Medina County begins to see an increase in synthetic marijuana, or K2, use.



After Judge John J. Lohn announces his early retirement, Judge Kevin W. Dunn is appointed Juvenile and Probate Judge, and also takes the seat as the Specialized Docket Judge for Medina County Juvenile Drug Court.

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JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN MARCH 2013

## COURT PARTICIPATES IN ANNUAL BUCKEYE DAY

Judge Kevin W. Dunn and court staff attended the third annual Buckeye Day March 8, 2014 at Buckeye Elementary School. Community members, vendors and school officials gathered to celebrate the community and showcase their art and music. Local choir, bands and the drama department performed while attendees took part in the book fair and art show.

Judge Kevin W. Dunn was also in attendance with his staff to celebrate the achievements of the community and to answer any questions attendees had about Court programs and procedures.



Judge Kevin Dunn with Medina Police Sergeant Scott Marcum and his two sons at the third annual Buckeye Day.



Judge Dunn and Gayle Telford, Prevention Coordinator, pose with Clifford the Big Red Dog.



Buckeye Local Schools Superintendent Brian Williams and Denise Piovarchy, Secretary to the Superintendent, give a thumbs up with Judge Dunn.

## COURT EMPLOYEES WEAR BLUE, PINWHEEL PLANTING FOR CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH



This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). CAPTA was signed by President Nixon on January 31, 1974 as a national response to the issue of child abuse and neglect, providing Federal assistance to states for prevention, identification

and treatment programs.

Nine years later, President Reagan proclaimed April 1983 as the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Information and promotional materials were distributed to help raise awareness, including PSAs urging viewers to "Take time out. Don't take it out on your kid."

To help continue to raise awareness, Judge Kevin Dunn is encouraging Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court employees to wear blue on April 9 this year.

Judge Dunn will also attend the Medina County Children's Center's annual Pinwheels for Prevention open house and pinwheel planting Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Last year, 457 pinwheels were planted in the front yard of the Children's Center to represent each child abuse investigation that occurred during the year.

The Medina County Children's Center reports that since the center opened in 2007, they have helped over 500 children for sexual abuse and neglect.

To learn more about the Medina County Children's Center and their work, visit their website at [www.MedinaCountyChildrensCenter.org](http://www.MedinaCountyChildrensCenter.org).

Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court will close at 12:00 PM  
Good Friday, April 18, 2014.