Pathways to Success
A Newsletter created by the Juvenile Bureau of the District Court of Tulsa County, Oklahoma
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Saying Goodbye to Judge Hiddle

Our Family Drug Court participants and staff have great respect for Judge Hiddle. He has earned this respect because of his undeniably genuine concern for their wellbeing and future. Each drug court case is unique and Judge Hiddle took the time to get to know each person and their situation in order to make the best decisions for their future.

He valued the opinions of the Family Drug Court team. This team of professionals includes the FDC Administration, DHS Team Supervisor and case workers, the FDC Liaison from CTI and their Peer Recovery Specialist.

Often times participants refer to the Family Drug Court team and fellow participants as their family. Judge Hiddle made sure they knew they were truly cared for. His sense of humor made even what seemed unfair amusing by his classic quote. “The fair is at 21st and Yale.”

Participants knew he had their best interests in mind even if they did not like his orders. Judge Hiddle had the ability to portray wisdom in a manner that was entertaining and understandable.

We wish him the best in his new docket. He will be greatly missed!
Welcome Judge Carter

As we say goodbye to Judge Hiddle, we welcome Judge Martha Rupp-Carter.

Judge Carter graduated from Perry High School in Oklahoma, where her parents, Robert and Dorothy Rupp, still reside. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts with honors in English from Oklahoma State University and then attended law school at the University of Oklahoma College of Law, obtaining her Juris Doctor degree. She is thankful to her family for all their help and support, including with education opportunities. She is proud of her Oklahoma roots and values.

She worked in private practice with the law firm Waddle and Buzzard for five years before selection as assistant city attorney in the City of Tulsa Legal Department. Throughout her service for the City of Tulsa, she advanced to positions of increasingly higher responsibility and ultimately to the position of city attorney. As the chief legal officer for Tulsa and its elected and appointed officers, numerous trusts, boards, and committees, she was responsible for providing and coordinating all legal services by the Department's thirty lawyer, paralegal, and legal secretary positions.

Congratulations to our recent Family Drug Court graduates!

Thirteen participants graduated the program in August. We wish them the best!
On the second day of the conference, Robert Mouser also spoke alongside FCJJ partners from the OSU Center for Family Resilience, Brooke Tuttle and Ashley Harvey, on the Family and Adolescent Resilience (FAR) Program currently being implemented in juvenile detention. This therapeutic family engagement program recently surpassed the one-year anniversary of implementation and has seen positive outcomes with detention youth and their families. In early outcome data, the FAR program has been observed to have a reduction in hours of room confinement, reduction in number of critical incidents and restraints, as well as increased family support, communication, and cohesion.

As representatives of the Family Center for Juvenile Justice, the FCJJ Zarrow Symposium team felt honored to share with the greater community about the rewarding work we do with youth and families every single day. It is through these educational opportunities that we hope to continue to share and learn from others about the best practices in juvenile justice.
Tulsa Area Community Intervention Center (TACIC) continues to see a downward trend in contacts with youth compared to previous years. Compared to 2012, we've experienced a 43% decrease in youth served (1588 vs 898).

This trend is not unique to the Tulsa area, but seems to be represented nationally as juvenile crimes reported are down across all sectors (violent and other crimes). According to the OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book (driven by stats from 2015-2016), “Juvenile arrest rates for all offenses reached its highest level in two decades in 1996, then declined 70% by 2016.”

See article https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/JAR_Display.asp?ID=qa05200

This seems to hold true across several statistical reports, but leads to the bigger question... what’s working? Ideas, theories, and programs aimed at juvenile crime intervention vary. Most would agree that early identification and intervention, evidence based assessment, diversion from incarceration/detainment, providing safe and secure facilities when appropriate, outcome based planning/supervision, and school engagement are key principles. CIC, along with other departments of the Family Center for Juvenile Justice, attempts to address all such areas.

CIC would like to congratulate Monica Chaney as the CIC Employee of the Quarter. Monica is employed as a part time Youth Specialist covering weekends and has over five years of service. Monica is dedicated to helping the youth of this community transcend difficult life situations by working full-time with the Office of Juvenile Affairs in the JSU division.
A Day in the Life of Detention

Tulsa County Juvenile Detention (JDC) is anything but typical for young people placed in custody. Youth, who find themselves in custody at the JDC, usually are placed there through some form of traumatic circumstance. It is easy to think of them as juvenile delinquents who have committed crimes, or even criminals, but the truth is, the typical day in detention starts with the recognition that they are kids in need of help and often times, another chance.

Each day in detention starts at about 7:15 a.m. No youth shares a room with another in our facility. They dress in their room and then report to the bathroom for hygiene.

If a resident displays one of the positive behaviors we train on or helps out in a positive way, staff will issue him or her a certificate called “detention bucks”. Detention bucks are highly coveted in detention and are used to “purchase” items in the facility store.

When breakfast and clean-up are completed, the residents have a "Goals Group" to discuss how they feel, what they want to accomplish for the day, and who they will seek if they need assistance. Sick call starts at 8:30 a.m. for any resident recently admitted or who has made a verbal request to be placed on the nurse log. New youth are seen by the nurse and given a modified physical.

At 9:00 a.m. class starts. School attendance is mandatory. Some residents struggle with the education aspect of the program because they may not have had success in school in the past. Our educational program is designed to assess a youth's educational skills, determine their preferred learning style, and help them find their way back to more traditional school settings. The facility boasts a computer area on each of two units, smart boards in each classroom, access to on-line educational opportunities, and a transitional counselor to assist youth in finding their way back to the right school once released. We begin this process the first day the youth is in custody at our facility.

The school schedule is enhanced by special groups and visitors such as the Gilcrease Museum Oklahoma History team who visit the facility. The facility is also privileged to offer classes in yoga, girls programming based on the Girls Circle curriculum, and presentations by special speakers. After class is over for the day, the residents have free time.

During all meals residents are able talk with staff and interact with their peers. Some evenings residents will have visitation after dinner, or movie night. Other evenings, we provide voluntary bible study groups sponsored by Youths for Christ, a division
of Juvenile Justice Ministries.

The residents are also allowed daily free time to write letters, read, watch TV, play basketball, board games, or video games. Every day at 8:00 p.m. the residents have an at-risk group. During this group they have a snack, review their goal for the day and work on social skills. At 9:00 p.m. the group has their first bed time. Those residents with detention bucks are able to purchase an additional 30 minutes of free time before bedtime. By 10:00 p.m. all residents are in bed with lights out. Staff then double check rooms to make sure all youth are accounted for and attend to any final needs.

Throughout the week there are special events, like an ice cream social for those that are behaviorally doing well in class. There is usually a popcorn or cookie and juice party during the week for residents who are meeting or exceeding educational requirements and then there is a weekly pizza party for everyone who has not had any major infractions. Staff are always present to maintain order and positive discipline.

The goal of the facility program is not to punish youth placed in custody, but to hold youth in secure custody pending the decision of the court on their status. One goal is to expose them to a positive experience that includes pro-social skills they may use in the future. Indeed, detention life is full of routine and more routine. It is not always a fun place for youth to be, but it can be a place for hope to take root. Detention is a place where new ways of thinking and relating to the world can begin. There is a mural at the resident entrance to detention which states “If you made mistakes, even serious ones, what we call failure is not the falling down, but the staying down”. In our facility we believe that youth who are in detention have another chance.

-Alondo Edwards, Detention Superintendent
When an intake counselor or probation counselor receives a new case, they never know what is about to unfold. One has to love this work because it can be overwhelming yet one has the privilege of working directly with a child and their family; we get to hear their stories, their hardships, and sometimes, their successes. We get to help them uncover their often hidden strengths. In the recent EPIC training, one thing reiterated that we all know working in this field is that when someone, teenager or adult, is not functioning as they could be, it is often because they do not know how and our role is to help them learn.

A success story I would like to share involves a family; a young boy and his mother and father. The teenager, “Ryan” was referred to probation for a property crime that occurred on school property, for which he was also suspended and owed quite a bit of restitution. The parents had significant substance usage issues. Initially, the focus was on Ryan; getting him back into school with fewer behavioral problems, getting him counseling, and not being around negative peer influences and/or increasing his level of parental supervision. Ryan and his parents were referred to services. Once Ryan was allowed to return to the alternative school, his advocates came to his school staff meeting with the parents, Ryan and probation counselor. We all thought things would improve at this point due to all of the support, collaboration between Wrap Around staff, parents, school staff, and probation. This alternative school was about two blocks away from Ryan’s home, making it convenient for Ryan to get to school.

However, Ryan continued to struggle with minor behavior issues. He was suspended again. Another meeting was scheduled with everyone present, including Ryan. The school decided to refer Ryan to another school. This was devastating to Ryan. Further, this new school was miles away from where Ryan lived so he would have to make even more of an effort to get to school.

Also during this time, the parents continued to test positive for substances. The parents were angry with the school system and the court system. The father told probation that the only reason the court was involved in their lives was “because we are poor and live in north Tulsa.” The father would get mad, raise his voice as he was voicing his opinion yet there was still a level of respect. There was also a lot of cooperation from the parents; they attended all school meetings regarding Ryan, they met with probation when scheduled and they worked with Wrap Around. On one hand, the case was a challenge due to the parents’ positive drug tests, the repeated suspensions, the frustration the parents felt towards school staff and Ryan acquired a new charge. On the other hand, Ryan and his parents were cooperating with services; they had weekly communication with probation and Ryan was remorseful about getting into trouble again in the community.

At the next review hearing, the Judge court ordered the parents to seek out-patient substance abuse counseling through a local service provider. The parents were resistant to this and the father continued to deny any usage, yet they went. I was able to transport the parents to their initial assessment and the family therapist met us
there. While filling out the paperwork in the lobby, the father was upset and informed me of how unfair he thought all of this was and how he did not need substance abuse counseling. While he was confronting me for working in the Court system that was "unfairly" sending him through services for addiction issues, all I could think was, “but he is here, he and his wife are actually here, which means, they will get some professional help.” I listened. He was angry, which was to be expected, but again, he maintained a level of respect. I also want to mention that the father is a military veteran. They complied with filling out all paperwork and each met with their own therapist.

The parents went to substance abuse counseling weekly, Ryan was assigned a therapist with whom he met at school. The drug tests continued to be positive but the father denied his usage. Ryan had learned to take a bus to get to school and was doing fairly well. His school attendance needed improvement and all of a sudden, he started getting in trouble at school again. Probation was concerned due to the fact that all services possible were in place yet things did not seem to be improving.

Ryan graduated from the program he was in and I received an invitation to attend a few weeks prior to the graduation. I had not spoken with the family since the case was closed through probation. I went but was unsure how I would be received by Ryan and his parents. When I arrived, I sat with Ryan and both parents. The mother looked healthy; her hair was fixed and she was obviously not on substances. The father looked calm and proud of his son. They both talked to me and asked me how I was doing. I learned that the father was still seeing his therapist through the provider. They were all eager to talk with me and update me on how well they were doing. Staff presented Ryan with a certificate and gave a speech stating all that Ryan had accomplished over the past six months. The family seemed happy and they have stayed together. And most of all, I am pretty sure that Ryan is going to be okay.

Of course, I am grateful for the services provided to the family, especially his therapist, for going above and beyond in this case but also grateful for staff that provided substance abuse counseling, and court staff. This was a difficult case that ended up being a successful case due to services provided, much collaboration, and the parents wanting to do the correct thing for their child but needing some guidance. Ryan has remained determined, kind, friendly, and has an eagerness to succeed. At his graduation he said his goals are to graduate from high school and go to college. His parents told me how they are very cautious about who they allow Ryan to hang out with and how they hope Ryan will attend vo tech during high school so he can learn a trade and make a decent living.

It can be considered a success when a teenager and their parents have their own goals to accomplish and want to achieve those goals for their own self-determination; services are no longer needed!

-Tara Middleton, Probation Counselor
Our Psychologist, Dr. Kathy Lafortune attended the Oklahoma School of Science and Math's (OSSM) Lunch and Learn to present on forensic psychology, juvenile risk assessments, and parenting capacity.

After speaking, several students emailed Dr. Lafortune and expressed interest in assisting Dr. Lafortune with her project to create a parenting capacity assessment instrument. She began meeting with Landin Green, Pooja Velury, and Paria Iranpour from OSSM. They have spent the past few months working with Dr. Lafortune to begin sifting through questions to ask parents when parenting is assessed.

Dr. Lafortune began working on this project in 2016 with two Tulsa University evening classes, one in psychology and the other in law. Each student was assigned a different age of development from 0-18 years and asked to come up with 20 questions that every parent should be asked about how they parent. Some of the questions submitted were true-false, some were open-ended and some demonstrative, meaning the parent has to demonstrate particularly with infants that they can perform a certain task.

The three students continue to work with Dr. Lafortune. Landin Green is now a freshman at USC and is completely enthusiastic about continuing his work on this project. It is great to have students who are so dedicated to coming up with solutions to real life problems!

Currently, Dr. Lafortune is collaborating with the Safe Babies Court Team to get their feedback on the assessment measure being created. The name of the measure is Parenting Capacity Assessment Measure (PCAM), like a camera (CAM), we are trying to create a test that can provide a snapshot into the parent’s abilities and limitations so to make recommendations to the court as to what areas need to be addressed. This measure would be part of an overall assessment for parenting capacity. This is one of the most difficult referral questions because there are so many variables in parenting and cultural differences that need to be addressed as well.
What is our CHINS program?

CHINS stands for *Children in Need of Supervision*; the (CHINS) program is designed to provide help and support to families with children displaying a variety of behavioral issues including:

- Running away from home/being gone for 24 hours or more
- Not following curfew rules/staying out all night
- Using drugs and/or alcohol
- Negative associations with older adults/gangs
- Skipping school

**How does CHINS help?**

The program is designed to divert youth from entering the juvenile system by connecting families to community resources. When a youth is enrolled in the CHINS program by their parent or legal guardian, they receive referrals to services such as: counseling, inpatient/outpatient treatment, alternative education options, transitional living, drug and health education and numerous referrals.

CHINS is also intended to assist parents with children who have run away. This service provides a pickup order signed by the appropriate officials to apprehend youth who have been reported as a runaway. Once the pickup order is sent to the appropriate parties and law enforcement is able to locate the youth, he or she will be returned to his or her home or to a shelter.

For more information contact: Shaylonda Powell at 918.596-5929
Back to School Night 8/20

On Monday, August 20th, Phoenix Rising (PR) held a back to school night and resource fair. This year the event was held a few days in advance of the first day of school to make sure students and their families had a chance to take care of all the little details that would ensure a solid foundation for the new academic year.

Students picked up their schedules and student ID's allowing them free bus transportation, met their advisors and case managers, and most importantly began to build the school community by meeting other PR students and families.

Most of our community partners also attended and tabled in the cafeteria to begin engaging students and families of their valuable services. Eighteen partner agencies and bureau departments were represented and enjoyed food prepared by PR employee Tito Monroe and his brother, Nitro.

Partners were impressed with how many of the families listened about their programs and made plans to follow up on specific needs the PR community members were facing from custodial guardianship issues with legal aid to job skill enhancement with DRS and Bridges Foundation. Most students connected with at least one resource that will help them be successful in school and the community at large. In all, 47 students and family members attended. This soft start also allowed PR staff members to check in on enrolled students who did not attend and make sure they had all they needed to start the year. After a long time without the energy of the students in the building, staff are optimistic about the start to the new school year.

Partners in Attendance: Youth Services of Tulsa, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Bart, Attic Conversations, Girl Power, Women in Recovery, Family & Children's Services, Strong Tomorrows, Tulsa Food Bank, Tulsa Community College, Bridges Foundation, Dayspring, Tristesse Grief Center, DVIS, Meals on Wheels, Tulsa County Probation Department, and Life Launch Mentoring Program.
Connecting with Resources

The Food Bank of Northeastern Oklahoma (FBNEO) sent two representatives with information on how to obtain food and then provided fresh fruits and vegetables to all who wanted them. PR ended the night with somewhere around fifty pounds of plums left over to hand out over the course of the first few weeks of school. PR students and staff have also benefited from two partners providing school supplies to the school. Wal-Mart at 66th and Memorial donated two vans full of binders, staplers, notebooks and back packs.

Employees of Direct Energy also dropped off a car load of supplies during the first week of school. Robin Vanmeter organized a school supply drive with company employees. The company is interested in continuing support of Phoenix Rising over the rest of the school year. Thank you to Rob Mouser for connecting us with Robin! We are grateful for all the supplies these two agencies donated. They will help students and teachers stay organized and productive throughout the year. More importantly the knowledge that there is a whole community out there rooting the students on helps all of us persevere through the challenging times on the road to graduation.

It wasn’t just partners providing resources to students, students also found ways to connect and benefit the agencies through volunteerism. One of our students has decided to apply to the YST youth advisory board as a way to give back to programs that have benefited so many of our students. The program will offer leadership development opportunities and allow youth to act as a focus group for services the agency offers. We are proud of our students for wanting to give back!

First Day

Following on the success of our back to school night, PR experienced a very smooth first day of the semester. Most students arrived on time and knew where to go thanks to advanced planning on transportation and having academic schedules in advance. Like any first day of school, some schedule changes were necessary but through collaboration TPS and Bureau administrators were able to iron out the details and ensure every credit counts for every student. Teachers and case managers commented on how poised the students are.
There are few things more unnerving for parents to hear than their child has been arrested. Often parents are left with many questions. If your child has been arrested in Tulsa County, this article is an attempt to provide brief information and highlights as to the process. It is not intended to be a thorough rundown of the legal process, as situations and factors vary from case to case.

Tulsa County and its various municipalities all have peace-keeping officers from local policing divisions, school/campus officers, county sheriff officers, and highway patrol and fire marshals who are responsible for enforcing state law and local ordinances. If officers encounter your child and believes them to be a suspect of a crime, Oklahoma State Criminal Procedure allows for officers to detain, report, and book through use of a Probable Cause Narrative, also known as an affidavit or A&B (Arrest and Booking) form. See (Title 22 “Criminal Procedure” 22.196). Some of the most common charges youth are arrested for include petit larceny, assault and battery, burglary II, curfew, possession of stolen vehicle, unlawful use of a motor vehicle, larceny from an auto, domestic assault and battery, minor in possession of a firearm, curfew and traffic violation, trespassing, or obstruction.

As it pertains to youth, officers have some discretion on how they handle the initial contact. If the offense is a status offense (truancy, tobacco, curfew, etc), officers can detain, warn, and release. With minor offenses such as petit larceny or simple assault, which are accompanied with a promise to appear in court, officer may detain, warn, and release into the custody of a parent or guardian. A youth may be detained, held in custody, and referred to the Juvenile Courts for further review on more serious crimes.

If it is a more serious crime, the general first step is to bring that youth to the Tulsa Area Community Intervention Center (TACIC) where initial identification, review of charges, safety/health screening, booking, and determination of detention status is assessed. Based on specific criteria, youth may be eligible for further hold at the Detention Center of the Juvenile Courts, admit eligible to TACIC, or receive support through the Youth Services Shelter. TACIC staff will work with officers to transition youth to the most appropriate location.

Community Intervention Centers (CIC’s) are statutorily supported programs created to assist officers with swift drop offs of juvenile offenders so officers can return to patrol duties (see Oklahoma Statutes, Title 10a, section 2-7-305). CIC’s are operated by various municipalities/counties and operate under rules promulgated by the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) the state agency for juvenile delinquency reduction and planning (see: OAC 377: 3-13-62 to 3-13-91). Youth admitted to TACIC with state violations will be referred to the District Juvenile Court at the Family Center for Juvenile Justice (Juvenile Bureau), presently located at 315 S. Gilcrease Museum Road, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74127. This initial referral will be set for announcement hearings four to five weeks from the point of arrest. Any youth with traffic violations, tobacco violations, or curfew violations will be referred to the appropriate municipal courts.

If transported to the Detention Center, all appropriate transfer information, including the A&B will be sent with the youth upon arrival where main control staff will receive the youth and forward documents to the Court Clerk and Intake offices. Risk scores are assigned to incoming youth. All detained youth will have an announcement hearing upon the next available detention court docket, which occurs Monday through Friday beginning at 1:30p.m. Parents or guardians are required to attend those hearings. Some youth may be eligible for release from detention after these hearings.
depending on the charge and risk to reoffend. Review Hearings are set based on the needs or requirements of the youth, review, and decisions of the district attorney's office, and/or the youth's attorney of record. District attorney's have up to five business days to make a filing decision on pending charges while the youth is detained.

It is important to note that all new referrals are processed and reviewed by the Family Center for Juvenile Justice's Intake Division, who work directly with the district attorney's office to assist with determine the merit of charges and if charges are appropriate for adjudication. The Intake division may receive upwards of 3000 referrals annually. Of those referred, only about 10% go on to formal adjudication and probation services. This means that the odds are good that if your youth is a first-time offender or their charges are low risk misdemeanors that they will benefit from diversionary programing. If your youth is already on probation, the new charge is forwarded to their probation counselor for coordination of services.

Adjudication hearings are set to determine the disposition on charges. These can be set as jury/non-jury trials where a youth has the opportunity to stipulate (admit) to charges, deny charges, have charges dismissed, or be found guilty of charges. If charges are dismissed, there will be no future hearings set regarding that charge, however if charges are stipulated to or there is a finding of guilt, a disposition can immediately be addressed, or a dispositional hearing can be set. Youth are adjudicated as delinquent and not criminally convicted of charges in juvenile court. Dispositional hearings are tasked with addressing the accountability measures to be taken for any youth adjudicated, which could vary from minor services, probation services, treatment/placement options, or victim restitution.

All histories of charges and dispositions will be maintained in the youth's confidential legal file in the Court Clerk's Office and in Oklahoma's Juvenile Online Tracking System (JOLTS). Though there are a multitude of moving pieces from the arrest to disposition phase, parents/guardians should know that there are personnel who can help them navigate the system. If questions loom regarding the process, contact the Family Center for Juvenile Justice staff. The best interest of all involved is the focus and we are always interested in helping you better understand any processes involved.

The following chart shows the common flow of services rendered at TACIC:

![Diagram of Tulsa Area Community Intervention Center (TACIC) flowchart]
The Phoenix Rising Alternative School Foundation can make a difference one dollar at a time!

Go to https://tulsacaf.org and click "Give Now" then choose "Phoenix Rising Foundation."

Or mail a check to:
PRASF
315 S. Gilcrease Museum Road
Tulsa, OK 74127

*all donations are tax deductible

juvenile delinquents are 13% less likely to graduate high school

They are 22% more likely to drop out of high school than their peers

20% of PRAS Youth have or currently are experiencing homelessness

60% of colleges consider arrest records when reviewing applications

Education plays a critical role in the rehabilitation of juveniles

Phoenix Rising Alternative School Foundation

Facebook.com/TulsaJBDC

www.tulsacounty.org/juvenile