

A Newsletter for NEOCAP Staff, Family and Stakeholders



NEO NEWS

The NEO NEWS was established in December 2016 as a quarterly newsletter highlighting current events at NEOCAP and throughout the NEOCAP region.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Who is that older person in the room?

Imagine this scenario: you walk into your favorite lounge at 5 p.m. on a Friday for dinner, drinks, and pleasant conversation with friends and regulars. You plan to stay for an hour or two; however, as you savor the food and enjoy the company, the clock strikes 10:00 pm before you realize it. The time isn't the only thing that has changed; you glance around and see the lounge filled with cheerful, lively young people who could be your children, ready, willing, and able to party into the early hours of the morning. Picture a similar situation at work, where you have spent considerable time bonding and enjoying camaraderie until one day you look around and, yes, once again, notice that you are the older person in the room, surrounded by young professionals eager to drive the agency and the field forward for the next three to four decades. In both scenarios, the best advice you can offer to the younger generation is to enjoy your time; it passes quickly as you smile and make your way toward the exit. ***Are you the older person in the room? Or the young person ready to take on the world?***

Sincerely,

Jake E. Jones, Sr.



Jake E. Jones, Sr.
Executive Director

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ACA Winter Conference Experience

By Ben DeGennaro



Ben DeGennaro, CQI Administrator



The ACA conference was a fantastic experience for me. I developed connections with key ACA contacts I had previously interacted with only via email, including ACA Accreditation Specialist Rick Albert.

Rick's role involves assisting NEOCAP during ACA audits and monitoring visits. Networking with him at the conference allowed me to put a 'face to the name.' Consequently, my communication with Rick has become much smoother, which will be invaluable as I prepare for upcoming audits.

Eric Anderson, Brenda Waters, and I also participated in an eight-hour Accreditation Manager training focused on preparing for the ACA audit. We

learned how to format ACA files correctly and what steps to take before and during the audit to ensure it proceeds smoothly. We also received updates on upcoming

changes to ACA standards and what those changes entail. Moreover, we had the chance to ask specific questions regarding our own ACA audits, which will help us stay prepared for future audits and monitoring visits.

Additionally, I attended several leadership workshops that will significantly support me in my role as an administrator. Gaining insights into effective leadership qualities and the skills and strategies I can apply will benefit me both in my current position and my future at NEOCAP.



Pictured from left to right, Eric Anderson (closest) is alongside Brenda Waters, Kim Massary, and Ben DeGennaro. This photo was captured at the ACA Conference on January 11, 2025.



From left to right: Antonio Smith and Jake Jones. The photo was taken on January 13, 2025, after a leadership workshop conducted by Mr. Smith.



Left to Right: Ben DeGennaro, Eric Anderson, Jake Jones, Kim Massary, and Brenda Waters



Trumbull County Sheriff Michael Wilson Visit Facility

By Jake Jones



Sheriff Michael Wilson



NEOCAP's management team meets with Sheriff Wilson and his administrative staff in the agency's conference room.

Recently elected Trumbull County Sheriff Michael Wilson and his leadership team visited NEOCAP on February 4, 2025, to gain firsthand insight into the facility. He was joined by Chief Deputy Dale McDorman, Corrections Major David Bobby, Operations Major Doug Bobovnyik, and TAG Captain John Elberly. During the visit, NEOCAP directors detailed our history, mission, goals, and evidence-based programs aimed at reducing recidivism. The discussion further highlighted our valuable partnership with the Sheriff's Department, which supports NEOCAP's initiatives by assisting with investigations, terminations, and emergencies. We appreciate the ongoing collaboration with the Sheriff's Department and look forward to enhancing our collective efforts.



NEOCAP: Management Staff accompanied Sheriff Wilson and members of his Administrative team on a tour of the facility.

NEOCAP's Male Facility's Property Team

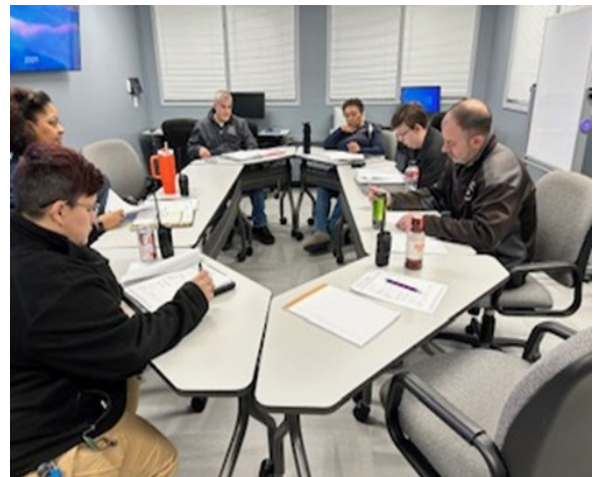


Left to Right: Andrew Gibbs, Jeff Corson (back row) Rachel D'Antuono, Michelle Whipple, Tina Devenport

Property Team Hard at Work!

By: Kim Massary

The Property Team plays a vital role in addressing residents' property needs, ensuring structure, accountability, and personal responsibility. Under the leadership of Property Supervisor Jeff Corson, the team includes Compliance Manager Tina Davenport and Property Managers Michelle Whipple, Andrew Gibbs, and Rachel D'Antuono. They manage the distribution of essential items, including clothing, hygiene products, school supplies, and books. Their goal is to ensure that residents have the necessary re-



sources while enforcing policies that prevent unauthorized exchanges. By establishing clear guidelines and maintaining an efficient system, the team helps residents stay focused on their treatment and has reduced rule-breaking and anti-social behaviors associated with property exchanges.

Milestones

Women's Therapeutic Docket Graduation

By Kim Massary

On February 17, 2025, Judge Cynthia Rice presided over the first graduation ceremony of the Women's Therapeutic Docket, honoring three participants who completed the program. The Women's Therapeutic Docket is a specialized court that provides women with the resources, support, and treatment needed to overcome challenges such as substance abuse, trauma, and mental health issues. Judge Rice's dedication to rehabilitation and support for justice-involved women inspired her to implement this docket. This first graduation celebrated the hard work and commitment of the graduates, along with the dedication of court staff, probation officers, and community partners. It was an honor to witness the success of this initiative and the opportunities it creates for participants .

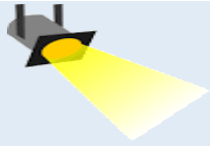


Judge Cynthia Rice congratulates a graduate during the Women's Therapeutic Docket Graduation ceremony held on February 17, 2025.

Congratulations

Executive Director Jones Presents Black History Lesson!

On February 21, 2025, Executive Director Jake Jones was the guest speaker at a Black History program. Director Jones's presentation took place at the Warren City School Wellness Center, a newly constructed facility located at Warren G. Harding High School. Along with several other speakers, he addressed approximately 90 sixth-grade students on various topics related to Black history. The staff of the Wellness Center organized the event. Jones's interactive presentation focused on the history of law enforcement involving Black Americans, tracing back to the Slave Patrol, the first U.S. law enforcement units.



"Life is very interesting... in the end, some of your greatest pains, become your greatest strengths." — **Drew Barrymore**



Welcome

*Lake County Jail
Drug Treatment
Program*



JTP Team Spends Time at the Warren Facility

By Kristina Henik

On February 7, 2025, five staff members from the Lake County Jail Treatment Program (JTP) visited our Warren facility for a tour and information-sharing session. Admissions Administrator Samantha Neiheisel and I guided them on the tour, explaining a typical day for a resident at NEOCAP and detailing how we address the needs of the residents we serve. The JTP staff work with jail inmates who struggle with substance use or face mental health challenges. As a result, they often work with the same individuals who eventually become residents of NEOCAP. They expressed gratitude for our time together, gaining a deeper understanding of what NEOCAP has to offer. They were impressed by the facility's cleanliness and pleasant aroma. We appreciate their time spent visiting us and are proud to demonstrate how we serve the Lake County community and our shared clients.



Court of Common Pleas



Judge, Sarah Thomas Kovoor

Judge Sarah Kovoor visited NEOCAP

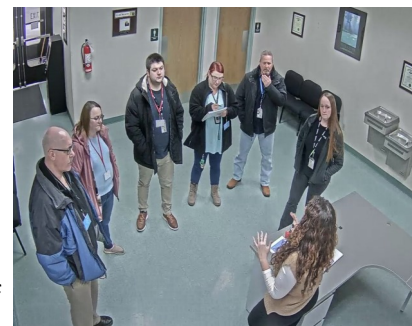
Judge Kovoor spent over two hours discussing various aspects and components of the program, with several members of the NEOCAP management team. She was eager to become better acquainted with the program, asking poignant questions and expressing support for providing treatment services to offenders. Judge Kovoor is the newest Trumbull County Common Pleas Judge, elected to replace the recently retired Judge Andrew Logan, she has also taken over the Drug Court docket previously held by Judge Andrew Logan.



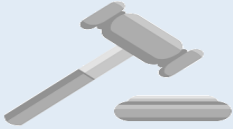
From left to right: Jennifer Melvin, Judge Kovoor, Lisa Rowe, and Samantha Neiheisel. Photo taken on February 14, 2025.

Signature Health Team Visits Painesville Facility

On March 6, 2025, Facility Director Jennifer Melvin hosted six staff members from Signature Health, a community health care agency in the NEOCAP region. Ms. Melvin noted, "The meeting with the Signature Health team went very well. They seemed impressed with our facilities and NEOCAP's programs overall. They expressed great appreciation for the tours and the opportunity to gain a better understanding of our program and operations. Their visit lasted about an hour. I also took the opportunity to inquire about the services they provide, particularly those related to women's health and treatment."



Court of Common Pleas



Judge Matthew Rambo

Newly Elected Judge Visits Facility!

On March 14, 2025, Judge Matthew Rambo of the Geauga County Court of Common Pleas, who had held his new judicial role for only two and a half months, took the time to visit the NEO-CAP facility. Judge Rambo conveyed that he possesses some knowledge and awareness of Community-Based Correctional Facilities (CBCFs) from his previous work experience, which included interactions with various offenders in community-based facilities. Clinical Director Kristina Henik and Admissions Administrator Samantha Neiheisel discussed the agency's various program components, intake policies and procedures, and took Judge Rambo on a tour of the facility. After being declared the election winner on November 5, 2024, Judge Rambo remarked, "I am overjoyed that the voters of Geauga County have chosen me to be their next Common Pleas judge, and I will work tirelessly to serve them to the best of my ability (source: geugamapleleaf.com)." We at NEOCAP look forward to working with Judge Rambo as he serves and administers justice to the residents of Geauga County.



Kristina Henik, dressed in black, guides Judge Rambo on a tour of the facility, with Samantha Neiheisel following closely behind. The picture was taken on March 14, 2025.



A young John Zabrucky stands next to the Incredible Hulk and one of the props he created for the show.

Trumbull County has Struck Gold!

The Trumbull County Historical Society (TCHS) has acquired a remarkable treasure. John Zabrucky, a native of Warren, Ohio, has donated his collection of Hollywood props, which he created for various science fiction films and television series. Zabrucky, who recently retired and closed his California-based Modern Props, Inc. studio, gifted his collection to TCHS, which plans to establish a sci-fi museum in downtown Warren, Ohio, showcasing Zabrucky's collection, including props from popular movies and shows such as Star Trek, The Incredible Hulk, Men in Black, and Ghostbusters, among others. Fortunately for sci-fi fans, they will not have to wait for the opening of TCHS's museum to view these items. Several of Zabrucky's Hollywood props are on loan at the Medici Museum of Art, located at 9350 E. Market St., Warren, Ohio. The museum exhibit is free to the public and is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm and will run until late June 2025.



John Zabrucky



Laser cannon designed and fabricated by Modern Props, currently on display at the Medici Museum of Art



Jake Jones and Kim Massary stand in front of a famous prop from the Star Trek TV series: Captain Kirk's "Beam me up, Scotty" transporter machine. This photo was taken at the Medici Museum of Art on March 20, 2025.



FACILITY GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Facility Governing Board: A “facility governing board” is the board established in accordance with section 2301.51 of the Revised Code whose duties and responsibilities are to administer a community-based correctional facility and program, develop rules for the operation of the facility, appoint the director, and establish the salaries of the director and all other program staff who shall be employees of the board.



Donald Emerson— FGB Chair
Trumbull County
Judicial Appointment



Angela L. Daugherty— Vice Chair
Ashtabula County
Judicial Appointment



Craig Berry— Secretary
Lake County Seat
Judicial Appointment



Michael Murphy
County Commissioner
Appointment



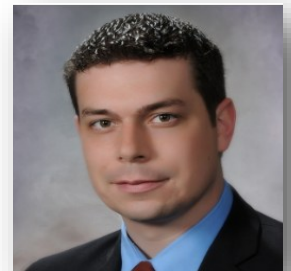
Eric Fink
County Commissioner
Appointment



Nicole Walker
Geauga County Seat
Judicial Appointment



Michael Boltz
Portage County Seat
Judicial Appointment



Matthew M. Ries
Legal Counsel

JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

The Judicial Advisory Board is comprised of Judges from the NEOCAP County Common Pleas Courts. The Board is established in accordance with Section 2301.51 of the Revised Code, whose duties include making appointments to the Facility Governing Board and providing advice to the board regarding the public safety needs of the community, screening criteria, and other matters.



Judge Ronald J. Rice,
JAB Chair
Trumbull County



Judge Laurie J. Pittman,
JAB Vice Chair
Portage County



Judge Patrick J. Condon
JAB Secretary
Lake County



Judge Vincent A. Culotta
Lake County



Judge Carolyn Paschke
Geauga County



Judge Marianne Sezon
Ashtabula County



Judge Sean O'Brien
Trumbull County

QUARTERLY (JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31) INTAKE DATA:

COUNTY	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
TRUMBULL	30	10	40
LAKE	15	5	20
PORTAGE	17	8	25
GEAUGA	4	0	4
ASHTABULA	14	9	23

TOTAL INTAKES FOR THIRD QUARTER = 112 TAKES

UTILIZATION RATE TO DATE: 91.72%

CURRENT WAITING LIST:

MALE: 2 WEEKS

FEMALES: IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

ANNOUNCEMENT

Drug Free Workplace Training

Mandatory annual drug-free workplace training is scheduled for April 29th in Warren and May 1st in Painesville. In Warren, there will be sessions for staff at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and a 1 p.m. session for supervisors and management. In Painesville, there will be a 1 p.m. session for staff, and supervisors and management should attend the 1 p.m. session in Warren on April 29th.

Newsletter Committee

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 Jennifer Melvin
Layout: Jake Jones



This year, T-shirts will once again be available in observance of Health Month. The T-shirts will be priced at \$20.

The theme for 2025 is *"Turn Awareness into Action."* Anyone wishing to purchase a T-shirt should provide their size by

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025. Payment is due on FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025.

Please see Katie in Warren or Jennifer in Painesville
 Thank you for your contribution.
 2025 Mental Health Committee

Mental health matters