

Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court
Judge David A. Hejmanowski
2022 Annual Report

Message from the Judge

Two years ago, in our 2020 annual report, I said that Court Administrator Katie Stenman and I had planned in February of that year for what appeared to be an impending pandemic. And then I wrote, '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.'

And here we are, looking back at the 2022 annual report, and seeing that the 2020 prediction about the length of the pandemic was just about spot on, and the message from our 2022 data is that we have emerged from the pandemic phase with increasing case numbers, a new appreciation for the benefits of technology in certain court hearings, and specific statistical anomalies that appear to be pandemic-driven.

In probate court, our case numbers are up. The county's rapidly increasing population means that we see more estates, more name changes, and more marriage licenses. But 2022's explosion in the last category - the highest number of marriage licenses ever issued in the county- is likely a result of marriage ceremonies that had been delayed by pandemic restrictions in 2020 and 2021.

Probate court has also seen an increase that we have long predicted- an increasing number of guardianship matters. Our Court Visitor program, our new Probate Help Desk operated with the assistance of Andrews House, and the new Guardianship Service Board (jointly funded by the county, the Board of Developmental Disabilities, and the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board) are all in place to assist. Civil matters pending in probate court are increasingly complex and time consuming as well.

Juvenile case numbers, which fell drastically in 2020, have rebounded and, in some categories, reached new heights. Like many areas throughout the United States, we are seeing substantial increases in auto thefts by juveniles, and the use of dispositional alternatives that are necessary to respond to serious felony offenses, both for rehabilitation and for public safety.

Our juvenile and family dependency treatment courts have been recertified by the Supreme Court of Ohio. Our juvenile sex offender program has been certified by the Department of Youth Services. And we are immensely proud of our new human trafficking response and prevention program, funded by a Supreme Court of Ohio multi-year grant. That program has already paid huge dividends in identifying youth at high risk of trafficking.

Our goal in every case in probate and juvenile court is to apply the law fairly, justly, and to seek appropriate outcomes that put children, families, and vulnerable adults on the path to success. We hope you find these reports and statistics enlightening and that you know that we are working hard every day to improve the lives of Delaware County's citizens.

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
R. Joseph Varvel, Staff Attorney

Katie Stenman, Court Administrator

CASA

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

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
Jill Jutte, Probate Clerk
Marilyn Kinniard, Juvenile Clerk
Melanie Layton, Records Clerk
Lisa Murphy, Probate Clerk
Danielle Orsburn, Juvenile Clerk
Brandi Pack, Probate Clerk
Molly Smith, Juvenile Clerk
Lisa Patterson, Probate Clerk
Karen Peaks, Probate Clerk
Rene Ray, Receptionist
Tammy Thompson, Juvenile Clerk

Fiscal

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

Intake

Lisa Williamson, Director of Court Services
Stacy Blair, City School Liaison/Intake Supervisor
Sara Miller, Assessment Center Supervisor
Josh Williams, Family Advocate Coordinator
Kimberly Baker, Family Advocate
Melanie Bange, Mentoring Coordinator
Brittany Gates, Intake/Diversion Officer
Mersadie Grady, Intake/Diversion Officer
Vikki Hardwick, County School Attendance Officer
Sharon Moran, Family Support Specialist
Eddie Parker, Diversion Officer
Ashley Stevens, Assessment Center Specialist
Dana Wisecarver, Victim Services Coordinator

Mediation

Kira Crawford, Mediator
Dodie Davenport, Mediation Coordinator

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, Deputy Chief Probation Officer/Treatment Court Coordinator
Josh Johnson, Probation Officer
Michelle Leighty, Probation Officer
Lindsey Lenhart, Probation Officer
Mitch Lockhart, Probation Assistant
Bobby Massie, Probation Officer
Joseph Skilton, Community Service/Probation Officer
Ken Ward, Community Service/Restitution Work Coordinator

Probate Court Statistics

Type of Filing	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Estates	501	487	546	542	602	653
Guardianship of Minors	34	44	35	27	24	20
Guardianship of Incompetents	45	57	70	64	63	70
Conservatorships	1	1	1	0	0	0
Testamentary Trusts	7	11	7	2	5	11
Civil Actions	34	15	15	14	24	28
Adoptions	48	52	41	34	44	46
Mental Commitment	2	1	2	3	1	5
Minor Settlement	20	19	8	14	15	14
Wrongful Death	16	15	12	7	13	14
Registration/Correction Birth Record	6	6	6	4	3	8
Change of Name	92	100	126	117	153	157
Marriage Applications Granted	886	856	781	871	876	989
Miscellaneous Filings ¹	91	92	99	116	135	98
	1783	1756	1749	1815	1823	2113

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

Age of Adult Wards Under Guardianship 2022	
Age Range	
18-30	248
31-50	122
51-70	76
71-89	55
90+	11
Total	512

Types of Adoptions Filed 2022	
Adult	6
Private	7
Private - Agency	4
Adoption Preplacement	3
Public Agency	6
Refinalization	2
Step-parent	17
Total	45

2022 Monthly Report of Marriage Licenses Issued	
January	31
February	49
March	45
April	92
May	103
June	119
July	92
August	134
September	138
October	85
November	43
December	46
TOTAL	977

2022 New Estate Case Action	
TYPE OF ESTATE	Total
Ancillary Administration	10
Full Administration	400
Probate Will	0
Release From Administration	114
Real Estate Transfer	20
Special Administration	3
Short Form Release	1
Summary Release	41
Taxes	0
Wrongful Death	7
Will for Record Only	16
TOTAL	612

Types of Hearings Scheduled in 2022	Number of Hearings
Probate Adoption Consent	2
Probate Adult Adoption Hearing	6
Probate Private Agency Adoption	5
Probate Pre-Placement Adoption	2
Probate Private Placement Adoption	20
Probate Public Agency Adoption	8
Probate Foreign Adoption Refinalization	1
Probate Step-Parent Adoption	38
Probate Appointment Of Co-Guardian	27
Probate Appointment Of Fiduciary	6
Probate Appointment Of Guardian	95
Probate Removal of Guardian	3
Probate Case Review	45
Probate Creditors Claim	1
Probate Hearing	98
Probate Pre-Trial	9
Probate Trial	39
Probate Non-Oral Hearing	28
Probate Status Conference	43
Probate Insolvency	8
Probate Meeting	1
Probate Minor Claim	8
Probate Minor Claim & Dispense Guardianship	11
Probate Minor Claim W/Guardianship	5
Probate Minor Name Change	28
Probate Will Admission	6
Probate Wrongful Death	2
Total	545

Results of Probate Scheduled Hearings in 2022	Number of Hearings
Continued	122
Failure to appear	3
Dismissed	11
Informal / No Recording	1
Heard	340
Non-Oral Complete	30
Vacated	38
Total	545

A total of 857 inventory and accounts were filed and reviewed by non-oral hearing during 2022.

Juvenile Court Statistics

Traffic Citations Filed	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Speed	345	401	312	326	238	237	219
Assured Clear Distance /Hit Skip	168	163	140	131	78	110	103
Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence	15	13	8	17	18	20	18
Failure to Control	69	48	55	60	56	54	73
No License/Permit, Suspended or Restrictions	50	48	47	61	56	39	31
Seat Restraint violations	27	38	28	31	13	24	15
Failure to Yield/Right of Way	75	103	70	92	55	66	70
Use of Wireless Electronic Device/Texting	4	1	4	4	1	0	0
Distracted Driving * New law 2019				15	14	5	8
Traffic Control Signal Violations	50	40	36	45	23	37	31
Improper Driving Actions*	74	86	49	52	43	51	43
Miscellaneous Actions	35	31	74	35	21	17	27
Total	912	972	823	869	616	660	638

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

In 2022, 762 delinquent or unruly charges were filed creating 337 formalized cases. These cases resulted in 112 adjudicated charges by 92 youth. Remaining charges were disposed of via diversion, case dismissal, or were still pending at the end of 2022. In addition, there were 24 counts of violations of court orders/probation filed during the year.

Charges Filed and Adjudicated in 2022 - some charges remain pending into 2023		
	Number of Charges Filed	Number of charges adjudicated
Assault and Menacing		
Assault	71	14
Menacing	18	5
Sexual Offenses		
Rape	10	2
Pandering/illegal use - minor in nude material	19	1
Sexual Imposition	6	4
Disseminating Material Harmful to Juveniles	5	1
Kidnapping, Restraint, Extortion & Coercion	3	0

Property related offenses		
Criminal Damaging	22	2
Criminal Mischief	11	3
Arson	3	2
Vandalism	1	2
Robbery, Burglary, Trespass, and Safecracking		
Safecracking	1	0
Robbery	4	3
Criminal Trespassing	7	3
Breaking and Entering	7	4
Possession of Criminal Tools	2	0
Theft and Fraud		
Theft	36	5
Misuse of Credit Cards	1	1
Identify Fraud/Falsification/Forgery	4	0
Receiving Stolen Property	21	4
Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle	1	0
Attempt to Commit Grand Theft Auto	2	1
Offenses Against the Public Peace		
Disorderly Conduct	119	12
Harassment – Telephone/Other / Intimidation	9	1
Inducing Panic	2	0
Unauthorized Discharge Fireworks	1	0
Making False Alarms	2	0
Offenses Against the Family		
Domestic Violence	39	5
Juvenile Contributing	1	0
Violating Protection Order	2	0
Offenses Against Justice and Public Administration		
Obstructing Justice	6	0
Extortion /Tampering with Evidence/False information	3	1
Resisting Arrest / failure to comply with police order	10	3
Conspiracy, Attempt and Complicity, Weapons Control, Corrupt Activity		

Weapons Control/Possession/Conceal	8	3
Complicity	20	0
Possession of a Controlled Substance	11	4
Possession of Drugs / Drug Paraphernalia	19	2
Offenses Involving Underage Persons / Alcohol	7	0
Other Offenses		
Unruly Child	175	13
Prohibitions Relating to Tobacco	15	0
Habitual / Unruly Truant	26	4
Curfew	2	0
Other Offenses	30	7
Total	762	112

Zip Code	Gender			Juvenile Age at filing date										
City Name	Zip Code	Female	Male	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	20	Total
Stone Mountain GA	30083	1						1						1
Stanford KY	40484	1									1			1
Melbourne KY	41059	1					1							1
Ashley	43003		4		1	1			1		1			4
Blacklick	43004	1	1							1	1			2
Delaware	43015	49	91	2	2	8	12	22	27	41	26			140
Dublin	43016		2					1	1					2
Galena	43021	3	11					1	5	2	5	1		14
Lewis Center	43035	21	21				1	5	14	12	8	1	1	42
Marysville	43040	1							1					1
Ostrander	43061	1	1				1			1				2
Powell	43065	6	19				1	4	4	8	8			25
Radnor	43066	1	2								2	1		3
Sunbury	43074	3	9				1			7	4			12
Westerville	43081	4	1					1	1	2	1			5
Westerville	43082	6	10			1		1	5	4	5			16
Worthington	43085		1								1			1
Grove City	43123		2								2			2
Lancaster	43130	1	1			1		1						2
Pickerington	43147		1								1			1
Stoutsville	43154		1						1					1
Columbus	43203		3							3				3
Columbus	43204		2							1		1		2
Columbus	43205	2	4				2	2	2					6
Columbus	43209		2								1	1		2
Columbus	43211	2	2				2			2				4
Columbus	43219	3	3			2	1	1		2				6
Columbus	43220		1							1				1
Columbus	43221		1								1			1
Columbus	43224		2							1	1			2
Columbus	43227		1									1		1
Lincoln Villiage	43228	1	1								1	1		2
Worthington	43229	2	1					2		1				3
Columbus	43230		3							1	2			3
Minerva Park	43231	2	3				1		1	1	1	1		5
Blacklick Estates	43232		3								1	2		3
Columbus	43235	1										1		1
Columbus	43240	2				1				1				2
Marion	43302		1								1			1
Cardinton	43315		1						1					1
Kenton	43326	1					1							1
Chesterfiled	44026	1									1			1
Mansfield	44907		1								1			1
Dayton	45402		1		1									1
St Joseph MI	49085		1					1						1
Sedalia MO	65301		1						1					1
San Antonio TX	78253		1								1			1
TOTAL		117	217	2	4	14	24	43	65	92	78	11	1	334

Abused Neglect Dependent Charges Filed 2022		
Description of Individual Charges	Charges filed	Adjudicated
Abused Child - Exhibits Injury	2	0
Abused Child - No Conviction Required	5	0
Abused Child - Victim Sexual Activity	0	0
Abused Child- Acts Causing Injury	15	0
Neglected Child - Injury by Omission	4	1
Neglected Child - Lack Parental Care	19	1
Neglected Child - Special care	0	0
Neglected Child -Abandoned	1	0
Neglected Child-Parental Refusal	15	0
Dependent Child - Residential Status Act	5	0
Dependent Child - Residential Status Danger	5	0
Dependent Child- Environmental Condition	37	33
Dependent Child- Homeless	3	1
Dependent Child- Parental condition	7	1
TOTAL	118	37

Miscellaneous	Case total
Transferred in from another county post disposition	5

Motions for Permanent Custody	
Filed 2022	17
Carried over from 2021	2
Granted	8
Dismissed/denied	2
Carried over into 2023	9

Types of Hearings Scheduled	TOTAL
Case Review	580
Change of Plea	54
Child Support Hearing	3
Civil Protection Order	10
Competency Hearing	44
Compliance Review	205
Contempt Hearing	10
Detention Hearing	74
Detention Review	67
Dispositional Hearing	233
Evidentiary Hearing	43
Family Treatment Court Hearing	54
Formal Arraignment	524
Miscellaneous Hearing	70
In Camera	10
Jury Trial	5
Motion Hearing	176
Non-oral Hearing	37
Permanent Custody Hearing	3
Pre-trial Hearing	945
Probable Cause Hearing	33
Restitution Hearing	13
Sealing/Expungement Hearing	36
Show Cause	10
Specialized Case Review	33
Status Hearing	153
Suppression Hearing	2
Traffic Formal Arraignment	556
Treatment Court Hearing	26
Trial	307
Violation of Court Orders/Probation	89
GRAND TOTAL	4439

Results of Scheduled Juvenile Hearings 2022

2022 Hearing Results	Total
Continued	566
Denied/New Date	59
Dismissed – No Hearing	13
Failure to Appear	198
Heard	2924
Hearing Type Converted	54
Informal	213
Non-oral complete	13
Vacated	399
Grand Total	4439

Juvenile Court Process in 2022

- 406 summons issued in 390 cases
- 40 warrants created/issued & 37 outstanding warrants executed or recalled
- 502 appointments of a public defender
- A Guardian ad Litem was appointed in 171 juvenile cases
- 5 cases requested jury trial, 5 resolved prior to summoning a jury
- Approx. 1,345 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, by 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 it is important to continually look for ways to improve our service to the court and to the public we serve. We take advantage of training opportunities to keep up with the latest changes to the law and its effect on the Courts. 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 2022 included an Office Manager and five Deputy Clerks. Each Probate clerk is assigned a Probate case type for efficient processing for the duration of the case. Juvenile Court clerical staff for 2022 included 9 Deputy Clerks. Areas of assignment include: traffic court,

records, courtroom services, treatment court, probation, jury services, docketing and processing, assignment commissioners, and client services.

The Clerical Services Department docketed 10,517 docket entries in 5,784 cases in the Juvenile Court and 30,242 docket entries in 8,435 cases in the Probate Court.

Phone Calls Handled 2022			
	Probate	Juvenile	Main
Incoming	8,128	2,707	2,000
Outbound	2,687	2,511	101
Total Hours	465	193	30

Documents Service Types		
	Probate	Juvenile
Certified Mail	308	447
Sheriff Service	0	281
Subpoena	37	656
Personal	0	78
Electronic Service	687	6855
Publication	26	10

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 143,214 page images during 2022 and sent over 160 boxes to the County Records 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 2022, the Court set 51 interpretation events for a cost of \$ 8,850.56. Of the interpreters requested, 75% were for the Spanish language, others included Arabic, ASL and Somali. The Court also uses telephonic interpreters when in-person interpreter services are not available. In 2022, the service was used 32 times for a total of 380 minutes. Telephonic language services were used to interpret Arabic, Hungarian, Mandarin, Portuguese, Vietnamese and Spanish.

The Court's website is actively utilized by the public. In 2022, the Probate Court website was visited 162,024 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 30,633 times with hearing schedules receiving the most traffic. The E-services portal was accessed to perform 9,560 e-filings, 1,031 e-marriage license applications and 575 juvenile e-payments.

Court Visitor Program

During the course of 2022, a total of 146 visits were conducted. Forty-three of the wards were age 55 or above and 84 of the guardians were age 55 or above. There were 332.50 direct service hours provided to the 55 or older ward and/or guardian population.

Juvenile Court - Intake Department

The Intake Department is the first contact in the juvenile legal system for a youth and family. The Department screens all complaints to determine the course of action that will be taken in accordance with Ohio Juvenile Rule 9. The case may be referred to the Assessment Center, Diversion, or formal court. Once a decision is made about the direction of the case, it will be assigned to an Assessment Center, Diversion, or Intake staff member and the staff member will follow the procedures outlined for each program.

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 of terms. The Diversion Program takes an evidence-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 with a score of 2 or below on the OYAS Diversion Screener. Best practices indicate that low risk offenders should have minimal contact with the Court and no more than 30 days of court supervision. General Diversion is for youth with a score of moderate to high risk on the OYAS Diversion Screener and they are supervised for no more than a 90 day period.

Group Diversion conferences are held for alleged delinquent or unruly juvenile co-defendants. This practice allows for increased accountability for each youth involved in an offense and reduces blame on others by youth or parents. New to diversion in 2020 and continued in 2022, 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 the first diversion occurred and the age at the time of the second diversion, the time in between charges, the nature of the second charge as it relates to the first time charge (ex: first charge being an unruly at an early age, and second charge occurring at age 17). Additionally, home and school behaviors along with work history are taken into account to determine the youth's likelihood of further recidivism.

During the past several years, the pandemic presented unique challenges for the program leading to new innovative practices. Prior to COVID-19, youth and families came into the courthouse for their diversion conferences. The program adapted to the new COVID precaution 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 conferences were utilized. In post-pandemic 2022, we continued to offer families after-hours diversions when needed. School-based diversions also increased in 2022. 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 3.98. After a diversion has been successfully completed, an additional customer satisfaction feedback survey is sent to the youth/family. In 2022, the Court conducted 119 diversions. Of the 119 cases, 107 youth successfully completed diversion in 2022. Twelve cases were unsuccessfully terminated from diversion due to new charges or failure to complete diversion terms.

Intervention in Lieu (Hold Open)

In 2022, the Intake team served 60 youth who qualified for the Intervention in Lieu (Hold Open) program. 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. The youth served in the Intervention in Lieu program are not adjudicated. 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/are dismissed and sealed. This gives the youth an opportunity to be held accountable, and not have an official court record.

To qualify for this program, the juvenile shall be charged with a status offense, misdemeanor, or felony out of a single incident. The youth must have no prior adjudications, and no prior court involvement for a period of one year. Once the juvenile has entered an admission to an offense, the Intake Officer will meet with the youth to conduct assessments/screening tools. These tools may include, the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) Disposition Screening Tool, the GAIN-SS (Global Appraisal of Individual Needs- Short Screener), and/or PEARLS (Pediatric ACEs and Related Life Events Screener). The youth must score a low risk on the OYAS Dispositional Screening Tool to qualify for Intervention in Lieu. Once the assessments are completed, the Intake Officer will present the court with summaries of the assessments and dispositional recommendations. After disposition, the Intake Officer will meet face to face with the juvenile for a minimum of 1 hour over a ninety day period. During those meetings, the Intake Officer will work with the juvenile utilizing Motivational Interviewing to help reach the program goals.

General Intake

The Intake Officers also served 68 youth who qualified for the General Intake program. The purpose of this program is to work with youth to build skills that will support the juvenile in making better choices and will help the juvenile avoid incurring new charges and further penetration into the juvenile justice system. 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/screening tools. These tools may include, the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) Disposition Screening Tool, the GAIN-SS (Global Appraisal of Individual Needs- Short Screener), and/or PEARLS (Pediatric ACEs and Related Life Events Screener). The youth must be a low risk on the OYAS Dispositional Screening Tool. Once the assessments are completed, the Intake Officer will present the court with summaries of the assessments and dispositional recommendations. The 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 a minimum of 1 hour over a ninety days period. During the meetings, the Intake Officer

will work with the juvenile, utilizing Motivational Interviewing, to help reach the program goals. During the time of supervision, the Intake Officer will reference the Incentive and Sanction Matrix and will document all informal interventions utilized with the juvenile to deter from placement in detention.

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 and 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 the initial efforts are unsuccessful in curbing the truant/unruly behavior, a mediation is scheduled with a Court 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 complaint on the child and/or the parent, depending on the circumstances of 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 2022, students attended school in-person five days a week with no COVID restrictions. The students have benefited from returning to school in-person full time as it has provided them with consistency which has served to improve their motivation and mental health. In-person learning suits most students and the last three school years have proved this to be true. For the 2022 school year, there was a significant reduction in attendance issues that needed addressed as compared to the two school years prior where attendance mediations had doubled. Truancy has always been challenging as there are generally underlying issues and reasons for a student's lack of school attendance and the pandemic only increased these challenges. Mediations for all school districts were offered in-person and via Zoom. The utilization of Zoom mediations to create the SAIP improved the completion/participation rates for several school districts over the last two years. We have found Zoom and/or other online platforms to be beneficial for working parents as it allows them to attend without missing several hours of work. For the current 2022/2023 school year, there have been 3 truancy charges and 7 adult contributing charges filed thus far for all the districts that we serve. This includes Delaware City, Olentangy, Big Walnut, Buckeye Valley, Delaware Area Career Center, Dublin Jerome and OHDELA. All 3 truancy cases were offered diversion and all 3 cases were successfully diverted.

School numbers for the 2022/2023 school year

There were forty-one (41) truancy charges and forty-four (44) adult contributing charges filed during the 2022/2023 school year for all districts that we serve. This includes Delaware City, Olentangy, Big Walnut, Buckeye Valley, Delaware Area Career Center, Dublin Jerome, and three online schools (Trecia, Goal Digital Academy, and OHDELA) with students living in Delaware County. All forty-one (41) truancy cases were offered diversion. Of the forty-one (41)

truancy cases, twenty-eight (28) cases were successfully diverted and thirteen (13) cases are still pending with the court. Due to recent filings in May 2023, seven (7) of the thirteen (13) pending cases are scheduled for a diversion conference in June with the County School Liaison. In addition during 2023, there were three (3) truancy cases that were filed during the 2021/2022 school year, that have since been adjudicated due to noncompliance with court orders. One of those adjudicated students is a senior and graduated this year.

2022-2023 School Year	DCS	BV	BW	Olentangy	DACC	Other (Dublin Jerome & Online)	Total
Informal Meeting	366	140	165	678	50	1	1400
Mediations	183	64	57	200	10	0	514
Contributing Charges Filed	23	4	4	9	0	4	44
Truancy Charge Filed*	13	4	2	12	0	10	41
Diversion Successful	10	3	1	5	0	9	28
Adjudicated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pending	3	1	1	7	0	1	13

*All juveniles charged with truancy were offered diversion.

Victim Services

The Victim Services Program was established for the Juvenile Court in 1987 to provide information and support for victims of juvenile crime and to ensure that case-related decisions include greater consideration for the victim. This 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 COVID-19 pandemic continued to present 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 Fiscal Year 2022, the Victim Services Program provided services to 279 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.

Victim Awareness Program:

Created in 2008, the Victim Awareness program helps juvenile offenders understand how their actions affected their victims. Through a series of classes, these juveniles must analyze their actions and participate in exercises geared towards helping 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. In 2022, the program conducted 7 sessions of 5 classes each. Of the 28 juveniles who successfully completed the program, only 3 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 2022, the Court distributed \$16,491.66 in restitution to victims of juvenile crime.

Mentoring Programs

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 programs. Community Mentors are each screened, complete the County’s vetting/disclosure process, and complete training. Mentees and families/guardians meet with the Mentoring Programs to complete assessments and applications. Once Mentors and Mentees are matched, the Coordinator monitors each match. Funding for both programs continues to be through the Court’s general fund; however, M.O.M.S. has received a support grant from the Delaware County Bar Association to use in the 2023 program year.

T.E.A.M. Mentee participants are at-risk students in grades 4-12 who need additional social-emotional support. Mentors teach reasoning skills, provide innovative ways of thinking about life needs, and provide various free/low cost ideas for activities that students can do within their personal lives. T.E.A.M. matches use 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 Mentee referrals from a variety of sources to include: the Delaware Juvenile Court, Job and Family Services, mental health support services, school systems, and community contacts.

In the Fall of 2022, T.E.A.M. connected with Ohio Wesleyan University's Social Justice and Education Programs, utilizing 11 Mentors for various service learning projects. As of December 2022, there were 16 youth enrolled; 8 students in grades 4-7, 8 students in grades 8-12, and 6 currently waiting to be matched. Throughout 2022, Mentoring Programs screened, withdrew, or found better fitting services for 32 adolescents and families.

Highlights for matches enrolled in T.E.A.M. have been community focused. Mentees voiced needs surrounding self-care access to Delaware County resource. Matches have partaken in many activities, including: ice skating at The Chiller, volunteering at Common Ground Free Store Ministries, artwork contests during Mainstreet Delaware's First Friday events, exploring work environments, and large group opportunities for Mentees at Delaware Preservation Parks locations (playing kickball at Deer Haven Park).

M.O.M.S. pairs pregnant/new mothers with experienced Mothers as Mentors. The Mentees in M.O.M.S. have been identified as in need of social support and parenting practices. Mentors assist new/expectant families with phases of parenting, child development, healthcare appointments, family, self-care, and independent living skills. M.O.M.S. utilizes InJoy Health Education pregnancy workbooks. Mentors share credible information from national organizations such as the American Association of Pediatrics, Parents Magazine, and University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's resources to provide support after a child is born. As of December 2020, there were 2 Moms enrolled; 0 Moms currently waiting to be matched. Throughout 2022, M.O.M.S. enacted as a short-term Mentoring Program, withdrew, or found better fitting services for 8 families.

Beginning in January 2022, Mentoring Programs began to facilitate an every other month Mentor Support time for M.O.M.S.; meeting in community spaces and encouraging discussion to support needs. In June, M.O.M.S. connected with United Way for the annual Baby Shower at Blue Limestone Park and, in October, completed porch drop offs of pumpkins for individual autumn bonding experiences. As pandemic ceases and health/safety guidelines subside, there is hope to reopen large group in full as of late summer 2023.

Assessment Center:

A preventive and diversionary program of the Juvenile Court, the Assessment Center provides a place for youth and families to obtain needed services in order to reduce the risk of entering the juvenile justice system. In partnership with Delaware City Schools and United Way Strengthening Families Initiative, the Assessment Center is located away from the courthouse to further divert youth from the formal legal system. The Assessment Center opened in the Willis Education Building located in Delaware City and began to provide services on November 1, 2019.

It is the goal of the Assessment Center to assess youth and families' needs and be able to bridge any gaps in services 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 a youth's behaviors by providing support and linkage to the right services. Additionally, 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. These programs have served to help our youth and families.

In 2022, the Assessment Center served a total of 109 youth and their 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. The 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:

Parent Project is a nationally facilitated program that was made by parents, for parents of strong-willed and destructive teens. The program is designed to help empower parents to more effectively manage their teens in the home and build a better parent-child relationship. The program is also designed to provide a parent support group for parents who are trying make changes in their home and need support to sustain their efforts. The program is a total of 24 class hours and runs for 12 weeks.

We currently have 5 facilitators and are looking to collaborate with others to become facilitators so the program can be offered more frequently to parents. We offer two classes a year, one in the winter and one in the summer or fall. In 2022, we were able to serve 19 parents with a virtual and an in-person class.

The CASA Program of Delaware and Union Counties

In 2022, The CASA Program of Delaware and Union Counties continued to experience growth and expansion. The program added 18 new CASA/GAL volunteers who were vetted, trained and sworn-in. The new volunteers immediately began advocating for abused and neglected children in both counties.

Volunteer/Case Statistics:

Volunteer CASA Advocates	65 (Delaware and Union)	
Volunteer Total Case Hours	7982	
Miles Driven by Volunteers for Casework	Over 69,000	
Number of Children Served	232	
Of Children served: Female	113	
Male	119	
Child Age Range	0-5	88
	6-11	72
	12-15	42
	16-17	22
	18+	8

In 2022, 103 children's cases were closed with a CASA/GAL Volunteer involved. The cases resulted in the following outcomes:

Reunification achieved	39
Adopted	6
Legal Custody (relative)	39
Child turned 18/21	5
Other(case transferred, removed from docket etc. legal custody to non-relative)	14

CASA/GAL Volunteers continue to be a strong voice in the courtroom for abused and neglected children. While the National CASA volunteer retention rate is 18 months, the CASA Program of Delaware and Union Counties had a retention rate of 30.9 months in 2022. The CASA/GAL Volunteers in Delaware and Union Counties are very dedicated and committed to ensuring that every child has a voice in the courtroom and achieves a safe and permanent home at case closure.

Mediation

The Mediation Department experienced growth in 2022 with two additional departments utilizing our services, the Probate Court and the Assessment Center. We are pleased to provide mediation services to several departments and programs within the Probate/Juvenile Court.

In 2022, truancy mediations made up the bulk of our mediations. Numbers were down slightly from the prior year with 556 referrals in 2021 to 496 in 2022. Learning from practices used in COVID-19, the continued use of Zoom to conduct mediations has allowed easier access for our clients and has drastically improved participation. This practice has also led to less rescheduled mediations, saving our department valuable time. We serve all of Delaware City and

Delaware County Schools, totaling 43 school buildings, and are anticipating this number will continue to grow. We are thankful for the support of the School Liaisons/Attendance Officer and supportive school staff. With their continued support, our Department is prepared to continue offering this great service for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.

In 2022, the Department of Job and Family Services number of cases referred (formal/informal) Abuse/Neglect cases to mediation has remained approximately the same, from 28 Abuse/Neglect referrals in 2021 to 27 in 2022. We did see a decrease in custody mediations from 11 cases in 2021 to 6 in 2022.

Juvenile offender mediations decreased by 1 in 2022, from 5 in 2021 to 4 in 2022; however, the Assessment Center referred 5 cases to mediation, Probate referred 3, and 3 cases were referred by the school for behavior/peer issues in 2022. Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building working relationships with these departments and anticipate these numbers will grow.

We anticipate continued growth for the Mediation Department in 2023. We look forward to continuing our current mediation services that including attendance, juvenile offenders, child protection, custody, probate, assessment center and peer mediations. The Mediation Department will continue to collaborate with all Probate/Juvenile departments to assist with and offer mediation services to all families involved with the Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court.

2022 Mediation Statistics

Type of Mediation	Referred	Mediated	Outcomes*	Hours**
Attendance***	495	461	461F/20N/14O	604.5
Delinquency	3	3	3F	8
Child Protection	27	19	1F/1P/17N/2NS/6O	56
Parenting/Custody	6	5	1F/2P/3N	12
Informal school/request	3	3	3F	6
Assessment Center	4	3	2F/1P/1NS	8
Probate	3	1	1N/2O	3.5
TOTALS	541	475		698

*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.

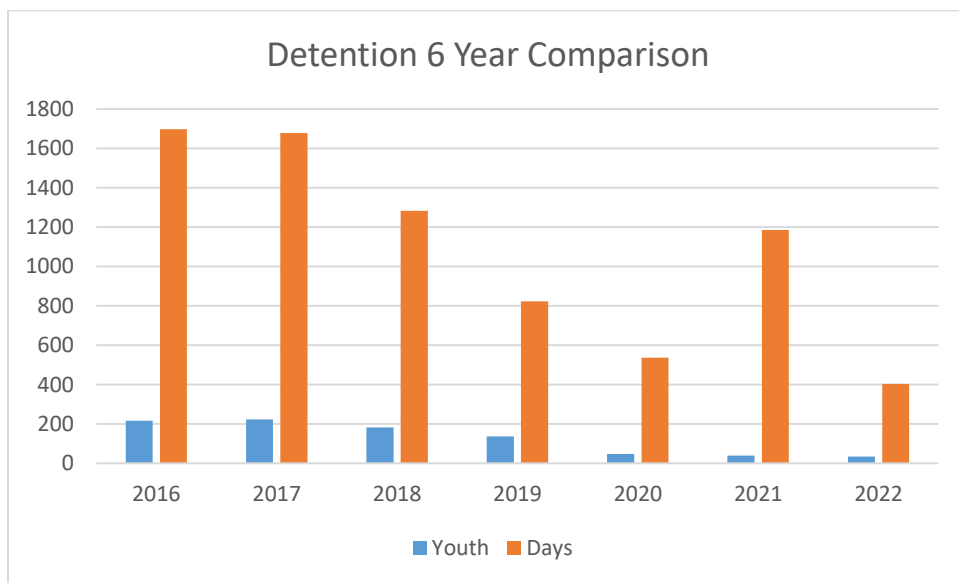
***Outcomes are full (SAIP signed), no mediation, including no show, or other (student moved out of the district, for example).

Probation

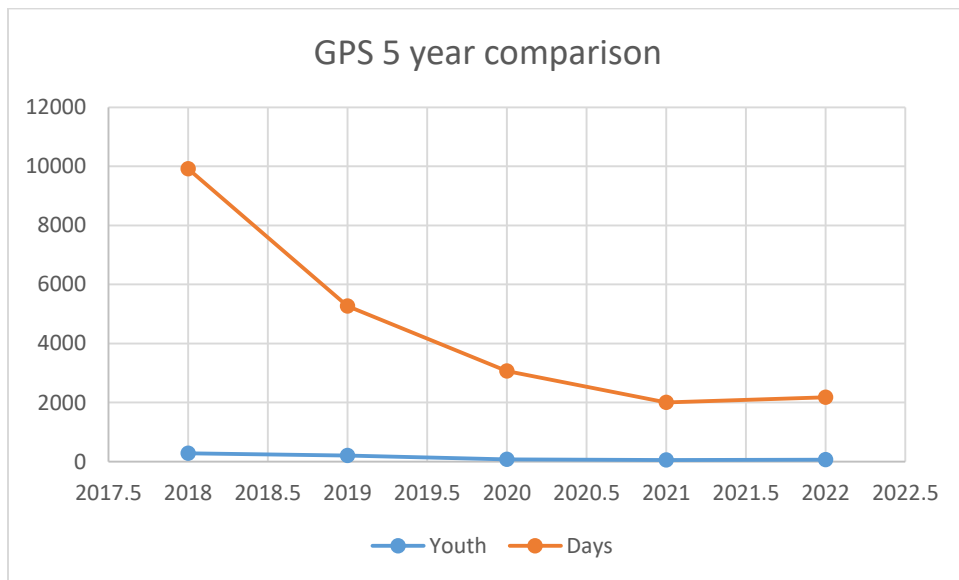
The Probation department is charged with supervising youth who have been recognized as being moderate to high risk by validated assessment tools. Probation officers use evidence based practices such as EPICS, the Carey Guides, and Motivational Interviewing techniques to change

behavior and reduce recidivism. The department is involved in three specialized dockets: Juvenile Treatment Court, Adult Treatment Court and Juvenile Sex Offender docket.

During the 2022 calendar year, 30 youth were served in the probation program and 10 youth were served in the progressive supervision program. Detention numbers have decreased since 2021. There were 35 youths held for a total of 404 days in detention for an average stay of 11 days. In addition, there were 2 outlying youths who account for another 730 days, each being detained for the entire 2022 year.



A total of 62 youths were supervised on GPS ankle monitors for a total sum of 2,180 days. The average length of time a youth was on an ankle monitor was 35 days.



Juvenile Sex Offender Docket

The Delaware County Juvenile Sex Offender Probation, treatment and Intake teams have devised a new program for Diversion and A.S.E. (Adolescent Sexual Education) Program. These programs will be for juveniles that have committed an offense regarding phone offenses and victimless crimes. The team meets weekly triaging cases that could receive those services before formalization or adjudication. The goal is to ensure all juveniles (male and female) that are being charged with a sexually oriented charge are receiving the best treatment possible.

The JSO/JSE docket served 10 adolescent males in 2022. Of the youth served by the Juvenile Sex Offender/Education Probation Docket during 2022: 8 youth identified as white and 2 youth identified as African American and 1 adult identified as Asian. We had 1 adult (17 years old when offense happened) terminated successfully. There were 2 youths receiving treatment in residential.

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 2022, 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 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, work off court costs and/or earn credit towards their owed restitution. In 2022, 103 youths worked through the community service program on various projects.

Through a partnership with Source Point, the Court served 77 elderly residents of Delaware County in 2022. The service requests, also known as referrals, are collected by Source Point and are forwarded to the Juvenile Court for the Community Service or SAP crew to complete. The crews 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, and picking up walnuts and sweetgums. In 2022, the crews completed a total of 262 service hours and a bulk of the referrals were completed within seven business days. All this was completed while maintaining a Covid-19 safety protocol keeping our community safe.

In 2022, the SAP and Community Service programs also served the Delaware County Health Department by picking up 60 bags of litter and disposing of 65 large/very large items. The programs also delivered 7,500 issues of The Communicator, Source Point'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.

Race, Equity, and Inclusion Work

In July of 2022, Juvenile Probation Officer Joshua Johnson acquired the role of the court's Race, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator in a part-time capacity. Mr. Johnson is primarily responsible for cultivating partnerships with community agencies, collecting relevant data, engaging youth and families, and leading critical conversations with staff to address race, equity and inclusion. In addition, Mr. Johnson is an active participant in several stages of court

proceedings to eliminate any racial and socio-economic disparities that may be present within court programs and policies. In 2022, Mr. Johnson linked the court with more than ten community partners, including The Unity Community Center, Delaware Pride, OSU Project Dreams and The African American Heritage Council. Additionally, Mr. Johnson identified over ten professional development opportunities for staff engagement in racial equity and inclusion. As we move into 2023, Mr. Johnson and the court are confident that they will build upon prior work and continue to make the court more inclusive, equitable and accessible for the community that it serves.

Court Therapy Dog Program

Franklin, the court therapy dog, is now three years old! He continues his training and has earned certifications through the American Kennel Club, including the AKC puppy S.T.A.R., AKC Canine Good Citizen, AKC Trick Dog Novice level, and the AKC Trick Dog Intermediate level. Moreover, he has completed Therapy Dog Training and earned certification through No Bad Dogs Ohio and a National Therapy Dog Certification through Love on Leash.

Franklin has been a great asset to the Juvenile/Probate Court and the Delaware County community. In 2022, he responded to 142 requests for his services from more than ten county agencies. He has spent hours with individuals as they attend varying court proceedings, including accompanying victimized children during their testimony, assisting in trial preparation, and supporting mental health clinicians in de-escalating youth who have difficulty regulating their emotions.

Additionally, Franklin has spent time with many abused, neglected, and dependent children while they spoke with Judge Hejmanowski during In-Camera Hearings. He has been there for victims of crime, people experiencing trauma, and youth involved in the juvenile justice system. He continues responding to critical incidents, has been a shoulder to cry on, and puts a smile on countless faces throughout the year.

Franklin and his handler, Deputy Chief Gia DeGirolamo, love visiting the schools, partnering with county agencies, and participating in community activities. His companionship continues to positively impact children and adults alike.

Treatment Court

Juvenile Treatment Court

Under the leadership of Judge Hejmanowski, Delaware County Juvenile/Probate Court operates two specialized dockets. The Juvenile Treatment Court docket is a separate and specialized docket within the Delaware County Juvenile Court. This docket assists in rehabilitating non-violent juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent in an offense where substance use or co-occurring disorders are the underlying cause. The Juvenile Treatment Court provides an environment where youth can develop prosocial attitudes and beliefs essential to eliminating substance use and reducing recidivism. Specifically, the program offers a collaborative approach to include the Magistrate, probation department, treatment court coordinator, mental health providers, defense attorneys, Guardians ad Litem, the youth, and their families. Juvenile Treatment Court uses appropriate incentives, therapeutic interventions, sanctions, case management, random drug testing, evidence-based behavior change practices, and community supervision.

Juvenile Treatment Court is an entirely voluntary program that will assist the youth in developing the skills needed to address their mental health and substance use disorders. The Juvenile Treatment Court serves a targeted population of youths aged 14-17. These youths will have completed an Alcohol and Drug assessment with a substance abuse or dependency disorder diagnosis. These youth will be on Community Control through the Probation Department and shall be assessed by the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) with a moderate or high risk of re-offending. Many of these youth are high-needs and at risk for possible placement outside the home. Many participants have experienced varying degrees of adverse childhood experiences.

The Juvenile Treatment Court participants graduate after completing four phases. Each phase supports the youth by providing the framework for them to live a sober lifestyle. Each phase is intended to provide education and support that will last beyond the youth's court involvement.

Family Dependency Treatment Court

Family Dependency Treatment Court, under Judge Hejmanowski, is a separate, specialized docket designed for parents involved with the Delaware County Department of Job and Family Services (DCDJFS). Their involvement is due to parental misuse of drugs, alcohol, or inadequately treated/untreated mental health concerns. On December 16, 2022, the Family Dependency Treatment Court earned the Specialized Docket Recertification through the Ohio Supreme Court Commission on Specialized Dockets. Specialized dockets, such as Family Dependency Treatment Court, are a collaborative, efficient, and cost-effective way to reunite children with their parents. Family Dependency Treatment Court is a voluntary program intended to help improve the lives of the parents and children we serve. Participants update the Court during regularly held hearings, attend treatment appointments with community-based providers, and must have completed their agreed-upon case plan with DCDJFS.

While on the Family Dependency Treatment Court docket, the participant will perform frequent and random drug screening. The Treatment Court Coordinator partners with many community-based providers to assist the participants in finding additional supports as needed. These supports include linking clients to services such as employment, education, housing, parenting programs, family dynamics programs, tutoring, mentoring, and prosocial community-based partners. In each case, a Court Appointed Family Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) assists the team. This docket helps participants in matriculating to graduating the Family Treatment Court 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 for Court supervision.

In 2022, the Family Dependency Treatment Court had 11 adult referrals. Of those referred, 4 people declined participation. Five people participated in the Family Dependency Treatment Court Program, and 3 graduated in 2022. Opioids, cocaine, and methamphetamines are the most abused substances by the court participants. However, the Court remains committed to holding those before the Court accountable, assisting families needing services, and working in children's best interests.

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 utilizes either the Family Environmental Scale (FES) or Family Adaptability and Cohesion Evaluation Scale (FACES IV) to measure the environmental and social characteristics of the families. These tools aid goal formation as they help identify growth opportunities related to areas such as family cohesion, communication, and family satisfaction. Staff attempt to gather assessment data in the engagement phase and again at termination to aid in measuring the family's self-reported progress. Advocates aim for weekly family contact (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 typically ranges from 3 to 12 months depending on the needs of the family.

In 2022, Family Advocate programming remains a consolidated program, although we continue to utilize Family Support Services (FSS) as an internal designation for the services of one staff member. The underlying interventions (e.g. FFT, Motivational Interviewing, PATHS etc.) and method of service delivery have remained the same since prior years. Throughout 2022, in addition to home-based service delivery, we continued to offer some sessions via video software (e.g. Zoom and Doxy.me). We were less reliant on this adaptation than in the previous two years, but continued to offer remote services based on factors related to health and safety or family needs.

In 2022, the Family Advocate program served 65 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 40 clients whose services were terminated during 2022 83% (33 identified clients) were "successfully" terminated from the program. Of the remaining 7 clients, 5 were deemed "neutral" termination due to minimal linkage prior to closure and 2 clients were closed "unsuccessfully" due to placement outside of the home.

Safe Harbor Programming

In 2021, the Court was awarded a competitive grant to develop a Safe Harbor Program under the Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking federal grant. The Court hired a Safe Harbor Coordinator in April 2022 to create and implement protocols that align with Ohio's Safe Harbor law for minor victims of human trafficking. From April through December, 21 referrals were received, 7 of which were trafficking victims, 5 were not victims, and 9 were determined to be high risk for exploitation. Appropriate services were offered to help identified youth recover from their trafficking experience, prevent future victimization and avoid further contact with the Courts.

Safe Harbor referrals may be made by any party, including the judicial official, who will appoint a Guardian ad Litem and schedule a Safe Harbor Hearing. Any juvenile charged with prostitution, solicitation or loitering qualifies for Safe Harbor Status. A juvenile charged with any

other offense in which there is a reason to believe the charges are related to the juvenile's victimization, the judicial official will appoint a Guardian ad Litem and schedule a Safe Harbor Hearing. If a juvenile qualifies for Safe Harbor Status, charges will be placed in abeyance and individualized services will be coordinated through the Safe Harbor Coordinator. If the youth completes diversion to the Court's satisfaction, the Court can dismiss the charges and move that all records pertaining to the case be expunged.

In an effort to train the community to identify and respond to human trafficking of minors, the Safe Harbor Coordinator and the Department of Public Safety Improving Outcomes team created a one-page document that outlined high risk indicators for juvenile trafficking. The document was distributed to Court personnel and community partners. The Safe Harbor Coordinator and Intake staff began utilizing human trafficking risk screening and assessment tools to identify vulnerable youth and youth who are trafficked to ensure appropriate services are provided.

In June, the Court hosted and made available to staff and community partners an 8-hour training entitled *Identifying and Responding to Juvenile Human Trafficking in Ohio* through the Department of Safety. Additionally, the Safe Harbor Coordinator and a Court Mediator, trained as facilitators for the *Ohio Youth Human Trafficking Prevention Curriculum* and offered the first 10-week session in October. The curriculum, developed for vulnerable female youth, seeks to identify vulnerabilities and increase youth's protective factors. Topics covered include, but are not limited to: understanding exploitation, the importance of establishing appropriate social media boundaries, physical and emotional boundaries, understanding the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships, and how to formulate a safety plan.

The Safe Harbor Coordinator assembled a multi-disciplinary team to strengthen the systematic response to trafficked minors which will establish protocols and facilitate county-based coordination of victim services. The task force delegation attended a 3.5-day training provided by the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College entitled, "MDT Response to Child Sex Trafficking." During this training the team assessed the county's strengths and weaknesses and made huge strides in developing county-wide procedures and trauma-informed policies to best identify and serve minor victims of human trafficking.

Fiscal Department

Human Resources

In 2022, the Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court saw a substantial increase in employee turnover. Over the course of the calendar year, four employees were promoted to new positions within the court and eleven new hires occurred. At the close of 2022, two positions remain open.

With the change in needs from the court and community, budget lines for positions which have remained vacant over the last several years have been consolidated and/or repurposed. For example, previously the Court employed a Night Monitor, a Transport Officer, and a Community Service Provider as three separate position descriptions. In 2022, an Evening Probation Officer/Community Service position was created and hired to meet the needs of the probation program. 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 2022 fiscal year, the court received approval for appropriations from the county, including the money requested from 2021, for an available budget of \$5,350,049.56. The total general fund expenses, including two courtroom technology upgrades, totaled \$4,117,410.61. The court requested that \$185,532.99 be carried over from FY2022 to FY2023. These carryover expenses include youth placement costs, guardianship attorney fees, software licenses, and a courtroom furniture update. With the inclusion of the carryover requests, the court returned \$1,047,105.96 to the county general fund. A large portion of this was due to unfilled positions and the benefits that are tied with them (\$675,252.46), and the consistently decreasing expenditure at the youth facility for placement (\$366,809.56) for the 2022 year. It is anticipated in the 2023 calendar year for the COYC costs to return to 2021 cost levels, approximately \$414,000. This is due to an anticipated decrease in Out-of-District revenue received at the Central Ohio Youth Center from non-contracted counties. Additionally, during a discussion with county administration, it was requested that the court decrease the return of appropriations in the fringe benefit lines for 2023. Thus the 2023 request in the Health Insurance budget line for the Juvenile Court General Fund has been reduced from \$814,020 (2022) to \$546,580.80 (2023).

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 2022 was \$779,321.88; this program runs from July 1 to June 30. The amount noted above was for the timeframe of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. The DYS RECLAIM grant funds 8 court programs and supports 9.5 FTEs.

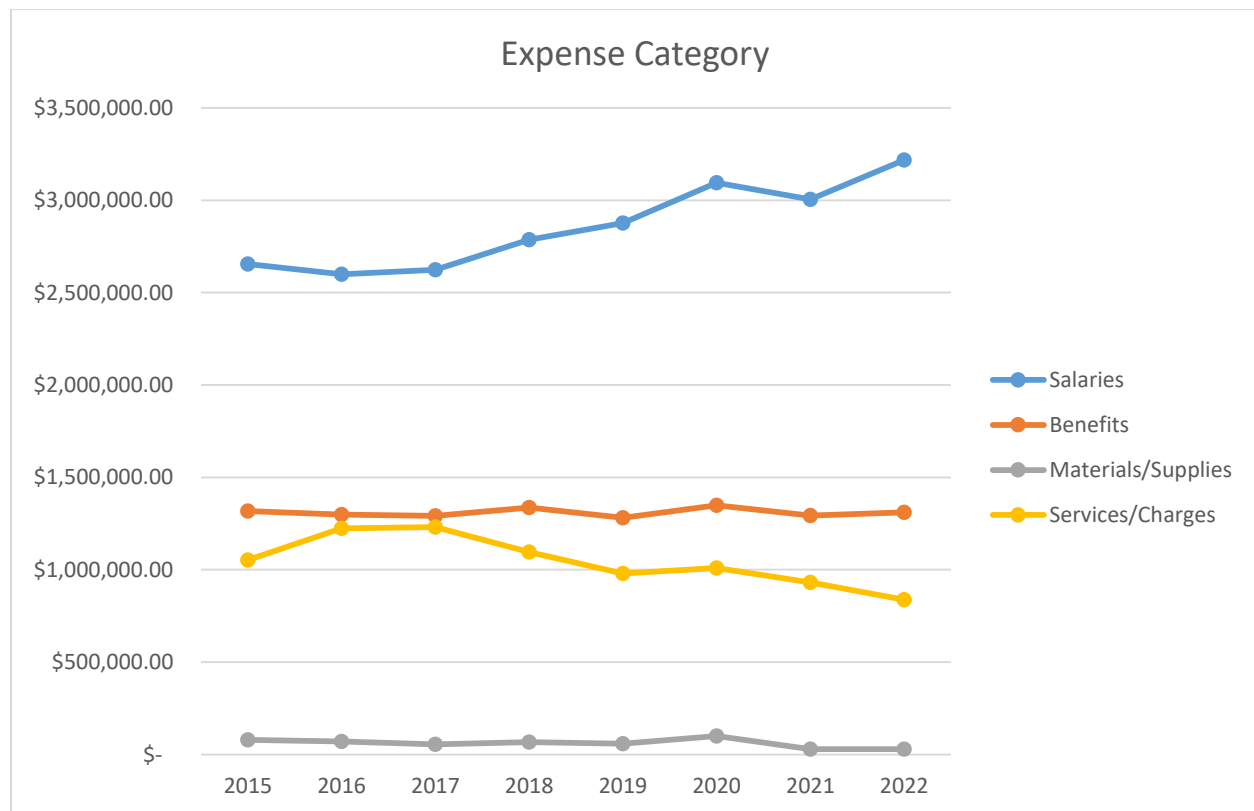
The other large source of outside funding is received from the Ohio Attorney General's Office – Victims of Crime Division, \$167,814.86. Two court programs are funded by this sponsor, the Victim Services program and the Court Appointed Special Advocate program. These programs support a portion of the salaries of six employees. The calendar year on this project runs from October 1st to September 30th. In-kind support is a requirement of this funding, either by volunteer hours or cash support. For the project year of 2022, the CASA program was required to provide \$27,662.59 in in-kind volunteer hours (1844 hours) and the county general fund provided \$8,343.87 in cash support for the Victim Services program. The CASA program operates in two counties, Union and Delaware. Union County provides \$49,264 in salary support for the two FTEs serving cases originating from that court. Additionally, the Delaware County 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 and benefits 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 April 2022. The first year of this award totaled \$81,707, of which \$5,000 was cost-shared from the Court's general fund. The second year of funding will not be released until June 2023, or until the first year of funds have been expended. The DYS award is a two year award supporting the hiring of a REI Program Coordinator whose 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 May 2022.

Expenses

For the calendar year of 2022, the total expenses in the general funds rose by \$116,388.96. A majority of this cost is due to salary and benefit adjustments, however, in 2022 the establishment of a Guardianship Service Board required the transfer of \$35,000 as agreed upon during the Board creation. This transfer of funds will continue, but may increase as the needs of the Probate Court increase.



As in previous years, expenses for Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court are primarily salaries and benefits. The court ended 2022 with 60 employees on payroll and numerous volunteers. The largest non-payroll item remains the agreement with Central Ohio Youth Center (COYC), costing \$286,038.96 in fiscal year 2022, a decrease of \$131,873.28 from fiscal year 2021. As stated previously, COYC applied Out-of-County credits to the contracted counties' annual expense for 2022. This will not be duplicated in the upcoming year. Please note that the services/charges line item does account for all deposit refunds returned to probate cases and for

the monthly state rotary reparations. Overall, the expenses in 2022 increased by \$139,727.64 or 2.65%.

Salaries

2015	\$ 2,655,010.62
2016	\$ 2,599,973.72
2017	\$ 2,622,894.00
2018	\$ 2,786,601.87
2019	\$ 2,876,018.22
2020	\$ 3,095,034.94
2021	\$ 3,004,249.74
2022	\$ 3,218,062.18

Materials/Supplies

2015	\$ 79,238.79
2016	\$ 70,244.03
2017	\$ 55,246.21
2018	\$ 68,112.78
2019	\$ 59,268.68
2020	\$ 100,867.96
2021	\$ 29,050.14
2022	\$ 29,123.27

Benefits

2015	\$ 1,317,156.86
2016	\$ 1,299,366.10
2017	\$ 1,291,172.68
2018	\$ 1,337,123.78
2019	\$ 1,281,958.11
2020	\$ 1,349,748.24
2021	\$ 1,292,974.49
2022	\$ 1,311,465.76

Services/Charges

2015	\$ 1,052,665.20
2016	\$ 1,223,865.71
2017	\$ 1,231,915.02
2018	\$ 1,095,986.41
2019	\$ 979,996.93
2020	\$ 1,009,839.74
2021	\$ 931,365.81
2022	\$ 838,716.61