

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

ROGER W. KERNER, JR., JDC ADMINISTRATOR

The Lucas County Juvenile Detention Center (**JDC**) provides temporary and secure detention for delinquent youth until their case is disposed. As outlined in the Ohio Revised Code, JDC 1) provides temporary, secure detention for youth who present a danger to themselves or the community or who may abscond pending the disposition of cases, and; 2) coordinates social, psychological, or psychiatric evaluations to assist and advise the court in dispositional recommendations; ultimately finding the right service for the youth at the right time.

Lucas County Juvenile Court and Detention Center continue to follow the principles outlined in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (**JDAI**) framework to ensure that youth are served in the most appropriate yet least restrictive environment.

The eight-core strategies in this framework include community collaboration, data-driven decision making, objective admissions into secure confinement, alternatives to detention, expedited case processing, serving the needs of special populations, addressing racial and ethnic disparities, and improving conditions of confinement. In concert with protecting the community, JDC residents learn a set of skills that help them identify thinking patterns that guide feelings and behaviors. Rational Behavioral Training (**RBT**) is the cognitive-based program utilized, with staff facilitating three groups a day. Lucas County remains committed to continually assessing and improving juvenile justice services.

Lucas County Juvenile Court offers three (3) levels of detention: 1) Secure detention, 2) home detention, and 3) electronic monitoring. The Surveillance Program monitors level 2 and level 3 youth. Please see the index for more information and data about the Surveillance Program.

It is essential to clarify how JDC defines admissions and bookings. A booking is when a youth enters secure detention intake, separate from the general population. At this time, JDC intake staff gather demographic information, complete the Detention Screening Instrument (**DSI**), process the complaint, and set a later court date. An admission is when a youth gets booked in and is admitted, joining the detention population until their court date.

As a result of JDAI and the court's efforts to develop safe alternatives, bookings into secure detention have continued to decrease. In 2023, detention bookings with releases were 254. Admissions to Juvenile Detention were 610. Of those youth being admitted into secure detention 157 were females and 453 were males. Out of the 610 residents admitted, 458 were African American, 23 were Latino, 115 were Caucasian, 1 was Asian and, 13 were other unspecified races. Likewise, the Average Daily Population (the average number of youth in JDC on a given day) in 2023 was 36. The average length of stay for the 610 residents admitted into detention was 24.67 days. Please see the index for more information on the Lucas County Assessment Center.

We view visitation as a critical component of our program to strengthen pro-social skills and enhance family support. Juvenile Detention offers visitation Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the evenings with the exception of Federal Holidays.

The youth also participate in summer school for eight weeks. Individual GED and OGT preparation is also provided for residents through tutoring. An educational specialist helps youth transition out of detention back into their home school environment, assisting with any needs throughout the process. With our lead teacher's assistance, out-of-district youth can stay on task with their coursework by delivering educational materials to complete in detention.

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With the successful partnership of JDC and Toledo Public Schools, JDC offers a mix of online educational material to be completed at one's own pace and traditional learning style classes. Youth receive over six hours of education every weekday, year-round. In 2023, JDC had two youth earn their final credits in detention, successfully graduating from Toledo Public Schools.

After school hours, youth participate in psycho-educational groups conducted by the Juvenile Detention Officers that use RBT pro-social skills, effectively learning how to make healthy and safe decisions. RBT also provides the fundamental basis for the cognitive-based behavior management system utilized in JDC. This approach, which incorporates praise, logical consequences, and dis-involvement, dramatically reduces the need for seclusion. In 2023, JDC continued to revise the behavioral management system to include less restrictive consequences for identified behaviors. Every youth admitted into JDC receives a pamphlet on behavioral expectations, their rights, and what they can expect from staff.

Moreover, each youth's pamphlet clarifies what appropriate behavior is desired for each youth to earn positive incentives and what consequences are earned if inappropriate behavior is displayed. The youth in JDC spend their days learning in school, engaged in the common areas in the units, or participating in programming. To reinforce self-respect and positive incentives, youth who reach level 3 in the RBT program can even earn a haircut by a certified barber at no cost to the youth. Residents are engaged all day with programming, only confined to their rooms during sleeping hours or earned consequences consistent with the program.

JDC staff continued to work diligently in 2023 to comply with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (**PREA**). Safety for both staff and youth in the facility is of the utmost importance. All Lucas County Juvenile Detention staff have been PREA certified. The Lucas County Juvenile Court recognizes how imperative safety is by prioritizing equipment purchases and policy reviews, resulting in a safer, cleaner environment. JDC utilizes a systematic sign-in/out procedure for all assigned keys, court employees, and visitors entering detention. This protocol ensures the residents are safe and accounted for while visiting our facility.

JDC continues to work on updating the digital camera recording system. Coupled with mirrors throughout JDC to enhance eyes on supervision, the recording system offers a safer setting for staff and residents. With safety remaining the priority, residents, staff, and visitors are taught multiple ways to report sexual abuse in the facility. Each youth entering the facility signs for and receives a PREA informational pamphlet with all pertinent material printed on it for their reading. The Juvenile Court website was also updated, per policy, for any interested party to file a concern about sexual abuse in a Lucas County Juvenile Court Facility: <https://www.co.lucas.oh.us/FormCenter/PREA-8/PREA-Sexual-Misconduct-Reporting-Form-43>. We proudly report that The Lucas County Juvenile Detention Center had 0 PREA incidents in 2023.

Zepf Mental Health staff are on-site to work with youth daily. Our current assigned Zepf counselor is trauma-trained, and crisis intervention is a significant portion of the responsibility.

JDC residents also have access to medical care, with nurses available seven days a week and weekly physician/nurse practitioner visits. In 2023, our physician/N.P. completed approximately 203 full health physicals for our residents.

In 2023, JDC received 100% compliance from the State of Ohio Department of Youth Services with all applicable mandatory standards under the Ohio Administrative Code 5139-37. The Lucas County Juvenile Detention Center also strived to meet the highest quality conditions of confinement. ■