

Morrow County

Judge Howard E. Hall
Judge Robert C. Hickson Jr.

Program Name

Juvenile Diversion

Program Intervention

Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS)

Primary Service Location

Community

Program Description

- The purpose of the Morrow County Juvenile Diversion Program is to address the individualized, criminogenic needs of low risk, first-time, juvenile delinquent and status offenders. The program shall aid the juveniles served with the appropriate skills to avoid future delinquent behavior and provide an opportunity to have the juvenile court case dismissed.
- The court provides specific structured screenings and interventions to tackle each need and risk. These include using the Criminal Sentiments Scale, or CSS-M, for pre-test/post-test measures, the Ohio Youth Risk Assessment System, OYAS, to determine risk level of each youth to determine program eligibility, and utilizing several Effective Practices in Community Supervision, or EPICS, tools and interventions to fit specific issues.
- The Morrow County Juvenile Diversion Program continues to target status and misdemeanor, first-time, low risk, juveniles before formalized proceedings are held. Through successful completion of the program, the formal court complaints against the juveniles are dismissed.

Outcomes

- 83.9% of program participants have successfully completed the program.
- 96.4% of program participants did not incur any new charges while participating in the program.

Lessons Learned

A more informal process is needed for youth when considering Diversion.

Program Snapshot

(As of June 30, 2016)

Gender:

Male 54%. Female 46%

Race/Ethnicity:

White 96%, Other 4%

Age Range:

11-17

Offense Level:

Misdemeanors, Status and At-Risk Youth

Youth Re-offense Risk Level:

Low

Screens and Assessments:

OYAS Diversion Tool, Criminal Sentiment Scales-Modified (CSS-M), & Pre-Test/Post Test

Program Start Date:

January 1, 2015

Received Services:

48 Youth

Program Completion Successes:

32 Youth

14 Youth Continuing into FY 2017

Average # of Service Units:

2.5 Direct Service Hours Per Successful Youth

Program Partners:

- Mt. Gilead Local Schools
- Cardington Local Schools
- Northmor Local Schools
- Highland Local Schools
- The Tomorrow Center
- Tri-Rivers Vocational Career Center
- Central Ohio Mental Health
- MaryHaven
- Recovery and Prevention Resources
- University of Cincinnati

Program Information Contact

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Morrow County Early Successes – EPICS Diversion

“In having an innovative Juvenile Diversion Program, we are able to do more than just ensure order. We are to focus our efforts on positive youth development and on how to avoid the most common obstacles and pitfalls that await them. With our Diversion Program and rapport, the court is more effective, juveniles are more successful and recidivism rates are reduced.”

Judge Robert C. Hickson, Jr.

“Working with the Juvenile Diversion program has helped to greatly reduce the amount of truancy filings with the Court. We were able to go from 21 filings and 268 mediations in 2014 to 16 filings and only 229 mediations in 2015, resulting in most of them never being filed on again.”

Kathy Nicolosi
Mediation

“In the years of me being a K9 sergeant I’ve dealt with many juveniles in regards to drug use, possession & paraphernalia. Although drugs are going to continually be an issue, we’ve seen a huge reduction in the number of juvenile’s reoffending when they’re offered help, counseling and support through our county’s juvenile diversion program.”

Sgt. Brian Newsome
MCSO

Youth Success Story – Trevor had been using marijuana occasionally with friends and due to this had accumulated excessive tardiness at school & was barely passing his classes. He was referred to the program in early March 2016. He has participated in both family & individual counseling through Maryhaven as well as credit recovery at school. Trevor has had 3 random drug screens that were negative for all 13 narcotics. He finished out the school year on May 25, 2016 with A’s & B’s, has not missed any days of school or been tardy and has decided he wants to attend college for Microbiology. He has shown more confidence in himself both at home, at school & is proud of his progress.



Pictured above: Nicole Hicks, Juvenile Diversion Officer working with youth

Program Success Story - The Morrow County Juvenile Diversion Program has served a total of 47 youth, with a total of 35 terminations. The program has terminated a total of 29 youth as successful and 6 youth as unsuccessful. The Juvenile Diversion Program continues to partner with local schools to aid in truancy prevention and guidance for youth participating within the program. Through the continuation of the program, low risk youth are guided away from the formal court process and mentored through positive pro-social behavior.

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