

40th Annual InterCourt Conference



Session 1E: Belmont County - C-CAP Program

Presenters: *Hon. Albert Davies,
Noah Atkinson & Jennifer Shunk*

March 14, 2024
10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO
JUDICIAL COLLEGE



Belmont County C-CAP

JUDGE ALBERT E. DAVIES

JENNIFER SHUNK, COURT ADMINISTRATOR

NOAH ATKINSON, DIRECTOR

A little bit about Belmont County...

- Located in southeastern Ohio bordering the Ohio River in the Appalachian foothills
- Population of approximately 65,800 with a decreasing population
- 93% white, 5% black, 2% other; 18.7% under 18 years of age
- County seat - Saint Clairsville
- 3 Common Pleas Judges (2 General Division, 1 Probate/Juvenile Division), 3 County Court Judges, 1 Magistrate
- Within Juvenile Division: 1 Court Administrator, 1 part-time Bailiff, 1 Chief Probation Officer, 6 Probation Officers, 1 part-time Diversion Officer, 1 Truant Officer, 1 Teacher, 1 Fiscal Officer, 6 full time + 1 part time Probate/Juvenile Clerks

A little bit about Belmont County...

- 1 adult prison - Belmont Correctional Institute
- 1 CCF - Oakview Juvenile Residential Center
- 1 Juvenile Detention Center - Sargus Juvenile Detention Center
- 1 Girl's Group Home - Future Stories Girl's Group Home
- 7 public school districts and 1 vocational school

History



- The C-CAP program was developed in 1995 under the late Belmont County Court of Common Pleas Probate/Juvenile Division Judge John J. Malik in cooperation with the Harrison County Common Pleas Court Judge Steven Karto
- Originally designed as a bootcamp where youth participated under instructors (probation officers) at a local Army Reserve facility
- Retired NFL All Pro Linebacker, Lance Mehl, became the director in 1997 until 2017 offering consistency and insight for moving forward and making changes in programming to follow current trends and research

C-CAP News Article

C-CAP: 'stress challenge' for local juvenile offenders

By KRISTEEN DANIEL
Times Leader Staff Writer

HE USED to "run from the cops." Now he's thinking about trying out for high school track next year.

The 17-year-old Harrison County resident is a participant in the C-CAP program, created by Juvenile Court Judge Steve Karto. The Concentrated Conduct Adjustment Program is Harrison County's alternative to serving time in the Sargus Juvenile Detention Center.

"We deal with problems as they happen. Instead of taking the kids out of their environment, we're teaching them how to adjust in it," Judge Karto said. "We bombard them with information. There are consequences to everything, good and bad. We want them to learn to make the right choices."

At 9 a.m. Monday through Friday, 42 young people, including 10 girls, and at least two trainers arrive at the Armory in Cadiz. For two weeks, beginning July 5, six males, three females and their trainers from Belmont County have joined them to learn the program's ins and

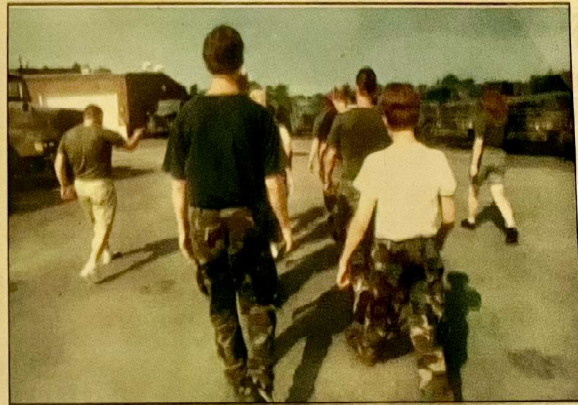
outs. They begin the day with the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. Then it's work, work, work.

"We're developing self-respect, self-discipline and responsibility. Kids have to be here on time and do what's required. Our unofficial motto is nothing but the best from the program and themselves. We impose military-type discipline," Judge Karto said. And military exercise. Participants line up, stand at attention, march and do push-ups on command. The trainers lead in traditional military language.

Each participant is given a number when they begin the program. That is how they are called, the Judge said. As time goes by and they earn respect, the kids are called by their last names or given nicknames.

"The program has been approved by psychologists and the Department of Youth Services. They call it a 'stress challenge,'" Judge Karto said. "We want to cut the adult rate of offenses by dealing with the kids now. We are able to make referrals to Human Services when we see there is a need."

See, C-CAP, Page 12C



TWO TRAINERS direct participants in the C-CAP program at the Armory in Cadiz.

T-L Photo/MIKE McNEIL

History continued...



- 1998 J. Mark Costine became the Belmont County Probate/Juvenile Division Judge and he continued to actively support the role of C-CAP as he worked with staff to expand C-CAP programming and connections in the community with the beginning of the C-CAP Alternative School supported through a federal grant in 2001
- Judge Costine promoted and supported staff in updating programming regularly to stay up to date on current trends
- In 2017, Noah Atkinson became the third director of C-CAP
- Judge Albert E. Davies became the third Judge to oversee the C-CAP programming in 2018 when he was appointed to the bench. Judge Davies established the Belmont County CrossFit program and incorporated this programming into the summer C-CAP schedule

History continued...

Over the years the program has been housed in various locations including an Army Reserve facility, multiple old school buildings, a local high school, the Belmont-Harrison Career Center (Vocational School), and most recently the Board of Developmental Disabilities classrooms.



C-CAP (Concentrated Conduct Adjustment Program) Belmont County Juvenile Court

Over 1,000 youth participants since inception



INTENSIVE
SUPERVISION



EVIDENCE BASED
PROGRAMMING/
ACADEMICS



COMMUNITY
SERVICE

C-CAP Program Goals

- Reduce criminogenic thinking by providing an alternative to detention
- Improve family/peer relationships
- Increase academic success
- Teach independent living skills
- Provide referrals and support for mental health/substance abuse counseling
- Build a connection between the youth and community in which they reside
- Improve self esteem and teach responsibility for one's actions

C-CAP Operations

Participants

- Males and females (average 20 summer/8-10 school year)
- Ages 12-18
- Belmont County youth
- Probation/court ordered

Staff

- Director
- Probation Officers
- Teacher

Logistics

- Classrooms in Belmont Career Center
- Various sites for community service, special events & outings
- Youth transported by court staff in court owned vans/vehicles

Schedule

- 4 days per week for 10 weeks in the Summer
- 2 days per month during the school year



Intensive Supervision

- Youth are on standard probation terms with expectations of much greater contact with court staff
- Random drug screen minimally monthly but more as needed
- Family members are contacted multiple times per month as needed
- Unannounced home and school visits
- Youth may be assigned GPS units
- School behaviors and work is monitored closely
- Parents may be referred to the Parent Project



Intensive Supervision continued...

- Probation officers each have an assigned vehicle, phone and firearm
- All have been trained by OPOTA, certified OYAS, and trained in Motivational Interviewing
- Probation officers have been trained/certified in Skills Streaming, Carey Guides, PREP, Parent Project, Mental Health First Aid, T4C, Handle with Care
- Caseloads average 10-15 probationers
- Probation officers share many roles and all work various programs (team approach)



Academics

Juvenile Court employs one certified teacher to assist with C-CAP and the Alternative School

Belmont County Juvenile Court Alternative School

- Operates as separate but connected program of C-CAP

Two classrooms operated during school year

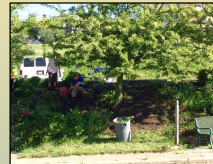
- Virtual learning class
- Short term suspension classroom
- Court staff assist in operation

Voluntarily supported by all 7 public school districts in Belmont County

C-CAP summer program offers credit recovery and academic assistance in C-CAP day program for any youth including those not involved with Juvenile Court



Community Service



- C-CAP Director oversees program operations
- Youth may be court ordered to perform hours with C-CAP program or individually at approved sites
- Work with local schools to provide community service hours needed to meet graduation requirements
- Hours are tracked through logs, case notes, and in Courtview
- Sites include local schools, parks, police departments, food pantries, churches, city recreational departments, community events, etc.



C-CAP Summer Program



Schedule

Monday through Thursday 9-3:00

- Pick ups begin throughout county as early as 7:30 A.M. Drop offs as late as 4:30-5:00 P.M.
- Staff have routes to follow and designated pick up sites. The court has 2 passenger vans and several probation cars to assist with transport
- C-CAP director coordinates schedules and oversees daily routes for transportation
- Parents may transport youth to and from program

C-CAP Summer Program continued...

Location

- Classroom space provided by local schools
- Various community service sites as scheduled throughout summer

Participants

- 20 to 25 youth in the summer program
- 10-15 youth in the academic recovery summer program
- Youth on occasion may be detained and picked up from the detention center to participate in C-CAP throughout the day
- Youth are placed in C-CAP by court order and recommendations of probation officers
- Youth in need of academic recovery are referred from home school districts and voluntarily attend with parental consent for credit recovery virtual learning class

C-CAP Summer Program continued...

Daily programming includes:

- Academics
- Community service
- Counseling (behavioral specialists)
- Skills Streaming, Carey Guides
- PREP
- CrossFit
- Independent Living Skills
- Guest Speakers
- Current Events

C-CAP Summer Schedule Example



Guest facilitator				
# 1	2023			
	5-Jun	6-Jun	7-Jun	8-Jun
7:00	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation
7:30	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation
8:00	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation
8:30	Breakfast / Check- In	Community Service - St.C Rec	Breakfast / Check- In	Community Service - Fairgrounds
9:00	TED Talk	Community Service - St.C Rec	SNAP-Ed - Nutrition	Community Service - Fairgrounds
9:30	KBS - AIM	Community Service - St.C Rec	KBS - AIM	Community Service - Fairgrounds
10:00	KBS - AIM	Community Service - St.C Rec	KBS - AIM	Community Service - Fairgrounds
10:30	KBS - AIM	Community Service - St.C Rec	KBS - AIM	Community Service - Fairgrounds
11:00	Haswell Hour	Community Service - St.C Rec	Crossroads	Community Service - Fairgrounds
11:30	Haswell Hour	Community Service - St.C Rec	Crossroads	Community Service - Fairgrounds
12:00	Lunch	Community Service - St.C Rec	Lunch	Community Service - Fairgrounds
12:30	Chats w/ CCAP -	Community Service - St.C Rec	Life Skills - Belmont Health Dept.	Community Service - Fairgrounds
1:00	Chats w/ CCAP -	Community Service - St.C Rec	Life Skills - Belmont Health Dept.	Community Service - Fairgrounds
1:30	CrossFit	Community Service - St.C Rec	CrossFit	Community Service - Fairgrounds
2:00	CrossFit	Community Service - St.C Rec	CrossFit	Community Service - Fairgrounds
2:30	CrossFit	Community Service - St.C Rec	CrossFit	Community Service - Fairgrounds
3:00	CrossFit	Community Service - St.C Rec	CrossFit	Community Service - Fairgrounds
3:30	CrossFit	Community Service - St.C Rec	CrossFit	Community Service - Fairgrounds
4:00	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation
4:30	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation
5:00	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation
Staff: Noah, John, Jonell		Staff: Noah, John, Aaron, Courtney		Staff: Noah, John, Kelly
				Staff: Noah, John, Kara, Allison

C-CAP Activities beyond programming...

Independent living skills

- Practice interviews for jobs
- How to tie a tie, vehicle maintenance, obtaining library card
- Financial
- CPR training

Meeting basic needs

- Food
- Clothing donations
- Hair cuts
- Hygiene

C-CAP Activities beyond programming...

Cultural experiences

- Restaurant visits
- Museum visits
- Parks/picnic
- Car Show



Preparation for Summer C-CAP

- Gather list of youth to attend from probation officers
- Reach out to schools for referrals
- Verify classroom location availability and community service sites
- Identify weekly guest speakers
- Create transportation schedule
- Review/update program daily schedule for summer

Preparation for Summer C-CAP

- Inform staff of duties, programming information, and provide schedules and participants list
- Have all forms signed and paperwork on file
- Communicate with all youth and families providing program information and expectations
- Update all medical releases, first aid supplies
- Plan snacks and lunch meals (make all purchases to begin program)

C-CAP School Year Programming

- The program is operated two times per month with 2 or 3 probation officers providing transportation and programming.
- Community service is a large component of the after school program
- Skills Streaming session is completed
- Open discussion into any areas of concern or issues presented by youth
- Snacks are provided/youth are picked up from various schools at the end of school day
- Probation officers visit with youth 2-4 times per month in home/school environments

CrossFit Connection to C-CAP

- CrossFit added to the summer program
- During school year twice per week and may do third day of C-CAP
- Provide physicals, shoes, and clothing as needed



CrossFit Connection to C-CAP



C-CAP Stats – New Admissions

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
28	26	28	17	10	18	20	19	21	20	25	23	12	14	17	9	19	21	6	14	18	20

C-CAP Stats

- FY 23-72% of youth did not commit a new delinquency/criminal charge within one year of program completion/termination.
- FY 22-71% of youth did not commit a new delinquency/criminal charge within one year of program completion/termination.
- FY 21-78% of youth did not commit a new delinquency/criminal charge within one year of program completion/termination.
- Stats searched through court case management system, jail records, OCN, and conversations with Probation officers (Adult and Juvenile).

OYAS

OYAS (2009 began entering assessments):

Belmont County has over 4,900 assessments entered. *Pro-Social Skills* domain displays highest level of need for youth with over 2,000 assessments rating area of **high** need. (only 112 of total assessments rank **low** in this domain). *Family and Living Arrangements* domain displays second **highest** level of need with over 1,000 assessments showing high risk domain level. (only 650 assessments display this area as **low**)

Total current assessments:

Low Risk: 1881

Moderate: 2778

High: 327

Budget/Finances



Financial Resources

- General Fund
- DYS Subsidy Grant
- Donations
- Belmont County Schools
- Local funds from Mental Health and Recovery Board

Why does it work?

We have strong connections! C-CAP is accepted and known by many in Belmont County being recognized as an integral part of the Juvenile Court after 28 years!

- with kids
- Staff
- Schools
- Community
- Other agencies

Tools we use to keep connections:



Court Website

Local media contacts

Judge visits school boards

Court hosts beginning of school year luncheon with principal's and court staff

Presentations to local organizations-Rotary

Children's First, Cluster Board

Commission meetings

Questions?



Contact Information

Court Website:

<https://www.belmontcountyohiocourts.com/>

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