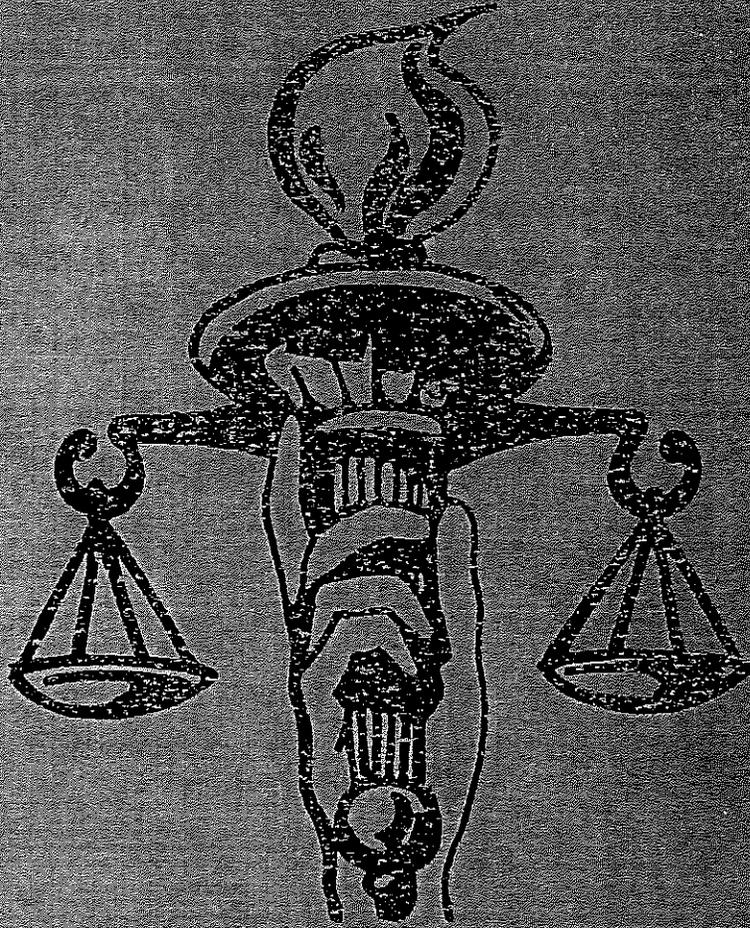


Miami County
Juvenile Court



1992

Annual Report

Honorable Richard A. Goater, Judge

The Fall of 1992 saw the completion of construction of the combined six county juvenile felony offender Rehabilitation Center and the Miami County Juvenile Detention Center in the Troy, Ohio area. The combined facilities are called West Central Juvenile Facility. The six county project is state funded and serves Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Preble, Shelby and Miami counties. It is anticipated that the Detention Center will open the first of the year, and the Rehab Center's opening is contingent upon state operational funding. Detention has 26 bed spaces and Rehab has 34 beds for the non-violent less serious felony offending youth.

On a less happy note, August, 1992 brought the untimely death of David Brown, Director of the Miami County Youth Center, a 16 bed residential facility for boys. In his honor, the Miami County Board of Commissioners renamed the facility after him. It is with like respect and affection for him that this report is dedicated in his honor. He was the Director since the facility opened 5 years ago, and it has been through his commitment and effort that the facility has taken hold. We miss David and a search for his replacement will be difficult to achieve. Donations in his memory have been received and are welcome.

Richard A. Goater
Judge of Miami County Juvenile Court

PROGRAMS OFFERED BY MIAMI COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

1. Probation
2. Alternative Education
3. Juvenile Work Program-Restitution
4. Miami County Youth Center
5. Foster Care and Group Homes
6. West Central Day Treatment Program
7. Adolescent Self-Esteem
8. Psychological Services
9. Alcohol/Substance Abuse Education
10. Juvenile Traffic Offender Program
11. Miami Alternatives Program
12. Adolescent Sex Offender Program
13. Other Court Services

- A. Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Cases
- B. Adult Civil Procedure
- C. Adult Criminal Procedure
- D. Marriage Consent
- E. Custody Review Board

1. PROBATION

Probation supervision is used after an official court order by the Judge or the Referee whereby a probation officer actively supervises and monitors the young person's adjustment in the home, school, and the community. The primary objective is to effect change while insuring compliance of court orders and to protect the interests of the community. Through the development and implementation of a structured and individualized treatment plan, the probation officer encourages the child to consider other available choices and to take ownership of his decisions and subsequent behavior.

Many varied techniques and approaches are utilized during the probation period, some of which are: the use of behavioral contracts, goal setting, experimental exercises (role playing), and use of logical consequences, each enhanced by the use of positives.

In addition, a Truancy Program was developed to better serve the needs of the unruly child who has truanted from the home or school. Recognizing that "truancy" itself is often the symptom, or a means of coping or reacting to some other situation, the program has as its objective the identification of casual factors. The program consists of an intensive 90 day supervision period during which the child and the family participate in weekly meetings, attend Family

Skills, and complete Adolescent Self-Esteem groups as well as any additional Court orders. At the end of the 90 day period, the case is either terminated or transferred to the probation department for ongoing services. In 1992, 104 youth were ordered into the Truancy Program.

PROBATION SUPERVISION

Placed on probation	243
Males	164
Females	79

Terminated from probation

Males	228
Females	152
	76

Probation violations filed

Males	220
Females	135
	85

2. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

In August of 1982 an Alternative Education program was begun. The program is designed for probationary youth who have been expelled or suspended from their home school.

There are several purposes of the program. It attempts to keep students current in their subject areas while they are on suspension in order to make their eventual assimilation back to their home schools much easier. It allows the instructor the opportunity to work one-on-one with youth who have difficulty in a particular subject area.

In addition it affords the teacher and the probation staff the opportunity to work with the youth in the development of new goals with regard to education.

The program was formerly housed in the Safety Building in Troy, but in the fall of 1984 it was moved to the Troy Recreation Center. Originally begun as a program for six to eight youth, it has grown considerably, often involving as many as twenty to twenty-five students each day.

In 1991, the school day was increased from 3 hours to 5 hours. More attention was focused on individual testing and educational planning. A teacher's aide position was added in late 1990 to assist the Alternative Education Teacher.

The unforeseen increase in the number has necessitated a relocation of the school and a restructuring of the program.

NUMBER OF YOUTH IN PROGRAM (1992) 135
Male 103
Female 32

NUMBER OF STUDENT SCHOOL DAYS 160

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE 9.3
MIAMI COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEMS
SERVED BY PROGRAM 10

3. JUVENILE WORK/RESTITUTION PROGRAM

A work program involving Court youth has been in existence for several years. The major change which was initiated in 1982 was the hiring of a work program supervisor during the summer months who could assist in obtaining productive job sites and who could also supervise the youth and make their efforts more acceptable to the communities.

During the school year the youth are supervised on Saturdays by staff who provide assistance to the youth with their day to day problems while completing their work assignments.

The work program enables the youth to make restitution for the victim's loss if the defendant qualifies as being unable to make reimbursement. It also enables the youth to work off Court fines and to complete community service assignments.

During 1992 the youth continued to work at the Miami County Transfer Station and at Brukner Nature Center. In addition the youth worked at the Piqua Heritage Festival, The Troy 4th of July program, the Tipp City Park Department, the Piqua High School track complex, and cleaned stadiums after football games for West Milton and Piqua High Schools. In 1992, the Troy Recreation Department and the Troy High School Football Stadium were added as worksites.

NUMBER OF YOUTH INVOLVED IN PROGRAM 576
Male 440
Female 136

NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED 5441

WORK CREDIT AGAINST FINES AND RESTITUTION
AT \$3.00 PER HOUR \$3, 000

4. MIAMI COUNTY YOUTH CENTER

March of 1987 marked the opening of the Miami County Youth Center. Under the direction of the Miami County Juvenile Court and licensed as an Agency Group Home, the facility serves up to sixteen adjudicated males by court order from Miami, Shelby, and Darke county juvenile courts. Only those youth who do not pose a serious threat to the community are eligible for the six month treatment program. While at the Center, the youth attend a self-contained classroom eleven months per year and receive individual and family counseling services from a licensed psychologist.

In addition to providing supervision and treatment, the staff emphasizes issues of accountability, personal responsibility, and choices in an effort to assist youth in problem solving and coping services.

NUMBER OF YOUTH ADMITTED 19
NUMBER OF YOUTH DISCHARGED 15

5. FOSTER CARE, GROUP HOMES, AND SPECIAL PLACEMENTS

The providing of alternative residential placements for youth in home-like environments continues to be an integral part of Court programming. All placements are based upon a plan for the earliest possible reunification of the family unit. Many placement needs of the Court are being met by the Miami County Children's Service Board.

6. WEST CENTRAL DAY TREATMENT

The West Central Day Treatment Program was conceived in 1990 and is funded entirely by the Department of Youth Services 414 grant allocation. This six county project includes Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Miami, Preble and Shelby counties. Currently this program is located in Greenville, Ohio in the Darke County Juvenile Court building. This program is designed to serve non-violent felony offenders in a scholastic environment. The teachers test each youth placement and develop individual educational plans for each one. Integration back into schools of origin or preparation for GED tests are the two primary goals for the youth placements. The West Central Day Treatment Program is considered a model of cooperation and collaboration between counties in the State of Ohio.

NUMBER OF MIAMI COUNTY YOUTH SERVED 15

7. ADOLESCENT SELF-ESTEEM

The Adolescent Self-Esteem program is contracted with a licensed psychologist and is offered for both adjudicated and non-adjudicated youth. It is offered seven times each year for youth who have been identified as being in need of establishing personal values and accepting responsibility. The youth are also those in need of getting in touch with their feelings and in developing an increased awareness of choices.

A program consists of eight one hour group sessions provided by one licensed psychologist and one co-facilitator.

NUMBER OF YOUTH IN PROGRAM

96

8. PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Through a contractual agreement with a licensed psychologist, Miami County Juvenile Court is able to provide psychological diagnostic evaluations which become part of the Court record and which assist in the development of a treatment program for the youth who are referred.

The contract provides the Court accessibility to psychological service and also an understanding by the provider of the particular needs of the Court.

NUMBER OF YOUTH IN PROGRAM

24

9. ALCOHOL/SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATION

A contract with the Miami County Alcoholism Program assists the Court with unruly/delinquent youth, professionally identified as in need of a program which may alter the symptomatic abuse of alcoholic beverages or other substances.

The youth meet Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for two hours daily during the last week of every month, excluding July and December. Parents may also attend. They are exposed to a similar curriculum, designed to increase the communication and the understanding between parent and youth where alcohol and/or substance abuse are involved.

NUMBER OF YOUTH INVOLVED IN PROGRAM

68

10. JUVENILE TRAFFIC OFFENDER PROGRAM

A Juvenile Traffic Offender Program was developed. The court contracted with the Upper Valley JVS to present the program on the first Monday evening of each month.

The program is designed to influence the attitudes of juveniles toward driving. It is not a driver's education program and does not teach driving skills.

At the time a juvenile driver is adjudicated to have two moving traffic violations, his or her driver's license is suspended for 90 days. His license suspension may be terminated in 30 days if he elects to attend this program. Youth who are adjudicated DWI or DUI are Court-ordered to attend the program, but they may not reduce their license suspension by attending. The program is offered at no cost to Miami County Juvenile Court.

NUMBER OF YOUTH INVOLVED IN PROGRAM

112

11. MIAMI ALTERNATIVES

Through a grant provided to the Miami County Juvenile Court by the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Services, a project to increase treatment alternatives for unruly youth in lieu of secure detention. As in 1991, the grant provided funds for personnel and mileage reimbursement for 3 Home Detention Caseworkers. These caseworkers monitored youth who were under an order of Home Detention. The Miami Alternatives Grant provided funds for a part-time teacher's aide for the Alternative Education Program. It also funded transportation for Alternative Education students through a contract with the Community Action Council.

HOME DETENTION YOUTH SERVED

185

12. ADOLESCENT SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM

The Adolescent Sexual Offender Treatment Group provides direct educational and counseling services to offenders and their families. An assessment is conducted by the treatment team to determine the offenders risk level to the community.

The program provides weekly educational sessions to the offenders and their parents focusing on the psychology of the offender, progression of the offenders history, and feelings about self.

There is also a treatment phase during which the offenders participate in weekly group therapy. Families participate every third week during this portion of the project.

13. OTHER COURT SERVICES

A. ABUSE, NEGLECT AND DEPENDENCY CASES

The juvenile is the only court to hear cases filed by the Miami County Children's Services Board wherein a juvenile is alleged to be an abused, neglected, or dependent child.

The court issues orders without a hearing, granting custody to Children's Services Board in emergency situations and also hears complaints for temporary custody (wherein the goal is to reunite the child with the family after the parents have complied with a plan to alter their behavior) and complaints for permanent custody (wherein it is necessary to terminate parental rights and to make permanency plans for the child.)

NUMBER OF CASES HEARD

128

SUPPORT AND PARENTAGE CASES FILED IN 1991

Support - 29
Parentage - 202

These cases usually result in support orders being filed and support moneys being returned to the Department of Human Services which of course is a substantial savings to the taxpayer. The total support generated includes orders from previous years and is collected for Public Assistance.

B. ADULT CIVIL PROCEDURE

The Court also acts for private citizens who are separated but who are not contemplating divorce in making support orders and custody determinations.

The Court also receives paternity case filings. Again most of these cases are filed at the behest of the Department of Human Services to obtain support for children on ADC. New advances in blood testing techniques (HLA blood grouping) have resolved a lot of legal battling that used to occur.

C. ADULT CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

Closely aligned with the civil support cases are those criminal cases filed against fathers who have failed to support and provide for their children without justifiable cause.

Also, if an adult contributes to the unruliness or delinquency of a child, he is subject to criminal prosecution in Juvenile Court. In 1992 37 such cases were filed.

D. MARRIAGE CONSENT

When young people desire to marry and they are not of legal age and the girl is pregnant, the Juvenile Court may grant that consent, and with custodial parent's approval, they may be issued a marriage license by Probate Court.

In 1992 6 such matters were handled.

E. CUSTODY REVIEW BOARD

The Custody Review Board consists of five interested citizens with training or experience in the field who are appointed by the Juvenile Judge. The members study the files of all juveniles who are placed in the care or custody of a public or private organization or agency. The board reviews the youth's placements at least annually and makes recommendations about these juveniles to the Court.

The following are members of the Custody Board.

- Dr. Mark Carli
- Jim Gover
- Rita Hollenbacher
- Shirley Saxton
- A. Melvin Kemmer

- Psychologist
- Youth Placement
- Teacher
- Nurse
- Attorney

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2151.18 OF THE REVISED CODE
OF THE STATE OF OHIO

1992
ANNUAL REPORT
MIAMI COUNTY JUVENILE COURT — TROY, OHIO
RICHARD A. GOATER, JUDGE

Adult cases involving children (Paternity 128, Contributing 37) 165
Children's Cases 3398
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES FILED, ADULT AND CHILDREN 3503

BREAKDOWN OF CHILDREN'S CASES FILED
Delinquency 1261
Traffic 1326
Dependency (48), Change of Custody (27), Neglect (14), Abuse (10), Support (29) 128
Unruly 597
Other - Consent to Wed 6
TOTAL 3338

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES DISPOSED OF
Adult Cases 239
Children's Cases 3470
TOTAL 3709

TYPES OF ADULT CASES - DISPOSED OF
Contributing to Delinquency or Unruliness 37
Paternity 202
TOTAL 239

DISPOSITION OF ADULT CASES
Dismissed 71
Court Order to Support 124
Court Costs 111
Jail Sentence 7
TOTAL 313

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN'S CASES - DISPOSED OF
Official Children's Cases 3470

TYPES OF CHILDREN'S CASES AND DISPOSITION
Traffic 1381
Delinquency 1397
Unruly 643
Dependency and Custody 128
Marriage Consent and Other 11
TOTAL 3470

DISPOSITION OF CHILDREN'S CASES
Temporary Custody - Children's Services 47
Commitment to Department of Youth Services 16
Suspended Commitment to DYS 36
Placed on Probation 243
Wards of Court only 5
Fines and Costs Collected

Fines (Juvenile) 24,317.50
Adult Fines 815.80
Court Costs (Adult and Juvenile) 28,878.20
Referred to Other Courts 440
License Held 244
Dismissed or Withdrawn 369
Placed in Detention 286
Restitution 167
Temporary Truancy Supervision 104
Attended Traffic School 112
Alternative Education School 132
Attended Alcohol Education Classes 102
Family Skills 29
Terminated or Closed 380
Commitment to Miami Youth Center 17
Home Detention 184
House Arrest 65