

Gallia County

Judge Thomas J. Moulton, Jr.

Program Name

Diversion Truancy Program

Program Intervention

Truancy

Primary Service Location

Community

Program Description

- The purpose of the program is to reduce school truancy and to work with families. The court refers these families to the program and the charges will be dropped if they complete a six-week program.
- The program is designed to help both the parent/guardian and the student to understand the importance of obtaining an education. The sessions are geared toward helping to foster a sense of accomplishment as students and parents learn the importance of education. Guest speakers from various walks of life include, but are not limited to adult education centers, vocational schools, and universities.
- Parents learn the importance of being an active participant in their students' educational experience and life in general. This leads to a more stable home life and focuses on supporting school completion as a goal of adulthood.
- Additionally, the program closes the loop by encouraging a positive start to the new/next school year through a Back-to-School Rally that makes public the cooperative relationship between the court, the school, and the community. This activity supports a fresh start for all students to return from summer and reengage a positive goal of attending school and completing the 'next step' toward eventual graduation.

Outcomes

Seven (7) youth participating in the program successfully completed the school year and maintained passing grades. Due to the fact that group sessions ended near the end of the school year, no data is yet available to measure the long term impact on the youth's school attendance.

Lessons Learned

It may be more effective to monitor all scheduled court hearings throughout the year to allow the early identification of those students who might benefit from short-term case management.

Program Snapshot

(As of June 30, 2016)

Gender:

Male 42.9%, Female 57.1%

Race/Ethnicity:

White 100%

Age Range:

10-15

Offense Level:

Status

Youth Re-offense Risk Level:

Moderate & Low

Screens & Assessments:

OYAS Diversion Tool

Program Start Date:

April 5, 2016

Received Services:

7 Youth & Families

Program Completion Successes:

6 Youth & Families

Average # of Service Units:

12 Direct Service Hours Per Successful Youth

Program Partners:

- University Rio Grande & Community College
- Buckeye Hills Career Center
- Gallipolis Career College
- Woodlands Center
- Health Recovery Services
- Integrated Services
- WingHaven
- Gallipolis City School District
- Gallia County Local School District
- Holzer Medical Center
- Gallia County Children Services
- Ohio Means Jobs, Job & Family Services,
- Educational Service Center
- Gallia County Sheriff's Department
- Gallia County Prosecutor's Office
- Boy Scouts of Ohio
- Girl Scouts of Ohio
- Gallia County Parks & Recreation

Program Information Contact

Anita M. Moore, Diversion Officer
Gallia County Juvenile Court
18 Locust Street Gallipolis, OH 45631
740-446-3842
anita.moore@gallianet.net

Lessons Learned

The “Back to School” event sponsored by the Juvenile Court in late August prior to the beginning of the school year may have a positive message to the community, but its impact on reducing school truancy is difficult to measure and is more likely to be reinforcing attendance by those students who are already motivated to attend. We intend to cancel this event in the future.

It will be more effective to monitor all scheduled court hearings throughout the year as they occur to allow early identification of those students who might benefit from short-term case management. The six-week group intervention currently only offered in April will be repeated as a four-week commitment once in November and once in February to influence school attendance while there is still significant time to change.

The program will reengage with attendance officers to support their current best practices in remediating filings. When the attention of the parents is gained through filings, a case management model may help to facilitate dismissals through the diversion groups

Gallia County Early Successes – Diversion Truancy

“This Program guarantees the collaboration of schools and the community in working with the court to encourage school attendance.”

Judge Thomas S, Moulton, Jr., Gallia County Juvenile Court

“I have seen this program work from the viewpoint of both school administrator and now as Gallia County Commissioner and know that working with the families is exactly what needs to happen in order for the children involved to attend school more often.”

**Brent Saunders
Gallia County Commissioner**

“I am proud of this young lady and the turnaround she has made. I made a point to tell her so last week. I’ll look for big things next year. I hope she finds an area of involvement at SGHS and/or the community. I believe in this program so much.”

**Ron Hammond
Gallia County Local Schools Attendance Officer
Speaking about a student who attended the program with her father**

“I have been involved with the Diversion Truancy Program since it started. I speak to the students and parents about higher education. I have found that this program is very enlightening to all who are involved. The program seems to bring all aspects of the community together to boost awareness and achievement opportunities to these families. I am excited to be a part of it, and feel it to be a very virtuous program to continue.”

**Amanda Ehman, M.B.A.
Director of Admissions Operations
Rio Grande Community College**

Youth Success Story — John’s mother had become concerned about his “nonchalant” attitude toward school since she had been concerned about her pressing medical issues. He had become disengaged and she found it increasingly difficult to motivate him to go to school.

Both John and his mother attended the Diversion Truancy Program of 6 weeks and she was an active supporter. Over the course of the meetings and monitoring his attendance the program noticed significant improvement in his grades and attendance.

A follow-up call in November (new school year) found mom reporting great joy about his change and that it had been amazing. He has since enrolled in TAG, is a representative and a Lead for Model UN and, making all A’s and B’s on his most recent grade card.

Program Success Story – The program partnered with local churches in sponsoring a Back to School Rally that included a nationally known motivational speaker from our hometown who spoke about decision making and good choices for the middle & high school students. Nearly 200 attended and were served food and provided basic school supplies. In addition, program participants received back-to-school Ready Packs.



Lessons Learned

The “Back to School” event sponsored by the Juvenile Court in late August prior to the beginning of the school year may have a positive message to the community, but its impact on reducing school truancy is difficult to measure and is more likely to be reinforcing attendance by those students who are already motivated to attend. We intend to cancel this event in the future.

It will be more effective to monitor all scheduled court hearings throughout the year as they occur to allow early identification of those students who might benefit from short-term case management. The six-week group intervention currently only offered in April will be repeated as a four-week commitment once in November and once in February to influence school attendance while there is still significant time to change.

The program will reengage with attendance officers to support their current best practices in remediating filings. When the attention of the parents is gained through filings, a case management model may help to facilitate dismissals through the diversion groups.

Program Information Contact –

Anita M. Moore
Diversion Officer
Gallia County Juvenile Court
18 Locust Street
Gallipolis, Ohio 45631
(740) 446-3842
anita.moore@gallianet.net