



MEDINA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

Probate and Juvenile Divisions

93 Public Square, Room 104, Medina, Ohio 44256

KEVIN W. DUNN
Judge

MEDIA RELEASE

July 16, 2018

Juvenile Court Ti-180 Program Recognized by State for Excellence in Diversion Programming

Medina County Juvenile Court has been selected for recognition by the Supreme Court of Ohio's Advisory Committee on Children and Families and its Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice for excellence in diversion programming.

MEDINA – Medina County Juvenile Court implemented the Teen Intervention – 180 Program (Ti-180) in November 2015 as an alternative to traditional disposition. To goal of the program is to educate youth and their parents or guardians on early intervention and warning signs for substance abuse, as well as provide skills to increase resiliency. Recently, the Supreme Court of Ohio's Advisory Committee on Children and Families and its Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice recognized the program as an integral step to help keep youth safely in their homes and communities, and out of the juvenile justice system.

Ti-180, created and implemented by Judge Kevin W. Dunn and Tony Miller, Director of Programming and Grants, helps to identify those youth who could benefit from a substance abuse and/or a behavioral health assessment based on the results of the screening tools administered prior to the program, as well as urine drug screen results. During the program, youth and at least one parent participate together in a one-time, three-and-a-half hour session facilitated by a licensed clinician from Alternative Paths, Inc. The agenda for the program covers topics ranging from peer pressure, self-identification, risk factors and symptoms of substance abuse, and storage and disposal of medication, among other topics. The program is only eligible to first time offenders who have an alcohol or other drug-related charge. Youth who successfully complete Ti-180 may be eligible to have their case expunged, however, expungement is not a guarantee and it is subject to the eligibility requirements and ultimately at the discretion of the Magistrates and Judge.

“There are factors we have to consider, such as positive drug screens or high risk results from the screening tools where we may find that youth need further services,” Miller said. “In those cases, the youth may be able to participate in additional programming that is more involved, such as Judge Dunn's Juvenile Drug Court, and still be offered eligibility for expungement with that program upon successful completion.”

Programs like Ti-180 have shown to be effective at reducing delinquency and future criminality while promoting prosocial development, according to the Supreme Court of Ohio. 72 participants were referred and successfully completed the Ti-180 program in 2017 in Medina County Juvenile Court.

“This program has been a successful tool for both parents and youth,” Judge Dunn said. “We want to redirect youth on to the correct path, but there is also a component that puts part of the responsibility on

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the parents. It's just as important that they understand the dangers and reality of substance abuse with their children and what they can do at home to continue to keep them out of the juvenile justice system."

The Supreme Court of Ohio used Evidence Based Practice evaluations, Research Based Practice evaluations, and Promising Practice classification to determine which courts would receive recognition for their programs.

"We thank the Supreme Court of Ohio for emphasizing the importance and the hard work put in to create programs like Ti-180 to help divert youth away from the juvenile justice system and on to more productive paths," Judge Dunn said. "It's always nice to feel that reinforcement through recognition."

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