

Hardin County

Judge Steve Christopher

Program Snapshot

(As of August 1, 2016)

Gender:

Male 52.2%, Female 47.8%

Race/Ethnicity:

White 83%, Other 17%

Age Range:

11 - 18

Offense Level:

Felony & Misdemeanor

Youth Re-offense Risk Level:

Moderate & High Risk

Screens & Assessments:

OYAS Disposition Tool & MAYSI-2

Program Start Date:

February 24, 2015

Received Services:

23 Youth & 19 Families

Program Completion Successes:

1 Youth & Family

14 Youth & 10 Families Continuing into FY17

Average # of Service Units:

140 Direct Services Hours Per Youth

15 Direct Services Hours Per Family

Program Partners:

- Family Resource Center
- Hardin County Job and Family Services
- Ohio Northern University
- Hardin County 4-H
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Serenity Stables

Program Information Contact

Khrystal Wagner

HCJBHC coordinator

Hardin County Juvenile Court

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Program Name

Behavioral Health Initiative

Program Intervention

Mental Health

Primary Service Location

Community, School, Other (Lifeworks Center)

Program Description

The Hardin County Juvenile Behavioral Health Court (HCJBHC) addresses the critical NEED to effectively address the significant behavioral health issues exhibited by justice kids. HCJBHC serves post adjudicated youth, ages 12 – 17, boys and girls, with a non-violent offense(s) or violent offense(s) (on a case by case basis) with an Axis 1 or dual diagnosis. HCJBHC brings together a multi-disciplined team (court, academic, mental health, substance abuse, Job and Family Services, law enforcement, and mentoring) utilizing screening, assessments, and evidence based treatment) to initiate, implement, and manage an individualized case plan that outlines phases and treatment.

Local data showed 73% of mid/high risk youth on probation during 2010-2015 had a mental health diagnosis; 28% depression, 8% anxiety disorder, 18% suicidal thoughts, 51% conduct disorder, 62% PTSD, and 40% ADHD.

Families learn about how to manage their children's behavior and treat their MH disorders, while receiving support, and experiencing family stability.

Outcomes

An analysis of the relevant CSAT (Center for Substance Abuse Treatment) GRPA data indicate that youths who participated in the program experienced a significant reduction in substance abuse, mental health problems, and criminal offending.

Substance Abuse – between intake and discharge, there is a significant decrease in the number of participants who used alcohol, any illegal drugs, and marijuana.

- 56.6% decrease in the number of youths reporting using alcohol.
- 78.8% reduction in the number of participants who reported using any illegal drug.
- 70.6% decrease in the number of youths who reported using marijuana.

Mental Health Problems – a significant reduction in the number of participants reporting three categories of mental health problems during the treatment program.

- 82% reduction in the number of youths who reported experience serious anxiety not related to substance abuse.
- 85.8% reduction in the number of youths who reported serious depression not related to substance abuse.
- 100% reduction in the number of youths who reported problems controlling violent behavior not related to substance abuse.

Criminal Offending – at the time of intake, participants reported an average of 3.68 criminal offenses a month. At the time of discharge, they reported an average of 0.80 criminal offenses per month. This represents a 78.3% decrease in criminal offending.

Lessons Learned

Treatment struggles as there has been a heavy turnover with counseling agency.

Heroin use among immediate family members creates the need of finding other family/additional custody arrangements to help stabilize youth.

Hardin County Early Successes – Treatment Court

“Hearing a mom at a graduation ceremony, with tears in her eyes, say to her daughter, ‘I am so proud of you...you are the very first person in our family who has ever graduated,’ keeps us doing what we do every day in the trenches of HCJBHC.”

Wade Melton
Director of Programs
Hardin County Juvenile Court
Director, Hardin Community School

“The treatment court provides a valuable service to youth who are struggling with mental health and addiction issues. Without the treatment court’s presence many other systems would be impacted adversely including the child protective, educational, and health to name but a few. It is believed that with this intervention, we as a county in the grip of an opiate epidemic may be able to impact our next generation before it is too late.”

Patricia Knippen
Assistant Director
Hardin County Job and Family Services

“The Hardin County Juvenile Treatment program is a valuable and needed asset in our Hardin County community and without it we would find ourselves in a bleak and hopeless situation when it comes to our youth and the ever present drug culture compounded with mental health struggles this county and country find ourselves in.”

Keith Everhart
Hardin County Sheriff

“Analyses of the outcomes data emphatically indicate the Treatment Court is effective in reducing juvenile offending and substance abuse, as well as mental health issues such as anxiety and depression, among the delinquent population in Hardin County.”

Dr. Keith Durkin
Program Evaluator
Professor, Ohio Northern University

“The HCJBHC program is comprised of experienced, professional and caring individuals who want to help the ever growing number of juveniles struggling with mental health and the drug epidemic in our county. The men and woman who help to guide these young people are passionate and devoted. They are committed to helping the youth recover and succeed.”

Andrea Richardson
Hardin County Coordinator
Big Brothers Big Sisters

Youth Success Story - Tina was an out-of-control, angry girl that entered the court system and the HCJBHC program immediately. Early in her life Tina was raised by her grandmother while her mother dodged in and out of the home because of her own legal and addiction problems. Tina tried to face her own mental health and substance abuse issues alone. She was bullied, failing school, and was very violent. All of these ongoing issues caused CPS to remove Tina’s baby brother from the home. At that point Tina and her family realized they had to learn how to live with each other and deal with their mental health and addiction issues in a positive manner. Tina realized it was time for her to change and she wasn’t alone. The court, as well as CPS, provided Tina and her family with services to help her be as successful as possible. Tina got involved with the mentoring program, consistently took her medications, and went to counseling. Her grades improved and she made the honor roll. On May 29, 2016 she graduated from high school. She successfully completed the treatment court program on May 31, 2016, gained employment, and is being productive in the community.



Program Success Story - Joey is a 15-year old guy who has multiple mental health diagnoses including Asperger's Syndrome and recently completed The Horse and Youth program (H.A.Y.). H.A.Y. provides horse therapy for youth in the juvenile system who struggle with mental health and/or substance abuse. By creating a bond with his horse and staff members Joey learned to build self-confidence and leadership abilities. Joey and his mother reside together and have a long history of failing to communicate with each other in an appropriate manner which has led to physical altercations. He struggles with the ability to control his mood, especially his anger. The H.A.Y. program allowed him to separate from the struggles he experienced on a daily basis and focused his attention on an animal that did not judge or criticize him. Joey's attitude and demeanor began to change after a few weeks working with his horse, Hannah. Throughout the class, Joey would hug Hannah or speak to her in a calm manner. It was evident he was able to disengage from the stressors of home, school, and life when he was working with Hannah. This experience was one Joey always looked forward to.



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