

Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court  
Judge David A. Hejmanowski



2015 Annual Report

*“I’ve been struck by the upside-down priorities of the juvenile justice system. We are willing to spend the least amount of money to keep a kid at home, more to put him in a foster home, and the most to institutionalize him.”*

Marian Wright Edelman  
*Psychology Today*, 1975

Much has changed since Ms. Edelman’s observation 40 years ago, but much remains the same. The juvenile justice system continues to spend exorbitant amounts of money to institutionalize children or place them outside of their homes, while charitable, grant and direct-governmental funding for prevention programs is hard to come by.

The mission of the Delaware County Juvenile Court has always tried to avoid institutionalizing youth except where public safety, public security or the youth’s individual safety necessitate it or in circumstances where all other options have failed. This mission arises not out of a sense of magnanimity nor any grand idealism, but instead out of the stark, pragmatic reality that institutionalizing youth is expensive and nearly universally ineffective at reducing the likelihood of future delinquent or criminal behavior.

Our efforts have therefore been focused on early prevention, early intervention and effective methods of reducing recidivism. Our diversion program funnels young, non-violent offenders out of the formal court process and into programming that can address the causes of their behavior. As a leader in her field, our Lisa Williamson has previously served as President of the Ohio Juvenile Diversion Association and heads our Intake/Diversion Department.

The court’s school liaisons work directly in our local school districts, forming effective lines of communication between school officials and court personnel. They intervene early to address truancy issues and, in conjunction with our mediators conduct school truancy mediations that have been incredibly effective at getting kids to school.

The probation department, under the direction of Dave Andrews adds to those efforts significantly. Our probation officers work around the clock to protect the public and to push the juveniles under their supervision to achieve the skills necessary to be successful in life. The Victim Awareness program, court-supervised community service and CASA programs all saw growth in 2015, with the latter benefiting from the new leadership of Tammy Matias.

The Juvenile Treatment Court, presided over by Magistrate Schoenling and led by our Treatment Coordinator, Doug Althausser, serves as a model for other juvenile courts in the state to follow, and achieved certification from the Ohio Supreme Court. Magistrate McCollister and her staff work tirelessly every day to ensure that children have stable and appropriate homes so as to reduce the likelihood that they will come into contact with the system in other ways and she and Magistrate Childs spend countless hours enforcing child support orders so that children have the financial resources to be successful.

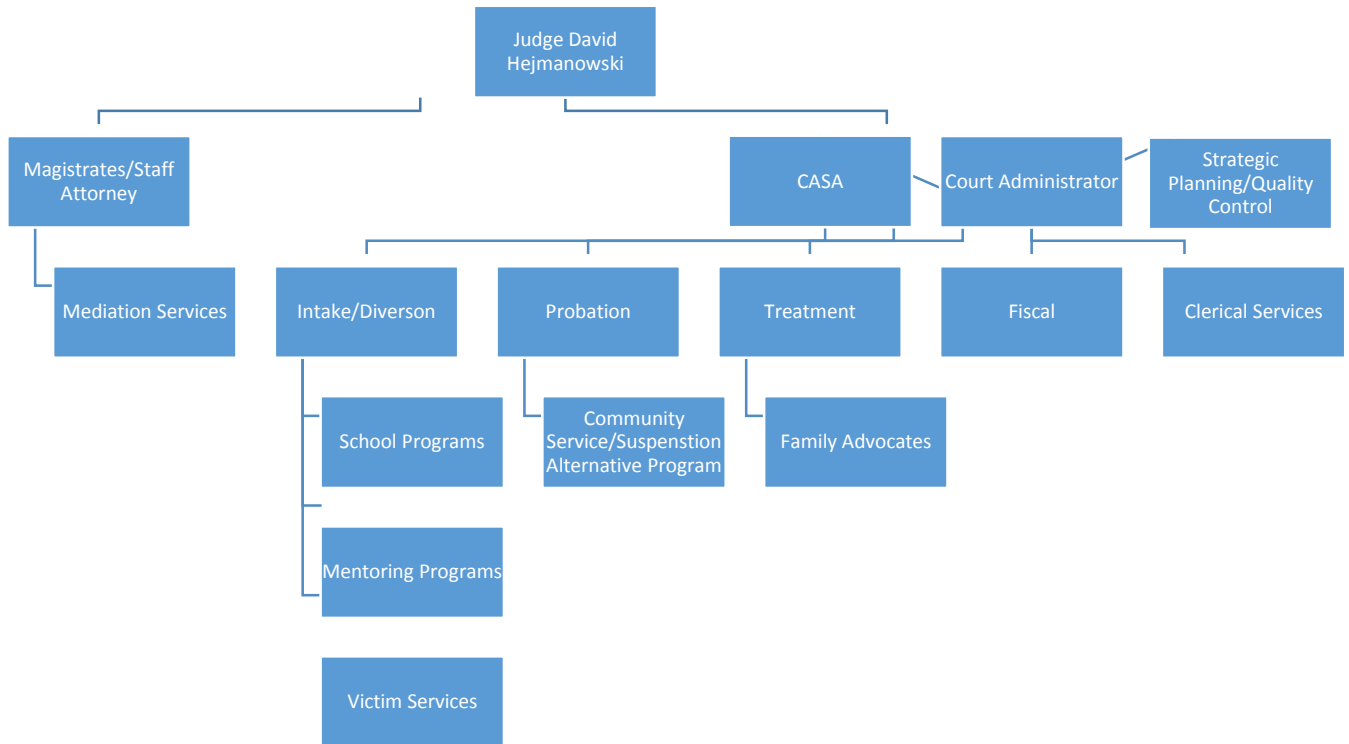
Our success is not measured by the number of juveniles who interact with our court, but rather by the number who are able to become productive, law-abiding adults. The commitment of each and every member of our staff to achieve that result in every case makes coming to work every day an absolute joy.

In Probate Court, Magistrate Kaiser leads an able team that effortlessly implemented the new dictates of *Obergefell* as well as the new requirements for guardianship cases implemented by the Ohio Supreme Court. They efficiently handle estates, marriage licenses, name changes, guardianships, conservatorships, adoptions and much more. Teresa Tackett has spearheaded the new Guardianship Visitor program, and already that program has paid dividends.

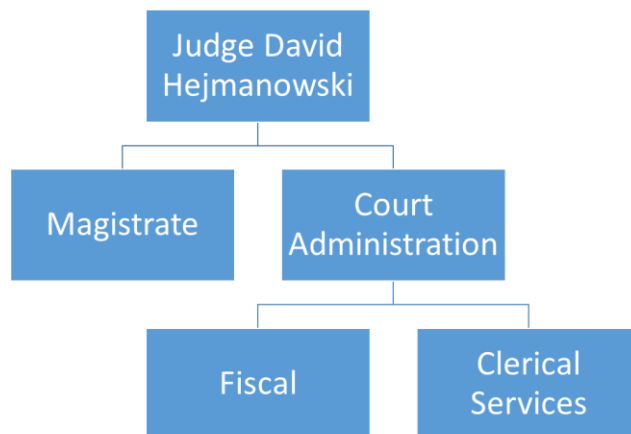
We live, work and raise our families in this community and, thus, are committed to making a place that we are proud to call home.

Judge David A. Hejmanowski  
Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court

# Juvenile Court Table of Organization



## Probate Court Table of Organization



## Employees of the Probate/Juvenile Court

### Judicial

David A. Hejmanowski, Judge  
Sharon McCollister, Senior Magistrate  
Kari Y. Childs, Magistrate  
R. Lamont Kaiser, Magistrate  
Robert Rice, Staff Attorney/Magistrate  
Lynne Schoenling, Magistrate  
Teresa Tackett, Judicial Services  
Manager/Probate Court Investigator

Katie Stenman, Court Administrator  
Kathy Sturman, Strategic Planning/Quality  
Control Manager

### CASA

Tammy Matias, CASA Coordinator  
Kathryn Hufford, Assistant CASA  
Coordinator

### Clerical Services

Renee Lovelien, Clerical Services  
Department Head  
Billie Jo Propst, Probate Office Manager  
Mandy Clements, Juvenile Clerk  
Nicole Cox, Juvenile Clerk  
Kira Crawford, Juvenile Clerk  
Rachel Dennison, Juvenile Clerk  
Janette Haag, Juvenile Clerk  
Betsy Jones, Probate Clerk  
Marilyn Kinniard, Juvenile Clerk  
Melanie Layton, Records Clerk  
Pajah Lindsay, Probate Clerk  
Stacey Morris, Probate Clerk  
Candy Nelson, Juvenile Clerk  
Lisa Patterson, Probate Clerk  
Karen Peaks, Probate Clerk  
Rene Ray, Receptionist  
Angela Riley, Juvenile Clerk  
Ashlie Stidam, Juvenile Clerk  
Debora Vatsures, Juvenile Clerk

### Fiscal

Karen Wadkins, Fiscal Coordinator  
Debbie Wells, Fiscal Specialist

Deputy Brian Blair  
Paula Napolet, Mental Health Liaison  
Arianna Profato, JSO Counselor

### Intake

Lisa Williamson, Intake/Diversion  
Department Head  
Stacy Blair, City School Liaison/Senior  
Intake Officer  
Patty Cram, Mentor Coordinator  
Spencer Grummel, Intake/Diversion Officer  
Vikki Hardwick, County School Attendance  
Officer  
Sara Kapel, Intake/Diversion Officer  
Lisa Lemaster, County School Liaison  
Cecelia Monahan, Intake/Diversion Officer  
Eddie Parker, Diversion Officer  
Jana Wilfong, Victim Services/Mentor  
Assistant  
Dana Wisecarver, Victim Services  
Coordinator

### Mediation/Parenting Coordination

Dodie Davenport, Mediation Coordinator  
April Nelson, Mediator

### Probation

Dave Andrews, Chief Probation Officer  
Darlene Miller, Deputy Chief Probation  
Officer  
Marc Camboni, Night Monitor  
Gia DiGirolamo, Community  
Service/Restitution Work Specialist  
Rob Garey, Probation Officer  
Bobby Massie, Probation Officer  
Bonnie Scheidt, Transport Officer  
Ken Ward, Community Service/Restitution  
Work Coordinator

### Treatment

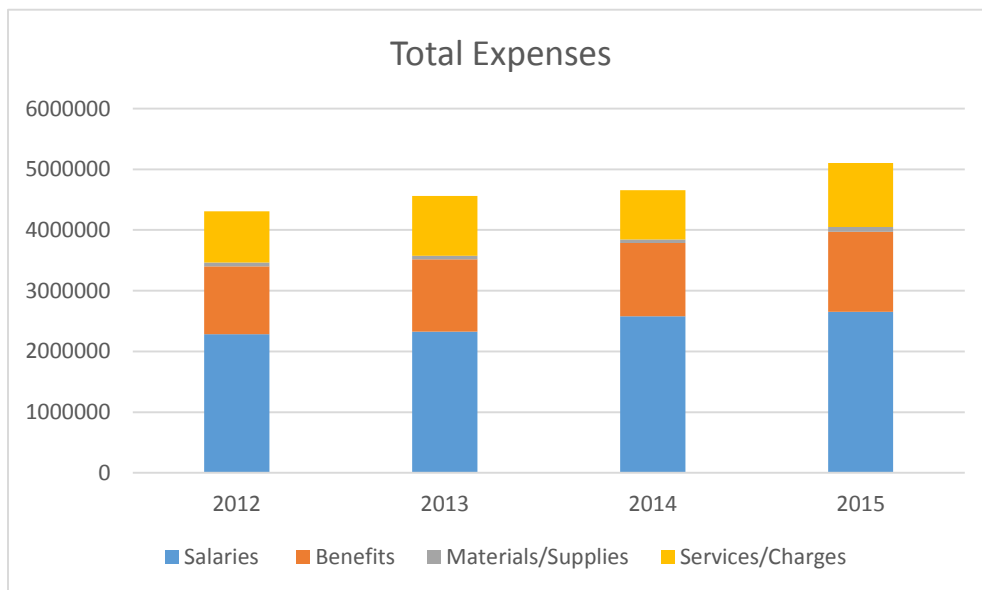
Doug Althausser, Treatment Court  
Coordinator  
Mary Cagnina, Family Advocate  
Coordinator  
Lauren Souza, Treatment Court Liaison  
Jennifer Boytar, Family Advocate  
Shannon Farley, Family Advocate  
John Magary, Family Advocate  
Sharon Moran, Family Advocate  
Adrienne Murray, Family Advocate  
Kelsey Scott, Family Advocate

## Fiscal/Human Resources

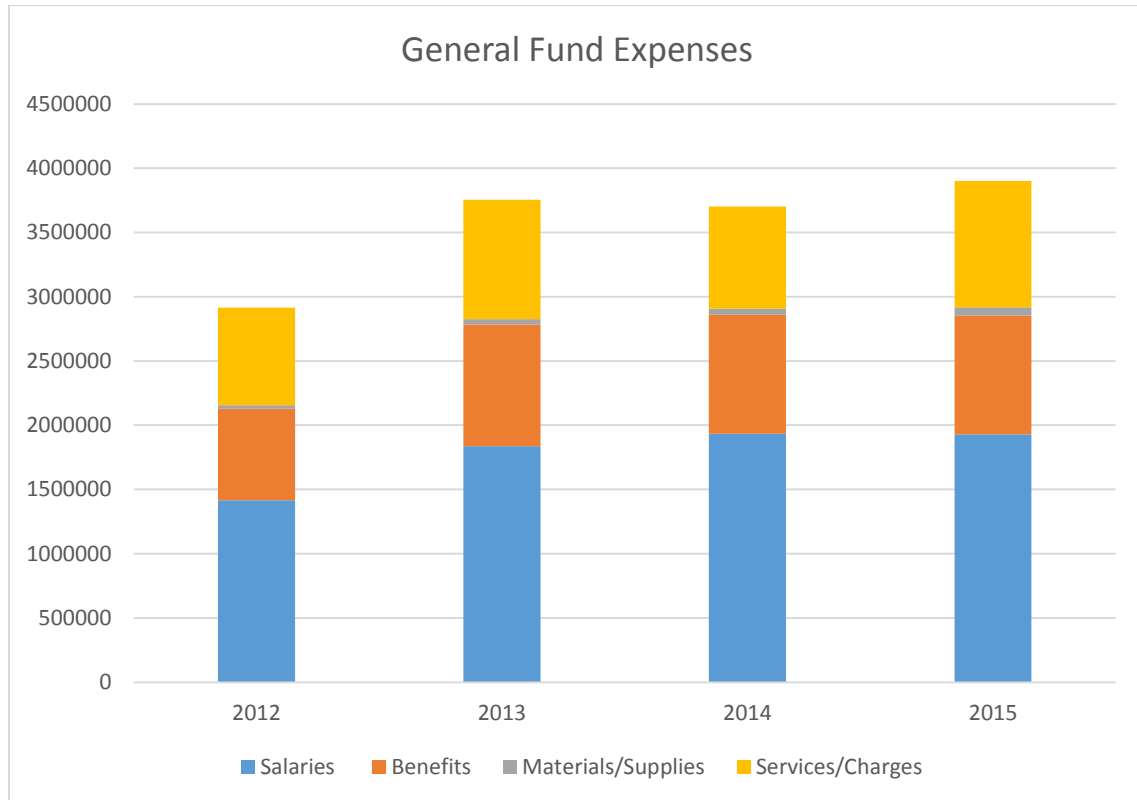
Seven full-time employees were hired in 2015 and four part-time employees were also added. All of the hired full-time positions filled vacated posts, however, three additional part-time employees were hired to expand the Family Advocate program, and fill long-vacated positions.

Funding for the Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court is received from a variety of sponsors and sources. While the core administrative structure of the court is funded from the County's fund, the court has been able to supplement many of its programs with grants and contracts, as well as the fees and fines collected. In 2014, \$1.32 million was received from these outside sources, however, 2015 saw an increase to \$1.41 million. A large portion of funding received from outside sources comes from the Department of Youth Services Base and RECLAIM Grants. The award to Delaware County for 2015 (covering the timeframe of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016) is estimated to be \$646,217.77, or approximately 45% of our supplemental funding. Additional grant funding is received from the Attorney General's Office through the VOCA/SVAA Grants for Victim Services and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). In 2015, the CASA program requested, and received, funding to expand services into Union County. Funding opportunities through collaboration with Ohio CASA and Union County to continue this program past its initial period are being investigated to carry the expansion forward.

Expenses for Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court are primarily salaries and benefits. The court currently has 67 employees on payroll and numerous volunteers. The largest non-payroll item is the agreement with Central Ohio Youth Center (COYC), costing \$688,465 in fiscal year 2015, and an estimated cost of \$655,115 for fiscal year 2016. While total expenses have increased by 9.57% from fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2015, the impact to the general funds have only increased by 5.37%.



	2012	2013	2014	2015
Salaries	\$ 2,283,394.00	\$ 2,327,298.00	\$ 2,578,086.09	\$ 2,655,010.62
Benefits	\$ 1,119,732.00	\$ 1,192,153.00	\$ 1,206,868.19	\$ 1,317,156.86
Materials/Supplies	\$ 61,377.00	\$ 56,021.00	\$ 60,676.03	\$ 79,238.79
Services/Charges	\$ 843,160.00	\$ 983,207.00	\$ 812,455.96	\$ 1,052,665.20



	2012	2013	2014	2015
Salaries	\$ 1,414,835.84	\$ 1,837,208.85	\$ 1,932,828.68	\$ 1,928,865.70
Benefits	\$ 712,357.98	\$ 946,297.28	\$ 926,520.91	\$ 923,991.05
Materials/Supplies	\$ 27,724.04	\$ 42,148.26	\$ 47,580.83	\$ 64,380.55
Services/Charges	\$ 760,174.42	\$ 928,810.62	\$ 794,680.96	\$ 983,371.48



## Delaware County Probate Court

In 2015, the Probate Court opened 1,681 cases and entered 51,943 docket entries that involved 10,798 cases.

<b>Case Types</b>	<b>Number of Cases Opened</b>
Adoption	40
Birth Correction	3
Birth Registration	0
Probate Civil	21
Conservatorship	2
Disinterment	2
Estate	423
<u>Guardianship Total</u>	102
<u>Guardianship type</u>	
Minor	35
Adult	53
Emergency	6
Dispensing	8
Marriage License	882
Minors Settlement	18
Name Change	73
Miscellaneous Filings	25
Admin. Orders	5
Safe Deposit	9
Structured Settlement	7
Miscellaneous filing/order	4
Trust	20
Will for Deposit	70

During 2015, the Supreme Court of Ohio adopted revised Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio (Rules 66.01 – 66.09). Effective June 1, 2015, these rules made significant changes to how guardians are educated and how guardianships are monitored. To prepare for the resulting changes to the manner in which we administer and monitor guardianships, our Court revised our Local Rules, audited over 500 open guardianship cases, created new implementing forms, prepared and sent mailings to inform our adult guardians of these changes, and provided the members of the local bar with a summary of the rule changes and our new local procedures. Several of our new local guardianship rules were used as examples for other Ohio probate courts considering modifying their own rules. Our rollout under the new guardianship rules has been

nearly seamless. We continue to monitor our guardians to assure that they meet the new guardianship fundamentals training requirement.

To aid in the education of our new family-member guardians, our Court hosted four Saturday morning training sessions for new non-professional guardians throughout the year. We trained 48 new guardians in 2015. The probate magistrate delivered the training. The Delaware County Probate Court also served as a host site for the Supreme Court of Ohio's 2015 Fundamentals of Adult Guardianship training. The course was a full day training.

Judge Hejmanowski has continued the practice of providing the members of the local bar association with periodic practice management letters to inform them of changes in the law and practices governing probate matters. He includes in the letters suggestions for the bar to enhance the efficiency of the court and their own probate practices.

A Hearing/Dockets schedule webpage was a new addition to our Court's website in 2015. This feature allows the public to view each day's schedule of hearings. It is updated in real-time throughout the day. This was one of the technological changes the Delaware County Probate Court implemented in 2015 as we prepare for the many technological advancements that are anticipated for 2016.

In March, the Court hosted a "Save the Bunnies" fundraiser to secure funds for the purchase of sewing machines and materials to donate to the Pickaway Correctional Institution in Orient, Ohio. The inmates at Pickaway use our materials to sew and stuff bears and bunnies throughout the year for use in our adoption hearings and in other hearings involving younger children. The event was featured on Court News Ohio and the Court raised over \$500.00 to continue to fund the program.



Probation Officer Rob Gary participates in the fundraiser and showcases one of the bunnies provided by the Court.

In 2015, the Probate Court also tried to provide educational service to local attorneys. Ninety attorneys attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Practical Probate Seminar offered by the Probate Court. This year's topic included Statutes of Limitation in Probate by Edward Flahive, Esq., Insolvent Estates

by Magistrate Kaiser, Rights of the Surviving Spouse by G. Scott Miller, Esq. and Probate Case Law and Legislative Updates by Judge Hejmanowski.

### **Court Visitor Program**

The Court Visitor Program is a guardianship monitoring program established by the Probate Court. The program utilizes volunteers to serve as court visitors. These visitors will meet with both the guardians and the wards to ensure that the wards are safe, their needs are being met and that the guardianship is the least restrictive alternative for the ward.

As this is a relatively new program for the Court, the program coordinator has spent this year developing and adapting procedures/policies for recruitment of volunteers, training of volunteers, testing, evaluating and revising reporting tools and meeting with various collaborating agencies to inform them about the Court Visitor Program.

The Coordinator participated in service fairs at Ohio Wesleyan University and The Ohio State University recruiting students to serve as volunteer court visitors. The Court also applied for a grant from SourcePoint to assist with the funding of the Court Visitor Program. The Court was awarded funding to begin in 2016.

As of December 2015, two court visitors have been trained and accompanied the program coordinator on visits. Fifteen visits were conducted. Of these visits, eight required additional follow up such as education for the guardians as to requirements and responsibilities of guardians.

# Delaware County Juvenile Court

## Clerical Services

The Delaware County Juvenile Court Clerical Services Department efficiently performs as a part of the administrative branch of the Court. Juvenile deputy clerks are responsible for maintaining accurate and complete records of all court proceedings and to assist those we serve in a dignified and respectful manner. As clerical support staff they serve members of the public, local law enforcement and support agencies and many of the departments and programs within the Juvenile Court. Whether by submission of paper or electronic filings, routing communication requests, handling the intake and maintenance of case files, notification of matters as per state and local rules, preserving of legal records, researching, courtroom hearing documentation and directing the public, the clerical support staff is experienced and professional.

In 2015, the Court employed 12 deputy clerks and one clerical services department head. In addition, the department docketed over 50,000 entries in the Court's case management system for more than 20,000 cases. The clerical staff aligns itself with the following dockets: abuse, neglect and dependency, juvenile delinquency, parenting matters, including child support enforcement, child custody and visitation matters, traffic court, sex offender and treatment court and has worked hard in 2015 to continue the process of cross-training. The clerical services department has also engaged in the training and implementation of new software and technology to insure efficient workflow maintenance of timelines.

<b>Delinquency/Unruly Charges Filed</b>		<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Unruly/ Unclassified	General Unruly Charges	130	92	120	189
	Tobacco	5	7	9	2
	Contributing to Unruliness	0	2	0	2
	Curfew	20	19	17	11
	Littering	0	0	2	2
Truancy	Unruly Truant	1	0	2	6
	Chronic Truant	24	22	17	59
Assault/Menacing	Assault	32	45	41	35
	Menacing & Stalking	15	10	9	10
	Domestic Violence	18	16	26	23
	Violation of Protection Order	0	0	0	2
Sexual Offenses	Rape	4	6	4	9
	Sexual Assault	1	0	2	0
	Gross Sexual Imposition	2	6	5	9
	Trafficking in Persons / Prostitution	1	5	0	0
	Obscenity / Public Indecency	4	5	4	7
	Dissemination / Illegal Minor Images	0	0	0	6

<b>Delinquency/Unruly Charges Filed</b>		<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Arson/Damaging	Arson	2	0	0	2
	Vandalism	6	0	3	3
	Criminal Damaging	31	10	13	27
	Criminal Mischief	13	12	8	17
	Robbery	1	8	1	0
Robbery, Burglary, & Theft	Burglary	20	11	3	8
	Trespassing	14	18	6	13
	Receiving Stolen Property	10	6	13	6
	Theft	85	68	50	61
	Other Related	10	1	1	15
Drug/ Alcohol Offenses	Trafficking in Drugs	20	4	4	6
	Possession Controlled Substance	46	45	48	38
	Possession /Use of Marijuana	1	8	18	7
	Possession/Use of Paraphernalia	39	33	53	41
	Abuse Intoxicants	1	2	5	0
	Underage Alcohol Offenses	50	36	59	67
Violation of Court Order/ Probation	Violation of Court Order	31	33	19	37
	Violation of Probation	114	90	52	40
	Disorderly Conduct	82	72	79	106
	Inducing Panic/ False Alarms	8	0	4	6
	Harassment	4	1	0	3
	Tampering with Evidence	0	4	1	1
	Falsification	3	2	5	5
	Obstruction of Justice	11	16	17	21
	Resisting Arrest or Comply	6	4	8	9
	Complicity	4	5	4	6
	Weapons or Criminal Tools	3	9	6	11
	Prohibition Companion Animals	0	0	0	4
	Kidnapping/Extortion	4	5	4	1
	Vehicular Homicide/Manslaughter	2	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>878</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>933</b>

<b>Abused, Dependent and/or Neglected Children</b>		<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Abused Child	Victim Sexual Activity	0	4	2	1
	No Conviction Required	11	11	11	5
	Exhibits Injury	6	6	6	2
	Acts Causing Injury	20	17	11	8
	Out of the Home	0	0	1	0
Neglected Child	Abandoned	2	0	0	0
	Lack of Parental Care	8	30	12	9
	Special Care	8	8	7	2
	Placement Violation	1	0	0	0
	Injury by Omission	0	0	0	0
	Out of the Home	0	0	0	0
	Medical Care	0	0	0	0
Dependent Child	Homeless	2	11	5	8
	Parental Condition	29	30	31	31
	Environmental Condition	54	60	57	39
	Residential Status Act	3	12	18	10
	Residential Status Danger	3	12	18	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>Cases Filed</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>40</b>	
<b>Families Served</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>28</b>	

<b>Custody- Related Cases</b>	<b>2015</b>
Matters of Custody, Change of Custody and Visitation	228
Support Enforcement and Modification including objections and enforcement of support	344
Establishment of Parentage/Paternity	86
UIFSA - Uniform Interstate Family Support Act	13
Grandparent POA	23
<b>Total Number of Custody-Related matters filed</b>	<b>694</b>
<i>Note: Some filings/matters heard simultaneously Example: Administrative child support filings will begin with paternity and then once paternity is established and case for support is opened.</i>	

<b>Juvenile Traffic Offenses</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
ACDA - Assured Clear Distance	148	139	129	128
OVI / OMVI	7	7	19	11
Failure to Control	58	53	54	60
No Licence/Permit, Suspended & Permit Restrictions	44	26	42	27
Seat Restraint Violations	38	22	28	25
Failure to Yield/Right of Way	81	66	85	24
Driving - Use of Wireless Electronic Device/Texting	0	2	2	1
Traffic Control Signal Violations	23	53	26	36
Improper Driving Actions	47	49	44	108
Miscellaneous Actions	70	47	62	13
<b>TOTAL charges</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>762</b>
<i>Note: each case may have more than one charge</i>				

### Practical Juvenile Seminar

Fifty-six attorneys attended the Delaware County Juvenile Court's first practical juvenile seminar on August 26, 2015. The seminar included presentations on Street Smarts by Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Early Neutral Evaluation by Magistrate Sharon McCollister and Faith Walzak and Juvenile Case Law and Legislative Update by Judge Hejmanowski.

### Intake

The Intake Department is a juvenile's first contact in the court system and serves the community by providing the least restrictive interventions in an effort to restore balance between accountability and treatment. The Intake team handles all juvenile court referrals and complaints that are referred for filing with the court. All cases are handled in accordance with Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure, Rule 9, which states "[i]n all appropriate cases formal court action should be avoided and other community resources utilized to ameliorate situations brought to the attention of the court." The Intake Department determines the necessary course of action for each juvenile offender based upon the juvenile's prior criminal record, age at first offense, level of offense (status, misdemeanor, and felony), school attendance and behavior, parental concerns, and drug/alcohol use to identify the appropriate level of court intervention. The majority of the referred cases are handled at an office level, not in court. The intake/diversion officers are responsible for: detention hearings on new juveniles in the system, pre-adjudication cases, hold open cases, adjudicated with terms cases, diversion, OVI cases, and adult contributing cases. The Intake Department consists of three intake officers, one diversion officer, two school liaisons, one attendance officer, the mentoring coordinator, the victim service coordinator, and an intake/diversion department head.

The Intake Department is responsible for detention hearings and pre-adjudication hearings on non-probation juveniles. At times, juveniles are held in the detention facility, COYC, if determined necessary by law enforcement and court staff. The Court is required to have a

hearing within 24 hours, or the next business day, to determine if the juvenile should continue to be held or can safely be released.

The intake officer that is assigned to a case follows the case until it is adjudicated. Some cases, such as felony offenses, will come with requests of temporary orders pending the case to ensure the safety of the juvenile and the community. For pending sex offense cases, there are standard temporary orders that the intake department will request, such as no contact with the alleged victim, and house arrest. If there are concerns the juvenile will abscond or to ensure the juveniles is abiding by house arrest terms, the intake officer may ask for a GPS device to be placed on the juvenile. For juveniles that are placed on house arrest with no GPS device, the intake officer also has the ability to utilize the night monitor to periodically go the home to ensure that house arrest is being followed pending resolution of the case. For drug and alcohol related cases, it is sometimes requested that juveniles submit to urine screens/Breathalyzer tests to ensure he/she is not using substances.

Once a juvenile has been adjudicated, unless ordered to probation, he/she will continue with the intake officer until the completion of their terms ordered by the court. The level of supervision is typically less intensive than supervision of a probation case. Cases can be held open (not adjudicated), where the juvenile is still eligible for an alternative disposition under Ohio Rule of Juvenile Procedure 29, for a period of up to 180 days. Generally, these cases are lower level offenses and/or first time offenders. Potential disposition orders include: community service hours, follow rules at home and school, written assignments, counseling/treatment/psychiatry, school attendance and drug and alcohol screening.

#### Diversion

Diversion is an opportunity offered to a first time juvenile offender charged with a status or misdemeanor offense. Diversion is a voluntary program in which the juvenile must admit to the charge in order to participate in the program. Upon admission, the juvenile enters into a diversion agreement with agreed upon terms set by the court, juvenile and family including having no further law violations. If the juvenile successfully completes the program within ninety days to one hundred eighty days, the case is dismissed and sealed. In 2015, the Court conducted 184 diversions.

New in 2015, are group diversion conferences. Rather than scheduling individual conferences when several juveniles are charged out of the same incident, we schedule them for a group diversion. This has cut down on the blaming of others involved, increased juveniles personal responsibility and allowed the parents to see the level of their child's involvement. Diversion completion surveys demonstrate a 95% overall diversion customer satisfaction rate.

#### Adult Cases

The Intake Department facilitates the processing of adult cases for formal hearing. The two most common adult charges handled by intake are contributing to the delinquency or unruliness of a minor and failure to send a child to school. If an adult is found guilty, or pleads guilty to the charge, they may be placed on a period of probation and ordered to complete terms and conditions within one calendar year. The intake officer assigned to the case monitors the adult's compliance of their probation and completion of Court ordered terms. If the adult fails to comply with Court ordered terms the prosecutor may pursue contempt charges or motions to



impose sentences. The intake team works closely with the prosecutor's office to ensure compliance.

#### Attendance Officer

Since 2001, the Delaware County Probate and Juvenile Court has partnered with the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio to provide an attendance officer which serves three of the four school districts within Delaware County: Olentangy, Big Walnut, and Buckeye Valley. The attendance officer's responsibility is to inform/educate students and parents of Ohio's laws in relation to school attendance. The goal is to keep juveniles in compliance with the school's attendance policy and out of the juvenile justice system. The attendance officer oversees attendance issues at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The attendance officer meets with students and parents as needed to discuss attendance concerns and met with 223 students in the first four months of the 2015/2016 school year.

#### School Liaisons

The school liaison positions have been a part of the Court for over 20 years. The school liaisons serve 44 schools over four school districts (Big Walnut, Buckeye Valley, Delaware, and Olentangy). The Court presently employs two school liaisons whose primary function is to divert juveniles from the system by addressing school truancy and unruly behavior through informal intervention. The liaisons focus on joint collaboration between the Court, the schools, and the families. School liaisons work with at-risk juveniles in the school systems to prevent formal court involvement by advocating for the juveniles, addressing attendance concerns, attending school meetings, assisting in behavior plans, participating in mediations, and giving referrals to community resources. In the 2014/2015 school year, the school liaison serving Delaware City Schools met with 333 youth and families, participated in 73 mediations to attempt to find solutions to chronic truancy issues with each individual family, and filed 29 charges of either truancy or contributing. During the 2014/2015 school year, the county school liaison met with 538 youth and participated in 49 mediations.

#### Girls' Group

In the summer of 2015, the mental health liaison from Central Ohio Mental Health and a Juvenile Court intake officer created a girls' group. The group was created to help unite the young women involved with the court in a positive atmosphere, giving them a place where they can share their experiences and learn from each other. The girls' group is comprised of female juveniles between the ages of 12 and 18 who are on diversion or have been adjudicated delinquent/unruly. There are three adult facilitators, the mental health liaison, an intake officer, and the intake/diversion department head. Weekly, the girls engage in conversation about problems or struggles they are currently experiencing. The group processes these problems together and strategies to find positive coping skills, while simultaneously creating a craft or art project. This group has proven successful in developing positive friendships and relationships between the young ladies both inside the court and outside in the community and schools.

#### Fight Against Hunger Games

In the fall of 2015, we collaborated with Delaware Hayes High School to put on a canned food drive. The goal of the program was to help benefit local veterans groups, People in Need, and the Weekend Helper Bag program at the Delaware City Schools - which supplies food for

families on the free and reduced lunch program over the weekends. This program also served to create a partnership between the local high school and the court. The success of the drive exceeded all expectations. The staff and students at Hayes donated over 17,000 units of food. We were able to donate fifty Thanksgiving meals, complete with turkey and all the trimmings to local families in need. The collaboration was a great success and we are planning for next year's event, including bringing in Buckeye Valley High School to compete with Hayes with the food drive.



Food collected at Delaware City Hayes high school waiting to be sorted and distributed to the various agencies.

### Mentor Programs

The T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More) Mentoring Program strives to reduce the delinquent and unruly behaviors of youth through role modeling and advocacy services provided by trained adult mentors, who expose youth to positive activities, new life experience, alternatives to substance abuse, and education. T.E.A.M. is a program for youth between the ages of 10 and 14 to deter involvement with the juvenile court system and help explore alternatives to drug and alcohol use. The program runs from August to May. The youth are paired with a mentor and meet individually on a weekly basis and monthly as a group. Group activities include: guest speakers, sending Christmas cards to veterans in our community, and attending local sporting events. Mentors complete a thorough background check, drug screening, and training before participating in the program and are sworn in before being paired with their mentee.

The Delaware County Juvenile Court M.O.M.S Program (Moms Offering Mentoring Support) is designed to increase the ability of teen mothers to adequately care for their children by providing an experienced mother as a mentor, a connection to community agencies, and help in developing the life and coping skills necessary to be a successful mother. The program is comprised of teen moms and pregnant teens. The goal of the program is to help reduce repeat teen pregnancies, reduce the amount of hospital/emergency visits for infants, educate teen moms about the benefits of breast feeding, reduce the stress of teen moms, reduce child abuse and abusive behaviors, and decrease the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drug use among teen moms. The teen moms are paired with a mentor mom in the community and meet individually on a biweekly basis and monthly as a group. Mentors help provide support to the teen moms. Group

activities for the program include: dinner and open discussion to address current problem areas in their lives and guest speakers to help educate and inform teen moms. The mentor is paired with the teen mom until the baby is one year old. Mentors complete background checks, drug screens, and are sworn in before being paired with a teen mom.

### Victim Services Program

The victim services program was established for the Juvenile Court in 1987 to provide information and support for victims of juvenile crime and to ensure that case related decisions include greater consideration for the victim. The program is committed to protecting victims by informing them of their rights, providing information regarding the Court's legal process, arranging support for personal and emotional needs and attempting to help recover any financial losses. Keeping sight of a "balanced approach" ensures that offenders are held accountable to their victim and that victim regain some degree of wholeness after an offense has been committed against them. During fiscal year 2015, the Victim Services Program received 160 cases involving 197 victims. The victim services program is part of the Delaware County Coalition of Victim Services, which is involved with raising community awareness of victim-related crimes in Delaware County. The coalition has helped organize "Walk a Mile in her Shoes" to support awareness of sexual abuse and the "Dash at Dusk" 5K run/ walk to support awareness of domestic violence. The Program also actively promotes National Crime Victim's Right Week in April.

The victim services program also assists victims in applying for compensation through the Ohio Victim of Crime Compensation Program. This program is available to victims of violent crime in which physical or emotional harm to the victim results in a financial loss.

Started in 2008, the Victim Awareness program helps juvenile offenders understand how their actions have affected their victims. Through a series of classes, these juveniles must analyze their actions and participate in exercises geared to help them more fully understand the consequences of those actions. The goal of the program is to keep these juveniles from re-offending by helping them understand the impact that their actions will have on others and themselves. The program emphasizes the process of appropriate decision-making skills by giving juveniles tools that can help them be more successful in their daily lives. In 2015, of the 39 juveniles who successfully completed the program, only two committed an additional offense. Since its inception, the recidivism rate for juveniles who have successfully completed the Victim Awareness Program is 7.8%.

In fiscal year 2015-2016, financial assistance was made available to families of child victims of juvenile sex offenses through a grant from Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) through the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The purpose of this funding is to assist families of child victims (in particular intra-familial victims) to ensure that these victims are able to receive forensic counseling or other psychological services in a timely manner. The victim services program will work with families to determine their needs and to take the best course of action to ensure that these victims receive the services they require without placing a financial burden on the family.

In January of 2016, the Victim Services program initiated a new program to better serve the victims of juvenile crime who have incurred financial loss due to a juvenile's offense. The purpose of the restitution tracking and compliance program is to provide oversight of victim restitution from initial contact with the victim through the final collection process. The goal of this program is to improve compliance of the payment of restitution by juvenile offenders so that the victim realizes financial reimbursement for their loss in a timely manner. VOCA funding was

obtained through a grant that subsidizes a 25 hours/week restitution specialist who will oversee the process of restitution collection and compliance.

### **Adult and Juvenile Treatment Court**

Delaware County's Juvenile and Adult Treatment Courts provide supervision for adults and juveniles who are involved with the legal system because of their drug or alcohol use, or their mental health issues. This year began with the hire of a new treatment court coordinator and treatment court liaison.

Treatment courts provide an alternative to traditional punishment-based responses to inappropriate behavior. Juvenile participants have been adjudicated delinquent and adult participants are involved with children services. The Adult and Juvenile Treatment Court teams involve collaborative efforts with local mental health and substance abuse programs to monitor participants' progress, and strategize how the Court can encourage and support that progress. The Court provides monitoring and incentives while participants pursue treatment and lifestyle improvements. Adult treatment court participants are more likely to complete treatment, avoid re-arrest, and reunify with children who the Court has ordered removed from homes. Juvenile participants are more likely to complete treatment, remain in school, avoid re-arrest, and become more productive members of the community.

In 2015, both of this Court's treatment courts obtained certification from the Supreme Court of Ohio as specialized dockets. This certification acknowledges the Court's compliance with national and state standards for best practices. Only certified courts may call themselves treatment courts. The certification also makes the Court eligible for certain funding opportunities.

During the year, 22 juveniles and 20 adults participated in the Court's adult and juvenile treatment courts. Eight adults and four juveniles completed their courses of treatment and earned successful graduation from treatment court. Those eight adult participants who succeeded in treatment were reunified with a total of 13 children. The emotional impact of children living, again, with their parents outshines the administrative and financial savings for the county by not having to find alternative placements for those kids.



Magistrate Lynne Schoenling and Probation Officer Bobby Massie with graduating juveniles in March 2015.

For more than three years, the treatment courts have collaborated with the Central Ohio Symphony's Drum Circle. This is the nation's only treatment effort utilizing percussion instruments as part of a therapeutic process. On March 8, 2015, six juvenile participants and four adult participants - plus Magistrate Lynne Schoenling and Probation Officer Bobby Massie - performed with the Symphony in the world premiere of *Reconnecting*, a symphony for Orchestra and Drum Circle commissioned by the Symphony and arranged by award-winning composer Ben Goldberg. The performance was well received locally, and the performance and drum circle received national attention. In May of 2015, Magistrate Schoenling and the Executive Director of the Symphony, Warren Hyer, were invited to speak at the League of American Orchestras annual conference in Cleveland, Ohio.

The Treatment Department of the Court also houses a team of family advocates and the family advocate coordinator. Family advocates are trained by the Court to provide support services for troubled families, usually families with children who the Court has adjudicated unruly or delinquent. Requests for family advocates come on behalf of families served by the Court's intake and probation departments, CASA, and from the bench. The family advocates assess a family's functioning, help parents build on their skills to guide their children, and even teach skills that might be lacking. Advocates help families access resources for medical, academic or financial support. They assess family dynamics, and help youth and parents rebuild family functioning so families communicate better, and family members avoid future legal problems. Thirty-one families received support from family advocates in 2015.

Treatment Court staff engaged in continuing education opportunities to better serve participants and their families. Staff received training in the dynamics of motivational interviewing, which enhances compliance and change in participants. Family advocates prepared for training in Functional Family Therapy, which helps strengthen a family's stability without requiring drastic

changes in the roles of family members. In the fall, the Court resumed the Parent Project, a series of skill-building workshops for parents of teens who are out of control. Five families participated in that program.

### **Probation Department**

Probation officers provide accountability for youth between the ages of 11 and 18 and up to the age of 21. Probation officers support youth by providing case management and linkage to community resources to maintain court-sanctioned accountability. The goal of the probation department is that youth can learn from their experience and avoid further involvement with the juvenile justice system.

In addition to providing case management and linking juveniles with resources, the Probation Department is designed to closely monitor serious offenders at the felony-level. Probation supervision provides an alternative to detention for these offenders, some of whom may be placed on GPS monitored house arrest. Juvenile court has GPS monitoring systems unlike most which have two way voice communication, so that the officer can call the offender via the device at any time and communicate with the offender. Further, our GPS unites allow the officer to track at the juvenile on their mobile devices to see their location and have a siren that can be set off if a youth is hiding.

In 2015, juveniles involved with the Court spent 1,530 bed days at COYC, representing an approximately 12.5% decrease for 2014.

**COYC Usages for 2013-2015**

	2013		2014		2015	
<b>MONTHS</b>	<b>TOTAL YOUTH</b>	<b>DAYS DET.</b>	<b>TOTAL YOUTH</b>	<b>DAYS DET.</b>	<b>TOTAL YOUTH</b>	<b>DAYS DET.</b>
January	24	151	16	135	17	131
February	31	197	20	159.5	13	90
March	26	188	28	118	26	168.5
April	26	162.5	16	80	23	111
May	25	263	26	178.5	18	143
June	31	320.5	19	165.5	15	138
July	24	329	20	210.5	13	47.5
August	24	234	31	225	14	56.5
September	27	191.5	19	161	21	132.5
October	20	160.5	31	105.5	29	192
November	17	160.5	21	107.5	17	157.5
December	23	151	18	74	22	162.5
	<b>298</b>	<b>2508.5</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>1720</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>1530</b>

**Youth placed in Perry Multi-County Juvenile Facility**

2013*	2014	2015
3	3	2

\*Numbers are based on the state fiscal year which runs from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

The Juvenile Court also runs a Suspension Alternative Program (SAP). SAP is six hours a day and consists of community services projects for non-profit agencies and government entities. In 2015, 203 youth participated in the SAP – 50 females and 153 males. The SAP program is funded through the Juvenile Court, schools, and grants.

In addition to SAP, the Juvenile Court also runs a Community Service program that allow youth to work through the Court to meet their community service requirement and to earn money

to pay their owed restitution. In 2015, 85 youth – 28 females and 57 males – worked through the community service program.

Between SAP and Community Service, through our partnership with SourcePoint, we served 296 elderly Delaware County residents, 199 of which were over 75 years of age. Referrals are collected by SourcePoint and then completed by SAP and Community Service work crews supervised by a Court employee. These referrals included requests for garden weeding and cleanup, lawn care, mulching, raking, planting, and snow removal and salting. In 2015, these programs spent 1593.55 hours on this program, with the bulk of the referrals completed within five business days.

In 2015, the SAP and Community Service programs also served the Delaware County Health Department picking up 155 bags of litter and spending 216.25 hours doing so.

### Juvenile Sex Offender Program

One component of the services provided by the probation team is the Court's juvenile sex offender (JSO) treatment program, which is designed to allow offenders to receive intensive treatment while residing in their own community through intensive supervision and community teaming. Through a rigorous treatment program, offenders learn to develop and exercise greater control of their behavior while being supervised by specially trained probation officers. In an effort to increase the effectiveness of responses to JSO cases, the Juvenile Court entered into a partnership with the Delaware-Morrow Mental Health and Recovery Services Board in 2014, under which the Board provides a grant to allow Maryhaven to dedicate an employee to the JSO program. That dedicated employee is housed at the Court so that the entire program can operate from one location. This increases the likelihood of youth success because youth do not have to attend multiple appointments at multiple locations.

The Court's consulting psychologist is currently conducting all JSO assessments onsite in order to reduce the amount of time it takes for an assessment to be completed within 30 days of the initial order. All adjudicated sex offenders can now receive a consistent assessment by a skilled practitioner regardless of the family's ability to pay. To provide even more services to the youth, each JSO's case is clinically reviewed monthly by the court's consulting psychologist. Each youth is seen in a formal court hearing as needed in order to recognize progress, preserve community placements, and address problems in a timely manner. Youth must participate in treatment and comply with treatment recommendations and must successfully complete that treatment. Program components include: pro-social skill building, sex education, sexual health, autobiographies, trauma, offenses cycle, empathy, restorative justice, and relapse prevention planning. Treatment groups are co-facilitated between a clinician and probation officer. An individualized approach is used to determine treatment needs, but treatment completion tends to fall between 12 and 18 months.

A total of 26 adolescent sex offenders were served in 2015. In 2015, the sex offender probation officer was responsible for the supervision of 25 cases. In 2015, seven cases were successfully terminated from the JSO supervision totaling seven.

### Mediation

The Court's mediation program is an informal, yet structured process in which a neutral person (mediator) assists the parties in their negotiations. It is a confidential activity in which the



parties are provided an opportunity to actively participate in negotiation and determine the outcome of their dispute. The program is comprised of two trained mediators who provide mediations for cases involving parenting, delinquency, truancy, probate, and abuse/neglect/dependency cases.

The mediation program is very involved with the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFFCC) as long time members and witnessed Ohio becoming a chapter member in 2015. The Court is very proud to announce that one of our own very skilled mediators, April Nelson was selected to be a presenter at next year's AFCC Conference being held in Seattle. She will be presenting a program entitled "Seeing Color in a White World: Working With Families across Cultural Lines" along with her daughter-in-law Alise M. Sanchez. This is great honor to be chosen out of many applicants. We are very excited and proud of April and her dedication to the mediation program.

The mediation program mediated a total of 366 mediations in 2015, comprised of 170 Parenting, 33 Delinquency, 3 Abuse/ Neglect/Dependent and 160 truancy mediations.

### **Court Appointed Special Advocates**

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program recruits, trains and supervises volunteers to serve as advocates for children who are abused, neglected or dependent. Volunteers serve as the child's "voice" in the juvenile court system and advocate for the child's best interests. CASA volunteers conduct an independent investigation, visit the child monthly in their placement, speak to all the important adults in the child's life and submit written reports/recommendations to the court. The CASA Program of Delaware County has been in operation for over 30 years and just recently expanded its services into the Union County Juvenile Court using state funding provided specifically for that purpose.

In 2015, CASA of Delaware County advocated for 108 children, with a volunteer staff of 23 individuals, significant strides were made to help better the lives of children who were court involved through no fault of their own. Currently there are two full-time staff members in Delaware County.

CASA Volunteers are not only valuable to the children they serve, but to the community as well. National CASA statistics show that with CASA involvement on a case, children are less likely to re-enter the juvenile system and are more motivated to pursue their education. CASA volunteers are very valuable individuals who truly make a difference in a child's life.

### **Strategic Planning**

The Strategic Planning Quality Control Manager, under the supervision of the court administrator, is a newly created position in fiscal year 2015. The position is responsible for the coordination and development of the Court's strategic plan, as well as developing quality control guidelines. The quality control guidelines are for the programs within the Court to measure operational functions. The position also reviews the workflow of court processes to identify gaps as well as overlapping services.

As a new position within the court, the strategic planner began with The Big Picture Project. The project is an internal review of the practices, policies, and procedures of the Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court. The Court began reviewing these functions to assure that the standards and practices of the court are efficient, practical, and evidenced-based, to

identify gaps in services, and to identify where Court employees saw new services the Court could provide. The project further serves as a compass for the Court by identifying areas of improvement in an effort to refine the Court's strategic plan.

The project began in May 2015 with an expected timeframe of one year to complete a review of the Court's program services departments. Within that timeframe, areas of growth will continue to be identified and work plans put in place. The Court's program services departments consist of the Probation, Intake, and Treatment Court teams. All program services department employees and a sample of Court employees who interact with these departments have been interviewed.

Interviews also occurred with various members of the public, professionals, and service providers who regularly work with the Court. Members of the public included the youth and caretakers, and those that come to the court seeking services. Professionals included defense attorneys, member of the Delaware County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and various counselors working with court involved juveniles. Service providers included the Delaware County Department of Job and Family Services, the Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities, various local law enforcement departments and multiple school faculty and administrators.

The current phase of the Big Picture Project is creating work plans and quality control measures for the areas of identified growth within the program services department. The remaining departments will be reviewed starting in Mid-2016.