

Assessment Center/Misdemeanor Services

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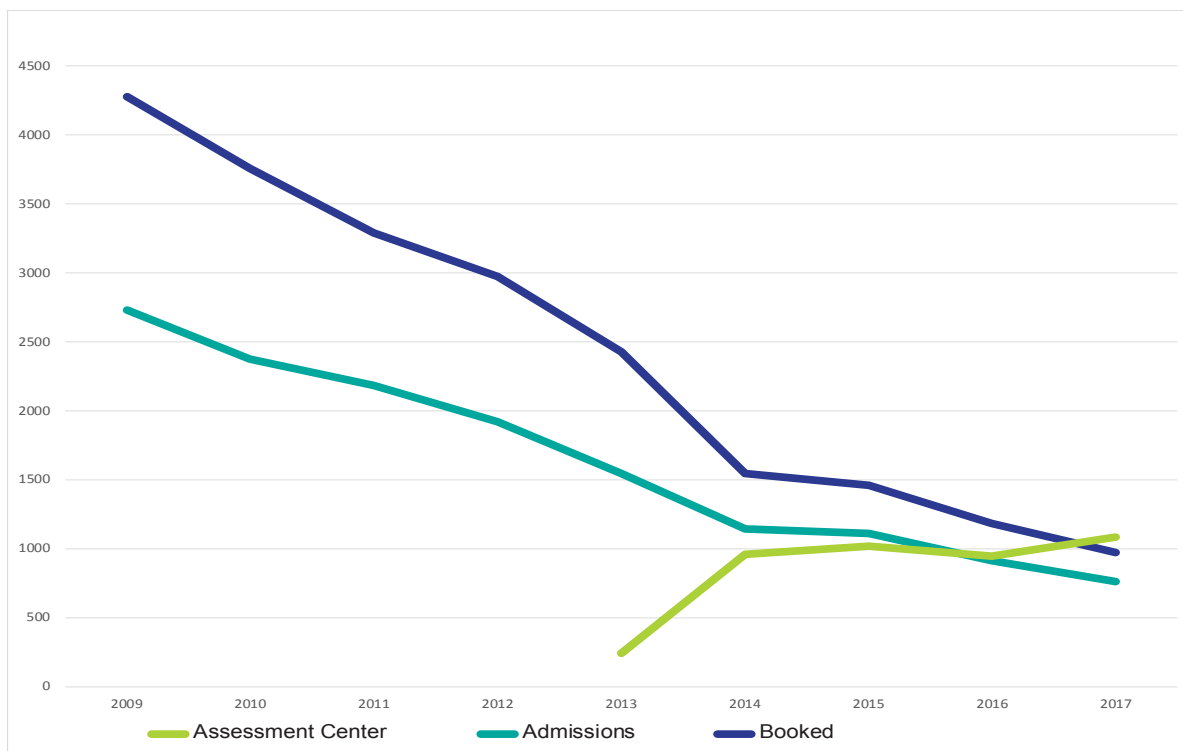
The Juvenile Assessment Center was developed to divert low risk offenders from further penetrating the juvenile justice system. The center's main goal is to ensure the right youth receive the right service at the right time and place. The Assessment Center and Court are committed to keeping the community safe through evidenced-based screenings, assessments and meaningful interventions for each child and family. Research demonstrates that more harm can result when a youth is exposed to detention and high risk offenders, thus, resulting in raising the risk level of the offender. The Assessment Center and Misdemeanor Services seek to reduce or eliminate that potential harm through its referral and case oversight services.

The Assessment Center is a non-secure diversion alternative for low risk offenders to detention. Youth charged with offenses such as, status offenses (unruly), alcohol and other drug related misdemeanors, minor domestic violence/family conflict, simple assaults, property offences, criminal trespass, and safe school ordinances (SSOs), are transported by officers to the Assessment Center for processing. Each youth is screened by trained staff utilizing evidenced-based

tools. The youth and family are linked to community-based services that meet the need of the youth and family. If the youth successfully engages in the required services, these cases can be diverted from official court proceedings.

In 2017, the Juvenile Assessment Center screened 1081 arrested youth. Ten percent of those youth were brought in on a warrant. Fifty two percent of the cases were closed with an unofficial status, while thirty eight percent of the cases were sent for an official court hearing. In 2016 and 2017, the Assessment Center screened more youth than were admitted to secure detention. See chart below. The Center also continues to divert a majority of youth from detention while ensuring appropriate interventions and responses while keeping community safety as our primary mission. This response continues to provide youth with a continuum of responses and opportunities that minimize a youth's penetration of the juvenile justice system.

Detention & Assessment Center Cases



YOUTH REFERRED TO MISDEMEANOR SERVICES

	NOT CLOSED	OTHER	SUCCESSFUL	UNSUCCESSFUL	GRAND TOTAL
Active	5				5
Inactive	3				3
Closed		9	42	18	69
Grand Total	8	9	42	18	77

The Assessment Center continues to use the following evidenced based screening tools to guide case officers in working with the youth and family in a collaborative process to strengthen existing resources and identify individual or family needs that can be linked in the community. Ohio Youth Assessment System (Diversion OYAS), Global Appraisal of Individual Needs Short Screener (GAIN-SS) and the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs – Strength Based Screener (GAIN-SBS). The Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) screening process has been implemented for youth that have been officially adjudicated and referred from the bench to Misdemeanor or Assessment Services. This screening tool was developed by Chestnut Health Systems and the Reclaiming Futures Initiative.

Additionally, this year the Court implemented the use of the Lucas County Juvenile Court Public Health Screener (LCPHS) This screener assist in identifying issues of public health that have been linked to social determinates that have a direct impact on increasing ones risk of juvenile justice involvement. With the use of evidenced based screening tools, community engagement and continued staff training and development, the Court will ensure the right youth receive the right service at the right time and place.

On April 18, 2016 the Assessment Center expanded services to include Misdemeanor Services. Evidence indicates that increased Juvenile Justice Involvement for low risk youth, increases the likelihood that they will continue in delinquency behaviors. Misdemeanor Services strives to divert low risk adjudicated youth from penetrating through the juvenile justice system. Formal court supervision at this level provides linkage to supportive services, were the goal is to foster positive change and promote pro-social behavior. Misdemeanor Service continues to focus on public safety while providing case management services. Case officers assessed risk and needs and refer to community resources that can provide supportive services to the family even after their involvement with the court. In 2017, 77 youth were referred

YOUTH REFERRED: BY GENDER

GENDER	COUNT
Female	16
Male	61
Grand Total	77

YOUTH REFERRED: BY RACE

RACE	COUNT
Black	33
Latino	3
Other	1
White	40
Grand Total	77

to Misdemeanor Services, thus diverting them from deeper involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Every youth is screened using the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs – Strength Based Screener (GAIN-SBS). The Ohio Youth Assessment System and the Lucas County Juvenile Court Dispositional Matrix are also used to ensure that each youth receives the right services at the appropriate time. Misdemeanor Services also practices the Court’s Positive Youth Justice (PYJ) framework which focuses on identifying youth and family strengths, and developing positive relationships. These core principal’s provide opportunities for the youth to move away from delinquent behaviors and increases the chances of them minimizing contact with the juvenile justice system. Since 2016, the Assessment Center, which consists

of the Domestic Violence Misdemeanor track, Assessment Services (normally consist of drug and alcohol related cases) and Misdemeanor Services, in total, we were able to prevent 520 youth from penetrating further into the court system.

Assessment Center staff has also screened 150 case referrals from Judges and Magistrates using the same evidence based screening tools mentioned earlier. This process allows for staff to link youth and families to community based services that may assist in addressing youth and family needs, while also strengthening existing resources and positive community connections.

Goals for 2018

- refining the data entry process
- increasing working knowledge of safety awareness, and engagement of additional community partners.
- Ongoing staff development and training for the Assessment Center Staff will involve, Verbal De-Escalation Techniques, Motivational Interviewing, GAIN-SS/SBS, Public Health Screener, and Ohio Youth Assessment System updates.
- Community partners to provide presentations to the Assessment Center staff regarding their services include: The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Youth Advocate Program, Double Arc, Lucas County Family Counsel – Wraparound Services, Human Trafficking Coalition, A Renewed Mind-Functional Family Services, and Zepf Center- Multi Systemic Services.

