

Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court

Judge David A. Hejmanowski

2020 Annual Report

Message from the Judge

This is certainly an annual report like no other before it. As 2020 dawned, we anticipated a year of new successes and challenges, new opportunities and continued development of programs started in recent years. But even in early January, we began to hear reports that the next major pandemic, well overdue by historical standards, could be upon us.

In late February, I traveled to Washington, D.C. for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' 'Days on the Hill' meetings with members of Congress, and before I left, Court Administrator Katie Stenman and I sat down and put our pandemic operations and preparedness plans into place. The first few cases of this new Covid-19 virus were just appearing in the United States, but it was already apparent what was coming.

By the time I returned to Ohio a week later, cities on the west coast were going into lockdown, case reports were appearing across the nation, and the technology purchases- extra laptops, webcams, and Zoom video licenses- we had made the week before, suddenly seemed far less over-cautious than we first feared they would be. By mid-March, Ohio was in a pandemic driven lockdown, and we were facing a new reality in court operations.

From the beginning, we tried to take an approach that focused on two things. First, that a pandemic is not a short-term situation. History tells us that most last at least three years, though modern vaccine science seems likely to shorten this one. Thus, we immediately communicated to our staff and the local bar that our modified operations were likely to be in place for a year, or perhaps even longer. Second, that the litigants we serve have issues that cannot be put off or ignored- we had to find a way to continue to serve them.

I am forever indebted to my incredible co-workers, who consistently adjusted on the fly, invented new workarounds, and turned their kitchens, living rooms, and dens into probation offices, document scanning stations, and call centers. We instituted a two-team system of operations (which was in place for almost exactly one year, as we originally predicted), shifted most hearings to telephone and video, and plowed ahead with normal hearing timelines.

And the results were amazing. Our hearing participation rate skyrocketed- not surprising when litigants no longer had to manage transportation issues, or taking time off of work. Our efficiency in processing documents held steady, or even improved. Our hearings all got done, and throughout the pandemic we frequently had only one, or many times no cases beyond the Supreme Court time guidelines. We found new ways to do things, some of which will live on beyond the pandemic.

Drug tests got done. Estates got processed. Adoptions happened (either remotely, or in person, depending on the preference of the family), trials went on, in person, with masks. Marriage licenses got issued via Zoom. And a record number of truancy mediations were conducted- supporting our local schools through a very weird year.

We hope that 2021 and 2022 will see a return to more traditional operations, but even if they do, we will come out the other side knowing more, and able to be more flexible with technology and remote work. And that will benefit all who need our services.

Employees of the Probate/Juvenile Court

Judicial

David A. Hejmanowski, Judge
Kari Childs, Magistrate
Thomas C. Clark, II Magistrate
Robert Rice, Magistrate
Benjamin Suffron, II, Magistrate

Katie Stenman, Court Administrator

CASA

Tammy Matias, CASA Coordinator
Meagan Belcher, CASA Assistant
Melanie Kempton, Volunteer Coordinator
Jonathon Klemanski, Assistant CASA Coordinator
Elizabeth Neff, CASA Assistant

Clerical Services

Renee Lovelien, Clerical Services Department Head
Janet Ritter, Probate Office Manager
Debora Thomas, Judicial Services Manager
Nicole Cox, Juvenile Clerk
Rachel Dennison, Juvenile Clerk
Janette Haag, Juvenile Clerk
Cassandra Jewell, Probate Clerk
Marilyn Kinniard, Juvenile Clerk
Melanie Layton, Records Clerk
Stacey Morris, Probate Clerk
Molly Mustard, Juvenile Clerk
Lisa Patterson, Probate Clerk
Karen Peaks, Probate Clerk
Rene Ray, Receptionist
Sarah Reger, Probate Clerk
Samantha Swope, Juvenile Clerk

Fiscal

Karen Wadkins, Fiscal Coordinator
Angela Riley, Court Services Analyst/Training Coordinator
Debbie Wells, Fiscal Specialist

Intake

Lisa Williamson, Director of Court Services
Stacy Blair, City School Liaison/Intake Supervisor
Sara Kapel, Intake Supervisor
Kimberly Baker, Family Advocate
Melanie Bange, Mentoring Coordinator
Alan Bryan, Intake/Diversion Officer
Sydney Buckley, Victim Services Assistant
Vikki Hardwick, County School Attendance Officer
Sharon Moran, Family Support Specialist
Adrienne Murray, Family Advocate
Eddie Parker, Diversion Officer
Ruchelle Pride, Assessment Center Supervisor
Jennifer Stokes, Assessment Center Intake Officer
Josh Williams, Family Advocate Coordinator
Dana Wisecarver, Victim Services Coordinator

Mediation

Kira Crawford, Mediator
Dodie Davenport, Mediator
April Nelson, Mediator

Probate

Donna Bukovec, Adoption Assessor
Teresa Tackett, Court Visitor Program Manager/Probate Court Investigator
Pamela Vest, Probate Court Investigator

Probation and Treatment

Kara Moore, Chief Probation Officer
Marc Camboni, Field Probation Officer
Gia DeGirolamo, Probation Officer
Kevin Krasa, Probation Officer
Michelle Leighty, Probation Officer
Mitch Lockhart, Probation Assistant
Bobby Massie, Probation Officer
Megan Rivers, Treatment Court Coordinator
Ken Ward, Community Service/Restitution Work Coordinator

Probate Court Statistics

Type of Filing	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Estates	444	485	501	487	546	542
Guardianship of Minors	45	27	34	44	35	27
Guardianship of Incompetents	55	66	45	57	70	64
Conservatorships	3	2	1	1	1	0
Testamentary Trusts	21	14	7	11	7	2
Civil Actions	24	11	34	15	15	14
Adoptions	39	44	48	52	41	34
Mental Commitment	7	2	2	1	2	3
Minor Settlement	18	10	20	19	8	14
Wrongful Death ¹	42	23	16	15	12	7
Registration/Correction Birth Record	3	2	6	6	6	4
Change of Name	73	82	92	100	126	117
Marriage Applications Granted	898	879	886	856	781	871
Miscellaneous Filings ²	97	77	91	92	99	116
	1769	1724	1783	1756	1749	1815

¹ Miscellaneous filings include: Disinterment, Dispensing with Guardianship, Wills for Deposit, Administrative Orders, and other filings not specifically reported to the Ohio Supreme Court.

Age of Adult Wards Under Guardianship	
Age Range	
18-30	244
31-50	100
51-70	77
71-90	50
91+	5
Total	476

Types of Adoptions Processed	
Adult	4
Private	5
Private - Agency	1
Adoption Preplacement	1
Public Agency	2
Refinalization	5
Step-parent	16
Total	34

Marriage Licenses Issued by Month	
January	28
February	39
March	42
April	48
May	63
June	79
July	83
August	100
September	120
October	112
November	39
December	59
TOTAL	812

<u>Estate Cases Filed</u>	
* Does not include re-open actions in same case number	
TYPE OF ESTATE	Total
Ancillary Administration	5
Full Administration	304
Probate Will	1
Release From Administration	92
Real Estate Transfer	18
Special Administration	1
Short Form Release	5
Summary Release	64
Taxes	0
Wrongful Death	7
Will for Record Only	16
TOTAL	513

Types of Hearings Scheduled	Number of Hearings
Case Review	25
Adoption Consent	0
Adult Adoption	4
Appointment of Guardian	97
Appointment of Co-Guardian	17
Appointment of Fiduciary	4
Disinterment	5
Will Admission	1
Evidentiary	2
Hearing	118
Insolvency	5
Minor's Claim/Minor Guardianship Matter	24
Name Change - Adult	78
Name Change - Minor	51
Non-Oral Hearing	8
Pre-Placement Adoption	2
Private Agency Adoption	2
Private Placement Adoption	4
Public Agency Adoption	2
Refinalization of Foreign Adoption	5
Status Conference	41
Step-Parent Adoption	21
PreTrial	2
Trial	4
TOTAL	522

Results of Probate Scheduled Hearings	Number of Hearings
Continued	71
Failure to appear	10
Dismissed	3
Informal / No Recording	5
Heard	378
Non-Oral Complete	7
Vacated	48
Total	522

A Total of 765 inventory and accounts were filed and reviewed by non-oral hearing during 2020.

Juvenile Court Statistics

Traffic Citations Filed

Traffic Citation	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Speed	335	329	345	401	312	326	238
Assured Clear Distance	129	128	168	163	140	131	78
Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence	19	11	15	13	8	17	18
Failure to Control	54	60	69	48	55	60	56
No License/Permit, Suspended or Restrictions	42	27	50	48	47	61	56
Seat Restraint violations	28	25	27	38	28	31	13
Failure to Yield/Right of Way	85	24	75	103	70	92	55
Use of Wireless Electronic Device/Texting	2	1	4	1	4	4	1
Distracted Driving						15	14
Traffic Control Signal Violations	26	36	50	40	36	45	23
Improper Driving Actions*	44	108	74	86	49	52	43
Miscellaneous Actions	62	13	35	31	74	35	21
Total	826	762	912	972	823	869	616

*Encompasses various charges including lane violations, improper turns, and hit skips.

Unruly/Delinquency

In 2020, 597 delinquent/unruly charges were filed creating 232 formalized cases. These matters resulted in 92 adjudicated charges involving 84 youth. Remaining charges were handled by diversion, case dismissal, or may still be pending into 2021. In addition, there were 30 counts of either a violation of court orders or violations of probation filed during the year.

Charges Filed and Adjudicated in 2020 - some charges remain pending into 2021		
	Number of Charges Filed	Number of charges adjudicated
Vehicular Homicide	1	0
Assault and Menacing		
Assault	47	18
Menacing	9	1
Sexual Offenses		
Rape	3	0
Pandering/illegal use - minor in nude material	4	1
Sexual Battery	0	0
Sexual Imposition	6	3
Disseminating Material Harmful to Juveniles	3	3
Kidnapping, Restraint, Extortion & Coercion	0	0
Property related offenses		
Criminal Damaging	11	5
Criminal Mischief	6	0
Vandalism	0	0
Robbery, Burglary, Trespass, and Safecracking		
Burglary	0	0
Robbery	2	2
Criminal Trespassing	5	0
Breaking and Entering	1	1
Possession of Criminal Tools	1	0
Theft and Fraud		
Theft	28	12
Misuse of Credit Cards	0	0
Identify Fraud/Falsification/ Forgery	3	1
Receiving Stolen Property	11	6
Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle	2	1
Offenses Against the Public Peace		
Disorderly Conduct	47	13
Telephone Harassment	1	0
Inducing Panic	1	0
Disrupting Public	1	1
Making False Alarms	2	0
Violating Protection Order	0	0
Voyeurism/Public Indecency	0	0
Offenses Against the Family		

Domestic Violence	28	0
Offenses Against Justice and Public Administration		
Obstructing Justice	21	5
Tampering with Evidence	0	0
Resisting Arrest / failure to comply with police order	7	4
Conspiracy, Attempt and Complicity, Weapons Control, Corrupt Activity		
Weapons Control/Possession/Conceal	1	1
Attempt – often used as amended charge	0	0
Complicity	0	0
Possession of a Controlled Substance	27	5
Possession of Drugs / Drug Paraphernalia	39	6
Offenses Involving Underage Persons / Alcohol	60	9
Aggravated Trafficking	1	1
Other Offenses		
Unruly Child	157	23
Prohibitions Relating to Tobacco	11	0
Habitual Truant	25	0
Unruly School Truant	5	0
Curfew	5	0
Swimming Prohibited	10	0
Other Offenses	5	5
Total	597	127

Primary Charges by Zip Code, Gender and Age

City Name	Zip	Gender		Juvenile Age at filing date										Total
		Female	Male	9	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
Bradford, PA	16701		1									1		1
Ashley	43003		2								1	1		2
Blacklick	43004		1									1		1
Delaware	43015	38	78	3	4	9	6	13	18	34	25	4	116	
Dublin	43016		2					1			1		2	
Dublin	43017	5	3				1		1	4	1	1	8	
Galena	43021	8	9				2		3	3	9		17	
Hilliard	43026		3								2	1	3	
Lewis Center	43035	25	33		4		8	3	10	18	15		58	
Marysville	43040	3							1	1		1	3	
Ostrander	43061	1	2						1	1	1		3	
Powell	43065	12	34		1	5		2	8	19	11		46	
Radnor	43066	1						1					1	
Reynoldsburg	43068	1									1		1	
Sunbury	43074	8	18			1		4	8	7	5	1	26	
Westerville *	43081	3	5				1		1	1	5		8	
Westerville	43082	8	34				2	2	8	13	17		42	
Worthington	43085		5							3	2		5	
Grove City	43123	2				1						1	2	
London	43140		1							1			1	
West Jefferson	43162		1						1				1	
Columbus	43202		1							1			1	
Columbus	43204	1	1							1	1		2	
Columbus	43205		1						1				1	
Columbus	43206		1							1			1	
Columbus	43211		4					1		1	1	1	4	
Whitehall	43213		1								1		1	
Columbus	43214		3							1	2		3	
Upper Arlington	43221	1									1		1	
Columbus	43222	1									1		1	
Columbus	43224	1	2								3		3	
Whitehall	43227		3							2	1		3	
Lincoln Village	43228		1							1			1	
Worthington	43229		3				1				2		3	
Minerva Park	43231		3								3		3	
Blacklick Estates	43232		4					2		2			4	
Columbus	43235		2								2		2	
Columbus	43240	1	2			1				2			3	
Marion	43301		1							1			1	
Marion	43302		3						1	2			3	
Prospect	43342		1								1		1	
Wooster	44691		1								1		1	
Springfield	45504	1									1		1	
TOTAL		121	270											

Abused Neglect Dependent Charges Filed 2020		
Description of Individual Charges	Charges filed	Adjudicated
Abused Child Out of home Abuse	0	0
Abused Child - Exhibits Injury	17	0
Abused Child - No Conviction Required	36	2
Abused Child - Victim Sexual Activity	3	0
Abused Child- Acts Causing Injury	29	2
Dependent Child - Residential Status Danger	1	0
Dependent Child - Residential Status Act	1	0
Dependent Child- Environmental Condition	72	46
Dependent Child- Homeless	63	4
Dependent Child- Parental condition	64	3
Neglected Child Abandoned	7	0
Neglected Child - Injury by Omission	25	1
Neglected Child - Lack Parental Care	36	2
Neglected child - Out of Home	0	0
Neglected Child - Placement Violation	0	0
Neglected Child - Special care	0	0
Neglected Child-Parental Refusal	0	0
TOTAL *108 charges remain pending	396	60

Motions for Permanent Custody	
Filed in 2020	3
Carried over into 2020	8
Granted in 2020	10
Dismissed in 2020	0
Carried over into 2021	1

Number of Juvenile Hearings Scheduled in 2020

Type of Schedule Hearings Juvenile 2020	Total
Family Treatment Court	246
Bridges Hearing	6
Case Review	537
Change of Plea	60
Child Support	21
Civil Protection Order	1
Competency Proceeding	27
Compliance Review	137
Contempt	0
Initial Detention Hearing	59
Detention Review	41
Disposition	165
Evidentiary Hearing	13
Formal Arraignment	448
In Camera Review	4
Traffic Formal Arraignment	532
Show Cause	6
Miscellaneous	46
Motion Hearing	154
Non-oral Hearing	24
Objection	0
Permanent Custody	14
Pre-trial	774
Probable Cause	71
Restitution	18
Sealing/Expungement	56
Specialized Docket Case Review	138
Specialized Docket Hearing	1
Classification Hearing	3
Status Hearing	55
Suppression	5
Juvenile Treatment Court	10
Trial	304
Violation of Court Order	45
Violation of Probation	50

Results of Scheduled Juvenile Hearings 2020	Total
Continued	519
Denial Entered	80
Dismissal – no hearing	12
Failure to Appear	120
Heard	2708
Informal Hearing	176
Non-oral Hearing	5
Vacated	451
Grand Total	4071

Juvenile Court Process in 2020

- 361 summons issued in 317 cases
- 14 warrants created/issued & 19 outstanding warrants executed or recalled
- There were 430 appointments of a Public Defender
- A Guardian ad Litem was appointed in 190 Juvenile cases
- 6 cases requested jury trial, all resolved prior to summoning a jury
- Approx. 183 written record requests were provided yearly from government, law enforcement, military, or probation services

Phone Calls Handled 2020		
	Probate	Juvenile
Incoming	11,980	7,410
Outbound	2,309	3,405
Total Hours	380	280

Documents Service Types		
	Probate	Juvenile
Certified Mail	311	353
Sheriff Service	0	136
Subpoena	12	404
Personal	12	74
Electronic Service	0	20
Publication	104	3

Clerical Services

The Clerical Services Department assigns staff in both the Probate and Juvenile Courts. Each department operates independently of the other and follows local rules created for each Court. Clerical staff are involved in all areas of the Court by processing filings from the beginning to the end of the case. One of the core functions of the Clerical Services Department is to maintain accurate and complete records of all court proceedings. The Clerical Services Department receives case filings and documents in person, facsimile, mail, and E-filing through a client registered system. Cross training between Probate and Juvenile clerical staff continues to be on-going, with a goal to provide services when needed without interruption to either Court.

Our clerical staff believe that it is important to continually look for ways to improve our service to the court and the public we serve. We also reinforce the need to keep up with the latest changes to the law and its effect on the Courts with training opportunities. Participation in Court-wide and departmental team meetings reinforce the importance of education for all staff. Attendance at a yearly conference for deputy clerks provides networking and information on the latest practices of other Ohio Probate and Juvenile Courts. The staff also have opportunities throughout the year to attend events developed by the Court's training coordinator and also are encouraged to attend Supreme Court trainings onsite or via their desktop computers.

One Department Head oversees both Probate and Juvenile Clerical Services staff. Probate Court clerical staff for 2020 included an Office Manager and five Deputy Clerks. Each clerk is assigned a Probate case type for efficient processing for the duration of the pending Probate case. Juvenile Court clerical staff for 2020 included 10 Deputy Clerks. Areas of assignment include: traffic court, records, courtroom services, treatment court, probation, jury services, docketing and processing, assignment commissioners, and client services. In 2020, the juvenile court processed 24,960 docket entries in 1,960 cases and the probate court processed 46,210 docket entries in 3,519 cases.

The Court's Records Office audits, reviews, and processes the Court's filed documents for preservation. Scanned documents save time and increase efficiencies, by allowing the image to be electronically accessed versus the previous requirement of physically locating each case file and the required document. The Probate and Juvenile Clerks Office scanned 54,485 documents in 2020. Although, each case filing can contain multiple images, there have been approximately 777,759 document images uploaded and 42 boxes sent to the County Record Center for historic preservation on microfilm.

The Probate/Juvenile Court follows the Supreme Court of Ohio's guidelines for language interpreters by using in-person certified interpreters for the majority of the Court's matters. In 2020, the Court set 13 in-person/Zoom interpretation events for a cost of \$ 3,066.85. Of the interpreters, requested 62% of requests for an interpreter were for the Spanish language, others included Arabic, Somali and ASL. The Court also uses telephonic interpreters when in-person interpreter service are not available. In 2020, the service was used 26 times for 486 minutes, Nepali language services accounted for 214 minutes. The Court also used translation services to provide documents in the Nepali language for court involved family.

The Court's website is actively utilized by the public. In 2020, the Probate Court website was visited 133,496 times, with the self-service probate forms being the most utilized feature by both the public and court staff. The Juvenile Court website was visited 28,922 times with the

hearing schedules receiving the most traffic. The E-services portal is accessed to perform 1,664 e-filings, 900 e-marriage license applications, and 357 Juvenile E-payments.

Court Visitor Program

The year 2020 was a challenging year for the Court Visitor program due to the pandemic. In March 2020, a statewide stay at home order was put in place which resulted in all in-person visits being halted. A letter from Judge David A. Hejmanowski was sent to all guardians encouraging them to adhere to CDC guidelines to maintain the safety of their wards during the health pandemic and this program assisted with this project.

Nursing homes were closed to visitors due to the pandemic and guardians were not allowed to visit in person at nursing homes. Some guardians participated in window visits while others relied on the nursing home staff to maintain contact with them regarding their wards. The Court Visitor program was also affected by the loss of a few volunteers due to their concern surrounding possible exposure to the virus.

The Court Visit program developed a different approach to conducting visits. Initially telephone visits were conducted followed up by an additional call with a supportive agency of the ward. Eventually, the Visitors were able to once again conduct visits at the private homes, while remaining socially distanced outside. However, nursing homes visits and day program visits were still prohibited.

The Court Visitor program conducted 97 visits in 2020. 34% of the wards visited were 55 or older and 45% of the guardians were 55 or older. As a result of these visits, the Court Visitor program identified one guardian who was replaced due to non-fulfillment of guardianship responsibilities and two other guardians who resigned to allow another guardian to be appointed due to difficulties in fulfilling their roles as guardian. One guardianship case was identified which need to be transferred to another state jurisdiction to allow for closer monitoring of the guardianship.

The Court Visitor program continues to reach out to various groups and methods with volunteer recruitment. The Court Visitor Program Director also served on a workgroup with the Supreme Court of Ohio to develop a judicial tool kit for developing Court Visitor programs in other counties. This was scheduled to be presented in June 2020, but was delayed due to pandemic.

Juvenile Court - Intake Department

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 a case is sealed and dismissed upon successful completion. The Diversion Program has been enhanced with a strong evidenced-based approach to better assess youth and to not unnecessarily keep them involved with the Court. Diversion has three levels: fast track, general, and intensive.

Fast Track Diversion is for low risk offenders that score 2 and below on the OYAS. It is the Court's practice for low risk offenders to have minimal contact with the Court and no more than thirty days of court supervision. General Diversion is for youth who score a moderate risk but borderline high risk on the OYAS and are supervised for no more than a 90 day period. Intensive Diversion is reserved for a limited amount of youth with an OYAS risk level of moderate but borderline high, and it is determined to need additional support and services for period of time not to exceed 180 days. Group Diversion conferences continued in 2020 for alleged juvenile co-defendants. It allows for increased responsibility for each youth involved in an offense and reduces blame on others by youth or parents.

New to diversion in 2020, the Court added diversion as an opportunity for some second time offenders. This is done on a case-by-case basis considering but not limited to the following criteria: the age of the youth when first Diversion occurred and the age of the second Diversion, the time in between charges; the nature of the second charge and it relates to the first time charge (ex: first charge being an Unruly at an early age, and second charge occurring at age 17), home and school behaviors along with work history in the community are taken into account to determine youth's likely hood of further recidivism.

During this past year the pandemic presented unique challenges for the program. Prior to Covid-19, youth and families came into the court building for their diversion conferences. The program adapted to the new COVID precautions standards by meeting families "where they are" by holding diversion conferences in the community; socially distanced in parks, backyards, and public areas. For families who had safety concerns about leaving the house, zoom and telephone conference were utilized. This reduced multiple barriers resulted in the highest customer satisfaction score to date. Customer satisfaction surveys are provided to youth and families after the Diversion conference has been held. The survey rates the Diversion on a Likert scale of 1-4. For the past several year, the diversion program boasts a customer satisfaction average of 3.980. After a diversion has been successfully completed, an additional customer satisfaction feedback survey is sent to the youth/family. In 2020, the program boasts the highest post diversion customer satisfaction average score of 3.980.

In 2020 the Court conducted 163 diversions. Of the 163 cases, 131 youth successfully completed diversion in 2020. Five cases were unsuccessfully terminated from diversion due to new charges or failure to complete diversion terms. Twenty-seven cases remain open going into 2021. Of the 131 successful youth, 13 youth had new charges filed within six months of their termination from diversion for a success rate of 90%.

Intake

The intake department is a youth and family's first contact in the court system. The intake team handles all juvenile court referrals and complaints. All cases are handled in accordance with Rule 9 of the Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure, 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." In July of 2017, the intake department created three separate program areas to serve youth who are not placed on probation due to a low risk

level on the OYAS screening tool. The three program areas are: intervention in lieu, general intake and progressive intake. Youth are placed into the program area based upon their offense type and risk score. Depending on the program area the youth are placed, the placement determines the program service hours received. The programs identify the criminogenic need areas for the youth, provide or refer to appropriate interventions to address those needs while keeping low risk youth from further penetrating the juvenile justice system. This year 24 intervention in lieu, 34 general intake, and 4 progressive intake cases were opened.

In 2020, fishing club was created to provide a safe, outdoor activity for at-risk and court-involved youth, teaching them how to fish. The program was jointly run with the Delaware City Police Department. Youth were invited to meet at local parks with juvenile court staff as well as law enforcement, where all supplies (rods, reels and bait) were provided. The goal was to provide youth an activity they could use as a coping skill, while remaining safe during the pandemic. The program ran for two and half hours weekly for eight sessions. A total of three hundred positive activity hours were completed over the course of the program.

Truancy

The Court has a dedicated docket to manage the case load regarding truant and unruly behavior at local schools throughout Delaware County. The purpose and goal of the dedicated docket is to centralize the hearing schedules of the City and County School Liaisons, as well as to ensure quick resolutions to cases. The dedicated docket hears cases regarding truancy, unruly activity at school, failure to send children to school as well as adult contributing charges. Cases can only be formalized once alternative efforts are attempted to divert the cases from the Court. In that effort, the School Liaisons meet with the children at issue and attempt to address barriers to attendance. If that is unsuccessful in curbing the truant/unruly behavior, a mediation is scheduled with the Court's Mediator. During the mediation, a Student Attendance Intervention Plan (SAIP) is created in effort to prevent charges from being filed. Parents and students are provided a copy of the mediation agreement/SAIP immediately following mediation. If there is not an improvement in attendance over the next sixty days, the school can choose to file a charge on the child and/or the parent, depending on the issues at hand in each case. Every effort is made to prevent charges from being filed. It is the collaboration with the school staff, court staff, and the student's family that helps to encourage and improve school attendance. April 6, 2017, HB 410 was enacted as law. That Bill has changed a number of particular requirements regarding truancy and how the schools and the Court handle those issues. Of note is that through the School Liaisons and the Court Mediator, this Court was already nearly in full compliance of the Bill before it was even drafted, signed and enacted. Much of the Bill regards the counting of time absent from school, the implementation of diversionary programming prior to formalizing charges as well as reporting requirements on the Court and schools.

School Liaisons

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic brought challenges addressing and intervening with school attendance/truancy matters. Truancy has always been challenging due to the fact that there are generally underlying issues and reasons for a student's lack of school attendance. Many schools entered into hybrid learning or completely on-line education making it even more challenging and difficult to motivate habitually truant students to attend school and/or engage in an online learning platform. Online platforms require parental/custodial involvement and not all parents/custodians are available to assist due to their own commitments that help provide the students shelter and food. School and court staff had to change how truancy matters were handled in order to engage students and parents. Mediations for Delaware City Schools (DCS), Delaware Area Career Center (DACC), and Olentangy Oasis were moved to a remote format via Zoom to address attendance concerns and create Student Absence Intervention Plan (SAIP). Big Walnut Local School District (Big Walnut), Buckeye Valley Local School District (Buckeye Valley), and Olentangy Local School District (Olentangy) mediations occurred with students in person with parents attending virtually. HB410 policies were followed resulting in great success. The utilization of Zoom mediations to create the SAIP, improved the completion/participation rate to 99% compared to 85% when families had to physically come in the building.

For 2020, the School Liaison(s) and School Attendance Officer continue to reach out and connect with families. There were 418 informal interventions regarding attendance concerns. This contact was handled by phone, email, letter, and home visits when necessary. The necessary Covid-19 safety measures and precautions were taken when home visits occurred. Court and School staff met with families outside their home while wearing a mask/PPE. For 2020, of the 418 interventions, only 10 charges of truancy were filed with the court; all were initially handled via Diversion. One diversion case was formalized due to the youth did not successfully complete the program resulting in an adjudication. In 7 out of 10 of truancy cases, the juvenile's attendance improved and Diversion was successful, resulting in a dismissal of the charge. There are 2 pending truancy cases that were filed in 2020 still active in 2021. The circumstances in these two cases are being addressed which will hopefully allow for a successful diversion. Although 2020 brought upon many barrier to the daily operations due to the pandemic, it has not stopped school and court staff from supporting and engaging students from elementary through high school.

Delaware County Schools 2020/2021 Interventions:

	Delaware	Buckeye Valley	Big Walnut	Olentangy	DACC	Total
Informal Meeting	338	75	58	208	164	843
Mediations Scheduled	250	75	121	132	60	638
Contributing Charges Filed	27	4	7	7	1	46
Truancy Charges Filed*	24	1	9	6	0	40
Diversion Successful	14	1	1	3	0	19
Adjudicated	1	0	0	0	0	1
Pending	9	0	8	3	0	20

*All juveniles charged with truancy were offered diversion. There was one juvenile adjudicated in 2020 due to noncompliance with the diversion agreement. This truancy charges stems from attendance issues that occurred during the prior school year.

Victim Services

The Delaware County Juvenile Court Victim Services Program was established 1987. It was established to provide information and support for victims of juvenile crime and to ensure that case-related court decisions include greater consideration for the victim. The program is committed to informing victims 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 victims and that victims regain some degree of wholeness after an offense has been committed against them. In 2020, the Victim Services Program provided services to 310 victims of juvenile crime.

The year 2020 proved to be a challenge for the Victim Services Program. The ability to connect face-to-face with victims was very limited due to COVID-19 protocols. However, the program adapted to the situation by creating a communication pathway through email, telephone and Zoom. As a result, we discovered that the percentage of victims participating in juvenile court cases actually increased. Travel was no longer an obstacle and victims appreciated the decreased time-commitment and having the option of not having to face the offender in person.

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. The Victim Services Program is member of the Delaware County Coalition of Victim Services, which is involved with raising community awareness of victim-related crimes in Delaware County. Each spring the Coalition organizes "Walk a Mile in her Shoes" to support awareness of sexual abuse. The Program also actively promotes National Crime Victim's Right Week in April and Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

Victim Awareness Program

Created 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 making good choices by giving juveniles tools that can help them be more successful in their daily lives. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Victim Awareness classes scheduled after February of 2020 were conducted through Zoom meetings. In 2020, of the 20 juveniles who successfully completed the program, none have committed a subsequent offense. Since its inception, the recidivism rate for juveniles who have successfully completed the Victim Awareness Program is 9.0%, giving the program a 91% success rate.

Restitution Tracking and Compliance Program

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. 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. In 2018, a Restitution Docket was established. This docket holds juveniles accountable for making regular payments toward the restitution owed by requiring them to attend a monthly hearing if a monthly payment is not made according to terms agreed upon by the juvenile at the time of disposition. VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funding was obtained through a grant that subsidizes a 25 hours/week Restitution Specialist who oversees the process of restitution collection and compliance. In fiscal year 2020, the Court received and distributed \$11,770 in restitution to victims of juvenile crime.

Mentoring Programs

Like all Court programming, 2020 was a year filled with challenges for the Court's two mentoring programs. Together Everyone Achieves More (T.E.A.M.), and Mothers Offering Mentoring Support (M.O.M.S.), are modeled similarly. Both are one-to-one mentoring programs that meet weekly. Both programs offer a once a month large group time with the purpose of mentors communicating about their match's strength/struggles and for mentees to socialize in a space outside of academic/structured environments, and each match can bond in a new environment. Until matched, the Mentoring Programs Coordinator meets with each mentee. Once matched, the Coordinator monitors each match through monthly check-ins with the mentee/family and trainings with the mentor. As the year progressed, meetings with students and families have shifted to be virtually through a variety of platforms, via phone call or text message, and in outdoor climates while wearing masks to comply with COVID-19 mandates.

Prior to pandemic, T.E.A.M. served mentees from ages 10-14 years old determined to be “at-risk” for making poor choices, needing support with behaviors, and who have the potential to be susceptible to drug/alcohol use. Beginning summer of 2020, T.E.A.M. expanded to serve mentees aged in grades 4-12, determined to be “at risk” to enter court system involvement, or has a documented identified need for additional nonclinical social-emotional support. Referrals for T.E.A.M. come from Court programs, the school system, law enforcement, and families. Mentors teach reasoning skills behind behaviors, innovative ways of thinking about daily topics, and provide various free/low cost ideas that students can do within their own personal lives. Goal setting process using the *40 Developmental Assets* from The Search Institute have been implemented. T.E.A.M. continues to utilize the After School Activities portion of the *Too Good for Drugs* curriculum between each match and during large group times. During large group times, youth are split into two groups with grades 4-7 and grades 8-12. As of December 2020, there were 15 youth fully enrolled; 2 in grades 4-7, 9 in grades 8-12, and 4 currently awaiting to be matched. Throughout 2020, T.E.A.M. withdrew or found better fitting services for 16 adolescents.

As a result of COVID-19 restrictions, the program had to think of new ways to meet the goals of the program while keeping all parties safe. Individual matches and family needs became the top priority. Mentoring created a resource library of materials available for mentors to borrow. Matches have had success meeting virtually with students.

The M.O.M.S. program pairs pregnant/new mothers with experienced mothers as mentors. The mentees in M.O.M.S. need support with parenting/self-sufficiency skills. Mentors support new/expectant families with child development milestones, scheduling/maintaining of appointments, family self-care, and self-sufficiency skills. M.O.M.S. utilizes workbooks with InJoy Health Education for pregnancy and is currently selecting a curriculum to use for after the child is born. Currently, mentors are sharing credible information from national organizations such as the Center of Disease Control and the American Association of Pediatrics to provide support after a child is born. As of December 2020, there were 4 Moms enrolled; all Moms are matched.

In summer of 2020, M.O.M.S. received a grant from the Delaware County Foundation to create a resource library for families. The resource library includes materials mentors may check out with bonding experiences, age appropriate toys for children, and various types of books for moms as well as children. Additionally, this funding has been used to fulfill a few needs of families as job loss has happened during pandemic. The annual baby shower, sponsored by United Way of Delaware County, was moved to summer so families could meet outside. Mentoring Programs and United Way staff caravanned in their individual vehicles and mentors met at the family’s home, delivering gifts and eating small snack to each family.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, M.O.M.S. opted to suspend large group programming. In lieu of the large group meetings, the program added quarterly drop offs of various activities to families to complete with their babies; including pumpkins with information on choking hazards and infant sprinklers with information on types of drowning. Throughout pandemic, M.O.M.S. focus has been on individual matches and family self-sufficiency; bridging the gap

between parenting, youthful mindset, and adult skills has been tested as the year progressed. Matches have been supporting and attaining goal setting processes.

Assessment Center

One of the Court's major accomplishments in 2019, was the receipt of a grant from the Department of Youth Services to open an Assessment Center. Beginning to provide services on November 1, the Assessment Center opened in the Willis Education Building. The center will implement cutting edge practices to continue the county's trend of reducing the cost, personal impact, and future implications of juvenile delinquency.

Space for the Assessment Center is being generously provided by the Delaware City Schools and the United Way Strengthening Families Initiative which already provides a number of community resources in the Willis Education Building. The Assessment Center is part of a growing initiative to serve juveniles in the least restrictive setting and also to intervene with children exhibiting problem behaviors before they become formally involved with the juvenile justice system. As its name suggests, youth referred to the Assessment Center will receive a series of assessments and screenings to determine both youth-specific and family needs. Based on the outcome of those assessments, youth will be referred to any number of community partners to meet those needs and the assessments will inform the decision whether youth will be either diverted from formal court involvement.

A growing body of research demonstrates that low-risk youth have better outcomes when served outside of a traditional courtroom setting. The Assessment Center will also provide services for at-risk youth who may be referred by a parent, law enforcement, school, or other community partner, allowing parents, teachers, and law enforcement with a reliable method of early intervention. The same assessment process will help Assessment Center staff determine the needs of at-risk youth and their families with the goal of facilitating linkage between youth and families in need and community partners who have resources to meet the needs. Over the course of 2020, the Court will examine what is working best at the Assessment Center and determine how it can tailor its approach to best serve youth and families, prevent delinquencies, and decrease new court involvement.

The Assessment Center has continued to expand services and support to the community through early intervention and service linkage despite the challenges the year presented. An Intake Officer was hired in April 2020 to support center growth and service delivery. Assessment Center staff have been successful in facilitating virtual brief intervention groups with youth such as Life Skills and spearheading a virtual support group for parents using the Parent Project curriculum. Assessment Center staff routinely engage in continuing education and trainings to increase industry knowledge and expertise.

Assessment Center recommendations include outcomes focused on supporting primary needs of every youth and family referred. Properly assessing and identifying needs is the main objective of the program, and has led to the success of Assessment Center services. In 2020, the Assessment Center served 131 youth and families.

CASA of Delaware and Union Counties

The year 2020 brought a great deal of challenges and successes for the CASA Program of Delaware and Union Counties. The COVID-19 Pandemic was an unexpected event and presented potential challenges in advocating for abused children. Thankfully, CASA Volunteers continued to advocate and protect children throughout the pandemic with several alternatives made available through the courts. Electronic measures were put in place to ensure court hearings could proceed without appearing in-person and volunteers were permitted to visit with their children via zoom, facetime, or skype. Fortunately, these alternative methods preserved the CASA volunteer pool and not one person left the program due to the pandemic. Another potential challenge was new volunteer training and recruitment. Without the ability to connect with the community face to face, a potential increase of much needed volunteers was uncertain. Once again, the program was very fortunate to not only maintain but increase its volunteer numbers. Over 65 inquiries were made to the program in 2020, 30 interviews were conducted and over 20 new volunteers were sworn in to be CASA/GAL's.

Volunteer/Case Statistics:

Volunteer CASA Advocates	58 (Delaware and Union)	
Volunteer Total Case Hours	4500	
Miles Driven by Volunteers Casework	Over 39,000 miles	
Number of Children Served	250	
Female	126	
Male	123	
Unknown	1	
Child Age Range	0-5	119
	6-11	78
	12-15	34
	16-17	16
	18+	3

In 2020, 90 children's cases were closed with a CASA/GAL Volunteer involved. Of those 90 children, 43 achieved reunification, three were adopted, 26 were in kinship placement, one achieved adulthood, and 17 had other outcomes.

In January of 2020, the CASA Program in Union County made the transition to a CASA/GAL Program where the volunteers serve as the Guardian Ad Litem and are represented by a contract attorney. This change was embraced by the volunteers, the court, and agencies across the county. CASA volunteers could now through the assistance of an attorney file motions, question witnesses, and have counsel represent them when testifying. In 2020, 64 abuse, neglect, dependent referrals were made to the CASA/GAL program in Union County

and 61 were accepted. In Delaware County, 31 referrals were made to the CASA Program and 100% of those referrals was served by a CASA Volunteer.

The Annual Judicial Panel was held in November of 2020 via zoom with over 60 people in attendance. As in the past, the Judges and Magistrates of both counties all participated and answered questions submitted by the CASA/GAL Volunteers regarding their casework. Despite being in an electronic environment, the evening was very informative and well received. This year, Judge Charlotte Coleman Eufinger, Probate/Juvenile Judge Union County was honored during the event due to her retirement in February 2021. Additionally, CASA/GAL Volunteer Carole McCague was honored as she received the prestigious Ohio CASA Pro Star of the Year Award. Carole was among many CASA Volunteers across the state who were nominated for this award which recognizes excellence in advocacy and dedication to the CASA Mission. Doug Stephens, Executive Director for Ohio CASA, made the presentation. Although the COVID-19 Pandemic presented many challenges in 2020, the CASA Program of Delaware and Union Counties continued to progress in both advocacy for abused children and increased numbers of new volunteers.

Mediation

The Mediation Department had many changes and challenges in 2020. The Department was well staffed with two longtime mediators, Dodie Davenport and April Nelson, and newer mediator Kira Crawford, added in 2019, who greatly increased her skills and depth of experience in 2020. Ms. Davenport and Ms. Crawford are fulltime employees; Ms. Nelson is part-time, except when additional hours are necessary. 2020 was the introduction year for “Zoom Mediation” in all of our mediation arenas. While all three mediators had a learning curve with this new medium, the Zoom platform allowed our Department to continue all of our mediation services, learn a new tool, and provide assistance in a safe environment to our community.

Ending and starting a new school year with a global pandemic was definitely a major challenge for all. Thanks to having a full team of mediators, additional support from Court school liaisons, and supportive school staff, we were able to maintain our services and learn new ways to conduct our attendance mediations. All school mediations in the 2019-2020 school year ended in mid-March when Governor DeWine closed schools for what eventually became the rest of the academic year. When the schools resumed in the fall, each of the five county districts took individual approaches to attendance and to how we mediated with those students reaching the habitual truant level.

In the two schools that relied solely on Zoom mediations for the 2020-2021 year, not allowing parents or Court staff in their buildings, we saw completion rates at attendance mediations, resulting in the creation of the required Student Absence Intervention Plan, climb to 98% in one district which previously had at best an 82% rate and to 100% in another district, in large part because parents were able to join in the meetings without the barriers of transportation, child care, and job restrictions, to name a few. We will be examining our 2020-2021 school mediation statistics in early summer to see how numbers compared to prior years. In the district seeing the parent involvement rate jump to 98%, the superintendent said the district will not go back entirely to pre-pandemic ways and will keep Zoom an integral element in its attendance mediations.

Another huge change in 2020 was the explosion of child protection and custody cases filed with the Court. In 2019, Judge David A. Hejmanowski had implemented mandatory mediation in all child protection and custody cases in this Court. This increased our caseload from 4 child protection cases in 2019 to 17 in 2020 and from 4 custody cases in 2019 to 6 custody cases in 2020. We anticipate the increase in the child protection arena to be even greater in 2021.

A pandemic decrease in 2019 mediations was in our juvenile offender mediations, as Court staff worked with law enforcement and other agencies to minimize filings for low-level offenses. As a result, juvenile offender mediations dropped from 39 in 2019 to 12 in 2020, a 325% decrease.

April Nelson was set to present at the March 2020 Ohio Supreme Court ADR conference on the topic of “School Attendance: Using Mediation to Strengthen School-Family Relationships,” along with local educator Dr. Adonis Bolden. The conference was canceled the morning of the conference. Dr. Bolden and Ms. Nelson ended up being the debut podcast for the Supreme Court’s Dispute Resolution’s “Civility and Solutions” podcast series, with their podcast being taped and released in July 2020.

2020 Mediation Statistics

Type of Mediation	Referred	Mediated	Outcomes*	Hours**
Attendance***	305	260	260F/40N/5O	152.5
Delinquency	13	9	8F/1N/4O	15
Child Protection	17	7	3F/1P/2N/11O	34
Parenting/Custody	6	4	1F/1P/2N/3O	12
Miscellaneous				
TOTALS	341	280		

*Outcomes are full, partial, no, or other, which can include no show or not suitable for mediation.

**Hours are actual hours in mediation and does not include all the pre- and post-mediation work, including but not limited to scheduling, preparing paperwork, and communication with parties and counsel.

***Outcomes are full (SAIP signed), no mediation, including no show, or other (student moved out of district, for example).

Probation

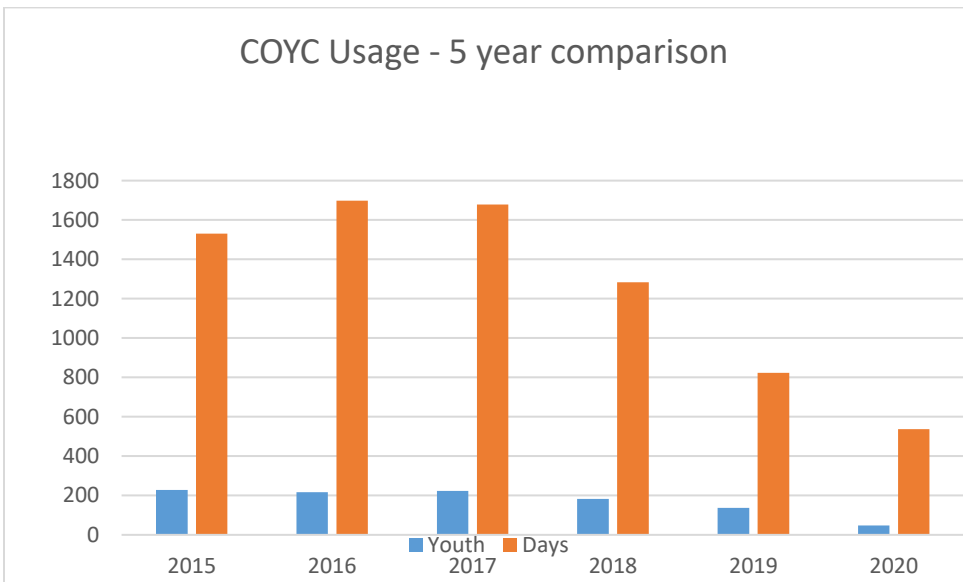
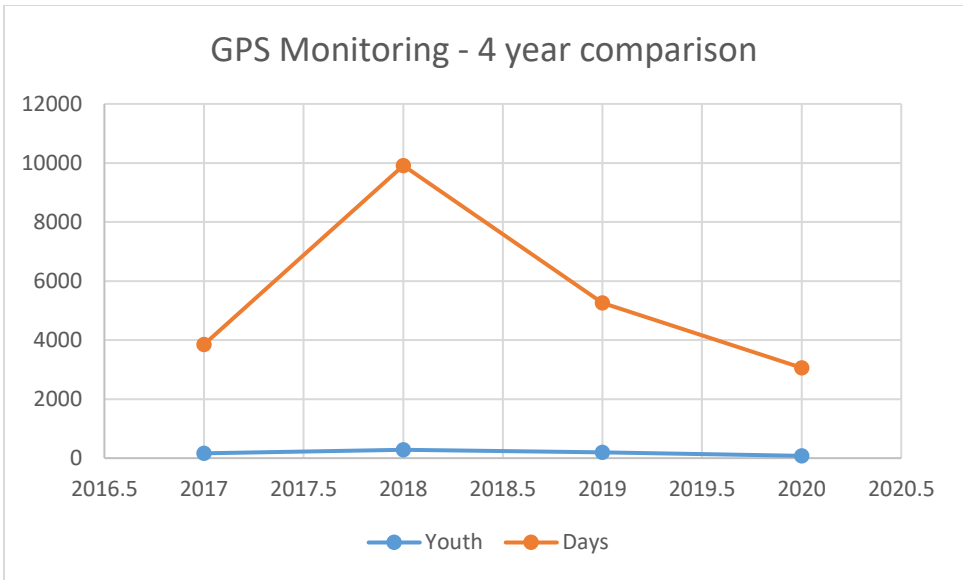
The Probation department is charged with supervising youth who have been recognized as being moderate to high risk by validated assessment tools. Probation officers use evidence based practices such as EPICS, the Carey Guides, and Motivational Interviewing techniques to change behavior and reduce recidivism. Support services for the probation department consist of an afternoon field officer who monitors compliance in the late afternoons and evenings. The department is involved in three specialized dockets: Juvenile Treatment Court, Adult Treatment Court and Juvenile Sex Offender docket.

The year 2020 has presented new challenges to supervising youth in the community. Probation Officers have adjusted to conducting visits virtually and have been using safe contact protocols when in-person meetings are necessary. Precautions such as masks being worn, temporal thermometer use and utilizing larger conference rooms to allow for social distancing have been used. In warmer weather home visits are conducted outside of the residence and because of technology officers are able to have a virtual tour of the residence. While there have been challenges, probation has discovered that work can be conducted in remote locations a majority of the time. Productivity has possibly even increased as interruptions are fewer working in a remote setting. The work is being done and youth are successful. With lower caseloads in 2020 officers have engaged in new training opportunities to expand their resources. Individual officers have participated in training for the Parent Project curriculum, Reimagining Juvenile Justice trainer curriculum, Carey Guides, mindfulness projects and leadership workshops.

Of the 39 youth served by probation during 2020: 29 youth identified as white, 6 identified as African American, 2 identified as Hispanic and 2 identified as mixed race. The Probation team served 28 males and 11 females. In 2020, 22 cases were carried over from 2019, 17 new youth were admitted to the program and 13 were carried over into 2021. Of those youth: 19 were successfully terminated, 3 were unsuccessfully terminated and 1 was terminated neutrally. Neutral termination occurs when a youth has not met all of his or her requirements for a successful termination and there are factors out of his or her control that prevents a successful termination.

Of the youth served by the Juvenile Sex Offender Probation Docket during 2020: 29 youth identified as white and 6 youth identified as African American. We had 11 youth terminated, 10 were successful and 1 was neutral. There were 2 youth placed in residential treatment. The JSO docket served 33 male and 1 female youth.

The court therapy dog, Franklin, continues to grow and learn. In 2020, he earned his AKC puppy S.T.A.R. certificate, his AKC Canine Good Citizen certificate, he has also received his AKC trick dog title in both novice and intermediate. Franklin, and his handler Gia DeGirolamo are working toward the AKC Community Canine certification.



The Suspension Alternative Program/Community Service

The Juvenile Court also runs a Suspension Alternative Program (SAP), which provides daily activities for youth suspended from school. SAP is six hours a day and consists of community service projects for non-profit agencies and government entities. In 2020, 17 youth participated in SAP working 6 hours a day for a total of 102 hours of supervised service. SAP is funded through the Juvenile Court, schools, and a grant from Source Point. In addition to SAP, the Juvenile Court also runs a Community Service Program that allows the youth to work through the Court to meet their community service requirements and earn money to pay their owed restitution. In 2020, 48 youth worked through the community service program on various projects.

Through a partnership with Source Point, the Court served 18 elderly residents of Delaware County in 2020. The service request, also known as referrals, are collected by Source Point and forwarded to the Juvenile Court for the Community Service or SAP crew to complete and are supervised by a Court employee. These referrals included shoveling snow, planting plants/bulbs, weeding, mulching, raking leaves, cleaning out garages, picking up sticks, leveling yards, trimming bushes, removing and setting up patio furniture, picking up walnuts and sweet gums. In 2020 the total service hours completed by the crews were 87.5, with a bulk of the referrals being completed within seven business days. All this was completed while maintaining a Covid-19 safety protocol keeping our community safe.

In 2020, the SAP and Community Service programs also served the Delaware County Health Department by picking up 168 bags of litter and disposing of 77 large/very large items. The programs also delivered 7,500 issues of The Communicator, Source Point's bimonthly newspaper. In 2020, the programs were also recognized by the Delaware County Health Department for their outstanding efforts to keep Delaware Litter free.

Treatment Court

The Delaware County Juvenile Court operates two Specialized Dockets for persons whose involvement with the Court is a result of drug or alcohol misuse or mental health concerns. The Juvenile Treatment Court (JTC) is designed for juveniles whose delinquency is related to behavioral health concerns and/or drug or alcohol concerns. The Family Treatment Court (FTC) is designed for parents whose involvement with the Delaware County Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) stems from parental misuse of drugs or alcohol or inadequately treated mental health concerns. Specialized Dockets, such as the JTC and FTC, are cost effective ways to protect the community, ensure the safety of children and assist in rehabilitating parents and juveniles who could stay out of legal entanglements if they were to receive proper community based services.

Both dockets are completely voluntary with a goal of improving the lives of the parents and juveniles with whom we are privileged to work. Both of the Court's Specialized Dockets serve the purpose of helping participants find treatment options, and assisting in motivating them to take treatment seriously and then apply that treatment to their daily lives. That motivation comes through frequent hearings where the participants give updates to the Court, regularly attend treatment appointments with community based providers, submit to supervision by probation officers and/or JFS Case Workers, and perform frequent and random drug screening. The Treatment Court Coordinator partners with many community based providers to assist the participants in finding additional supports when needed, such as linking them to services dealing with employment, education, parenting, family dynamics, or even tutoring. Both Specialized Dockets have the goal of assisting participants to matriculate to graduation from the JTC or FTC once they have obtained the skills to manage their mental health, live a drug free lifestyle, and live as law abiding citizens without the need of supervision from the Court. With FTC, another goal is to return children to their parents to be raised by healthy adults who possess appropriate parenting skills.

While 2020 was certainly a challenging year for the entire world, there was progress in the Court's Specialized Dockets. On March 20, 2020, the Family Treatment Court received the Specialized Docket Certification through the Commission on Specialized Dockets established by the Supreme Court of Ohio. Furthermore eleven (11) adults participated in the FTC, and two (2) juveniles participated in the JTC which began again in earnest in December 2020. Two (2) adults completed the FTC successfully, and many are still in process. Fourteen (14) children were involved with the FTC, one (1) was reunited with their parents and many continue on the path to reunification. One participant stated "It has not been easy, but the Treatment Court has helped hold me accountable for my substance use. Without that accountability, I would not be where I am today, which is sober and back with my daughter." It remains true that opioids are still a touchstone of substance misuse in Delaware County. However, the Court remains committed to holding those before the Court accountable for substance misuse, to assist families in need of services, to work in the best interest of children and to do all of this with our community based partners with honesty, compassion, and accountability.

Family Advocate Programs

The Family Advocate program began at the Court in 1983. Family Advocate programming is community based and utilizes family-directed interventions designed to deal with at-risk, multi-need youth and their families. These services are aided by the direct observation of clients and families in their natural environment which brings into focus interpersonal dynamics, strengths, and potential growth areas that help guide goal formation and collaboration. Program staff provide family systems-oriented services grounded in the concepts of Functional Family Therapy (FFT). FFT is designed to broaden families' abilities to conceptualize problems, reduce blame and develop shared ownership in resolving problems. FFT is also used to teach necessary skills for families to improve functioning; and reduce recidivism and placements.

In addition to assessments completed by court personnel prior to referral (e.g. OYAS, GAINS etc.), the advocate programs utilize the Family Environmental Scale (FES) to measure the environmental and social characteristics of the families. The ten FES subscales assess three sets of dimension: relationship dimensions, personal growth dimensions and systems maintenance dimensions. This tool aids goal formation as it often helps identify growth opportunities related to areas such as family cohesion, conflict, and communication. Staff attempt to gather FES data in the engagement phase and again at termination to aid in measuring the family's self-reported progress.

Advocates aim to meet with each family weekly (multiple times/week depending on the FFT stage and client needs) to establish goals and then provide ongoing service. Length of stay in the program(s) typically ranges from 3 to 12 months depending on the needs of the family. The specific programming track that families follow is largely guided by risk assessments performed prior to program referral. Family Support Services ("FSS") is a program track under the Family Advocate umbrella generally geared toward families that display lower risk factors, and typically involves a shorter length of service than other Family Advocate programming.

FSS and other Family Advocate programming utilize the same foundational interventions (e.g. FFT, Motivational Interviewing, etc.) and service delivery is, by design, very similar.

Traditionally, the majority of direct program services have been delivered in-person in client homes. Beginning in March of 2020 service delivery was adapted due to COVID-19 safety considerations. During the warmer weather months many client appointments were provided outside (i.e. in client's yards, driveways, porches etc.). In these outside sessions, program staff wore masks and observed recommended social distancing guidelines. The ability to maintain client privacy and confidentiality was also considered when outside meetings were arranged. The advocate programs also began offering program services remotely using video software (e.g. Zoom and Doxy.me) as well as increased telephonic communication with clients. Despite the operational barriers presented by the pandemic these adaptations allowed family advocate services to continue largely uninterrupted throughout 2020.

In 2020, the General Family Advocate program served 20 youth and families, the Intensive Family Advocate Program served 13 families, and the Family Support Service Program served 24 families. Program staff assisted each of these families to develop and work on individualized goals and objectives. Information related to progress with these specific goals is detailed in ongoing progress notes and is often highlighted around the time of case termination. The macro goal for the advocate programs is rooted in family preservation and preventing out-of-home placement. Of the 57 families served in 2020, 91% (52 identified clients) were "successfully" terminated from the program. The remaining 5 families were "neutral" terminations due to clients moving out-of-state (2), completing court involvement prior to significant service delivery (2), and linkage with a higher level of care (1). Program participants are also contacted one year post case termination to determine if an out-of-home placement occurred during that time.

Fiscal Department

Human Resources

During 2020, there were several positions that were vacated in the Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court that remained unfilled due to COVID 19 and the unknown return to normal work and caseloads. While some positions were filled by internal promotions, others remained vacant at the close of 2020. Eleven full-time positions were vacated in 2020, of these, six remain vacant. There was one newly created position in the past calendar year. This part-time position is funded entirely by Ohio CASA for a program assistant for the dual county CASA program in Union/Delaware County. Ongoing assessment of all programs and caseloads will determine if the long vacant positions will be filled, or modified, to fit changing needs of the court, programs, and community.

Funding

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

county funds, the court has been able to supplement many of its programs with grants and contracts, as well as the fees and fines collected.

General Fund

At the beginning of the 2020 fiscal year, the court received approval for appropriations from the county, including the money requested from 2019 to be carried over to 2020, an available budget of \$4,985,868.29. The total general fund expenses, including prepayment of a software license and twenty-seven pay period year, totaled \$4,321,749.22. This means the court returned to the county, approximately 13.32% of total requested budget. A large portion of this was due to unfilled positions noted above (\$373,255.22), and the consistently decreasing expenditure at the youth facility for placement (\$222,721.61) for the 2020 year.

Outside Funding Sources

In the calendar year 2020, \$1.446 million was received from outside sources, an additional \$201,067.25, was collected in fees and fines, and Juvenile Court also collected \$11,748.47 in restitution.

A large portion of funding received from outside sources comes from the Department of Youth Services RECLAIM grant. The award to Delaware County for 2020 was \$556,815.03, or approximately 38.5 % of our supplemental funding. This amount included the final year of funding (\$150,000) for the Assessment Center located at the Willis Educational Center on William Street.

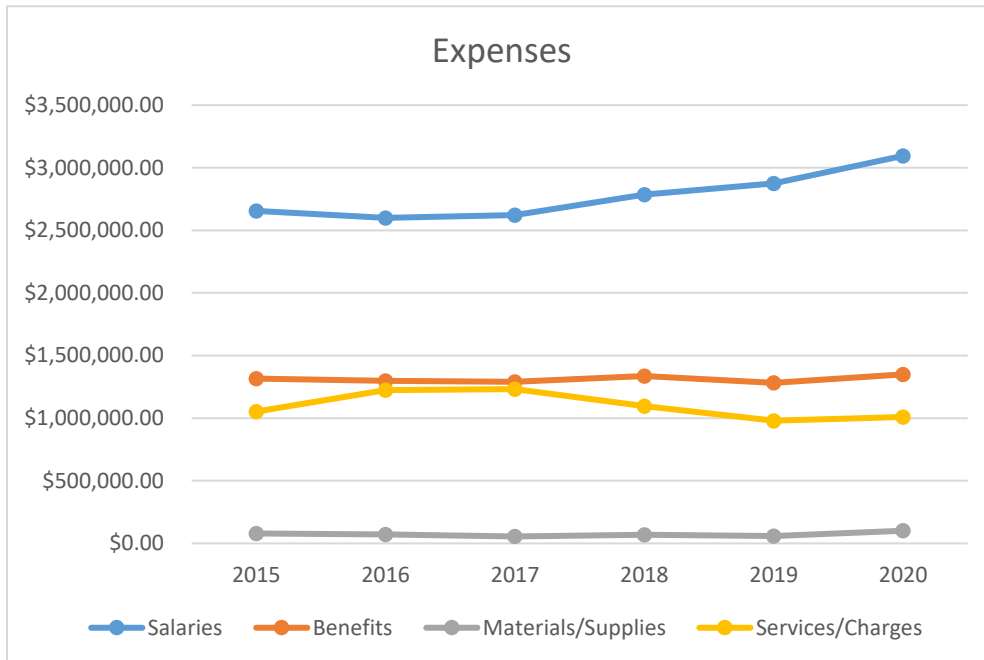
The other large source of outside funding is received from the Ohio Attorney General's Office – Victims of Crime Division, \$323,921.38. Two court programs are funded by this sponsor, the Victim Services program and the Court Appointed Special Advocate program. These programs support a portion of six employees. This funding requires in-kind support, either by volunteer hours or cash support. For the calendar year of 2020, the CASA program provided 3750 volunteer hours and the county provided \$19,194.53 in cash support for the Victim Services program.

During the initial stages of the pandemic and shifting to remote working conditions, the court was awarded a technology grant from the Ohio Supreme Court totaling \$11,479.39. These funds were used for purchasing laptops, hotspots, and communication licenses to allow for court functions to proceed on a timely schedule.

Expenses

Expenses for Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court are primarily salaries and benefits. The court ended 2020 with 55 employees on payroll and numerous volunteers. The calendar year of 2020 was a 27 pay period year, while a standard year is 26 pay periods. This additional pay period accounts for \$125,744 of the increase in the salaries and benefits category. The increase in materials and supplies is due to the renovation projects of the juvenile clerical space and the five courtrooms. This renovation was necessary as the spaces were considered unsafe by Supreme Court standards. The decreased activity of in-person staff during the remote working conditions provided the opportunity to update the spaces with minimal impact to hearing schedules and court hours. The largest non-payroll item remains the agreement with

Central Ohio Youth Center (COYC), costing \$426,577 in fiscal year 2020, a decrease of \$67,257 or 13.6% from fiscal year 2019.



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Salaries	\$2,655,010.62	\$2,599,973.72	\$2,622,894.00	\$2,786,601.87	\$2,876,018.22	\$3,095,034.94
Benefits	\$1,317,156.86	\$1,299,366.10	\$1,291,172.68	\$1,337,123.78	\$1,281,958.11	\$1,349,748.24
Materials/Supplies	\$79,238.79	\$70,244.03	\$55,246.21	\$68,112.78	\$59,268.68	\$100,867.96
Services/Charges	\$1,052,665.20	\$1,223,865.71	\$1,231,915.02	\$1,095,986.41	\$979,996.93	\$1,009,839.74
Total	\$5,104,071.47	\$5,193,449.56	\$5,201,227.91	\$5,287,824.84	\$5,197,241.94	\$5,555,490.88

Training/In-service

Starting in March 2020, the court moved to remote work and all in-person trainings ceased. Our training coordinator provided weekly online training opportunities, ranging from the Ohio Supreme Court’s training on Interpersonal Communication, LinkedIn’s social networking tutorial, podcasts from the Pretrial Justice Institute on youth justice reform, CORSA classes on

internet and technology safety, and Stress Management Wellness webinar from the Supreme Court. Also, during the remote work time, the training coordinator worked with court programs to refine policies and procedures for individual programs, such as the Assessment Center. This will ease onboarding for these court programs as step by step program specific manuals will be provided.