

Huddle Notes
January 28, 2020

In today's Huddle, Angie Crews, Senior Deputy Auditor introduced Bill Prince from Greene County's Juvenile Office who gave us an idea of the direction and vision for his office and department.

Greene County Juvenile Office: Let's Look Forward

Implementation of Enhancing Family Treatment Court Grant

Trauma Informed Services: This grant is helping to provide improved training to be fully trauma informed. Many juveniles come in with a history of trauma which needs to be addressed, before a plan of action to move forward can be put in place.

Peer Recovery Support Specialists: In as many cases as possible, this program utilizes participants who've successfully completed the recovery process. These successful participants have valuable insight as mentors and are able to better understand the challenges currently being faced by actively recovering participants.

Safe Babies Court Track: This program provides specialized services to help children under the age of 3 with their parenting challenges. There are special efforts to help these children be permanently and safely placed with their parents and opportunities for parents to bond with their children.

Implementation of the Dennis Mondoro Probation Systems Review Grant

The Juvenile Office is in the middle of changing many of their office process and practices. Amongst many office choices nationwide, Greene County was selected to receive assistance in managing these process changes and helping implement these new best practices. This grant provides a specialized advisory team that will do on site visits four times a year for the next two years to help implement these changes. Only two other locations were awarded this opportunity.

On Going Leadership Practices

The Juvenile Office has been working in conjunction with the Human Resources department to provide guidance on many leadership topics. These weekly trainings have been dubbed, Mailyn Mondays, and have been an excellent resource for helping them develop and implement good leadership practices. Bill also has found that it's an excellent practice to research the leader behind the leadership book, before using their suggestions. This practice has proven most insightful, and he's found A Leadership Fable to be both a quick read and practical.

Vision for the Future: Working together

Recently Bill had a conversation with a member of law enforcement, regarding the different lists kept by organizations regarding high risk/runaway youth. This conversation brought forth ideas of collaboration, and now efforts are being made to develop a grant for the High Risk Victims List. This would allow many different groups and organizations to use one place to log and track these instances.

The future ahead looks rather busy for the Juvenile Office, as the child welfare case workload is increasing. Since the beginning of the four quarter in 2019, the Juvenile office has gained over 200 additional cases.

Beginning in Jan 2021 there will be another set of hurdles for the Juvenile Office as new legislature takes effect. This new legislature will place 17 year olds as part of the Juvenile group. This is a large processing change, from the current system, which has this age group as part of the adult correction system.

Although all the answers on how to address these changes are not completely clear at this point, leadership and teamwork is certain to be the path to a solution.