

# Meet Our Support Staff

*Each of us must come to care about everyone else's children. We must recognize that the welfare of our children is intimately linked to the welfare of all other people's children. After all, when one of our children needs life saving surgery, someone else's child will perform it. If one of our children is harmed by violence, some else's child will be responsible for the violent act. The good life for our own children can be secured only if the good life is also secured for all other people's children.*

— Lillian Katz



## Information Technology Department

The Information Technology (IT) Department is working diligently to update the current IT equipment and bring the system into the new millennium.



## Central Office

This group maintains and works with finances, personnel issues, payables, receivables, audit information, training records and provides information to Administrators and staff they need to know. They keep things working smoothly and assure the needs of staff and youth are met. They are also responsible for providing information to the Board of Trustees and Joint Board of County Commissioners.



## Maintenance

With buildings that are aging, the maintenance department is always busy. They work to assure the physical plants within the system are working properly and in good repair.

# From David C. Riker

Superintendent, Multi-County Juvenile Attention System

The 45th Anniversary of the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System, officially in April of 2015, gives everyone who is and who has been invested in the System over these past 45 years reason to celebrate. Over these years, we have made positive changes in countless lives of the youth and families we served.

The collaboration among judges, commissioners, trustees, superintendent and employees has proven to endure over the test of time for the unique concept of a rehabilitative district called the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System. Although a constant work in progress, honest communication and common core values have benefitted everyone involved. The common core values I am speaking about are treating every child and their family with dignity, respect and as individuals. These values have continued to promote effective results in accomplishing our mission statement.

Specifically, the spearhead or front line of the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System is undoubtedly the employees. The employees live the core values of this agency and they are the agency's greatest asset. It is to them, the employees, I offer my highest respect and gratitude for the work they do everyday. They embody the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System motto, "Working Together to Make a Difference."

A veteran employee mentioned to me recently when we were discussing the 45th Anniversary of the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System that "... we are not good at what we do because we are old we are old because we are good at what we do."

With the continued collaboration of the previously mentioned stakeholders and the continued belief and adherence to the core values by the employees, I am assured that we have limitless potential as we move forward as an agency with the same bold and courageous efforts as our founding fathers.



**David C. Riker**  
Superintendent,  
Multi-County  
Juvenile Attention System

---

*The common core values I am speaking about are treating every child and their family with dignity, respect and as individuals.*

---



HONORING  
THE MULTI-COUNTY JUVENILE ATTENTION SYSTEM  
ON ITS FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

On behalf of the members of the Senate of the 131st General Assembly of Ohio, we are pleased to extend special recognition to the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System on the occasion of its Forty-fifth Anniversary.

Celebration of this prestigious milestone is, indeed, a fitting tribute to the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System, for throughout the last forty-five years, it has achieved a praiseworthy record of service to the area. Established in 1970, the department was the first regional district for the rehabilitation and treatment of youth offenders in the U.S., and its accomplishments are a justifiable source of pride and an excellent reflection not only on the organization itself but also on its staff and on the community.

The Multi-County Juvenile Attention System has enhanced the quality of life within the surrounding area, and its generous contributions have gained it the gratitude and esteem of the citizens it has so capably served. We are certain that as this fine agency maintains its dedication to service, it will continue in the tradition of excellence that has been its hallmark since its founding.

Thus, with sincere satisfaction, we congratulate the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System on its Forty-fifth Anniversary and extend best wishes for the future.



Senator Keith Faber  
President of the Ohio Senate

Senator Joe Schiavoni  
Minority Leader



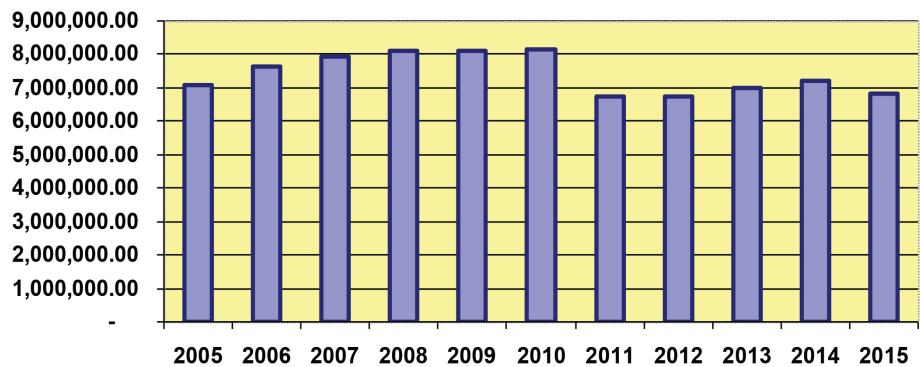
# Fiscal Overview



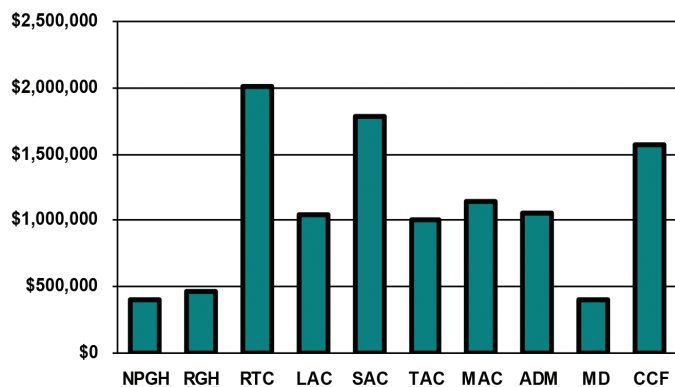
## Financial Solvency

The 2015 Commissioner Share is \$6,806,250 which is lower than 2005 funding levels.

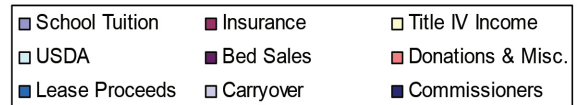
**Commissioner Cost to Fund MCJAS  
2005 - 2015**



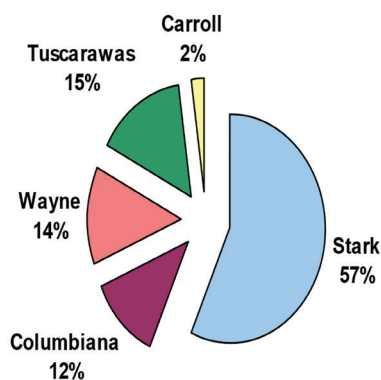
**Facility Expenses**



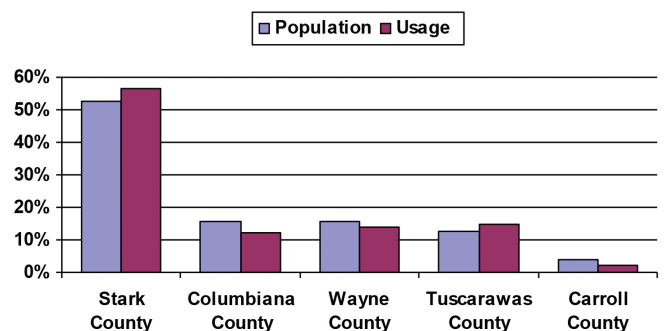
**Revenue Sources**



**Average Usage of System**



**Population Share VS. Average Usage Share**





# MCJAS Timeline

**1969**

Juvenile Judges from Carroll, Columbiana, Holmes, Stark, Tuscarawas and Wayne Counties begin discussions concerning the formation of a regional system.

**Oct. 1, 1970**

Juvenile Attention Center and Court Study stated with Discretionary Grant of \$65,000 and \$45,000 local funds.

**April 21, 1970**

Formation of the Board of Trustees of the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System (MCJAS).

**Feb. 29, 1972**

The Board of Trustees unanimously approve to change the name of the Six-County Juvenile Attention System to the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System.

**August 27, 1973**

Formal resolution of the Joint Board of County Commissioners to sign the Agreement of Construction, Operation and the Maintenance of Juvenile Detention and Rehabilitation Facilities and for the Establishment of the Rights of withdrawal of member Counties. Adopted by five counties: Columbiana, Holmes, Stark, Tuscarawas and Wayne.

**March 8, 1972**

Commitment of \$1,000,000 for the construction of the MCJAS by LEEA (Law Enforcement Assistance Administration) with an additional one million dollars from the Ohio Department of Urban Affairs to construct the system.

**Jan. 21, 1975**

Raymond Johnson was offered and accepted the position as the first superintendent of the System.

**June 25, 1974**

Columbiana County short term detention facility is named after the Honorable Louis J. Tobin in recognition of his major contributions as Juvenile Judge in the planning and formation of MCJAS.

**April 30, 1974**

Operation of MCJAS is given to the Board of Trustees.

**July 1, 1975**

Operation of the Roger's Honor Farm becomes the responsibility of MCJAS.

**Aug. 1977**

Opening of the Canton Boy's Group Home.

**May 21, 1975**

Opening of the Louis Tobin Attention Center.

**1950s**

**1960s**

**1970s**

**1953**

Ohio law provided that "no child under the age of 18 years of age shall be placed in or committed to any prison, jail or lockup."

**Nov. 26, 1969**

County Commissioner and Juvenile Judges met in Canton to discuss the development of a joint, multi-county detention-rehabilitation system.

**March 9, 1970**

The Judges recommend "It is respectfully recommended that the boards of county commissioner form themselves into a joint board and proceed to organize a district for the establishment and support the appropriate facilities and programs for the use of the juvenile courts of Carroll, Columbiana, Holmes, Stark, Tuscarawas and Wayne Counties as authorized by the Ohio Revised Code system.

**1971-1973**

Applications for funds for building the System submitted to Federal Government (LEAA) and the Ohio Youth Commission (DYS).

**Dec. 21, 1971**

Architectural Firm of Marr, Knapp and Crawfis was selected to do the architectural work on the Six-County Juvenile Attention System.

**Aug. 1, 1972**

Carroll County withdrew from the organization of the system.

**Jan. 30, 1973**

First Joint Board Funding for the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System was approved.

**Oct. 23, 1973**

First employee was hired: Catherine Martin was appointed as interim Purchasing Agent. The System consisted of the Stark Attention Center built in 1955, Tuscarawas Attention Center (now the New Philadelphia Group Home) and the Roger's Honor Farm (now known as the Rogers Children's Residential Center).

**April 20, 1975**

Dedication of the Louis Tobin Attention Center and the Wayne-Holmes Attention Center.

**June 1, 1975**

Opening of the Wayne-Holmes Attention Center.

**Jan. 1, 1977**

Carroll re-joins the system.

**Nov. 1977**

Opening of the Alliance Girl's Group Home.

**April 10, 1978**

Opening of the Residential Treatment Center.

## Oct. 1980

Opening of the Tuscarawas Attention Center in the renovated Sanitarium.

## Feb. 16, 1982

Opening of the New Philadelphia Girl's Group Home.

## 1988

Shelter Care for boys and girls opened in the 2 vacant cottages of the Residential Treatment Center.

## March 2006

MCJAS adds a Suicide Intervention Specialist to its services.

## Sept. 2001

2 units of the SAC are opened.

## Oct. 1992

Donald Thernes, Jr. is hired as the 3rd superintendent of MCJAS.

## May 31, 2001

Construction of the new Community Corrections Facility and Stark Attention Center completed.

## Sept. 2009

Layoffs are conducted.

## Aug. 2009

The System modifies the funding formula for member counties to a five (5) year weighted average.

## March 2009

Youth Leaders II & III's, cooks and the maintenance department joins AFSCME Union.

## July 2008

Alliance Group Home is closed.

## Oct. 2008

David Vanderwall is named the 4th Superintendent of MCJAS.

## Feb. 2010

Joint Board enters into agreement with mbi/k2m for the architect and engineering for the construction of the new Tuscarawas Attention Center.

## Jan. 2011

The Board of Trustees authorize the Superintendent to shut down two (2) units of detention at the Stark Attention Center in an effort to reduce the 2011 budget.

## Nov. 2011

Robert Doney is named the 5th Superintendent of MCJAS.

## Jan. 2012

MCJAS assumes the role of fiscal agent for all educational services.

## March 2012

The AFSCME Union contract expires and is not renewed.

## Sept. 2013

the Joint Board of County Commissioners to enter into a contractual lease agreement with Quest Recover Services for the purpose of leasing Cottage III.

## June 2014

The Joint Board approved the System to expand the Quest Lease to include Cottages I, II, and III for a period of three years. The income generated will offset commissioners cost and fund a separate capital fund.

## Feb. 2014

The System adds the Diana Screening as part of the hiring process. The screen is designed to assist the agency in selecting the safest people to work with youth.

## 1980s

## 1990s

## 2000s

## Nov. 1980

First shut down of all treatment services and layoffs lasting 30 days.

## 1997

Rogers Group Home expanded from 10 to 16 beds.

## June 1987

Tim Neidermeyer is named the 2nd superintendent of MCJAS.

## Jan. 1998

Moved Shelter Care to the Alliance Group Home and the Alliance Group Home moves to the Stark Campus. RTC had six units in operation.

## April 1, 2003

Second layoff, closing 2 units of the Residential Treatment Center and 1 unit of the Stark Attention Center.

## Sept. 26, 2001

Community Corrections Facility opens 1 unit for 12 boys.

## Nov. 2008

Commissioner Kerry Metzger, Tuscarawas County, successfully changes laws to allow the System to borrow money. On this date, the Joint Board of County Commissioners agrees to allow the System to borrow money to replace the Tuscarawas Attention Center currently in the old Sanitarium.

## Dec. 2009

The Joint Board approve loan document for the construction and replacement of the Tuscarawas Attention Center.

## Nov. 2004

Second unit of the Community Corrections Facility is opened.

## 2010s

## April 2012

The name of the Rogers Group Home is officially changed to the Rogers Children's Residential Center.

## Dec. 2010

Holmes County withdraws from the System.

## May 2013

David Riker is named the 6th Superintendent for MCJAS.

## May 2013

Cottage I is closed and one unit at Stark Center is re-opened for females.

## June 2013

The newly constructed Tuscarawas Attention Center opened.

## Oct. 2013

Tobin Center is connected to the public water system.

## Sept. 2013

Dr. Donna Backus is hired as the resident doctor.

## July 2013

The eligibility age for youth in group homes is dropped from 13 years of age to 12 years of age.

## Sept. 2014

The Joint Board approved the Agreement between MCJAS and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council for Youth Leader II's and III's.

# Testimonials

Dear McJas,

Congratulations on your 45th Anniversary. My name is Blantina Marie Shuman. I came into your facilities at age 11 and left at age 18. I have met most of your staff during my stay but would like to speak about one special person. Her name is Ms. Olihan. She always went above and beyond for me. She made me aware of my behavioral problems and redirected me in a positive and professional manner. She has a lot to do with the young lady that I have become today. She has not only been an inspiration to me, but also a motivation to me to this day. I've been out of the system for about 10 years and I still stay in contact with her for advice and support. She has been a blessing. I'm grateful for meeting her and know she's probably touching others' lives. I hope that the facility recognizes that they have employees that are such, and I would like to thank your staff personally for taking such good care of me.

Sincerely Appreciated,  
Blantina Shuman

What I learned in RTC was that everything you do doesn't only affect you, it affects all your family and friends. Therefore, you have to think twice before you act. You should also think of the consequences that come with the decisions that you are about to make, and if it doesn't come with the best consequence, then maybe it's not the best decision. I also learned that it's better to walk away from someone than to fight or argue because you will be respected more if you walk away. Nothing is ever solved by fighting and arguing. I learned, in anger management, that it's not healthy to always walk around being angry, and always being angry causes people to walk on eggshells around you. I learned to sit down and talk to the person that you are having differences with, and work out your problems instead of fighting and arguing because that solves nothing. If you start to get angry, you should take a time out. But, that doesn't mean walk away and stay angry. It means to calm yourself down, then go back and finish the conversation. I learned that you can't disrespect someone then expect them to give you the respect that you want. You have to treat others how you want to be treated.

I think that my going to RTC was a good thing. Before RTC, I did not respect authority at all. I thought they didn't respect me and only treated me like I was a little kid because they're older. But it's not that they didn't respect me or thought I was a little kid, it was just that they were looking out for me. They knew what was best for me. Now that I realize that, I'm a lot more respectful to authority. I was also fighting all the time and didn't care where I was. But, I no longer do that. The staff at RTC helped me realize that fighting does not solve anything. They were very helpful and they never disrespected anyone. They also would always talk to you if you needed to talk to one of them. The staff liked to see you succeed.

I still keep in touch with the staff at RTC because they had a big part in helping me turn my life around and, even though I'm no longer there, if I need someone to talk to, I call and they will talk to me if they're not busy. I really appreciate that. So, I feel RTC was a big help in my life, and I appreciate all the help that I got when I was there.

Sincerely,  
Keirstyn Persinger

Ms. Hager, I did it!!!

I finally understand everything you were trying to teach me! I see my potential and I plan on writing a book! This time next year, I'll be on my path to success. I will be going to school so I can be a counselor like you. I want everyone to know that I want to help too! I know exactly what those kids are going through! The best part is, I learned this at 21. My life has changed and I'm ready to change others! I may need some details about my past. My memory isn't that good, lol. I can't wait to make all of you proud of me! I plan on giving every single person who has helped me in life, some kind of donation in one way or another. I plan on giving back to everyone who believed in me and loved me for who I was! thank you!!!

Torie Flanagan



To find out more about the  
Multi-County Juvenile Attention System,  
visit our website at  
[www.mcjas.org](http://www.mcjas.org)



*See how we  
“make a difference”*



**Multi-County Juvenile Attention System**

815 Faircrest Street, S.W.

Canton, OH 44706-4844

330-484-6471

[www.mcjas.org](http://www.mcjas.org)

---

David C. Riker, *Superintendent*

---