

Probation Department

Demecia Wilson, MOL, Probation Administrator & Chief Probation Officer

The Lucas County Juvenile Court (LCJC) Probation Department continued its efforts throughout 2018 to ensure that youth under Probation supervision receive services that are strength-based, individualized, and fair using the Balance And Restorative Justice (BARJ) approach; taking into account that probation service should be rendered to the right youth at the right time. In doing so, we continue to build upon our core principles while developing new goals and objectives to promote equity, inclusion, respect, collaboration, public safety, support, and success. In an effort to serve youth within the community, the Lucas County Juvenile Probation Department works diligently to partner with community stakeholders to provide quality services to youth and families while maintaining our position of applying best practices and evidence-based programming to reduce delinquency, improve outcomes, and enhance community safety.

Probation transformation has progressed tremendously since 2012. The LCJC Probation Department not only continues to devote itself to the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), but is also engaged in safely reducing youth incarceration and out-of-home placements, transforming Probation practice, eliminating racial and ethnic disparities, promoting community partnerships, building restorative justice practices, engaging youth and families and encouraging parental involvement, supporting families navigating the juvenile justice system. In a publication released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, it states that “probation plays an outsized role in the juvenile justice system and exerts a potentially pivotal impact in the lives of court-involved youth. It is the disposition most often imposed on young people who enter our nation’s juvenile justice system.” The Lucas County Juvenile Court’s Probation Department is committed to using probation only as a purposeful intervention to support growth, behavior change and long-term success for youth with serious and repeat offenses.

As we move forward we will hold ourselves accountable for setting goals that are: (1) achievable, and (2) will create measurable outcomes.

In 2018, the Probation Department made encouraging progress in the following areas:

- The Probation Department was featured in the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s publication **“Transforming Juvenile Probation. A Vision for Getting It Right”** because of its reform efforts.
- As a part of the Probation Transformation initiative The

Family Navigator, a process which provides supportive services to parents of court-involved youth offenders, was featured in the Urban Institute’s research report entitled **“Juvenile Probation Transformation. Applying the Approach in Lucas County, OH and Pierce County, WA”**. The Family Navigator is a partnership that the Court has with The Center for Hope.

- A Case File Review was conducted with two specific goals in mind: (1) obtain in-depth information about probation involved youth that went to an out-of-home placement, and (2) what happens, while on probation, before a youth is placed
- The Probation Department continued to use the Structured Decision Making Matrix (SDM) to help drive dispositional decisions. This process remains focused on looking at how decisions are made, at the point of disposition, in regards to who should receive probation services. Quality Assurance measures were put in place to provide instruction, guidance, and oversight.
- The Continuum of Care Grid continues to act as a guide to help staff with recommendations during the Resource Staffing process.
- The Probation Department continued to sharpen its intake case flow process in an effort to provide a more structured approach to how decisions are being made once a case is referred to Probation. Probation Officers continue to provide services to youth and families from the beginning of probation until the end of services. Probation Officers complete their own intake reports, case plans, OYAS assessments, GAIN screeners, Public Health Screeners, and SOGIE screeners, as well as refer youth to appropriate services. This provides an opportunity for the child and family to work with one person from the beginning of the court process until final completion of services. Continuity of care is the primary goal.
- The Probation Department is committed to providing ongoing analysis of racial and ethnic disparities at every point in the system. As such, data is reviewed regularly in an effort to create alternatives to reduce disparities. The probation department receives technical support and guidance from the Annie E. Casey Foundation as we aim to provide innovative, effective best practices to youth and families.



The Probation Department remains dedicated to ensuring that low-risk and low-level offenses are being diverted from probation, and that youth adjudicated on misdemeanor charges are referred to Misdemeanor Services instead of formal probation.

- Positive Youth Development remains as a core element to probation practice. “Attaching and Belonging, and Learning While Doing” remains at the center of our work. Probation Officers incorporate Positive Youth Development strategies into youth’s case plans.
- The Probation Department began collecting Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) data to ensure that youth identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, or intersex (LGBTQI) under probation supervision receive fair, equal, and non-discriminatory services. In doing so, a screening tool was developed and is administered to youth on probation.
- Quality Assurance is important in our work. The Probation Department is devoted to providing services that are equitable and fair. In 2018 we focused on:
 - Provide on-going training to staff
 - Review and monitor demographics (geographic areas were youth on probation live)
 - Review of the purpose of Probation and our process
 - Review of the services rendered to youth and families
 - Developing policies and protocols that mirror our work
 - Respond to community needs by intervening with the right dose of treatment and the right time
 - Continual review of our Performance Measures
- A new Educational Specialist joined the probation team. The Educational Specialist remains focused on providing support and services to students (and families) who are involved in the judicial system; specifically youth on probation and youth reentering their community. The Educational Specialist acts as a liaison between Lucas County Juvenile Court, local school districts and other health and human services agencies to improve the educational outcomes for youth involved in the Lucas County Juvenile Court. The Educational Specialist also provides consultation with school staff regarding individualized educational and behavior management plans. The probation department remains committed to meeting the educational needs of court-involved youth.
- Restructuring within the department has been an ongoing effort. We continue to examine cost effective ways

to effectively execute the work that we are doing with lower staffing numbers.

2018 Probation Department Trainings

- Motivational Interviewing
- Effective Practices In Community Supervision
- Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative & Probation Transformation
- Verbal De-escalation Training
- Probation Officer Safety Training
- Juvenile Probation Deep End Inter-site Conference
- Probation Department Quarterly Staff Meetings/Training
- Monthly Managers Meetings/Training



Staff from Probation and the Youth Treatment Center coached at Basketball Camp. From left: Duane Welch, Probation Officer, and Marcus Evans, Residential Specialist.



Art Enrichment Program at The Toledo Museum of Art

Community Partnerships & Resources

Family Enrichment:

- **Functional Family Therapy** A high quality, evidence-based intervention program for juvenile justice, child welfare, and behavioral health system involved youth and families.
- **MultiSystemic Therapy** An intensive family and community based treatment program that focuses on addressing all environmental systems that impact chronic and violent juvenile offenders – their homes and families, schools and teachers, neighborhoods and friends

Mentoring:

- The Youth Advocate Program (YAP) is a nationally recognized mentoring program. The YAP model focuses on cognitive restructuring which teaches youth how to replace irrational/antisocial thinking with pro-social thoughts. Cognitive-behavioral coping skills also teach the youth pro-social responses to high risk situations.

Parent Support: Family Navigator A parent support service aimed at accomplishing the following:

- Help families develop a clear understanding of juvenile justice (JJ) system policies and procedures
- Help families feel supported as they transition through the various phases of the JJ system
- Connect families to a larger network of caring individuals to support them during the JJ process, including relevant service systems
- Increase caregiver ability to effectively advocate for their children to reduce barriers to complying with JJ guidelines, procedures, and related services
- Empower families to become Family Ambassadors, sharing their program and court experiences with new families entering the program.

Circles & Verses: The Junction Coalition

Art Enrichment Program: Toledo Museum of Art



Art Enrichment Program at The Toledo Museum of Art



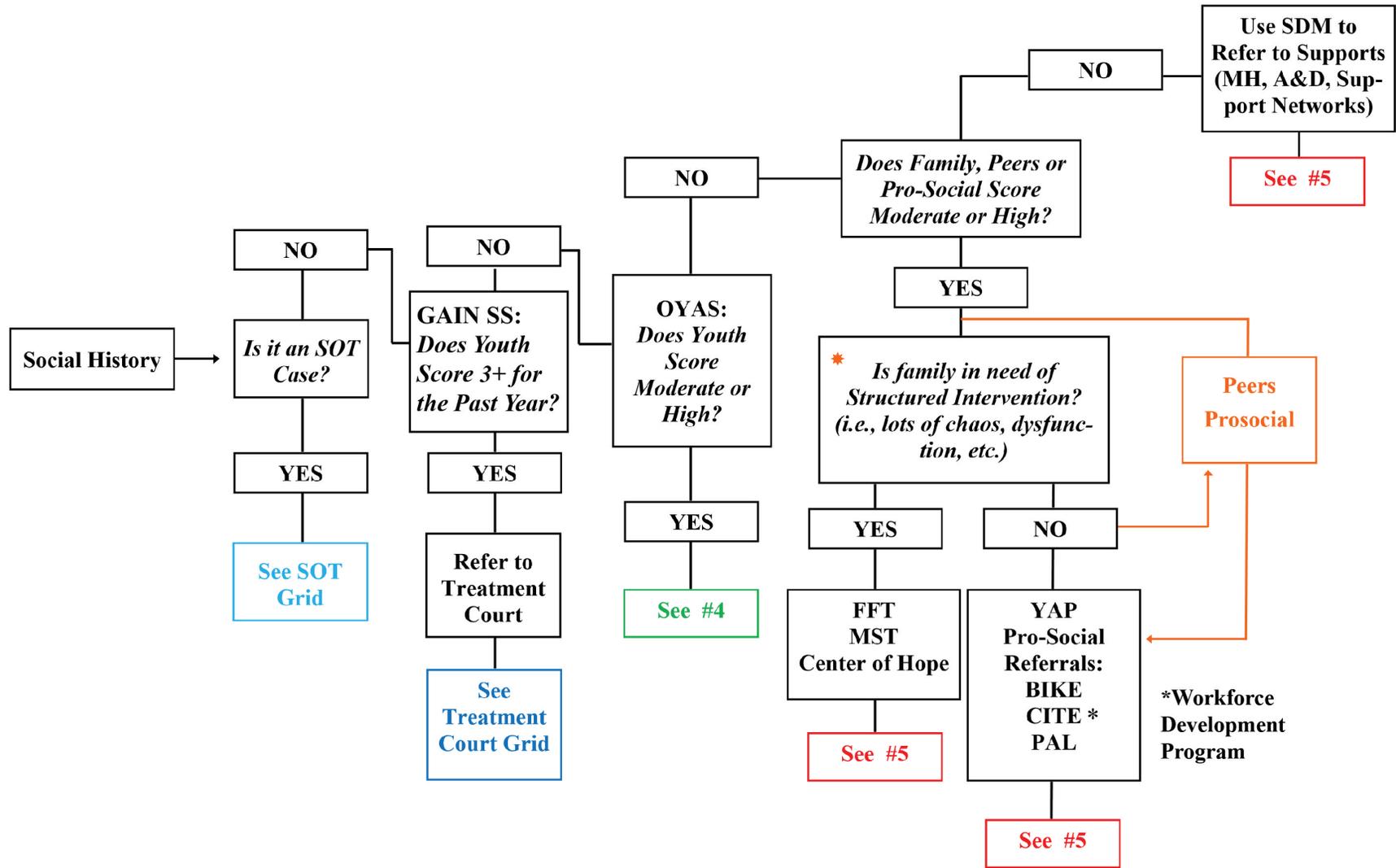
Demecia Wilson, Probation Administrator



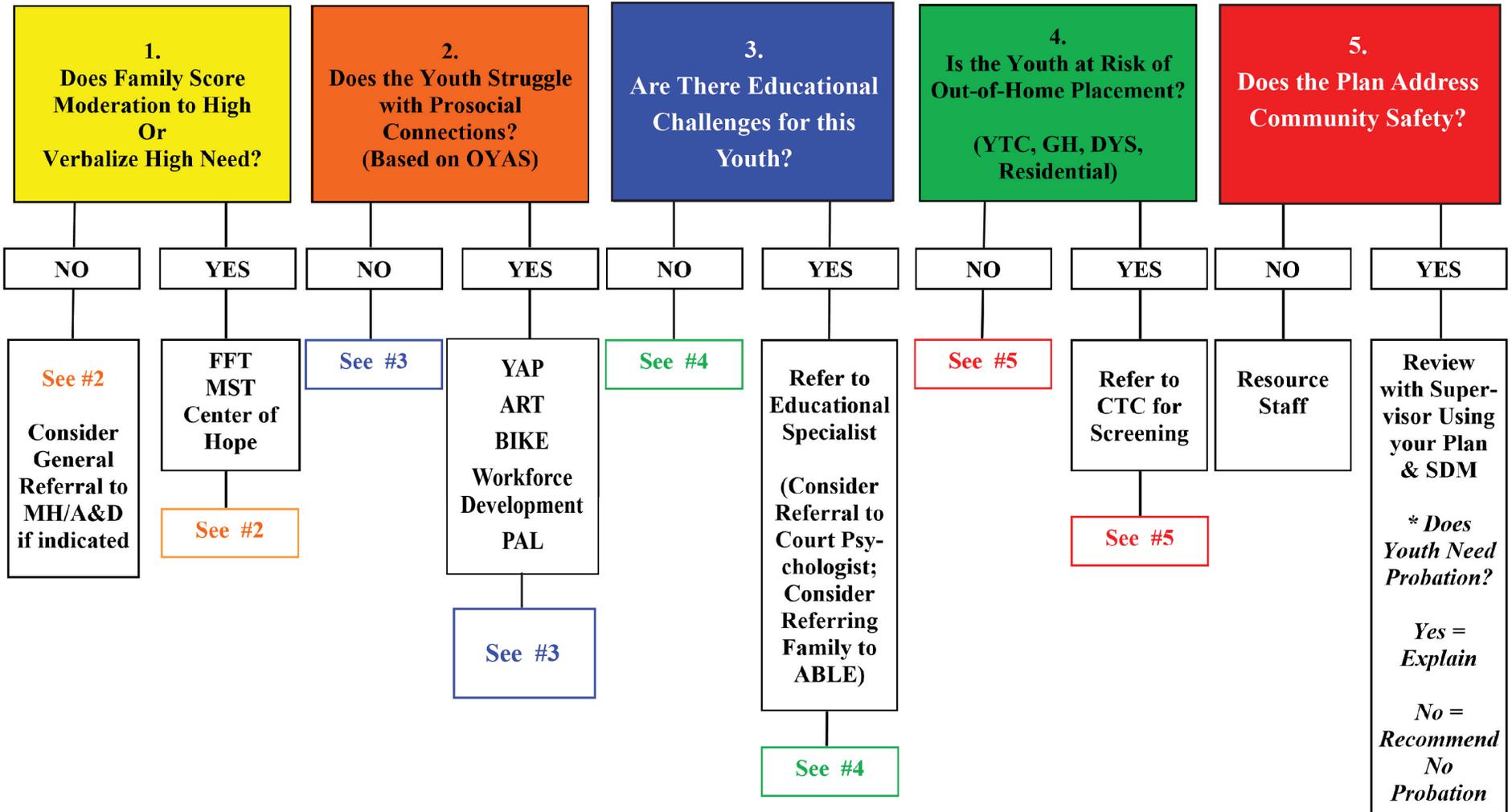
Family Navigators program was filmed by Brigette Burnett, producer of BCAN's Daily Downtown.



Probation Intake Process



Probation Intake Process, (continued)



Probation Intake Referrals 2018

Social History	128	73.5%
Straight Probation	42	24.1%
Out of Town Investigation	3	1.7%
Certification	1	0.6%
Total Referrals	174	

Total Youth Placed on Probation 2018

Social History	93	67.4%
Straight Probation	44	31.9%
Out of Town Investigation	3	1.7%
Certification	1	0.6%
Total Number Placed on Probation	138	

Breakdown by Gender/Race/Ethnicity

GENDER				
	Male	122	88.4%	
	Female	16	11.6%	
RACE				
	Black	White	Latinx	Other
	98	34	4	2
	71.0%	24.6%	2.9%	1.4%

Top 5 Referring Offenses to Probation:

Robbery
Gross Sexual Imposition
Receiving Stolen Property
Carrying a Concealed Weapon
Felonious Assault

Breakdown of cases that received a Social History Investigation but not ordered probation services:

9	youth were diverted away from probation were referred to Misdemeanor Services
5	youth were diverted to services within the community
9	youth committed to the Department of Youth Services

Probation Terminations in 2018

Total Terminations	119	
Successful	88	73.90%
Unsuccessful	31	26.1%
No New Charges	65	54.6%
Average Days Supervised	414.6	

Youth Ordered Community Service Work and Apology Letters

	ORDERED	ALL DONE	%
Letters	25	20	80%