

CROSSOVER/RESOURCE STAFFING/PLACEMENT



LISA DEMKO, LSW, LCCS LIAISON/RESOURCE STAFFING MANAGER

In 2011, Lucas County Children Services and the Juvenile Court partnered together to implement Georgetown's Crossover Practice Model. The process is a collaborative effort to address the special circumstances and needs of those youth that are involved dually with Lucas County Juvenile Court and Lucas County Children's Services. It includes the incorporation of formalized procedures to increase communication between agencies, working together to identify available resources, the application of strength based treatment and most importantly including the youth's voice and input in the process and decision making.

Desired outcomes of the Crossover Youth Practice model include:

- ◆ Reduction in the number of out-of-home placements.
- ◆ Reduction in the disproportionate representation of minority children.
- ◆ Reduction in the number of youth being dually adjudicated.
- ◆ Reduction in placement changes.
- ◆ Improvement in intra-agency communication and information sharing.
- ◆ An increase in youth and family participation.
- ◆ An increase in access to resources.
- ◆ An increase in joint case management.
- ◆ An increase in Youth and Parent satisfaction with the Court Process.
- ◆ An increase in staff satisfaction regarding the Practice Model.

The Lucas County Crossover Youth Practice model includes the following:

- ◆ Early identification of youth who are between the ages of 10-17 years old that are dually involved with Lucas County Juvenile Court and Lucas County Children Services.
- ◆ Crossover Youth Conferences for joint case planning purposes.
- ◆ Joint visits in the home or community with the youth, family and other service providers involved.
- ◆ Joint participation and recommendations to the Court.
- ◆ Identification of appropriate services or programs.
- ◆ Coordinator from both Lucas County Juvenile Court and Lucas County Children Services to ensure timely communication, facilitate continuity of care and problem solving.
- ◆ The key to successful Crossover Youth Practice Model is communication. Both agencies have done a great job in communicating with one another in regards to court hearings, case information and treatment planning. The Teams have worked together to ensure that the Youth's voice is being heard to garner the best possible outcome of the case.

The Crossover process has worked with 32 youth in 2023. Of those 34, youth, 17 were male and 16 were females. The LCJC and LCCS were able to revert back to face-to-face Team Meetings, Case Reviews and Court Hearings collaborating together to find placements for youth, linking them to the appropriate service or prosocial activity, advocating for them and listening to their voice. We worked with the LCCS in training informing them of the Crossover Process as well as various other Court programs.

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The LCCS Liaison/Resource Staffing Manager continued her role as a member of the Park Place Apartment development team. This was a collaborative effort between LCJC, LCCS, LMH and Harbor. Moreover, the LCCS Liaison/Resource Staffing Manager also participated in the PATH/FOCUS on Runaways Wraparound and Quarterly meetings, the Youth Task Force, as well as the Lucas County Family Council's Inter-System Resource Team.

RESOURCE STAFFING:

Resource Staffings are conducted in an effort to develop recommendations for court hearings, and/or for treatment planning purposes. The staffing process is designed to look at the totality of the youth's case while taking a strength based approach. In addition to past interventions, the youth's juvenile justice history (including community safety), along with the Balance And Restorative Justice (**BARJ**) model and the Structured Decision Making (**SDM**) tool helps to guide the team in developing the best recommendation possible. The Resource Staffing team consists of Resource Staffing Manager, Probation Officer, Probation Manager, Probation Administrator, Assistant Administrator of Probation, a representative from the Youth Treatment Center, Educational Specialist, Resource Specialist, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Coordinator, and the Parent/Guardian. The parents/guardians are encouraged to bring community supports with them. The team is not limited to or inclusive of these representatives.

In 2023 there were **36** Resource Staffings held in the probation department.

SEX	# OF YOUTH
Male	35
Female	1
TOTAL	36

RACE	# OF YOUTH
African American	29
Caucasian	3
Latino	4
Other	0
TOTAL	36

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ZIP CODE	# OF YOUTH
43605	3
43607	4
43608	3
43609	6
43613	1
43612	9
43604	1
43606	0
43611	0
43615	0
43610	3
Other	6
TOTAL	36

PLACEMENTS:

The Lucas County Juvenile Court utilizes out-of-home placements for the purpose of treatment to prevent further delinquent behavior. The Court requires that recommendations to remove a youth from home be made only after all efforts to work with the parents/youth within the home setting have been exhausted. Once a decision to place has been made, the least restrictive alternate placement will be considered.

Further, the youth and parents/guardians are to be involved in deliberations leading to the decision to recommend removal from the home and in the placement process itself. Residential Placement: Refers to any private, state-certified residential program which provides post dispositional care and/or treatment for delinquent youth. A residential placement usually consists of a minimally secure campus environment where supervision is provided by 24 hour awake staff. A group home placement is a less restrictive environment that provides post-dispositional care and/or treatment for delinquent youth. A group home is typically a single-family dwelling where supervision is provided by live-in staff.

In 2023, the Lucas County Juvenile Court had 7 youth in 4 different out of home placements. Three of those youth were in a group home placement and 4 youth were placed in an out of county community corrections facility due to the Youth Treatment Center being full. Two of the group placed in a group home placement were successfully discharged and reunified with their parents. The other youth remain in a group home placement. The 4 youth placed in an out of county community corrections facility remain in their perspective placements. All the youth in placements in 2023 were males. Three of the youth placed are Caucasian, 3 are African American and 1 is Hispanic.■