

Medina County Common Pleas Court

PROBATE AND JUVENILE DIVISIONS

93 PUBLIC SQUARE, ROOM 104, MEDINA, OHIO 44256

Kevin W. Dunn
Judge

MEDIA RELEASE

November 15, 2013

Judge Kevin Dunn Hosts Citizens Advisory Panel Meeting to Discuss Court Programs

Panel members from the Medina County Juvenile Court and community agencies review community-based program participation and services at the annual meeting November 14, 2013.



MEDINA – Every year, the Medina County Juvenile Court compiles data from Court programs, projects, and the probation department to provide the community a brief overview of the Court’s work. This year’s data covered Court programs and supervision statistics up to September 30, 2013.

Panel members from the Court, local law enforcement, mental health agencies, alcohol and drug agencies, schools, the Medina County Public Defender, and local businesses attended the meeting at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center.

“This panel is important and effective because it provides the Court feedback from the public on our current programs and work, and also allows us to address any areas not covered,” Judge Dunn said. “We want that feedback from the public to let us know if we are doing our job right and where we may need to improve.”

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To learn more about the Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court or Court programs, visit our websites at www.MedinaJuvenile.org and www.MedinaProbate.org.

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This year's statistics show a decrease in the number of juveniles on probation, with 76 youth being supervised as of September 30, 2013, aligning with the statewide trend. There was also a decrease in the number of youth on compliance officer monitoring and electronic monitoring using Global Positioning Satellite technology for the year.

Along with a decline in monitored youth was a drop in recidivism rates, or juveniles convicted of a new crime after completion of court programs. This decrease in reoffending was seen in graduates from the Teen Court, Community Service, ID-21 and Camp Integrity programs for 2012.

Judge Dunn thanked the police departments for their participation in law enforcement diversion programs and all panel members for their involvement in collaborative services. One of the collaborative programs coming up next month is the Build-A-Bear program, where Community Service youth team up with the Medina Sunrise Rotary to create teddy bears to hand out to special needs children during the holidays. Director of Programming Phillip Titterington said he expects 160 bears to be created this year, 40 more than were delivered in 2012.

"Generally, our programs are designed to pull kids from difficult situations where often times they may have too much time on their hands to get into trouble and it gets them involved in something productive to be proud of," Judge Dunn said.

Funding for the Court's programs comes from the state's RECLAIM fund, an initiative to help juvenile courts divert youth from the Ohio Department of Youth Services institutions and involve them in community-based options to curb reoffending and reduce youth crime.

Sergeant Ivan Reed from the Seville Police Department said the meeting gave him insight into the Court's work after his department files a charge or drops a juvenile offender off at the detention center.

"The Juvenile Detention Center, probation and all of these programs are the backline defense in our community for juveniles," Judge Dunn said. "We want to keep them on target, focus on restorative justice and give them a vision that our community consists of more than their cell phone."