



Fairfield County Youth Assessment Center

Community Track

*A Prevention Program of the
Fairfield County Juvenile Assessment
& Intervention Center*



*Administered through
Fairfield County Juvenile Court
Judge Terre L. Vandervoort*

What is Community Track?

The Assessment Center Community Track is a prevention program that provides an alternative to filing charges on a youth with behavior issues. During a Community Track interview, the Assessment Center Specialist screens youth for behavioral health needs, which include mental health, substance use disorders and traumatic exposure. This helps to define the root causes of behavior. The youth and family are then connected to effective community-based behavioral health services or programs that will help meet the need in order to begin to assist the youth to make positive behavior changes. There is no cost involved with the Assessment Center Community Track.

Who is eligible for the Community Track program?

The program is designed for youth displaying low-level misbehaviors that present little risk to public safety. For example, being disruptive or disrespectful at school and/or at home, as well as demonstrating behavioral problems that chronically increase tension and create challenges for authority figures. Youth who continue this behavior are at risk for future involvement with juvenile court.

Goals of Community Track:

1. Identify youth with behavioral health needs
2. Increase their connection to appropriate services that have been shown to work
3. Reduce referrals to the juvenile justice system

4. **Use of Optional Assessments and Tools** – The Assessment Center Specialist may opt for the youth to complete a mental health assessment to determine if the youth is in crisis.

The Assessment Center Specialist may also opt to use tools to assist the youth in gaining an understanding of current behavior and how this could impact their future.

Program Completion

The time frame for a youth to complete the Juvenile Assessment Center Community Track varies depending on youth and family needs. Each situation is unique.

For more information, contact:

Nanci Dyer
Intake Coordinator

(740) 652-7475
nanci.dyer@fairfieldcountyohio.gov
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Mickey Reid
Assessment Center Specialist

(740) 652-7476
mickey.reid@fairfieldcountyohio.gov
Monday-Friday, 1:00-9:00 p.m.

Community Track Process

Referral

Law enforcement, school officials, agency representatives, parents, and family members including extended family (grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) can refer a youth to the Community Track. Referrals can be made to and Assessment Center Specialist or Intake Coordinator:

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Intake Coordinator

(740) 652-7475
nanci.dyer@fairfieldcountyohio.gov
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Mickey Reid
Assessment Center Specialist

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mickey.reid@fairfieldcountyohio.gov
Monday-Friday, 1:00-9:00 p.m.

The Assessment Center Specialist contacts the parent/guardian of the youth who was referred to:

- Review the program details
- Explain the benefits/purpose of the Community Track
- Verify that the parents/guardian are willing to participate
- Schedule an intake appointment with parents/ guardian and youth



Interview

The participating youth and parent/guardian attend an intake interview. This interview consists of four parts:

1. **Introduction** – The Assessment Center Specialist introduces himself or herself and gets acquainted with the youth and parents/guardian.

The youth and parents/guardian are asked to provide information concerning the youth, the family and the reason for the referral.

2. **Gather Information** – The Assessment Center Specialist reviews the referral form and gathers additional information as needed in order to obtain a clear picture of the youth and family situation.

3. **Assessment of Youth and Family Concerns** – The Assessment Center Specialist will assess the youth and family for areas of concern.

Some areas which are assessed are behaviors at school and home; interactions with family members, authority figures, and peers; and current/past involvement with agencies/organizations.

Once this is complete, the Assessment Center Specialist can begin to link the youth and family with appropriate community resources.

Community Track Program Location

Community Track is administered through Fairfield County Juvenile Court Judge Terre L. Vandervoort. The program is housed in the Court's Assessment & Intervention Center, which is located in the Fairfield County Juvenile Court Annex, 123 East Chestnut Street, Lancaster, Ohio.

The Annex is in a brick building (121 East Chestnut Street) located across the street from the Lancaster post office drive-thru. The Annex entrance (123 East Chestnut Street) is on the right side of the building.



Assessment & Intervention Center
Fairfield County Juvenile Court Annex
123 East Chestnut Street
Lancaster, OH 43130