

**Miami County
Juvenile Court**



**1996
Annual Report
Honorable Richard A. Goater, Judge**

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

D. Ann Baird, President
 Dr. Richard Adams
 Arthur Haddad

MIAMI COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES - ADVISORY BOARD

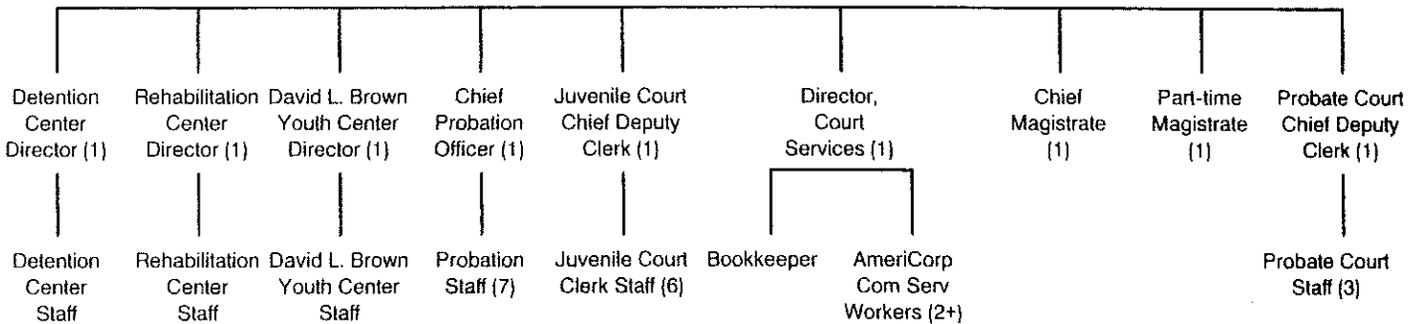
Dennis H. Coffield, Chairperson	Troy City Schools
Richard A. Adams	Miami County Commissioner
Dorland Loomis	Upper Valley JVS
John Decker	Board of Education
Byron Ewick	Miami County Alcoholism Council
Dr. Mary Begis	Tri County Board
Chief Phil Potter	Piqua Police Department
John Carnes	Public
Elizabeth Guttman	Attorney

MIAMI COUNTY JUVENILE COURT EMPLOYEES

Richard A. Goater	Judge
Lynita K.C. Wagner	Magistrate
David E. Lyons	Court Services Director
Beverly Bell	Chief Deputy
Randall D. Freeman	Chief Probation Officer
Gerald L. Dornbusch, Jr.	Asst. CPO/
	Chemical Dependency Specialist
Donita A. Gast	Probation Officer
Diane S. Long	Probation Officer
Steve Holcomb	Probation Officer
Joe Regnier	Probation Officer
Sonia A. Kelchner	Clerical Case Aide
Angela Hubbard	Bookkeeper
Judy M. Manning	Deputy Clerk
Ann Worley	Deputy Clerk
Pat Woryk	Deputy Clerk
Sarah Underwood	Deputy Clerk
Melinda Chaney	Deputy Clerk
Vickie Jones	Deputy Clerk
Jody Josefsky	Work Program Supervisor
Rusty Badgett	Work Program Supervisor
Robert Wheelock	Work Program Supervisor
Leah Mauchamer	AmeriCorp Worker
Elizabeth Badgett	Work Program Supervisor

TABLE OF ORGANIZATION MIAMI COUNTY JUVENILE/PROBATE COURT

JUDGE



MIAMI COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

A. Purpose -

1. To provide for the care, protection, mental and physical development of children.
2. To protect the public interest in removing the consequences of criminal behavior and the taint of criminality from children committing delinquent acts, and to substitute therefore a program of supervision, care and rehabilitation.
3. To achieve the foregoing purposes, whenever possible, in a family environment, separating a child from its parents only when necessary for his welfare or in the interest of the public.
4. To provide judicial procedure to which the laws outlined in Chapter 2151 of Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure are enforced, and in which the parties are assured of a fair hearing and their constitutional and other legal rights are recognized and enforced.

B. Functions -

1. The Juvenile Division of the Miami County Court of Common Pleas hears all proceedings wherein a person under the age of 18 years is the primary subject of a complaint such as:

DELINQUENT	NEGLECT
UNRULY	ABUSED
DEPENDENT	JUVENILE TRAFFIC OFFENDER
2. The Juvenile Division of the Miami County Court of Common Pleas hears all proceedings involving adults on misdemeanor or complaints in their relation with children such as:

CONTRIBUTING	to delinquency, unruliness, abuse, dependency or neglect
PATERNITY	Establishing parent/child relationship
CUSTODY	
CONSENT TO MARRY	

PROGRAMS OFFERED BY MIAMI COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

1. Probation
2. Juvenile Work Program- Restitution
3. David L. Brown Youth Center
4. Foster Care and Special Placements
5. West Central Day Treatment Program
6. Adolescent Self-Esteem
7. Psychological Services
8. Alcohol/Substance Abuse Education
9. Juvenile Traffic Offender Program
10. Adolescent Sex Offender Program
11. West Central Detention Facility
12. West Central Rehabilitation Facility
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 truant 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 causal factors. The program consists of an intensive 90 day supervision period during which the child and the family participate in weekly meetings 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 1996, 101 youth were ordered into the Truancy Program.

PROBATION SUPERVISION

Placed on probation	347
Males	251
Females	96
Terminated from probation	219
Males	161
Females	58
Probation violations filed	284
Males	213
Females	71

2. JUVENILE WORK/RESTITUTION PROGRAM

The work program involving Court youth has been in existence for several years. The Court has employed several adult work site supervisors in the past years. Although the major concentration was initially in the summer non-school months and Saturdays, the program now operates 5 days a week year round. This has been made possible by the addition of an AmeriCorp worker in 1995. The AmeriCorp worker is provided to the Juvenile Court through a grant with the Department of Youth Services.

If necessary, the work program enables youth to make restitution to the victim if the youth qualifies as being indigent or unemployed. This money is made available by the Miami County General Fund.

During 1996, Court youth worked at numerous work sites located throughout the County. These sites included the Brukner Nature Center, the Miami County Transfer Station, Piqua, Troy and Milton Union schools, Piqua Heritage Festival, Goodwill Industries, Tipp City Parks, the Troy Rec, the West Central Juvenile Facility and others.

NUMBER OF YOUTH INVOLVED IN PROGRAM	665
Male	476
Female	189
NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED	9458
RESTITUTION CREDITED AT \$3.00 PER HOUR	\$650

3. DAVID L. BROWN 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. The center was re-named the David L. Brown Youth Center in 1993 with a formal dedication service in October 1994.

NUMBER OF YOUTH ADMITTED	18
NUMBER OF YOUTH DISCHARGED	20

4. FOSTER CARE AND RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS (CLUSTER)

The providing of foster homes and alternative residential placements for youth continues to be an integral part of Juvenile Court programming. In 1995, the Juvenile Court collaborated with the Miami County Children Service's Board, the Miami County Mental Health Center and the MRDD board to make placements using funds from each budget in shared funding plans. In 1996, the Juvenile Court budget for the Cluster was \$100,000.00.

5. WEST CENTRAL DAY TREATMENT

The West Central Day Treatment Program was conceived in 1990 and is now funded in part through a federal grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and contracts with the participating counties. The program is located in the West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility in Troy, Ohio. The program is designed to serve non-violent felony offenders in a scholastic environment. Youth may either enter the program prior to a more serious secure facility placement or as a step down from the West Central Rehabilitation program.

TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED IN 1996	35
NUMBER OF MIAMI COUNTY YOUTH SERVED IN 1996	16
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN PROGRAM	2.7 MONTHS

6. ADOLESCENT SELF-ESTEEM

The Adolescent Self-Esteem program is contracted with a licensed psychologist and is offered for both adjudicated and non-adjudicated youth and in some

instances the families of these youth. In 1996, there were 8 self-esteem programs made available by the Tipp Professional Services, 4 involving youth only (parents come to first and last sessions) and 4 programs were for younger youth and families. Of these groups in 1996, there was 1 group which served adolescent females exclusively. The groups target establishing personal values and accepting responsibility. These youth are also identified as needing to develop an increased awareness of choices.

YOUTH ONLY 46
 YOUNGER YOUTH AND FAMILIES 31
 NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED IN 1996 77

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

NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED 17

8. 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 SERVED 128

9. JUVENILE TRAFFIC OFFENDER PROGRAM

As in previous years, the Upper Valley JVS has provided at no cost to the Juvenile Court a traffic offender program. This program meets the first Monday 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. The license suspension may be terminated in 30 days if the youth 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.

NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED 69

10. ADOLESCENT SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM

The Adolescent Sexual Offender Treatment Group provides direct educational and counseling services to adolescent male offenders and their families. An assessment is conducted by the treatment team to determine the offenders risk level to the community. This sex offender program is provided by the Miami County Mental Health Center through a contractual arrangement with the Juvenile Court.

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. In 1996, 3 females were assessed and referred to other programming.

NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED 9

11. WEST CENTRAL DETENTION FACILITY

Beginning in January of 1993, under the direction of Greg Simmons, the West Central Detention Facility began accepting youth in need of detention. Youth are court ordered into detention for an average of 3-5 days. The maximum period of detention is 90 days. During their time of incarceration, youth are given a physical examination, attend educational programming, participate in daily recreational activities and are taught to conform to a rigid curriculum designed to modify offending youth's behavior.

The West Central Detention Facility is constructed to accommodate 24 youth with 2 additional beds that may be utilized under certain circumstances. The Miami County Juvenile Court utilizes 10 beds while other counties including Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Preble, Shelby and Clinton utilize the remainder of the beds either by contract or as space is available.

TOTAL YOUTH DETAINED 1207
 AVERAGE DAILY OCCUPANCY 31
 MIAMI COUNTY YOUTH DETAINED 452
 AVERAGE DAILY MIAMI COUNTY OCCUPANCY 10.5

12. WEST CENTRAL REHABILITATION FACILITY

In October of 1993, the West Central Rehabilitation Facility under the direction of Charles R. Powell, began accepting youth in their new state-funded rehabilitation program. Referrals to this program are made after youth have been adjudicated delinquent for the commission of a felony offense and a high level of programming is deemed necessary in a local secure facility. Previously these youth would have been committed to the Department of Youth Services. The Rehab facility accommodates up to 36 youth from a 9 county area including Auglaize, Champaign, Darke, Greene, Logan, Mercer, Preble, Shelby as well as Miami counties.

TOTAL YOUTH ADMITTED IN 1996	47
MIAMI COUNTY YOUTH ADMITTED IN 1996	12
TOTAL YOUTH RELEASED	44
MIAMI COUNTY YOUTH RELEASED	14

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	39
-----------------------	----

These cases usually result in support orders being filed and support monies 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. 68 were filed.

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. In 1996, 90 paternity actions were filed.

Also, if an adult contributes to the unruhiness or delinquency of a child, he is subject to criminal prosecution in Juvenile Court. In 1996, 58 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 1996, 3 such matters were handled.

E. CITIZEN'S CUSTODY REVIEW BOARD

The Citizen's 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.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Elaine Meyer | Therapist |
| Jack S. Greggerson | Educator |
| Rita Hollenbacher | Teacher |
| Sandra Adams | Nurse |
| A. Melvin Kemmer | Attorney |

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2151.16 OF THE REVISED CODE
OF THE STATE OF OHIO

1996
ANNUAL REPORT
MIAMI COUNTY JUVENILE COURT - TROY, OHIO
RICHARD A. GOATER, JUDGE

Adult cases involving children (Paternity 90, Contributing 58) 148
Children's Cases 4908
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES FILED, ADULT AND CHILDREN 5056

BREAKDOWN OF CHILDREN'S CASES FILED

Delinquency 1791
Probation Violations 183
Contempts 105
Traffic 1635
Dependency and Change of Custody 229
Unruly 962
Other - Consent to Wed 3
TOTAL 4908

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES DISPOSED OF

Adult Cases 78
Children's Cases 5997
TOTAL 6075

TYPES OF ADULT CASES - DISPOSED OF

Contributing to Delinquency or Unruliness 46
Paternity 32
TOTAL 78

DISPOSITION OF ADULT CASES

Dismissed 17
Court Costs 22
Jail Sentence 21

TYPES OF CHILDREN'S CASES

Traffic 1996
Delinquency 2775
Unruly 1058
Dependency and Custody 265
Marriage Consent and Other 3
TOTAL 5997

DISPOSITION OF CHILDREN'S CASES

Temporary Custody - Children's Services 28
Long Term Foster Care - Children's Services 9
Commitment to Department of Youth Services 17
Suspended Commitment to Department of Youth Services 51
Placed on Probation 222
Wards of Court only 3
Fines and Costs Collected 38,157.75
Fines (Juvenile & Adult) 88,432.34
Court Costs (Juvenile & Adult) 733
Referred to Other Courts 241
License Held 695
Dismissed or Withdrawn 437
Placed in Detention 308
Restitution 101
Temporary Truancy Supervision 69
Attended Traffic School 545
Terminated or Closed 25
Commitment to David L. Brown Youth Center 15
Commitment to West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center