

# Ashtabula County Resource Center

# The Resource Center

- ACJC Resource Center opened its doors November 13, 2017 as a separate entity from the court house. The goal is to keep low risk youth from ever stepping foot inside Juvenile Court.
- On April 30, 2018, The Youth Detention Center Closed it's doors, making the Resource Center the main entry point for all youth in the county.
- The goal is to get involved with youth and families earlier and get services started as soon as possible.

# RC screening process

When youth are brought into the Resource Center by Police:

A Diversion Specialist takes the youth and begins a series of assessments. The officer is asked to fill out a complaint form. Once the officer has filled out the complaint form, he/she is free to leave. If a youth needs transported to a secure detention facility, the Resource Center Staff will provide transportation.

Police are still able to cite and release. They supply the Assistant Prosecutor with the report and she will do up the charges. A discussion is had between the RC supervisor and the prosecutor on what route that youth will go; either official through court or through the diversion process.

# Screening tools

- OYAS – Ohio Youth Assessment System (Diversion instrument). Allows us to gauge a youth's risk of recidivism.
- JVQ-R2- Juvenile Violence Questionnaire. Measures a youth's exposure to violence and trauma.
- GAIN-SS- a tool used to screen for internalized and externalized disorders, as well as substance abuse and criminal violence.
- Human Trafficking- a tool used to show if a youth may have been a victim of Human Trafficking
- Ohio SCALES- done by both youth and parent. This tool shows youth problem, functioning and satisfaction. This tool is used to gauge success in the program.

## Giving Kids a Chance

When a youth arrives at the Resource Center they are greeted by one of the diversion specialists. The Diversion specialist immediately begins assessing for any crisis that the youth may be in. At that time, the diversion specialist is able to make appropriate recommendations. The youth and families leave with a sense that they have been heard and that they will be helped.

**Every kid is one  
caring adult away  
from being a  
success story.**

– Josh Shipp

## Referrals

Once the assessment processes is completed, the diversion specialist will make referrals for appropriate services. This includes, referrals for mental health services, substance abuse services, house arrest (including GPS), writing papers on certain subjects, and community service.

We have an in-house community service provider. She works with the kids at the RC making blankets for local homeless shelters and Women's shelters. The kids have also sent cards to our Military overseas, made Christmas ornaments for the Senior Center and helped assist with set up and tear down of community functions.



Referrals are also made to evidence based programming that we hold at the Resource Center. Such groups include: Girls Circle, Boys Council, Thinking For a Change, Anger Replacement Training, CBI-CC and Seven Challenges. We also run a group for parents, The Parent Project. The groups are run by the probation and diversion staff, who have been trained as facilitator's.

