



Cuyahoga County Reentry Review

CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT’S REENTRY COURT IS RECIPIENT OF STATEWIDE AWARD *by Magistrate Tess Neff*

The 2013 Thomas J. Stickrath Reentry Award was presented to the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court’s Reentry Court Accelerated Parole Program or ReCAPP in Columbus. The award was presented at the Fifth Annual Community Recognition Awards on December 5, 2013 by the Department of Youth Services in partnership with the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges and Governor’s Council on Juvenile Justice. Thomas Stickrath was the former Director of Ohio Department of Youth Services and is the current Director of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation.



In addition, a ReCAPP participant, D.J. was present in Columbus for the ceremony and received an award for his positive life choices after his successful completion of ReCAPP. In fact, D.J. was an active participant and fully committed in ReCAPP after being released from the Juvenile Correctional Facility in the spring of 2013 at the age of 18. While in the institution, D.J. participated in Forward Thinking groups, obtained his high school diploma and was President of Student council. Upon his release from incarceration, D.J. willingly attended monthly court review hearings to monitor his progress. He received Motivational Enhancement Therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy sessions which were provided by his Parole Officer and TASC Case Manager. Upon successful completion of ReCAPP, D.J. was invited back as a speaker to share his insight with other participants. Through hard work and dedication and with scholarships and financial aid, D.J. is now a fulltime student at a local college where he is majoring in business. It was a pleasure to work with D.J., and the ReCAPP team is very proud of this young man and his accomplishments.

It has been a privilege and a most rewarding experience for me to preside over the Juvenile Reentry Court since 2011, despite the many challenges along the way. The commitment and collaboration with Ohio Department of Youth Services staff, Catholic Charities’ Juvenile TASC staff and the Juvenile Court has allowed this specialized docket to flourish and serve the most at risk youth being released into our community. The program not only has grown in size, but it underwent a restructuring, which ultimately played a significant role in the participants’ success. The team attributes this in large part to the consistency of keeping the same Parole Officer and the same Case Manager assigned to the youth while he is still in the institution to completion of ReCAPP. Also, I am able to establish a rapport with the youth by monitoring their progress at their monthly court appearance.

I have the unique perspective to observe the youth as they acclimate themselves into the community with the support of the ReCAPP team. The journey the youth travel to reach their goals and strengthen their bond to the community and family is often very gratifying to witness. The ReCAPP team holds the participants accountable, while encouraging and supporting their efforts to obtain their education, maintain sobriety, obtain employment and remain crime free. The team approach is the backbone to this program. Although I preside over the Reentry Court docket, its success is purely a result of a true collaboration. Our only agenda is to guide the participants in the program to build on their goals and successes, by utilizing the skills and knowledge they acquired through ReCAPP, and the community support services made available to them.

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▲ *Magistrate Neff during a juvenile case.*

STATISTICS AND OUTCOMES OF ReCAPP PARTICIPANTS AS OF DECEMBER, 2013

By Dr. David Hussey and Rodney Thomas

Begun Center for Violence Prevention

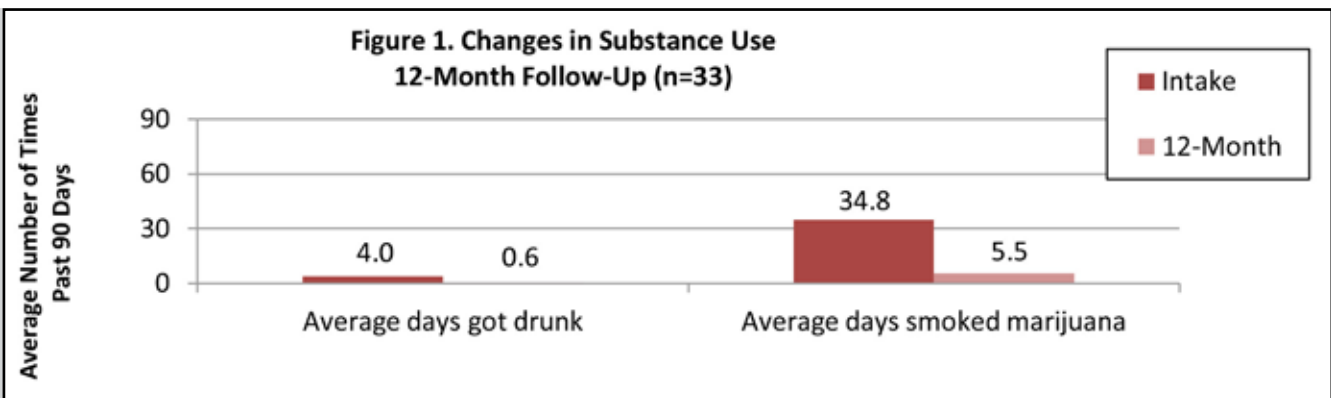
Research and Education Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences

Case Western Reserve University

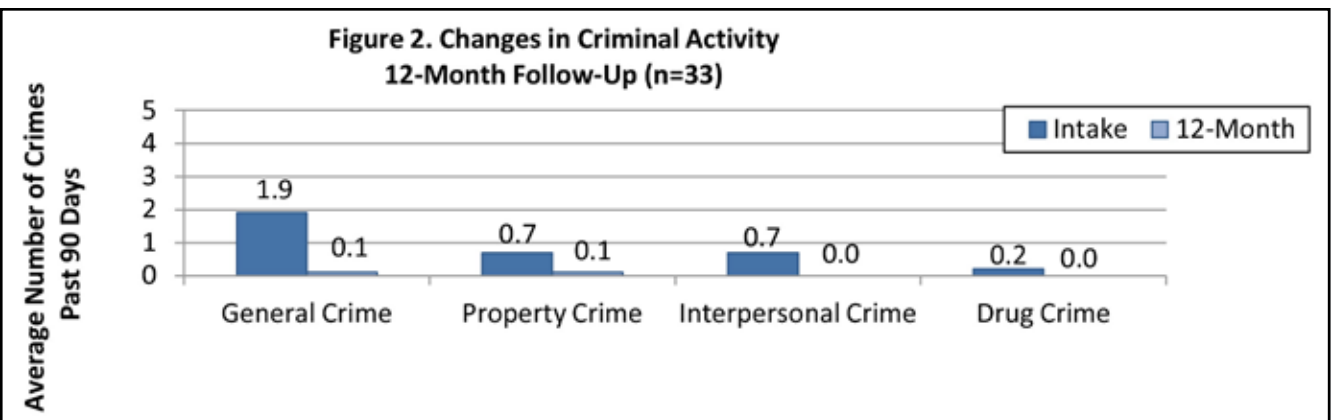
Key 12-Month Findings

As of December 2013, 139 youth were served by the ORP-J program. Of these 139 youth, 33 were administered the GAIN assessment 12 months after program baseline. Findings for this subset of 33 ORP-J youth revealed a number of significant findings.

Significant decreases in substance use 12 months after baseline. Specifically, as shown in Figure 1 below, drunkenness decreased from an average of 4 days to .6 days during the previous 90 days. Marijuana use dramatically decreased from an average of 34.8 days at baseline to 5.5 days one year later.



Significant decreases in criminal behavior 12 months after baseline. As seen in Figure 2 below, whereas ORP-J youth committed an average of 2 crimes in the 90 days prior to joining the ORP-J program, a year after beginning the program, criminal activity was practically non-existent for the 33 ORP-J youth completing a 12-month assessment.



Significant decreases in conduct disorder, traumatic stress, and behavioral complexity symptoms 12 months after entry into the ORP-J program. The GAIN conduct disorder scale consists of 15 items ranging from "Been a bully or threatened other people", "Started fights with other people", "Used a weapon in fights" to "Run away from home overnight", and "Skipped school". Specifically, as shown in Figure 3 below, conduct disorder scale scores decreased from 3.3 at intake to 1.0 at 12 month follow-up.

The GAIN **traumatic stress** scale consists of 13 items including "When something reminds you of the past, you became very distressed and upset", "It seemed as if you have no feelings", "You felt like you could not go on" and "Your dreams at night are so real that you awaken in a cold sweat and force yourself to stay awake". *Traumatic stress scale scores decreased from 1.9 at intake to .2 at 12 month follow-up.*

The GAIN **behavior complexity** scale consists of 13 items including "Been unable to pay attention when other things were going on", "Been unable to stay in a seat or where you were supposed to stay", "Been a bully or threatened other people" and "Started fights with other people". *Behavior complexity scale scores decreased from 11.7 at intake to 5.5 at 12 month follow-up.*

We want to hear from you...

Your comments are important to us.

Write to us at

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 310 West Lakeside Avenue, Suite 550
 Cleveland, OH 44113
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STRUCTURE OF THE ReENTRY COURT ACCELERATED PAROLE PROGRAM

by Ian Frasier, Cleveland Regional Administrator, Ohio Department of Youth Services

Reentry Court Accelerated Parole Program (ReCAPP) is a Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court program managed by Elise Tompkins and presided over by Magistrate Tess Neff. The objective of ReCAPP is to reduce recidivism and re-incarceration of youth returning from ODYS by utilizing evidence based practices to equip them with skills and community supports that will facilitate a smooth transition into the community and enhance the likelihood of long term success.

ReCAPP is a voluntary program consisting of three distinct phases. Phase 1 begins while the youth is confined in the ODYS institution and consists of a collaborative effort between ODYS and the Catholic Charities' Juvenile TASC program whereby TASC staff are permitted to enter the institutions and provide services to incarcerated youth who are within 90 to 120 days of release. The TASC case managers approach the identified youth and invite them engage in weekly evidence based Forward Thinking groups. Additionally, prior to release TASC case managers administer the Global Assessment of Individual Needs (GAIN) which is then used to develop an individualized, multi-system community based intervention for the youth.

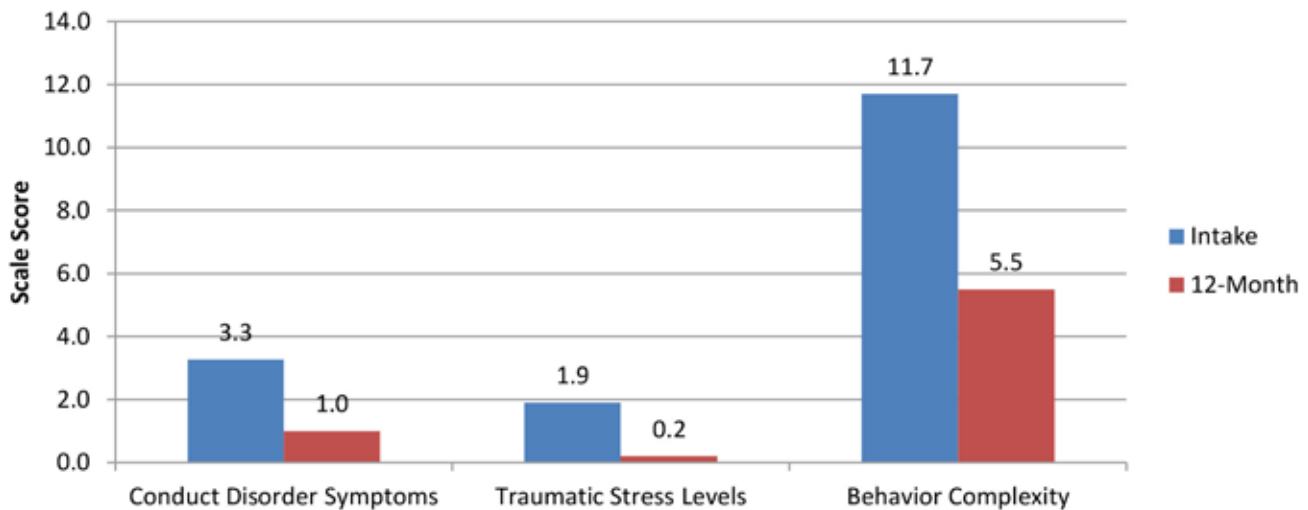
Phase 1 ends when a youth returns to the community and makes his first appearance in Reentry Court. At the time of this initial hearing the youth is provided the opportunity to continue his participation by entering into the community portion of the program. Those youth who decline receive standard parole services while those who agree begin Phase 2.

Phase 2 very aggressively targets the implementation of the community intervention plan mentioned above. As such the focus of the youth, family, TASC Case Manager and Parole Officer is to identify and ensure access to community resources and programs that will ameliorate the youth's assessed criminogenic and long term adjustment needs. In addition to the concerted effort to engage with these community programs, participants also complete the evidence based Motivational Enhancement Therapy/ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (MET/CBT 5), and continue to appear before Magistrate Neff for support and/or accountability a minimum of one time per month. Phase 2 is limited to a maximum of two months, and ends when the youth and family have begun attending the requisite programs.

Phase 3 consists of ODYS, TASC and Juvenile Court providing ongoing support and guidance to the youth and their families as they strengthen their connections with the community supports with which they initiated contact in Phase 2.

The ReCAPP Program strives to foster a positive community adjustment. As such it relies heavily on the use of positive incentives (i.e. snacks, verbal praise, clothing orders, gift cards, recommendations for early discharge from parole) to recognize the youth who are making positive life choices. ReCAPP also utilizes graduated sanctions as motivational enhancement tools.

**Figure 3. Significant Decreases in Key Behavioral Health Variables
 12-Month Follow-Up (n=33)**



Juvenile TASC Reentry ABSTRACT

Cuyahoga County Juvenile Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC) is operated by Catholic Charities Corporation (CCC) and is the current recipient of a SAMHSA/CSAT Grant for *Offender Reentry Program for Juveniles (ORP-J)* since 10/1/10 and the very successful and promising project ceases receiving Federal Funding as of 6/30/14.

Population served: Juvenile offenders, residents of Cuyahoga County and Lorain County (Greater Cleveland area), who are committed by the respective County Juvenile Court to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) institutions. The program plans to continue to enroll youth in two ODYS correctional facilities, Cuyahoga Hills, in Warrensville and Indian River which is located in Massillon. These youth are between the ages of 14 and 20, adjudicated of a felony offense as a juvenile, with substance abuse or dependence identified prior to or upon commitment to ODYS. Juvenile TASC proposes to continue to serve 40 youth participants per year and since inception the program has served 150 youth participants to date.

Rationale: This population was chosen because 20% to 25% of the youth paroled each year are from Ohio youth correctional facilities and once released from incarceration, they come home to the Cleveland region. Nationally, lack of success in juvenile reentry is demonstrated by a recidivism rate of 66% or greater into the adult criminal justice system. The Project has shown a reduction of recidivism by offering gender and culturally specific interventions designed for older adolescent males, to improve treatment effectiveness. Goals included establishing stakeholder partnerships through a Juvenile Reentry Committee to include State (ODYS) and County juvenile

justice systems, Ohio Mental Health & Addition Services (Ohio MHAS), Juvenile TASC, County Office of Reentry, the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADAMHS), Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), other area alcohol and/or other drug (AOD) treatment providers and faith/community-based services. Additional goals included: participation in pre-release group curriculum; post-release participation in Juvenile Reentry Court and evidence-based treatment; link to services to support employment, education, and other youth or family needs.

Strategies/Interventions: We plan to have the youth continue to receive a comprehensive Drug and Alcohol (SOQIC) assessment; the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) evaluation for recidivism risk determination; 10 months of *Comprehensive Case Management* (3-4 months in the institution and up to 6 months post release); 16 sessions of cognitive behavioral group services, utilizing the Forward Thinking Curriculum through the *Change Company*, in the institution; a minimum of 5 individual sessions post release of non-intensive outpatient sessions using *MET/CBT-5* as an integral part of the curriculum, and ongoing family involvement and at least monthly participation in The Juvenile Reentry Court. Maureen Dee MBA, LISW-S, LICDC-CS, Executive Director at CCC and myself continue to lead the effort.

Outcomes: During the Grant period we have been working with Dr. David Hussey and his colleague Rodney Thomas, Begun Center for Violence Prevention, Research and Education Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at CWRU as independent Principal Evaluators. The results have proven to be positive for the participants.

The Citizen Circles Concept



Citizen participation and guidance is essential for correctional practices inside and outside institutions. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has embraced the needs related to offenders returning home from correctional settings and as such one strategy is the implementation of Citizen Circles. Circle members address risks that

contribute to criminal activity by taking ownership of the solution. It is an opportunity for citizens to communicate expectations for successful reentry and help offenders recognize the harm their behavior has caused others. Offenders are able to make amends and demonstrate their value and potential to the community.

Citizen Circles Locations

Downtown Citizen Circle
216-268-1600 x506

Surehouse Citizen Circle
216-441-4211

**The Euclid Avenue
Citizen Circle**
216-421-0482 x282

Glenville Citizen Circle
216-224-7902

First Love Outreach Ministries
216-391-9247

Cleveland Rise Citizen Circle
216-341-5004

COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS:

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Editor - Mary Kelley, Office of Reentry



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