

Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court

Judge David A. Hejmanowski

2021 Annual Report

## Message from the Judge

As I write this statement in 2022, we continue to march back toward a more 'normal' state as to our level of filings and the nature of our proceedings. But 2021, like 2020, was certainly nowhere near normal. 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 of 2020, 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 told us that most last at least three years, thus, we immediately communicated to our staff and the local bar association 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.

And now, two years later, we see that those expectations were about right, that pandemics end in lurches toward normalcy and steps backwards, that many of our litigants, particularly in probate court, have greater risks and concerns as to their health, and that it is necessary for us to maintain flexibility and meet them at their comfort level, so as to provide the highest level of service to them.

I am forever indebted to my incredible co-workers, who have consistently adapted to our working conditions, created new procedures, and ensured that every responsibility that we have- from issuing marriage licenses to hearing emergency child abuse complaints, to the standard case reviews got done on time.

The results were amazing. Our hearing participation rates skyrocketed during the pandemic- 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 well within the Supreme Court time guidelines. We found new ways to do things, some of which are already living on beyond the pandemic. In short, we learned new efficiencies and new skills that will benefit us for decades.

We are already seeing that 2022 is bringing a return to more traditional operations, but even though it is, we are coming out of 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  
Joe Varvel, Staff Attorney

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  
Jessica Berry, Juvenile Clerk  
Nicole Cox, Juvenile Clerk  
Rachel Dennison, Juvenile Clerk  
Jill Jutte, Probate Clerk  
Marilyn Kinniard, Juvenile Clerk  
Melanie Layton, Records Clerk  
Stacey Morris, Probate Clerk  
Molly Smith, Juvenile Clerk  
Lisa Patterson, Probate Clerk  
Karen Peaks, Probate Clerk  
Rene Ray, Receptionist  
Samantha Swope, Juvenile Clerk

### **Fiscal**

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

### **Intake**

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

### **Mediation**

Kira Crawford, Mediator  
Dodie Davenport, Mediator

### **Probate**

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

### **Probation and Treatment**

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

## Probate Court Statistics

| Type of Filing                       | 2016        | 2017        | 2018        | 2019        | 2020        | 2021        |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Estates                              | 485         | 501         | 487         | 546         | 542         | 602         |
| Guardianship of Minors               | 27          | 34          | 44          | 35          | 27          | 24          |
| Guardianship of Incompetents         | 66          | 45          | 57          | 70          | 64          | 63          |
| Conservatorships                     | 2           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 0           | 0           |
| Testamentary Trusts                  | 14          | 7           | 11          | 7           | 2           | 5           |
| Civil Actions                        | 11          | 34          | 15          | 15          | 14          | 24          |
| Adoptions                            | 44          | 48          | 52          | 41          | 34          | 44          |
| Mental Commitment                    | 2           | 2           | 1           | 2           | 3           | 1           |
| Minor Settlement                     | 10          | 20          | 19          | 8           | 14          | 15          |
| Wrongful Death <sup>1</sup>          | 23          | 16          | 15          | 12          | 7           | 13          |
| Registration/Correction Birth Record | 2           | 6           | 6           | 6           | 4           | 3           |
| Change of Name                       | 82          | 92          | 100         | 126         | 117         | 153         |
| Marriage Applications Granted        | 879         | 886         | 856         | 781         | 871         | 876         |
| Miscellaneous Filings <sup>2</sup>   | 77          | 91          | 92          | 99          | 116         | 135         |
|                                      | <b>1724</b> | <b>1783</b> | <b>1756</b> | <b>1749</b> | <b>1815</b> | <b>1823</b> |

<sup>1</sup> 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 2021 |            |
|--|------------|
| Age Range                                  |            |
| 18-30                                      | 222        |
| 31-50                                      | 113        |
| 51-70                                      | 72         |
| 71-89                                      | 54         |
| 90+  | 7          |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>468</b> |

| Types of Adoptions Filed 2021 |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Adult                         | 10        |
| Private                       | 6         |
| Private - Agency              | 6         |
| Adoption Preplacement         | 1         |
| Public Agency                 | 8         |
| Refinalization                | 0         |
| Step-parent                   | 13        |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>44</b> |

| <b>2021 Monthly Report of Marriage Licenses Issued</b> |            |
|--|------------|
| January  | 28         |
| February   | 39         |
| March  | 49         |
| April  | 67         |
| May  | 77         |
| June   | 103        |
| July   | 109        |
| August   | 104        |
| September  | 108        |
| October  | 84         |
| November   | 60         |
| December   | 26         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>854</b> |

| <b><u>2021 New Estate Case Action*</u></b> |              |
|--|--------------|
| <b>TYPE OF ESTATE</b>                      | <b>Total</b> |
| Ancillary Administration                   | 5            |
| Full Administration                        | 340          |
| Probate Will                               | 3            |
| Release From Administration                | 109          |
| Real Estate Transfer                       | 15           |
| Special Administration                     | 9            |
| Short Form Release                         | 3            |
| Summary Release                            | 64           |
| Taxes                                      | 0            |
| Wrongful Death                             | 7            |
| Will for Record Only                       | 17           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                               | <b>572</b>   |

\* Does not include re-open actions in same case number

| <b>Types of Hearings Scheduled in 2021</b>  | <b>Number of Hearings</b> |
|---|---------------------------|
| Probate Adoption Consent                    | 5                         |
| Probate Adult Adoption Hearing              | 9                         |
| Probate Adult Name Change                   | 100                       |
| Probate Appointment Of Co-Guardian          | 23                        |
| Probate Appointment Of Fiduciary            | 2                         |
| Probate Appointment Of Guardian             | 83                        |
| Probate Case Review                         | 46                        |
| Probate Foreign Adoption Refinalization     | 2                         |
| Probate Hearing                             | 115                       |
| Probate Insolvency                          | 2                         |
| Probate Meeting                             | 1                         |
| Probate Minor Claim                         | 8                         |
| Probate Minor Claim & Dispense Guardianship | 4                         |
| Probate Minor Claim W/Guardianship          | 4                         |
| Probate Minor Name Change                   | 48                        |
| Probate Non-Oral Hearing                    | 2                         |
| Probate Pre-Placement Adoption              | 1                         |
| Probate Private Agency Adoption             | 5                         |
| Probate Private Placement Adoption          | 9                         |
| Probate Public Agency Adoption              | 9                         |
| Probate Status Conference                   | 37                        |
| Probate Step-Parent Adoption                | 20                        |
| Probate Trial                               | 4                         |
| Probate Will Admission                      | 2                         |
| Probate Wrongful Death                      | 1                         |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>542</b>                |

| <b>Results of Probate Scheduled Hearings in 2021</b> | <b>Number of Hearings</b> |
|--|---------------------------|
| Continued  | 112                       |
| Failure to appear                                    | 5                         |
| Dismissed  | 14                        |
| Informal / No Recording                              | 2                         |
| Heard  | 370                       |
| Non-Oral Complete                                    | 12                        |
| Vacated  | 27                        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>542</b>                |

A Total of 857 inventory and accounts were filed and reviewed by non-oral hearing during 2021.

## Juvenile Court Statistics

| <b>Traffic Citation</b>                      | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Speed  | 329         | 345         | 401         | 312         | 326         | 238         | 237         |
| Assured Clear Distance /Hit Skip             | 128         | 168         | 163         | 140         | 131         | 78          | 110         |
| Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence      | 11          | 15          | 13          | 8           | 17          | 18          | 20          |
| Failure to Control                           | 60          | 69          | 48          | 55          | 60          | 56          | 54          |
| No License/Permit, Suspended or Restrictions | 27          | 50          | 48          | 47          | 61          | 56          | 39          |
| Seat Restraint Violations                    | 25          | 27          | 38          | 28          | 31          | 13          | 24          |
| Failure to Yield/Right of Way                | 24          | 75          | 103         | 70          | 92          | 55          | 66          |
| Use of Wireless Electronic Device/Texting    | 1           | 4           | 1           | 4           | 4           | 1           | 0           |
| Distracted Driving * New 2019                |             |             |             |             | 15          | 14          | 5           |
| Traffic Control Signal Violations            | 36          | 50          | 40          | 36          | 45          | 23          | 37          |
| Improper Driving Actions*                    | 108         | 74          | 86          | 49          | 52          | 43          | 51          |
| Miscellaneous Actions                        | 13          | 35          | 31          | 74          | 35          | 21          | 17          |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>762</b>  | <b>912</b>  | <b>972</b>  | <b>823</b>  | <b>869</b>  | <b>616</b>  | <b>660</b>  |

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

## Unruly/Delinquency

In 2021, 652 delinquent/unruly charges creating 304 formalized cases were filed. These matters resulted in 120 adjudicated charges by 85 youth. Remaining charges handled by Diversion, case dismissal or may still be pending. In addition, there were 48 counts of either a Violation of Court or Violation of Probation filed during the year.

| <b>Charges Filed and Adjudicated in 2021</b> - some charges remain pending into 2022 |                         |                               |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
|  | Number of Charges Filed | Number of charges adjudicated |
| <b>Vehicular Homicide</b>  | 3                       | 3                             |
| <b>Assault and Menacing</b>  |                         |                               |
| Assault  | 45                      | 16                            |
| Menacing   | 11                      | 3                             |
| <b>Sexual Offenses</b>   |                         |                               |
| Rape   | 10                      | 3                             |
| Pandering/illegal use - minor in nude material                                       | 2                       | 2                             |
| Sexual Imposition  | 9                       | 4                             |
| Disseminating Material Harmful to Juveniles  | 3                       | 0                             |
| <b>Kidnapping, Restraint, Extortion &amp; Coercion</b>                               | 1                       | 0                             |
| <b>Property related offenses</b>   |                         |                               |
| Criminal Damaging  | 15                      | 5                             |
| Criminal Mischief  | 11                      | 2                             |
| Vandalism  | 8                       | 2                             |
| <b>Robbery, Burglary, Trespass, and Safecracking</b>                                 |                         |                               |
| Burglary   | 2                       | 0                             |
| Robbery  | 5                       | 0                             |
| Criminal Trespassing   | 19                      | 0                             |
| Breaking and Entering  | 4                       | 0                             |
| <b>Theft and Fraud</b>   |                         |                               |
| Theft  | 37                      | 5                             |
| Misuse of Credit Cards   | 2                       | 0                             |
| Identify Fraud/Falsification/ Forgery  | 1                       | 0                             |
| Receiving Stolen Property  | 10                      | 9                             |
| Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle  | 4                       | 0                             |
| <b>Offenses Against the Public Peace</b>   |                         |                               |
| Disorderly Conduct   | 63                      | 7                             |
| Telephone Harassment   | 2                       | 0                             |
| Inducing Panic   | 6                       | 0                             |
| Cruelty to Animals   | 1                       | 1                             |
| Making False Alarms  | 1                       | 0                             |
| Violating Protection Order   | 1                       | 0                             |
| Voyeurism/Public Indecency   | 1                       | 0                             |
| <b>Offenses Against the Family</b>   |                         |                               |
| Domestic Violence  | 17                      | 2                             |
| Interference with custody  | 1                       | 0                             |



|  |              |            |
|--|--------------|------------|
| <b>Offenses Against Justice and Public Administration</b>                    |              |            |
| Obstructing Justice  | 8            | 0          |
|  |              |            |
| Resisting Arrest / failure to comply with police order                       | 8            | 5          |
| <b>Conspiracy, Attempt and Complicity, Weapons Control, Corrupt Activity</b> |              |            |
| Weapons Control/Possession/Conceal   | 16           | 2          |
| Attempt – often used as amended charge                                       | 3            | 0          |
| Complicity   | 8            | 0          |
| Possession of a Controlled Substance   | 35           | 7          |
| Possession of Drugs / Drug Paraphernalia                                     | 35           | 10         |
| Offenses Involving Underage Persons / Alcohol                                | 31           | 3          |
| <b>Other Offenses</b>  |              |            |
| Unruly Child   | 155          | 22         |
| Prohibitions Relating to Tobacco   | 9            | 1          |
| Habitual Truant  | 36           | 5          |
| Unruly School Truant   | 6            | 1          |
| Curfew   | 4            | 0          |
| Other Offenses   | 3            | 0          |
|  | <b>Total</b> | <b>652</b> |
|  |              | <b>120</b> |
|  |              |            |

| City Name         | Zip Code | Gender     |            | Age      |          |          |           |           |           |           |           |            |           | Total      |
|-------------------|----------|------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
|                   |          | Female     | Male       | 9        | 10       | 11       | 12        | 13        | 14        | 15        | 16        | 17         | 18        |            |
| Ashley            | 43003    | 1          | 8          |          | 1        |          |           | 2         |           | 2         | 1         | 3          |           | 9          |
| Centerburg        | 43011    |            | 4          |          |          |          |           |           | 1         | 1         | 2         |            |           | 4          |
| Delaware          | 43015    | 51         | 102        | 2        | 1        | 2        | 7         | 20        | 28        | 27        | 32        | 29         | 5         | 153        |
| Dublin            | 43016    |            | 3          |          |          |          |           |           |           | 1         |           | 2          |           | 3          |
| Dublin            | 43017    |            | 2          |          |          |          |           |           |           | 1         | 1         |            |           | 2          |
| Fredericktown     | 43019    |            | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           | 1         |            |           | 1          |
| Galena            | 43021    | 1          | 10         |          |          |          |           |           | 4         |           | 3         | 2          | 2         | 11         |
| Lewis Center      | 43035    | 13         | 24         |          |          | 1        | 6         | 2         | 3         | 11        | 7         | 7          |           | 37         |
| Marysville        | 43040    |            | 1          |          |          |          |           | 1         |           |           |           |            |           | 1          |
| New Albany        | 43054    |            | 2          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |           | 1          | 1         | 2          |
| Ostrander         | 43061    | 2          | 3          |          |          |          |           |           | 2         |           | 1         | 2          |           | 5          |
| Powell            | 43065    | 10         | 30         |          |          | 1        | 3         | 11        | 5         | 4         | 7         | 8          | 1         | 40         |
| Radnor            | 43066    |            | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           | 1         |            |           | 1          |
| Sunbury           | 43074    | 10         | 28         |          | 2        |          | 1         | 2         | 5         | 6         | 9         | 13         |           | 38         |
| Westerville       | 43081    |            | 10         |          |          |          |           | 1         | 2         | 2         | 1         | 3          | 1         | 10         |
| Westerville       | 43082    | 4          | 26         |          |          |          |           | 1         | 5         | 4         | 6         | 13         | 1         | 30         |
| Worthington       | 43085    | 1          | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           | 1         |           | 1          |           | 2          |
| Canal Winchester  | 43110    |            | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |           | 1          |           | 1          |
| Galloway          | 43119    |            | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |           | 1          |           | 1          |
| Grove City        | 43123    | 1          | 1          |          |          |          |           | 1         |           | 1         |           |            |           | 2          |
| Columbus          | 43203    | 1          |            |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |           | 1          |           | 1          |
| Columbus          | 43205    | 1          | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           | 1         |           | 1          |           | 2          |
| Columbus          | 43206    | 1          |            |          |          |          |           |           |           |           | 1         |            |           | 1          |
| Columbus          | 43207    |            | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           | 1         |           |            |           | 1          |
| Columbus          | 43211    | 1          | 5          |          |          |          |           |           |           | 1         | 3         | 2          |           | 6          |
| Whitehall         | 43213    | 1          | 2          |          |          |          |           |           | 1         |           | 1         | 1          |           | 3          |
| Columbus          | 43219    | 1          |            |          |          | 1        |           |           |           |           |           |            |           | 1          |
| Columbus          | 43220    | 1          | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           | 1         | 1         |            |           | 2          |
| Columbus          | 43222    | 1          |            |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |           | 1          |           | 1          |
| Columbus          | 43223    | 1          | 1          |          |          |          |           |           | 1         |           |           | 1          |           | 2          |
| Columbus          | 43224    |            | 2          |          |          |          |           |           |           | 1         |           | 1          |           | 2          |
| Lincoln Village   | 43228    |            | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           | 1         |            |           | 1          |
| Worthington       | 43229    | 1          | 2          |          |          |          |           |           |           | 1         |           | 2          |           | 3          |
| Columbus          | 43230    |            | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           | 1         |            |           | 1          |
| Minerva Park      | 43231    | 1          | 1          |          |          |          | 1         |           | 1         | 1         |           |            |           | 3          |
| Blacklick Estates | 43232    |            | 4          |          |          |          |           |           |           | 1         |           | 3          |           | 4          |
| Columbus          | 43235    |            | 2          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           | 1         | 1          |           | 2          |
| Columbus          | 43240    | 3          | 6          |          |          |          |           |           |           | 1         | 1         | 7          |           | 9          |
| Marion            | 43301    | 1          |            |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |           | 1          |           | 1          |
| Marion            | 43302    |            | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |           | 2          |           | 2          |
| Cardington        | 43315    |            | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           | 1         |            |           | 1          |
| Edison            | 43320    |            | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |           | 1          |           | 1          |
| Richwood          | 43344    |            | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           | 1         |            |           | 1          |
| Zanesville        | 43701    |            | 2          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |           | 2          |           | 2          |
| Loveland          | 45140    |            | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |           | 1          |           | 1          |
| Dayton            | 45406    | 1          |            |          |          |          |           |           |           |           | 1         |            |           | 1          |
| Bloomington, IN   | 47403    |            | 1          |          |          |          |           |           |           | 1         |           |            |           | 1          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      |          | <b>110</b> | <b>299</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>41</b> | <b>58</b> | <b>71</b> | <b>85</b> | <b>114</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>409</b> |

| <b>Abused Neglect Dependent Charges Filed 2021</b> |                      |                    |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Description of Individual Charges</b>           | <b>Charges filed</b> | <b>Adjudicated</b> |
| Abused Child - Exhibits Injury                     | 11                   | 1                  |
| Abused Child - No Conviction Required              | 20                   | 1                  |
| Abused Child - Victim Sexual Activity              | 3                    | 0                  |
| Abused Child- Acts Causing Injury                  | 10                   | 1                  |
| Neglected Child - Injury by Omission               | 20                   | 1                  |
| Neglected Child - Lack Parental Care               | 35                   | 1                  |
| Neglected Child - Special care                     | 4                    | 0                  |
| Neglected Child -Abandoned                         | 3                    | 0                  |
| Neglected Child-Parental Refusal                   | 21                   | 0                  |
| Dependent Child - Residential Status Act           | 4                    | 0                  |
| Dependent Child - Residential Status Danger        | 4                    | 0                  |
| Dependent Child- Environmental Condition           | 50                   | 45                 |
| Dependent Child- Homeless                          | 22                   | 0                  |
| Dependent Child- Parental condition                | 35                   | 0                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                       | <b>242</b>           | <b>50</b>          |

| <b>Motions for Permanent Custody</b> |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Filed in 2021                        | 4 |
| Carried over into 2021               | 1 |
| Granted in 2021                      | 0 |
| Dismissed in 2021                    | 1 |
| Carried over into 2022               | 4 |

### Juvenile Hearings Scheduled in 2021

| Type of Schedule Hearings Juvenile 2021   | Total |
|---|-------|
| Bridges – Reasonable Effort Annual Review | 2     |
| Bridges – Initial Determination Hearing   | 4     |
| Case Review                               | 461   |
| Change of Plea                            | 31    |
| Child Support                             | 6     |
| Civil Protection Order                    | 10    |
| Competency Proceeding                     | 12    |
| Compliance Review                         | 197   |
| Detention Hearing                         | 50    |
| Detention Review                          | 67    |
| Disposition                               | 187   |
| Evidentiary Hearing                       | 14    |
| Family Treatment Court                    | 141   |
| Formal Arraignment                        | 476   |
| In Camera Review                          | 10    |
| Motion Hearing                            | 147   |
| Non-oral Hearing                          | 27    |
| Phone Conference                          | 5     |
| Pre-trial                                 | 913   |
| Probable Cause                            | 75    |
| Restitution                               | 2     |
| Sealing/Expungement                       | 44    |
| Show Cause Hearing                        | 14    |
| Specialized Docket Case Review            | 66    |
| Status Hearing                            | 83    |
| Suppression                               | 3     |
| Traffic Formal Arraignment                | 647   |
| Trial                                     | 315   |
| Violation of Court Order/Probation        | 78    |

| Results of Scheduled Juvenile Hearings 2021 | Total       |
|---|-------------|
| Continued                                   | 457         |
| Denial Entered                              | 83          |
| Dismissal – no hearing                      | 15          |
| Failure to Appear                           | 198         |
| Heard                                       | 2904        |
| Informal Hearing                            | 120         |
| Non-oral Hearing                            | 8           |
| Vacated                                     | 398         |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                          | <b>4183</b> |

## **Juvenile Court Process in 2021**

- 411 summons issued in 386 cases
- 28 warrants created/issued and 30 outstanding warrants executed or recalled
- There were 479 appointments of a public defender
- A Guardian ad Litem was appointed in 166 juvenile cases
- 10 cases requested jury trial, 9 resolved prior to summoning a jury and 1 pending at the close of 2021
- Approx. 2,000 written record requests were provided yearly from government, law enforcement, military, or probation services

## **Clerical Services**

The Clerical Services Department assigns staff in both the Probate and Juvenile Courts. Each department operates independent 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 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 virtually.

One Department Head oversees both Probate and Juvenile Clerical Services staff. Probate Court clerical staff for 2021 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 case. Juvenile Court clerical staff for 2021 included nine 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 2021, clerical made 10,517 docket entries in 5,784 juvenile cases and 50,064 in 10,916 probate cases. The Clerical Services Department also handled a total of 15,543 incoming phone calls in person. This does not include calls handled during periods of remote work due to the pandemic. The Court's Clerical Service Department also processed and served a variety of documents in 2021.

| Documents Serviced |         |          |
|--------------------|---------|----------|
|                    | Probate | Juvenile |
| Certified Mail     | 293     | 336      |
| Sheriff Service    | 2       | 201      |
| Subpoena           | 12      | 378      |
| Personal           | 2       | 93       |
| Electronic Service | 7       | 2185     |
| Publication        | 108     | 21       |

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 182,347 page images during 2021 and sent over 100 boxes to the County Records Center for 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 2021, the Court set 27 in-person/Zoom interpretation events for a cost of \$ 4,820.60. Of the interpreters requested, 92% of requests were for the Spanish language, other requested languages included Chinese and Somali. The Court also uses telephonic interpreters when in-person interpreter services are not available. In 2021, the service was used 32 times for 380 minutes. Telephonic languages requested included: Arabic, Hungarian, Mandarin, Portuguese, Vietnamese and Spanish

The Court's website is actively utilized by the public. In 2021, the Probate Court website was visited 148,643 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 30,813 times with the hearing schedules receiving the most traffic. The e-services portal is accessed to perform 6,669 e-filings, 850 e-marriage license applications, 490 e-payments.

### **Court Visitor Program**

During the course of 2021, a total of 97 visits were conducted. Of those visits, 33 (34%) of the wards were age 55 or above and 51 (53%) of the guardians were age 55 or above. There were 270.75 direct service hours provided to the 55 or older ward and/or guardian population.

Interviews were conducted in-person or virtually. For the in-person visits conducted, the Court Visitors drove 1221.30 miles.

The Court Visitors were able to provide education on several cases this past year. One of the most reoccurring issues identified this past year was educating guardians on the need to keep the Court informed of changes in address for the wards and/or guardians. Three wards had been moved to new placements without Court's approval. Two of the wards had died during the year and the Court Visitor assisted with notification to the Court. This past year, the Probate Court had two wards restored to competency which is always nice to see.

## **Juvenile Court - Intake Department**

### **Diversion**

Diversion is an opportunity offered to a first-time juvenile offender charged with a status or misdemeanor offense to have their case sealed and dismissed upon successful completion. The Diversion Program takes an evidenced-based approach, utilizing motivational interviewing, to better assess youth and to not unnecessarily keep them involved with the Court.

Diversion has two levels: fast track and general. Fast Track Diversion is for low risk offenders that score 2 and below on the OYAS Diversion Screener. It is the Court's practice for low risk offenders to have minimal contact with the Court and no more than 30 days of court supervision. General Diversion is for youth who score a moderate risk to borderline high risk on the OYAS and are supervised for no more than a 90 day period.

Group Diversion conferences continued in 2021 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, and continued in 2021 the Court offers 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 likelihood of further recidivism.

During the past two years 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 in the community. Parks, backyards, and public areas all became diversion locations. For families who had safety concerns about leaving the house, zoom and telephone conference were utilized. In 2021, families were offered afterhours diversion on a case-by-case basis.

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 years, 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 2021, the Court conducted 119 diversions. Of the 119 cases, 61 youth successfully completed diversion in 2021. Four cases were unsuccessfully terminated from diversion due to new charges or failure to complete diversion terms. 58 cases remain open going into 2021. Of the 61 successful youth, 6 youth had new charges filed within six months of their termination from diversion for a success rate of 90%.

### **Intake**

The Intake Department serves youth through multiple programs. In 2021, the Intake team served 23 youth who qualified for intervention in lieu. The purpose of this program is to work with

youth, through the use of motivational interviewing, to build skills that will support the juvenile in making better choices and strive to keep the juvenile from incurring additional charges. These youth served in the intervention in lieu program are not adjudicated, instead, they are given up to six months to complete court-ordered terms and conditions. If they successfully complete the terms and conditions, their case(s) is dismissed and sealed. This gives the youth an opportunity to be held accountable, and not have a record. To qualify for this program, the juvenile is charged with a status, misdemeanor, or felony out of a single incident. The youth must have had no prior adjudications, and no prior court involvement for a period of two years. Once the juvenile has entered an admission to an offense, the intake officer will meet with the youth to conduct assessments and screenings. The youth must also score a low risk on the OYAS Dispositional Screening Tool, and have no more than one caution or warning on the MAYSI-2. Once the assessments are completed, the intake officer will present the court with a summary and recommendations. After disposition, the intake officer will meet face to face with the juvenile for a total of two hours every ninety days utilizing motivational interviewing to help reach the program goals.

The Intake Department also served 40 youth who qualified for the General Intake program. To qualify for the General Intake program, the juvenile can have a status, misdemeanor, or felony charge. These charges should have resulted from a single episode. Once the juvenile has entered an admission to an offense, the intake officer will meet with the youth to conduct assessments and screenings. The youth must be a low risk on the OYAS Dispositional Screening Tool, and have no more than one caution or warning on the MAYSI-2. Once the assessments are completed, the intake officer will present the court with a summary and recommendations. Once the assessments are completed, the Intake Officer will present the court with a summary and recommendations. These juveniles are given up to six months to complete terms and conditions. After disposition, the Intake Officer will meet face to face with the juvenile for one hour every thirty days. During those meetings the Intake Officer will work with the juvenile utilizing motivational interviewing to help reach the program goals.

During 2021, seven youth qualified for Progressive supervision. To qualify for this program youth may have a status, misdemeanor, or felony charge. These youth may have had previous contact or adjudications with the Court. Youth served by Progressive supervision have scored a low risk on the OYAS Dispositional Screening Tool. They may have up to two cautions or warnings on the MAYSI-2. Once the assessments are completed, the Intake Officer will present the court with a summary and recommendations. These juveniles are given up to six months to complete terms and conditions. Although these youth may have been previously court involved and have some identified mental health issues, they do not reach to the level of Probation supervision because they score low risk on the OYAS. Progressive supervision allows for the youth to be monitored more closely, but not to the degree that may increase their risk. After disposition, the Intake Officer will meet face-to-face with the juvenile for one hour twice every thirty days for up to six months. During those meetings the Intake Officer will work with the juvenile utilizing motivational interviewing to help reach the program goals.

As the pandemic continued into 2021, the Court continued to alter its processes. The Intake Department continued to make modifications to our procedures. These modifications were made to the forum in which we conduct our meetings and hearings both with internal and external clients. Once we returned to the building in June 2021, we continued to conduct meetings and hearings via zoom. This change proved helpful to the families as it has reduced the barrier of travel, taking time off of work, as well as reducing the potential of exposure to the Covid -19. The deficit to virtual family



meetings is it is harder to engage our families in the court process and interventions. Over the last two years, as a court and department, we were able to adapt to the challenges that arose and continued to provide effective services to youth and families, reducing recidivism.

### OVI Program

The Operating a Vehicle Impaired (OVI) program was started in January of 2021. The goal is to provide the appropriate level of supervision for adjudicated OVI traffic offenders. Motor vehicle fatality is the leading cause of death to teenagers. Juveniles are seventeen times more likely to die in a crash when they have a blood alcohol concentration of .08% or higher versus when they have not been drinking at all. The program balances least restrictive options, the best interest of the juvenile, and the safety of the community by conducting risk assessments, such as the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) and Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI). The appropriate supervision for each juvenile is also determined by taking into consideration any prior contact with the court. Juveniles are required to complete an alcohol drug assessments, complete OVI classes, and take the Victim Impact Panel, a program run by Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

In 2021, there were a total of thirteen OVI cases filed with the court. Of the thirteen OVI's, four of them are still pending with the court, one was reduced to a lesser charge, one was dismissed, one was transferred to Franklin County and six juveniles were adjudicated on either an OVI or driving after underage consumption. Of the six adjudicated cases, three of them have been successfully terminated, two juveniles are on non-reporting status, and one is active. Of these cases, only one violation of court orders was filed. Average time of supervision is seven months.

### Truancy

The Court has a dedicated docket to manage the caseload 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.

### School Liaisons

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic brought challenges addressing and intervening with school attendance/truancy matters. The pandemic continues to bring many challenges around

attendance/truancy matters for the 2021/2022 school year but the school and court staff are moving forward to do everything necessary to ensure school attendance compliance. With the new COVID variants and many other COVID concerns, schools are seeing issues such as staff shortages, an increase in those COVID positive cases, along with trying to find unique ways to educate students when there are extenuating circumstances where remote learning may be best due to a student and/or family member being high risk. It is most definitely a benefit to have students all in person this year five days a week but it just brings new and different challenges with attendance. Students attending in person all five days has provided students with consistency and this alone has helped with student motivation and mental health. As we know, remote learning does not work for all students. Most students are not self-motivated to educate themselves and remote learning definitely required self-motivation. In person learnings suits most students and the last two school year have proved this to be true. For 2021/2022 school year, there have been less attendance issues needing addressed compared to the prior year where attendance mediations doubled. 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 and the pandemic only increased this challenge. Mediations for all school districts are being offered in person and via Zoom. The utilization of Zoom mediations to create the SAIP, improved the completion/participation rate for several school districts last year and this year. We have found Zoom/online platform to be beneficial for working parents. This allows parent to attend but not miss several hours of work.

There were 28 truancy charges and 37 adult contributing charges filed during the 2021/2022 school year for all districts that we serve. This includes Delaware City, Olentangy, Big Walnut, Buckeye Valley, Delaware Area Career Center and three online schools (Treca, Goal Digital Academy, and OHVA) with students living in Delaware County. All 28 truancy cases were offered diversion. Of the twenty-seven (27) truancy cases, thirteen (13) cases were successfully diverted, 11 cases are still pending with the court, and 3 cases were adjudicated due to noncompliance when diverted.

| <b>2021-2022</b>          | <b>DCS</b> | <b>Olentangy</b> | <b>Big Walnut</b> | <b>Buckeye Valley</b> | <b>DACC</b> | <b>Online Schools</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Informal Meeting</b>   | 444        | 747              | 176               | 179                   | 33          | 0                     | <b>1579</b>  |
| <b>Mediations</b>         | 264        | 154              | 46                | 44                    | 6           | 0                     | <b>514</b>   |
| <b>Adult Contributing</b> | 20         | 6                | 3                 | 4                     | 0           | 4                     | <b>37</b>    |
| <b>Truancy Charge</b>     | 7          | 6                | 4                 | 3                     | 0           | 7                     | <b>28</b>    |
| <b>Diversion Offered</b>  | 7          | 6                | 4                 | 3                     | 0           | 7                     | <b>28</b>    |
| <b>Successful</b>         | 3          | 4                | 1                 | 1                     | 0           | 4                     | <b>13</b>    |
| <b>Adjudicated</b>        | 1          | 1                | 0                 | 0                     | 0           | 1                     | <b>3</b>     |
| <b>Pending</b>            | <b>3</b>   | <b>1</b>         | <b>3</b>          | <b>2</b>              | <b>0</b>    | <b>2</b>              | <b>11</b>    |

## Victim Services

The Victim Services Program was established for 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 victims and that victims regain some degree of wholeness after an offense has been committed against them.

The pandemic presented challenges, but the Victim Services Program was able to work with victims remotely, using Zoom for many hearings. The ability to attend a hearing remotely actually increased the percentage of participation of victims in juvenile cases. During federal fiscal year 2021, the Victim Services Program provided services to 237 victims of juvenile crime.

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 part 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. In 2021, "Walk a Mile" was held virtually due to concerns regarding COVID-19.

### 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. The program was somewhat curtailed in 2021 due to the pandemic, with only 4 classes scheduled. In 2021, of the 12 juveniles who successfully completed the program, only 2 have committed a subsequent offense. Overall since its inception, the recidivism rate for juveniles who have successfully completed the Victim Awareness Program is 9.3%.

### 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 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.

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. In fiscal year 2021, the Court received and distributed is \$12,792.54 in restitution to victims of juvenile crime.

### **Mentoring Programs**

Like all Court programming, the continuance of the pandemic has renewed innovation needs. Together Everyone Achieves More (T.E.A.M.), and Mothers Offering Mentoring Support (M.O.M.S.) are modeled similarly; both programs are one-to-one mentoring. Community Mentors are each screened through two interview processes, complete the County's vetting/disclosure process, and complete training. Mentees and families/guardians meet with the Mentoring Programs Coordinator in two phases; through assessments and applications. Once matched, the Coordinator monitors each match through monthly check-ins with the Mentee/family and trainings with the Mentor (either in support group or individual formats).

T.E.A.M. serves students in grades 4-12 youth who are determined to be "at risk" for court involvement or have identified need for additional social-emotional support. Mentors teach reasoning skills behind behaviors, innovative ways of thinking about daily topics, and provides various free/low cost ideas students can do within their personal lives. T.E.A.M. mentoring involves a hybrid approach from the tools in Brene Brown's Daring Classrooms and the After School Activities portion of the Too Good for Drugs curriculum. Goal setting processes are inspired by the 40 Developmental Assets from The Search Institute. T.E.A.M. receives referrals from within Juvenile Court including the Assessment Center, the school system, law enforcement, and directly from families. As of December 2021, there were 12 youth fully enrolled; 4 in grades 4-7, 8 in grades 8-12, and 3 currently awaiting to be matched. Throughout 2021, T.E.A.M. withdrew or found better fitting services for 24 adolescents and families.

M.O.M.S. pairs pregnant/new mothers with experienced mothers as mentors. The Mentees in M.O.M.S. are determined to need support with social support, parenting practices, and self-sufficiency skills. Mentors assist new/expectant families with next phases of parenting, "typical" child development, scheduling/maintaining of appointments, family self-care, and independent living skills. M.O.M.S. utilizes workbooks with InJoy Health Education for pregnancy. Currently, Mentors are sharing credible information from national organizations such as the American Association of Pediatrics, Parent's Magazine, and University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's to provide support after a child is born. The Mentees for M.O.M.S. receive referrals primarily from the school system, Job and Family Services, and Juvenile Court programs. As of December 2020, there were 4 Moms enrolled; 1 Mom is currently awaiting to be matched. Throughout 2021, M.O.M.S. withdrew or found better fitting services for 4 Moms. M.O.M.S. has continued partnerships with Delaware County United Way for holiday support and baby shower

celebrations through an annual summer Baby Shower and was included at the Unity Community Baby Shower.

### **Assessment Center**

Beginning to provide services on November 1, 2019, the Assessment Center opened in the Willis Education Building located in Delaware City. The goals for the Assessment Center are to identify youth and families early in hopes to provide service linkage, support and/or collaboration in order to prevent youth/families from entering into the juvenile justice system. It is the goal of the Assessment Center to assess youth and families' needs and be able to bridge any gaps in getting services in place for youth and families. Another goal of the Assessment Center is to collaborate with agencies, parents, schools and law enforcement to provide help for families that are struggling with youth's behaviors by providing support and linkage to the right services. And finally, the goal of the Assessment Center is to bring a strength-based, collaborative approach in selecting a plan of how to provide support to youth and families.

The Assessment Center has partnered with community agencies such as Delaware City Schools, United Way, Syntero, Delaware Job and Family Services, Family and Children First Council, and Delaware-Morrow County Mental Health and Recovery Board. With these partnerships, we have been able to link services quickly and more conveniently for families. We have been able to utilize the programs these partners have in order to help our youth and families.

In 2021, the Assessment Center served a total of 97 youth and families. These families received services from T.E.A.M Mentoring program, Parent Project, Syntero, Girls Group, Family Advocate program, Family and Children First Council, Family Resource Center, Food Pantries, United Way's programs, Department of Job and Family Services, Andrew's House Legal Clinic, Mental Health/Drug and Alcohol providers, after-school programming and DATA/Flex transportation services. These youth and families were assessed, linked to appropriate services, and/or given parenting support; all in hopes to reduce the issues in the home/school or community, ultimately lowering the need to become involved in the juvenile justice system.

### **Parent Project**

Due to the pandemic, this year was a bit different in how the program was administered to parents. Fortunately we had the ability to have 3 new people trained to become facilitators of the program. These facilitators were trained virtually which opened up a brand new way to offer the program, virtually. Our typical set up for the program consists of in-person facilitation with a group of parents clustered together to learn material, while supporting each other. This new innovative way of facilitating, not only allowed parents to be social distanced and safe during the pandemic, but more importantly provided a new ability to reach parents that could not attend in-person for whatever reason. Due to this new ability to facilitate virtually, we were able to run a program virtually in February 2021 and also an in-person session in September 2021. We were able to provide successful completion certificates to a total of 18 parents. This is a huge accomplishment for parents considering the amount of time parents devote to the program, which requires 24 hours to complete. We hope to continue the virtual sessions and in-person sessions

going forward, in order to provide more parents an opportunity to participate and gain skills to more effectively manage their strong-willed youth.

**The CASA Program of Delaware and Union Counties**

In 2021, The CASA Program of Delaware and Union Counties experienced growth and expansion. The program added 25 new volunteers who were trained and sworn in. These new volunteers immediately began advocating for abused and neglected children in both counties. With COVID-19 still being an issue, the volunteer CASA/GAL’s managed to continue their strong advocacy.

Volunteer/Case Statistics:

|   |             |    |
|---|-------------|----|
| Total CASA Advocates                    | 63          |    |
| Volunteer Total Case Hours              | 7176        |    |
| Miles Driven by Volunteers for Casework | Over 49,000 |    |
| Number of Children Served               | 249         |    |
| Of Children served: Female              | 127         |    |
| Male                                    | 122         |    |
|   |             |    |
| Child Age Range                         | 0-5         | 97 |
|   | 6-11        | 84 |
|   | 12-15       | 39 |
|   | 16-17       | 24 |
|   | 18+         | 5  |

In 2021, 82 children’s cases were closed with a CASA/GAL involved. Of those 82 children, following are some important outcomes:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Reunification achieved  | 25 |
| Adopted   | 7  |
| Kinship Placement (long term relative care)                                     | 39 |
| Child turned 18/21  | 3  |
| Other(case transferred, removed from docket etc. legal custody to non-relative) | 8  |

In July of 2021, the CASA Program in Delaware County made the transition to a CASA/GAL program under the leadership of Judge David Hejmanowski. This change permits the volunteers to serve as the Guardian Ad Litem on abuse and neglect cases. The CASA/GALs have access to, and are represented by, a contract attorney who serves as counsel in both counties. The change in Delaware County was embraced as it was in Union County in 2020 and has provided a higher level of volunteer satisfaction. In 2021, 36 abuse, neglect, dependent referrals were made to the CASA/GAL program in Union County and 33 were accepted. In Delaware County, 56

referrals were made to the CASA Program and 100% of those referrals was served by a CASA Volunteer.

**Mediation**

Truancy has made up for the bulk of our mediations for 2021. Numbers almost doubled from 2020 with 305 referrals to 556 in 2021. We serve all of Delaware City and Delaware County, totaling 43 school buildings. Due to the pandemic, 2021 had us working both in person and by zoom. We are more prepared to work virtually if necessary, which was a major challenge last year.

Also, in 2021, we forged a new relationship with our Department of Job and Family Services, working closely together with child protection cases. In 2019, Judge David A. Hejmanowski implemented mandatory mediation in all child protection and custody cases in this Court. This new relationship increased the caseload from 17 child protection cases in 2020 to 28 in 2021 and from 6 custody cases in 2020 to 11 custody cases in 2021. We anticipate the increase in the child protection arena to be even more significant in 2022.

Juvenile offender mediations continued to decrease in 2021, 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 to 5 in 2021.

Looking ahead to 2022, the Mediation Department anticipates continued growth in our current programs. Our goal for 2022, is to make mediation available to the Juvenile Assessment Center families. This program works with families informally to avoid any court involvement. The Mediation Department will continue to collaborate with other departments to help the families we serve.

2022 Mediation Statistics

| Type of Mediation       | Referred   | Mediated   | Outcomes*       | Hours**    |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| Attendance***           | 556        | 490        | 490F/66N/5O     | 654.5      |
| Delinquency             | 5          | 3          | 3F/2N/S         | 10         |
| Child Protection        | 28         | 21         | 2F/7P/2N/8N/4/O | 56         |
| Parenting/Custody       | 11         | 5          | 2F/3P/6N/S/O    | 20         |
| Informal school/request | 1          | 1          | 1F              | 1.5        |
|                         |            |            |                 |            |
| <b>TOTALS</b>           | <b>601</b> | <b>520</b> |                 | <b>742</b> |

\*Outcomes are full, partial, no, or other, including 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 the 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 2021 started with a lot of the same challenges brought on by COVID-19. As the probation team eased back into in-person meetings they were also able to conduct virtual visits as needed. Precautions have continued with mask wearing and using larger conference rooms to allow for social distancing.

Of the 29 new youth served by probation during 2021: 7 identified as African American, 1 identified as mixed race, 1 identified as Asian, and 20 identified as White. The Probation team served 27 males and 2 females. In 2021, 15 cases carried over from 2020, 9 cases were admitted into the program and closed during 2021, and 20 new youth were admitted to the program and carried over into 2022. Of those youth, 7 were successfully terminated, 2 were unsuccessfully terminated and 0 were 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.

A total of 54 youth were supervised on GPS ankle monitors for a total sum of 1,999 days. The average length of time a youth was on an ankle monitor was 37 days.

In the spring of 2021, three officers were certified to train the Reimagining Juvenile Justice (RJJ) Curriculum. RJJ is a professional development program that was delivered to 27 participants from different agencies across Delaware County. Modules included topics of positive youth development, cross-system collaboration, addressing racial and ethnic disparities, engaging youth voices, fostering positive family relationships and transforming policy. The program was implemented in the fall of 2021. Since then a collaborative work group has been established with various agencies to create a cross systems approach to serving our community.

## **Juvenile Sex Offender Program**

In 2021, the Court implemented new programs for diversion and supervision of low level sex offenders. These programs are designed for juveniles that have committed an offense without contact or an offense without a known victim (often sexting offenses). The team meets weekly - triaging cases that could receive these services before formalization or adjudication. The goal is to ensure all juveniles that are being charged with a sexually oriented charge are receiving the best treatment possible along with the most effective form of education.

Of the youth served by the Juvenile Sex Offender/Education Program during 2021: 9 youth identified as white and 3 youth identified as African American. We had 3 youth terminated



successfully. There was 1 youth placed in residential treatment, 1 youth (17 years old) bound over as an adult with new rape charges and 1 adult (18 years old) who was sentenced to the custody of the Department Youth Services. The JSO/JSE docket served 13 males total in 2021.

### The Suspension Alternative Program/Community Service

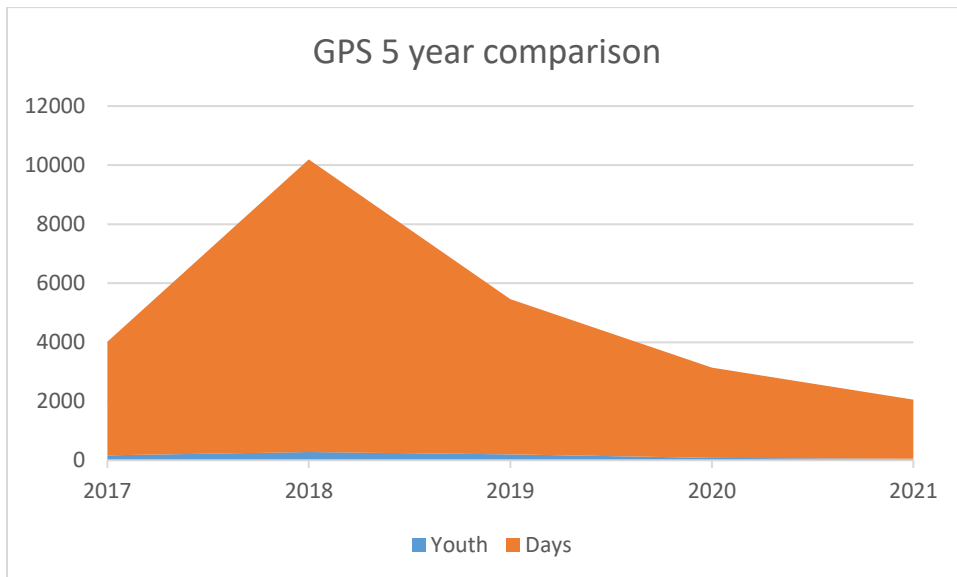
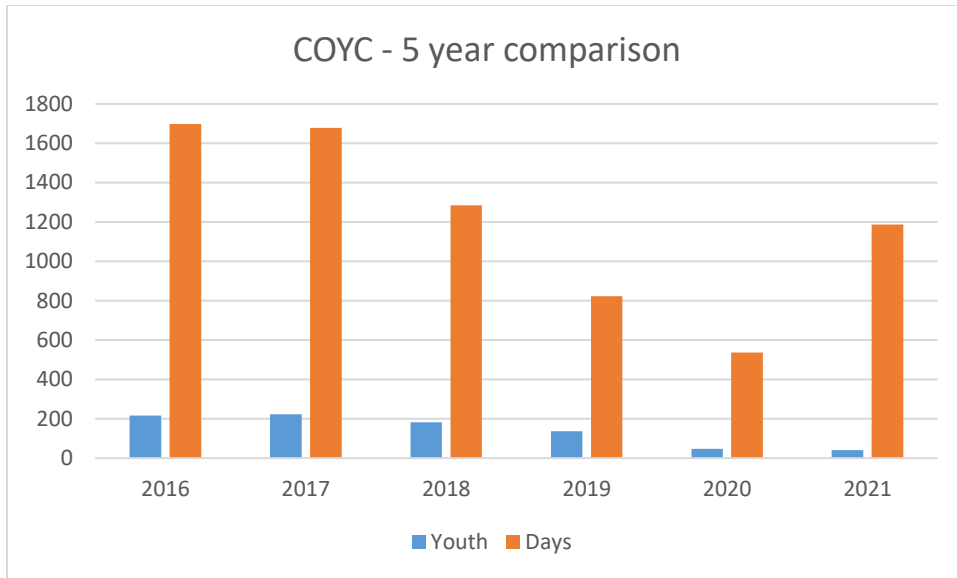
The Juvenile Court also runs a Suspension Alternative Program (SAP), which provides daily activities for youth suspended from school. SAP is six hours a day and consists of community service projects for non-profit agencies and government entities. In 2021, 15 youth participated in SAP working 6 hours a day for a total of 90 hours of supervised service. SAP is funded through the Juvenile Court, schools, and a grant from SourcePoint. 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 2021, 117 youth worked through the community service program on various projects.

Through a partnership with SourcePoint, the Court served 69 elderly residents of Delaware County in 2021. The service requests, also known as referrals, are collected by SourcePoint 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 2021, the total service hours completed by the crews were 179, 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 2021, the SAP and Community Service programs also served the Delaware County Health Department by picking up 81 bags of litter and disposing of 34 large/very large items. The programs also delivered 7,500 issues of The Communicator, SourcePoint's bimonthly newspaper. In 2021, the programs were also recognized by the Delaware County Health Department for their outstanding efforts to keep Delaware litter free.

### Therapy K9

The court therapy dog, Franklin, is all grown up now. He has earned certifications through the American Kennel Club for being a puppy S.T.A.R, Canine Good Citizen, and he has earned two trick dog titles, both novice and intermediate. He has become a great asset to the team. He continues to positively impact the community, both children and adults alike, by being there for them in good times and bad. He has been a support for anxious children at the courthouse. Franklin has been there for victims of crime, people that have experienced trauma, and the juveniles in the system. He responds to critical incidents, has been a shoulder to cry on, and has put a smile on countless faces throughout the year. Franklin and his handler, Gia DeGirolamo, love to visit the schools, partner with other county agencies, and participate in community activities together.



### Treatment Court

The Delaware County Juvenile Court operates two specialized dockets for persons whose involvement with the Court results from 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 drug or alcohol involvement. 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/untreated mental health concerns.

Specialized dockets, such as the JTC and FTC, are cost-effective ways to protect the community, ensure children’s safety, and assist in rehabilitating parents and juveniles who could stay out of the legal system with proper community-based resources and services. Both dockets

are entirely voluntary to improve the lives of the parents and children 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 engage in their treatment so they can use that treatment in 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, and submit to supervision by probation officers and/or JFS Case Workers. They 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. These supports include linking clients to services such as employment, education, housing, parenting, family dynamics, tutoring, mentoring, and prosocial community-based partners.

Both specialized dockets assist participants in matriculating to graduation from the JTC or FTC once they have obtained the skills to manage their mental health, live a drug-free lifestyle, and continue as law-abiding citizens without the need of supervision from the Court. With FTC, another goal is to reunite children with their parents to be raised in a healthy environment with adults who possess appropriate parenting skills, so long as that reunification is in the best interests of the children. On March 20, 2020, the FTC received the Specialized Docket Certification through the Commission on Specialized Dockets, which the Supreme Court of Ohio established.

In 2021, fourteen adults participated in the FTC. Two juveniles who began participating in the JTC in 2020 graduated from the program in 2021. Two adults completed FTC successfully in 2021, and several are going through the process. It remains true that opioids, cocaine, and methamphetamines are the substances we see misused the most in Delaware County treatment courts. However, the Court remains committed to holding those before the Court accountable for substance misuse, assisting families in need of services, and working in the best interests of children. Both Treatment Court Dockets are committed to doing all of the above in conjunction 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.

Prior to this year, distinct but similar program tracks (e.g. Family Support Services) existed under the larger Family Advocate umbrella. This year all Family Advocate programming was combined into one program. This change allowed for more flexibility in case assignment and length of service. The underlying interventions (e.g. FFT, Motivational Interviewing, PATHS etc.) and method of service delivery remained the same. Prior to March of 2020, the majority of direct program services were delivered in-person in client homes. Throughout 2021, in addition to home-based service delivery, we continued to offer adapted services 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 staff observed recommended social distancing guidelines. The ability to maintain client privacy and confidentiality was also considered when outside meetings were arranged. The program has also continued to offer program services remotely using video software (e.g. Zoom and Doxy.me) as well as increased telephonic communication with clients. Despite the ongoing operational barriers presented by the pandemic these adaptations allowed family advocate services to continue uninterrupted throughout 2021.

In 2021, the Family Advocate program served 52 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 28 clients whose services were terminated during 2021, 93% (26 identified clients) were "successfully" terminated from the program. Of the remaining 2 clients, one was deemed a "neutral" termination due to the client being placed out-of-home prior to the inception of services and one client was closed "unsuccessfully" due to long-term placement in a controlled setting.

## **Fiscal Department**

### **Human Resources**

During 2021, there were several positions that remained vacant in the Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court due to COVID 19 and the unknown return to normal work and caseloads. There were three newly created position in the past calendar year; a dedicated staff attorney, a Safe Harbor Coordinator, and a Race, Equity, and Inclusion Program Coordinator. 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 2021 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 \$5,019,603.86. The total general fund expenses, including prepayment of a software license, totaled \$4,001,021.65. The court requested that \$191,861.56 be carried over from FY2021 to FY2022. These expenses include guardianship attorney fees, software licenses, and a court technology upgrade. In total the court returned to the county, \$826,720.65, or 16.46% of total requested budget. A large portion of this was due to unfilled positions and the benefits that are tied with them (\$532,083.42), and the consistently decreasing expenditure at the youth facility for placement (\$255,889.71) for the 2020 year.

### ***Outside Funding Sources***

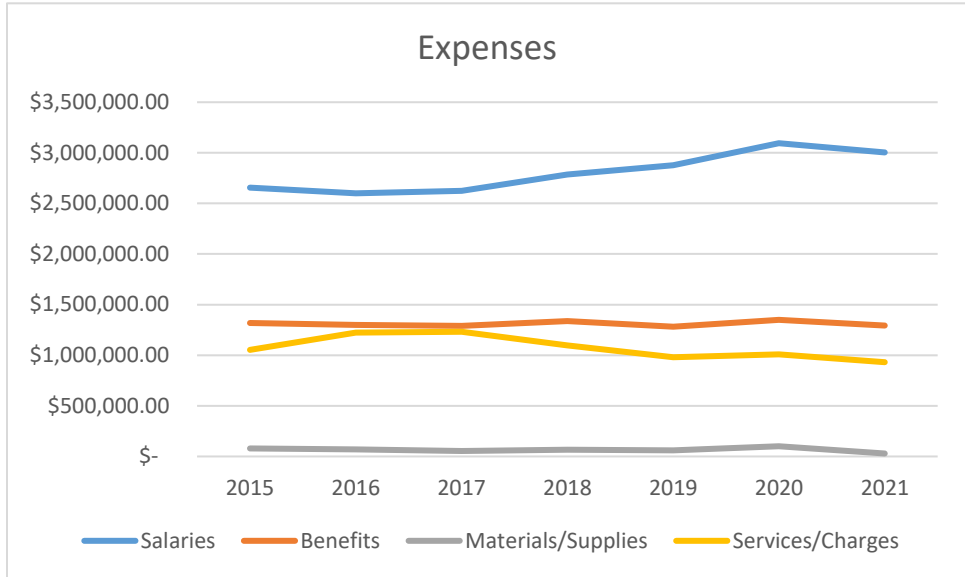
A large portion of funding received from outside sources comes from the Department of Youth Services RECLAIM grant. The award to Delaware County for 2021 was \$797,581.57, or approximately % of our supplemental funding. This program's fiscal calendar runs from July 1 to June 30. The amount noted above was for the timeframe of July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. The DYS RECLAIM grant funds eight court programs and supports 11 FTEs.

The other large source of outside funding is received from the Ohio Attorney General's Office – Victims of Crime Division, \$245,963.44. 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. The calendar year on this project runs from October 1 to September 30. In-kind support is a requirement of this funding, either by volunteer hours or cash support. For the project year of 2021, the CASA program provided 3750 volunteer hours and the county General Fund provided \$19,194.53 in cash support for the Victim Services program. Additionally, the Probate/Juvenile Court's General Fund supported the remaining salary and benefits of the six FTEs.

Two new funding opportunities were awarded in 2021, the Ohio Supreme Court's Human Trafficking Specialized Docket and the Department of Youth Services (DYS) Competitive RECLAIM – Race, Equity, and Inclusion (REI) Coordinator. The Human Trafficking award is a three year project supporting the creation of a Human Trafficking Awareness program and the salary support of a Safe Harbor Coordinator. While this program was slated to start October 1, 2021, the hiring of the program coordinator did not occur until 2022. The DYS award is a one year award supporting the hiring of a REI program coordinator who's role includes being responsible for cultivating partnerships with community agencies to serve and engage youth and families within this community, working to eliminate racial and socio-economic disparities, engaging in critical conversations with staff and community partners, and finding and presenting training related to race, equity, and inclusion. This position was not filled until 2022.

Expenses

For the calendar year of 2021, total expenses for the court fell by \$297,850.70 from 2020; however, much of this is due to the year 2020 being a 27 pay period year. As in previous years, expenses for Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court are primarily salaries and benefits. The



the court ended 2021 with 55 employees on payroll and numerous volunteers. The largest non-payroll item remains the agreement with Central Ohio Youth Center (COYC), costing \$417,901.24 in fiscal year 2021, a decrease of \$8,675.76 or 2.03%

from fiscal year 2020. While the budget line for materials and supplies did reduce significantly, this line item has been requested to carry-over to 2022 for an extensive courtroom technology upgrade.

|                    | 2017           | 2018           | 2019           | 2020           | 2021            |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Salaries           | \$2,622,894.00 | \$2,786,601.87 | \$2,876,018.22 | \$3,095,034.94 | \$ 3,004,249.74 |
| Benefits           | \$1,291,172.68 | \$1,337,123.78 | \$1,281,958.11 | \$1,349,748.24 | \$ 1,292,974.49 |
| Materials/Supplies | \$55,246.21    | \$68,112.78    | \$59,268.68    | \$100,867.96   | \$ 29,050.14    |
| Services/Charges   | \$1,231,915.02 | \$1,095,986.41 | \$979,996.93   | \$1,009,839.74 | \$ 931,365.81   |
| Total              | \$5,201,227.91 | \$5,287,824.84 | \$5,197,241.94 | \$5,555,490.88 | \$ 5,257,640.18 |

Training/In-service

In 2021, the court continued to work remotely and/or in team settings. Our training coordinator provided opportunities for staff to learn and refine skills by taking advantage of no-cost online trainings provided by universities, and local, state and federal agencies. The Court Services Analyst/Training Coordinator worked with staff to update job descriptions and job listings. The Court Services Analyst/Training Coordinator worked with staff to develop training materials to assist with increasingly complex reporting requirements. She also adjusted the onboarding process to allow for several of the processes to be done online.