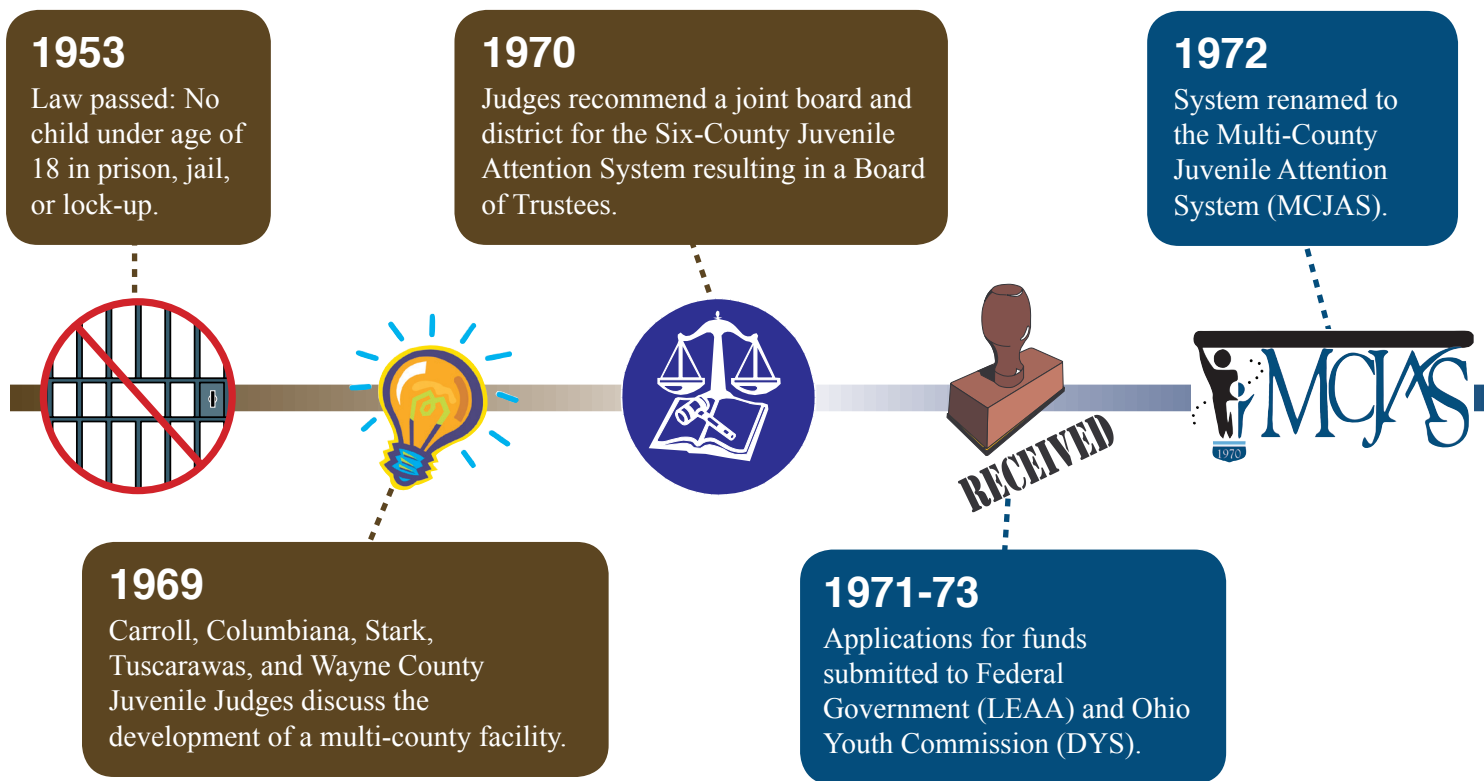


Our History



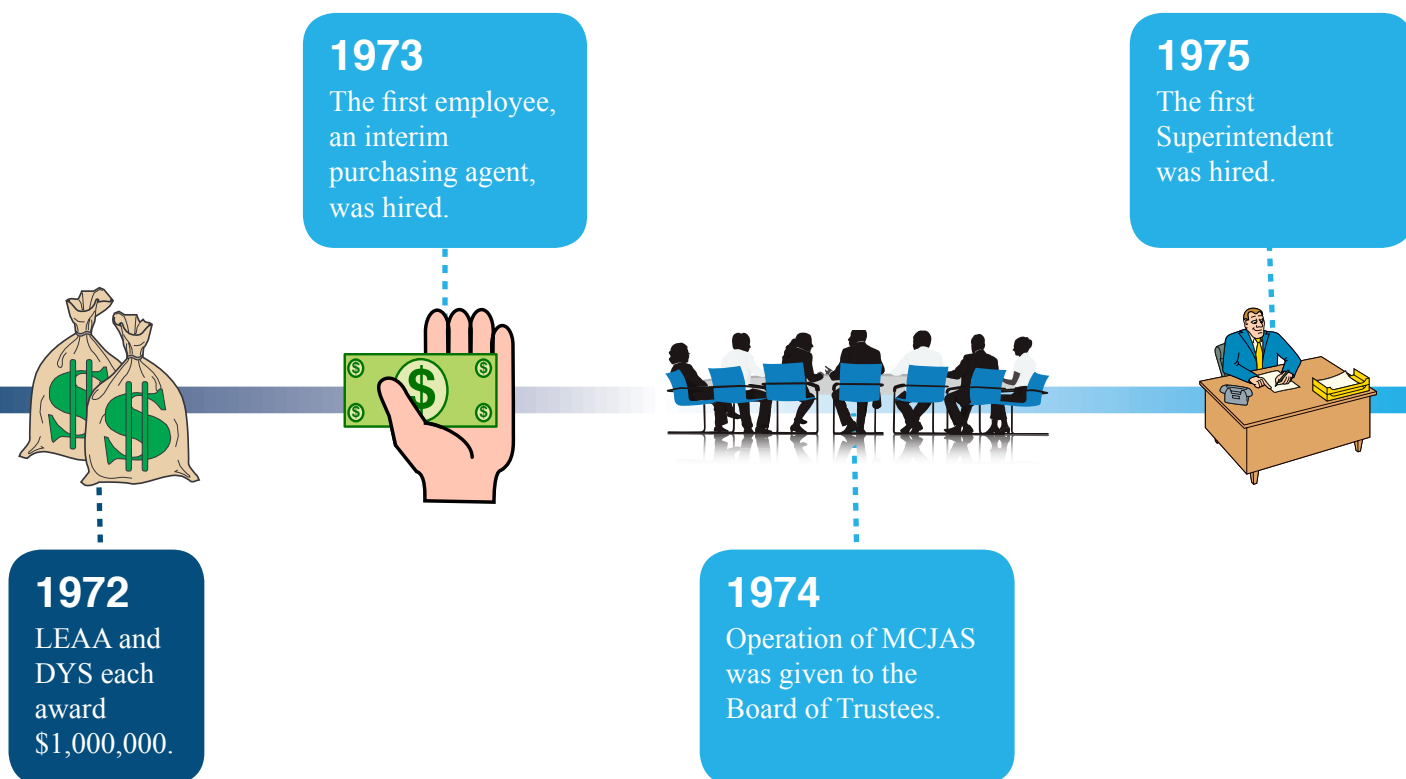
MCJAS was the first regional juvenile justice system in America and continues to be a model for new systems that are created. So how did it all start?

In 1953 a law was passed that declared that no child under the age of 18 shall be placed in or committed to any prison, jail or lockup. Courts looked for a solution.

In 1969 Juvenile Judges from Carroll, Columbiana, Stark, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties began discussing the idea of a regional system. That same year the Juvenile Judges and county commissioner from these counties met to discuss the development of a joint, or multi-county detention – rehabilitation facility.

The following year, 1970, the Judges recommended that the boards of the county commissioner form themselves into a joint board and organize a district for the establishment and support of appropriate facilities and programs for the use of the juvenile courts of Carroll, Columbiana, Holmes, Stark, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties as authorized by Ohio Revised Code. They named the system, the Six-County Juvenile Attention System.

This same year a Board of Trustees was formed and history began to unfold. In 1972 the Board of Trustees changed the name of the system to the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System. Between 1971 and 1973 applications for funds to build the system were submitted to the Federal Government (LEAA) and the Ohio Youth Commission (DYS). In 1972 a commitment of \$1,000,000.00 was



awarded to the System by LEAA and an additional \$1,000,000.00 was awarded by the Ohio Department of Urban Affairs to construct the system.

In 1973 the first employee, an interim purchasing agent, was hired. In 1974 the operation of the Multi-County Juvenile Attention was given to the Board of Trustees and soon the vision of the Juvenile Judges would become a reality.

In 1975 the first Superintendent was hired and the rest is history. Forty-five (45) years after its conception MCJAS, in conjunction with member county Juvenile and Family Courts, the Board of Trustees and Joint Board of County Commissioners, continues to be a leader in providing excellent services and options to the courts it serves. Multi-County Juvenile Attention System continually updates programming and remains flexible to meet the needs and changes in juvenile law, the unique needs of courts and the economy, while being fiscally responsible to the commissioners who fund the system.

The System has since expanded services to local Jobs and Family Services and non member courts. Youth throughout the state are benefiting from the vision of our forefathers. In the next forty-five years we will continue our commitment of excellence and “working together to make a difference.”

Stark Attention Center



Pamela Watkins
Administrator

The educational program at the Stark Attention Center is provided by Canton Local Schools. The program is very strong and high standards are set for youth. These standards often result in youth being more successful than they are in traditional school.

The Stark Attention Center is a 20-bed locked facility that serves male and females youth under the age of 19. While the center is designed to hold 20 youth at a time, there are times when youth are transported to one of our other three outlining centers because of overcrowding or for safety or security reasons. This ability to separate youth is an added benefit to our member counties. The primary goal of the Center is to carry out the mandates of the Ohio Revised Code by providing safe, secure, and humane temporary custody of youth held by the Juvenile Courts; the Courts determine length of stay.

A major component of all the attention centers is the Responsible Behavior Program. The Program encompasses seven progressive levels. Youth earn their way to higher levels by demonstrating pro-social behavior and personal responsibility. Each level offers youth more privileges, free time and access to the commissary. Youth can also lose privileges through the program for major and minor behavior violations. The program provides youth a clear direction and simple rules that identify the strength in each child and emphasizes them.



The educational program at the Stark Attention Center is provided by Canton Local Schools. The program is very strong and high standards are set for youth. These standards often result in youth being more successful than they are in traditional school. This is largely due to the ability to work one-on-one and the teachers who work diligently to make sure that each youth's needs are met regardless of their grade level. A high premium is set on reading and the library at the center gets a lot of use. Youth especially enjoy the art class and their art projects can be seen displayed throughout the center.

In the past year staffing patterns have been adjusted resulting in more staff on the floor during the afternoon and weekends, which positively impacts programming. Several staff members participated in a training session with AJ Guild, who represents the Jason Foundation suicide prevention program. The center was able to share this training with the other attention centers and these skills are being incorporated into the afternoon life skills programming.



The staff at the Stark Center really “makes a difference.” Life skills are offered daily and gives staff members the opportunity to work with youth in their care on a variety of topics. Youth participate in “Thinking for a Change” which challenges them to look at their behavior and the consequences of their actions and to think before acting. Youth also enjoy the “Power Source” book series, which is thought provoking, gives youth the opportunity to share their story and work on better problem solving skills to assist them when they return home.

Meals are prepared daily by three cooks and our Medical Department is headed by a full-time registered nurse.

Church sessions are offered to the youth two times a the week so their spiritual needs are met. MCJAS has a wonderful church volunteer program that is a positive influence on the youth and never seems to give up on these young people. Our volunteers don’t judge but instead acknowledge that we are all flawed and we all have a need to be nurtured and forgiven, a theme that comes across to all of the young people that participate.

Family visitation is encouraged. Staff understand the family interaction is important and a vital part of the youth transitioning back to home.

The Stark Center is currently working to develop relationships with other county agencies such as the Health Department to lend their expertise to educate youth on a variety of issues that affect them. The staff at the center remains committed to helping youth who enter the center now and in the future.



*There can be no
keener revelation of a
society’s soul than the
way in which it treats
its children.*

— Nelson Mandela



815 Faircrest Street SW
(upper building)
Canton, Ohio 44710
Stark County
330-484-6471, Ext. 2848

1955 - Built
1973 - Became part of MCJAS

20-Bed Secure Facility
Serves Males and Females

Louis Tobin Attention Center



Lori Paskevitch
Administrator

The Tobin Attention Center is 20-bed facility that serves male and females under the age of 19. It is also used to house youth from the other three attention centers for safety and overcrowding reasons. Its location in the rolling hills of Columbiana County makes it an ideal location for a secure facility. The Ohio Department of Youth Services licenses the Center. The primary goal of the Center is to carry out the mandates of the Ohio Revised Code by providing safe, secure, and humane temporary custody of youth held by the Juvenile Courts; the Courts determine length of stay.

A major component of all the attention centers is the Responsible Behavior Program. The Program encompasses seven progressive levels. Youth earn their way to higher levels by demonstrating pro-social behavior and personal responsibility. Each level offers youth more privileges. Youth can also lose privileges through the program for major and minor behavior violations. Children are provided clear direction and simple rules and it finds the strengths in each child and emphasizes these strengths.

The educational program at the Tobin Center is provided by the United Local School District. The teachers have been active at the center for many years. Their experience and caring make the program a success.

The staff at the Tobin Center really “makes a difference.” In the past year staffing patterns have been adjusted resulting in more staff on the floor on the afternoon and weekends, which positively impacts programming.

The center participates in the Jason Foundation suicide prevention program and offers the program monthly for a week as part of its afternoon skills program.

Life skills are offered daily and give the staff at the Tobin Center the opportunity to work with the youth in their care on a variety of topics. Topics of discussion include, but are not limited to, drugs and alcohol use, sex education, relationship

*Never doubt that a
small, group of
thoughtful, committed
citizens can change
the world. Indeed,
it is the only thing
that ever has.*

— Margaret Mead



TOBIN CENTER



conflict resolutions, morals and values, self esteem building and current and historical events. Youth participate in “Thinking for Change” which challenges them to look at their behavior and the consequences of their actions encouraging them to think before acting.

Meals are prepared daily by two cooks and our Medical Department is headed by a full-time registered nurse.

The Tobin Center works with other community agencies to enhance programming at the center. The center works with the Columbiana County Counseling Center to provide individual and group counseling for residents and families. The Family Recovery Center visits the center weekly to provide drug and alcohol counseling for residents.

Church sessions are offered to the youth two times a the week so their spiritual needs are met. MCJAS has a wonderful church volunteer program that is a positive influence on the youth. These volunteers don’t judge the youth and shares with them that we are all flawed and all have a right to be nurtured and forgiven. The Tobin Center also has a long time Chaplaincy Program that is available to youth upon request.

Family visitation is encouraged at the center. The importance of family interaction is vital as youth transition back to their home.



8363 County Home Road
Lisbon, Ohio 44432
Columbiana County
330-424-9809

1975 - Built

20-Bed Secure Facility
Serves Males and Females

Tuscarawas Attention Center




Terry Abrams
Administrator

The Tuscarawas Attention Center is the newest facility in MCJAS. Built in 2013/2014 it is a 24-bed locked facility that serves male and female youth under the age of 19. The center is often time used to house the overflow of youth at the Stark Attention Center or when youth need to be separated. This ability to utilize other facilities is just one of the advantages our member county courts have. The primary goal of the Center is to carry out the mandates of the Ohio Revised Code by providing safe, secure, and humane temporary custody of youth held by the Juvenile Courts; the Courts determine length of stay.

A major component of all the attention centers is the Responsible Behavior Program. The Program encompasses seven progressive levels. Youth earn their way to higher levels by demonstrating pro-social behavior and personal responsibility. Each level offers youth more privileges, free time and access to the commissary. Youth can also lose privileges through the program for major and minor behavior violations. Children are provided clear direction and simple rules that identify the strength in each child and emphasize them.

The New Philadelphia School System provides the educational program at the Tuscarawas Attention Center. High standards are set for youth and they are often times much more successful in the detention environment. This is largely due to the teachers who work diligently to make sure that each youth's needs are met regardless of their grade level. A high premium is set on reading and our library gets a lot of use.

The staff at the Tuscarawas Center is what really "makes a difference." In the past year staffing patterns have been adjusted resulting in more staff on the floor on the afternoon and weekends, which positively impacts programming. Staff members are trained in Jason Foundation suicide prevention program, which is being incorporated into the afternoon life skills programming.



*We're helping those
children who cannot
help themselves and
giving a push to those
who can. We've done
it by working together
for a common
purpose. I see no
reason to stop now.*

— Jane D. Hull





Life skills are offered to the youth and gives staff members the opportunity to work with the youth in their care on a variety of topics such as filling out a job application or doing a mock interview. Youth also participate in “Thinking for Change” which challenges them to look at their behavior and the consequences of their actions. It challenges youth to think before acting. An enrichment program is also offered that enrichment program that creates a dialog of social issues.

Meals are prepared daily by two cooks and our Medical Department is headed by a full-time registered nurse.

Local organizations also provide a variety of programs for the youth. Drug and alcohol, financial awareness, and program discussions such as the effect of music and television on society are discussed to encourage youth to think about cause and effect. Compass is also provided to discuss sexual awareness issues.

Fund-raisers are also incorporated into the activities of staff to provide special events for the youth in the center, which reinforces positive behavior.

Church sessions are offered to the youth two times a the week so their spiritual needs are met. MCJAS has a wonderful church volunteer program that is a positive influence on the youth and never seems to give up on our young people. Our volunteers don’t judge the youth and acknowledges that we are all flawed and we all have a need to be nurtured and forgiven, a theme that comes across to all of the young people that participate.

Family visitation is encouraged at the center. The importance of family interaction is vital as youth transition back to home.

The Tuscarawas Attention Center is currently working to develop relationships with other county agencies such as the Health Department to lend their expertise to educate youth on a variety of issues that affect them. The staff at the center remains committed to helping youth who enter the center now and in the future.

A major component of all the attention centers is the Responsible Behavior Program. The Program encompasses seven progressive levels. Youth earn their way to higher levels by demonstrating pro-social behavior and personal responsibility.

2299 Reiser Avenue SE
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663
Tuscarawas County
330-339-7775

2014 - Built

24-Bed Secure Facility
Serves Males and Females

Linda Martin Attention Center



Emily Moore
Administrator

We believe that each youth who enters our program will leave pointed in a positive direction, through teaching and expectation of discipline, positive decision making, and behavior. We are striving to develop a positive atmosphere of self worth with a respect and empathy towards others.



The Linda Martin Attention Center is a 20-bed facility that serves male and female youth under the age of 19. It is also used to house youth from the other three attention centers for safety and overcrowding reasons. It is located in the middle of a field in beautiful Wayne County making it an ideal location for a secure facility. The Ohio Department of Youth Services licenses the center. The Center was re-dedicated in 2001 as the Linda Martin Attention Center in honor of Linda Martin, a former Wayne County Juvenile Chief Probation Officer, original MCJAS Board of Trustees member, and founding member of MCJAS. The primary goal of the Center is to carry out the mandates of the Ohio Revised Code by providing safe, secure, and humane temporary custody of youth held by the Juvenile Courts; the Courts determine length of stay.

A major component of the center is the Responsible Behavior Program. The Program encompasses seven progressive levels. Youth earn their way to higher levels by demonstrating pro-social behavior and personal responsibility. Each level offers youth more privileges. Youth can also lose privileges through the program for major and minor behavior violations. Youth are provided clear direction and simple rules through our program that also identifies the strengths in each child and emphasizes it.

The education program for the center is provided through the Tri-Way Local School District. High standards are set for all youth. The youth often find that they can be more successful at their schoolwork based on the class sizes and challenging work. This is largely due to the teachers who work diligently to make sure that each youth's needs are met regardless of their grade level. A high premium is set on reading and the Librarian from our Fredericksburg Library routinely brings in a wide variety of books for the youth to "check out." On-line courses are now available for some students as part of our academic options. A variety of indoor and outdoor recreational activities (sports and games) are also available and physical exercise is scheduled daily.

The priority for programming within the center is to help and teach youth positive decision-making skills, appropriate self control, discipline, self respect and respect for others. The staff at the center really "make a difference" by involving themselves in the activities scheduled for the youth. Day staff ensures that all youth are participating in the education provided and keeping the building clean. Evening staff engage youth in physical activities such as volleyball and incorporate life skills programming into the days' busy schedule.

The staff at the center work hard to meet the needs of the youth they serve through life skills training. This includes budgeting, career choices, proper hygiene, and healthy living to name a few. The entire life skills program is designed to assist youth in working on better problem solving and a variety of skills to assist them when they return home.

Professional counseling is available through each county's Juvenile Court. MCJAS provides a suicide intervention specialist to assist with youth throughout the system.