

# Franklin County

Judge Kim A. Browne  
Judge Elizabeth Gill  
Judge Dana S. Preisse  
Judge Terri B. Jamison  
Judge James W. Brown

## Program Name

Truancy Outreach Counseling Program

## Program Intervention

Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment (CPST)

## Primary Service Location

In-Home, Community and Schools

## Program Description

This program serves youth to reduce school truancies and divert them from further penetration into the juvenile justice system. Program youth include those from 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, serving any gender, race, or ethnicity in a culturally competent manner. Directions for Youth and Families provides a multi-systemic approach that incorporates community, school, family and recreational involvement, promoting positive functioning utilizing a trauma-based and resiliency treatment model. Lessons learned by youth and families include:

- How routine, ritual and structure in the home impacts positive functioning
- How to identify significant stressors and develop effective coping strategies
- How to problem solve difficult situations
- Development of motivation and self-discipline

This program was selected because of the importance of school attendance and achievement to the future of our juveniles. Also, truancy filings comprised nearly 30% of all delinquency filings in Franklin County in 2015, making it a priority for service provision.

## Outcomes

- 2 of the 69 youth (2.9%) who have received services to date have incurred additional charges during programming.
- Higher mental health and behavioral functioning outcomes as measured by a pre/post testing indicate significant post completion improvement. (See Graph – Measured on a 5-point Scale)

## Program Snapshot

(As of June 30, 2016)

### Gender:

50.7 Male  
49.3% Female

### Race/Ethnicity:

33% African American  
59.4% Caucasian & 7.3% Other

### Age Range:

12-18

### Offense Level:

Misdemeanor, Status

### Youth Re-offense Risk Level:

Low & Moderate

### Screens & Assessments:

OYAS Diversion  
Comprehensive diagnostic assessment  
ISP Evaluation Scale

### Program Start Date:

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### Received Services:

69 Youth & 69 Families

### Program Completion Successes:

8 Youth & 8 Families Successes  
49 Youth & 49 Families Continuing into FY17

### Average # of Service Units:

7.9 Hrs. Youth  
3.5 Hrs. Family (Expected to rise in FY17)

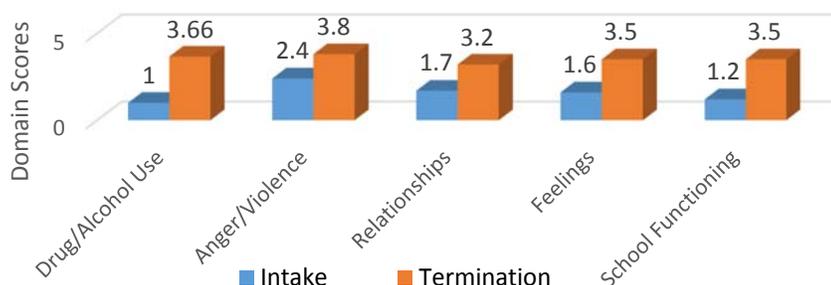
### Program Partners:

- Directions for Youth and Families
- Case Western Reserve University

## Program Information Contact

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## Life Domains



# Franklin County Early Successes – CPST

“The Franklin County Juvenile Court is proud to once again partner with the Ohio Department of Youth. In 2016 the Court was proud to receive a 3 year grant from DYS. This grant has been used to assist the Court in providing a meaningful truancy diversion program. To date over 500 youth have been screened through our diversion pilot and there are currently 76 youth currently being served through the grant. The impact of this program will positively affect our entire community. This program is designed to assist youth and their families in addressing the underlying issues that often are at the root of children missing school. Addressing the underlying causes holistically with the family has proven to be the most successful in helping children stay in school, graduate from high school and to not return to the juvenile court system.”

**Elizabeth Gill**  
**Franklin County Lead Juvenile Judge**

**Youth Success Story** – A 17-year old African American male was referred to the program for chronic school truancy issues. The youth was enrolled at Mifflin High School and living with his mother. Housing became unstable and the youth’s mother was having difficulty getting the youth to school. The family had planned for the youth to move in with his father. The OCP-Truancy worker partnered with the youth’s father in creating a plan to get the youth to school. The worker and father also addressed transitional issues to build stability and routine in the home. The worker and youth addressed motivation to attending and finishing school and the program as well as compliance with the attendance plan and home structure. While living at his father’s house, the youth’s attendance was excellent. The truancy case was closed with FCJC due to the improved attendance and compliance with program services.



Directions for Youth and Families is excited to be involved in such an important and innovative project with DYS and FCJC. School truancy is an issue that has enduring consequences. We look forward to partnering with families in the community to support them in navigating this issue positively. Through our partnership, to date, we have been able to successfully enroll 60 youth.

**Duane Casares**  
**CEO Directions for Youth and Families**

**Program Success Story** – The need for strategic truancy diversion programming became apparent to FCJC as truancy filings mounted to 30% of the 2015 FCJC delinquency docket. The availability of Category I funds through the Ohio Department of Youth Services provided the opportunity that was needed in Franklin County to focus diversion services on the growing school truancy epidemic. FCJC partnered with Directions for Youth and Families in an effort to prevent first time school truants from penetrating deeper into the juvenile system. Once the youth is identified, s/he is assessed and linked with services to address attendance barriers such as mental health, peer relationships, conflict with authority, trauma, home related stressors, motivation and time management. So far, 22 youth have successfully completed the program, and many more Franklin County youth are currently enrolled and successfully eliminating their barriers to regular school attendance.



## Lessons Learned

The program targets truancy, but we have learned that truancy is just a very tangible symptom of many other barriers that the families are experiencing.

There are many organizations involved in this project, and the coordination between all parties and dealing with competing demands and viewpoints has been challenging.

The service provider found that a straight fee-for-service program for the types of issues being experienced by our families created a situation where the provider was losing money because the extensive case management that is required is not a billable service to Medicare.

**Program Information Contact – Julie Troth, Programs Supervisor**  
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