

Juvenile Detention Center

Judge Karen Lawson

Lake County Juvenile Court

MISSION STATEMENT

The Juvenile Detention Center is a secure facility constructed in 1981 according to American Correctional Association Standards. Juveniles who are a threat to themselves or others and youth who may fail to appear for court are detained.

This facility has a secondary mission to provide short-term, local based rehabilitation for delinquents. In fact, the rehabilitation group makes up the large majority of the detained adolescents.

DESCRIPTION

The Detention Center provides single room housing for up to forty offenders. Typically, the population ratio is four boys to one girl. The average stay is twelve days for girls. Boys tend to commit more serious offenses more often and, therefore, tend to have longer detention stays. A staff of seventeen full-time Juvenile Corrections Officers provides around the clock supervision. The staff also includes two supervisors, four cooks and eighteen part-time staff.

PROGRAM

The requirement for Detention is to provide the basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, as well as health and safety. These are the requirements for good custodial care.

Residents participate in a year round education program. Education is provided by a staff of certified teachers. We make every effort to provide a curriculum which meets the needs of this diverse group. Indoor or outdoor exercise areas are used daily. All residents are required to keep their rooms clean and help with light housekeeping. Counseling and psychological services are an integral part of the program. Counseling is often formal or informal with our well trained staff. The Levels Program, based on behavior modification treatment modality, provides concrete attainable goals for youth in our care.

The involvement of community agencies enhances our rehabilitation effort. Family Planning provides a bi-monthly session including exercises in resisting negative peer pressure. Finally, a dedicated group of volunteers minister to the spiritual needs of the Detention residents.

In 2009 the Lake County Juvenile Detention Center Garden Program was started. With the assistance of the Ohio State University Extension Office, incarcerated juveniles learn the basics of what it takes to grow a successful garden. Through the spring and summer months the juveniles tend to the garden to ensure a bountiful harvest. At summer's end the juveniles help to prepare a special meal with the food harvested from their garden. In April 2010 the Juvenile Detention Center Garden Program was awarded the 2010 Mantis award which is awarded annually to a garden program in the United States that is charitable or educational in nature and does not operate for profit.

The Lake County Juvenile Detention Center has developed an excellent reputation in the corrections community. Our services compare to the best nationally, thanks to a well trained, dedicated staff and a facility which has been kept up to date.