

Juvenile court resource center now open

By Josie Sellers

There is a new resource in town with the goal of helping at-risk youth before they become involved in the system.

The Coshocton County Juvenile Court Resource Center is located at 1523 Walnut St., Suite 5, lower level, Coshocton.

Every day our team goes over the sheriff's report and looks for incidents where youth were involved

"Doug Schonauer, our court administrator, wanted to have a resource center for a while now," said Leondra Davis, director of special projects at the court. "There are 16 in the state, and we now make 17. DYS, the Department of Youth Services, had a grant that we were able to apply for to get ours established."

The resource center will serve youth who are exhibiting predelinquent behavior that puts them at risk of new or increased involvement in the juvenile justice arena.

"Every day our team goes over the sheriff's report and looks for incidents where youth were involved," Davis said. "If they are the right fit for our program, our team reaches out to offer our resources."

Participation is voluntary. Clients can be referred by other organizations, and families can come in seeking help on their own.

Davis said she starts the process by meeting with the youth and their adult caregivers to discuss what is going on in their lives. She then tries to speak with just the youth with their guardian's permission.

"We do a 30-, 60- or 90-day intervention plan, depending on the goals of the family," Davis said. "We've seen everything from children being unruly, running away, vaping, to just not listening or



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Leondra Davis was happy to share information about the new Coshocton County Juvenile Court Resource Center.

not wanting to get out of bed."

In addition to their grant, the resource center staff is thankful for

support from the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board and the space Coshocton Regional Medical Center renovated for

them.

"We looked at different locations and knew we needed a space that was private, welcoming and had no stigma attached to it," Davis said. "By partnering with the hospital, we can have access to Rajene Fox. She just recently was able to help us with a young person who was out of their medicine and couldn't get into their primary care practitioner soon enough. She can help with physical and mental health issues."

The resource center is open Monday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and other times by appointment.

"Our team meets weekly to discuss our cases, referrals needed and things that might need changed," Davis said.

For more information about the Coshocton Resource Center, call 740-295-7315 or email CRC@coshoctoncounty.net to discuss concerns with Davis, resource specialist Garrison Bryant or family services specialist Heather Newell.