Summit County
Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio

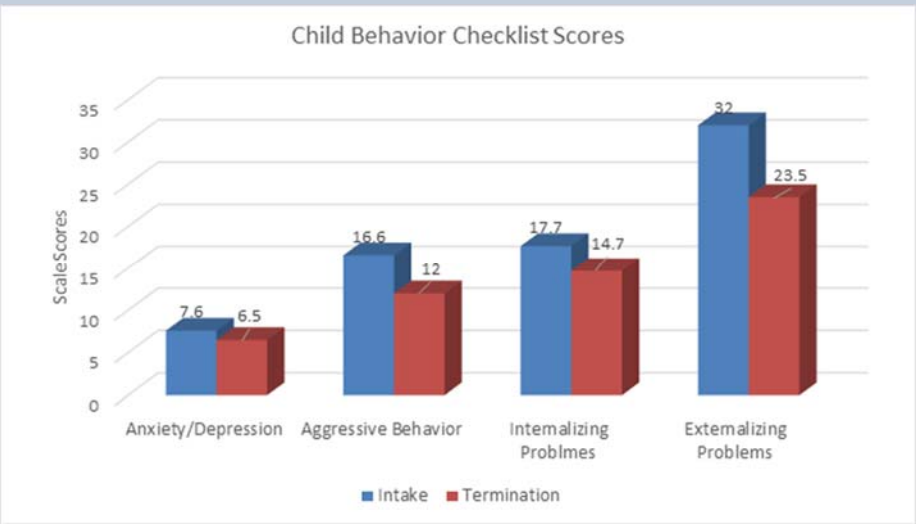
Program Name
Summit County Restore Court

Program Intervention
Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Primary Service Location
In-Home/Court

Program Description
- The purpose of the Restore Court Program is to intervene in the lives of juveniles whose circumstances leave them vulnerable to exploitation and who find themselves involved with the juvenile justice system.
- The population served are youth who present as moderate/high risk to reoffend under the OYAS, and screened as high risk for human trafficking victimization, or have been victimized by human trafficking.
- The court selected this program to address the sensitive needs of youth who are exploited or at high risk to become exploited by human trafficking. Through this program the youth and families are learning what human trafficking is and its risk factors, they engage in therapy to address mental/ behavioral health concerns and substance use concerns. Youth also are offered a mentor who provides a transformational relationship by regularly spending time with and engaging in pro-social activities with the youth.

Outcomes
Two of the main goals of the Summit County Restore Court are to improve behavioral health functioning and school attendance of the participating youth. Behavioral improvement is measured by the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL). Lower scores indicate fewer problems in a particular domain. Results indicate improvement in CBCL domains from intake to termination. In addition, there has been a substantial increase in school attendance of those who have graduated from the program with 91.7% demonstrating improved attendance.



Program Snapshot
(As of June 30, 2016)

Gender:
Female 96%, Male 4%

Race/Ethnicity:
48% White
48% African American, 4% Other

Age Range:
12 to 19

Offense Level:
Felonies, Misdemeanors, Status & At-Risk

Youth Re-offense Risk Level:
Moderate and High

Screens and Assessments:
OYAS, Shared Hope International Tier Two Assessment, Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children Child Behavior Checklist NOM's-National Outcome Measurements

Program Start Date:
December 30, 2014

Received Services:
28 Youth

Program Completion Successes:
6 Youth Successes
11 Youth Continuing into FY 2017

Average # of Service Units:
111.6 Direct Service Hours Per Successful Youth

Juvenile Court Partners:
- Summit County Prosecutor's Office
- Summit Co. CASA & Victim Asst. Program
- Summit County Legal Defender's Office
- RAHAB Ministries & Ohio Guidestone
- Akron Police Department
- Summit County Children Services
- Summit County Family and Children First Council & Akron Public Schools
- CANAPI (Community AIDS Network/ Akron Pride Initiative) & Bellefaire JCB
- Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board & Abraxas
- Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board & Community Health Center
- Child Guidance and Family Solutions
- Case Western Reserve University

Program Information Contact

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Summit County Early Successes – RESTORE Court

"The funding that we have received to work with identified human trafficking victims and youth identified as being at high risk has allowed us to provide positive support through mentors, appropriate trauma focused treatment and a relationship with the Court that has assisted these children in their goals of achieving and maintaining crime-free and healthy lifestyles."

Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio,
Summit County Juvenile Court

"Unless you have worked directly with this population of victims, it is difficult to understand the complexity of their trauma and the depth of their needs. The RESTORE Court program provides the victim with a team of trained, compassionate individuals from different disciplines who wrap around the youth and set them on the journey from victim to survivor."

Attorney Guardian
ad Litem and Member of the Restore
Court Advisory Committee

"Unfortunately, juvenile human trafficking is a growing issue. The Summit County Juvenile Court's RESTORE Court provides behavioral health treatment and mentoring services to those at risk for or victims of juvenile human trafficking. RESTORE Court is such a vital and valuable resource in the fight against trafficking."

Jeff M. Kretschmar, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor
Begun Center for Violence Prevention
Research and Education
Case Western Reserve University

Youth Success Story – A 16-year-old participating the Restore Court program began her journey in the fall of 2015 and successfully completed in the Spring of 2016. She was brought to the Court's attention through a domestic violence charge. Then, she was referred to the program due to her high-risk behaviors that could lead her to the victimization of human trafficking. At first, the youth was hesitant to engage, but knew she needed assistance in her life. Part way through the program the youth found out she had developmental delays and that she was pregnant. The youth originally struggled with being in an online school; her team then worked with her for IEP services and into a school that best met her needs. She strived and excelled in this environment. With the support of her family, the youth made a plan to raise her child. During her time in Restore Court, the participant engaged with services and felt prepared for life after Court. The participant made strides to her personal success to successfully complete the program and have her charges dismissed. The participant, the professionals involved and 13 of the youth's family members participated in a celebration to honor her hard work for graduation.

Photo of youth for an incentive painting event.

Lessons Learned

First Lesson: Restore Court is designed to meet the unique needs of each youth participant. Service providers come together and brainstorm the best possible solutions for the youth. Bi-monthly, the treatment team meets to discuss the needs and strengths of each individual in the program. Treatment goals are selected by the provider and the participant, as we have intentionally worked to include the youth's opinion. We have learned that the youth are much more engaged in their treatment when they have a voice. Most recently, a Restore Court survey has been implemented for both the youth and parents to complete after graduation from the program. This allows for feedback to be given about the program in order to better serve others. The program participants have great insight into bettering the program. We value our participant's voices, and want them to feel heard at every stage of the program.

Second Lesson: A valuable lesson we learned this year about Restore Court needs to better educate our participants on human trafficking. In response to this need, RESTORE staff members have created a program orientation that includes addressing basic human trafficking concerns. This orientation is unique to each participant and completed individually with the youth participant and then with the parent. The orientation helps clarify the purpose of the program, and expectations for the duration of the program. Most importantly, the orientation gives information on human trafficking that can be referenced and drawn upon throughout the participant's treatment. This time also allows for the participants and parents to ask questions about human trafficking, and recognize signs of it occurring. Implementing this orientation creates a basic reference point for each participant and educates our families on human trafficking.

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