

HOLMES COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

1997 ANNUAL REPORT

JUDGE THOMAS C. LEE

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Glennis R. Menezes
Court Administrator

The Court of Common Pleas

PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISIONS

HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO
THOMAS C. LEE, Judge

June 30, 1998

To the Citizens of Holmes County:

On behalf of Holmes County Juvenile Court and its staff, I am pleased to present the 1997 Annual Report. This Report contains detailed information on the Court's cases, as well as the services and programs offered by the Court to Holmes County families and children.

It is my sincere desire that the Court provide quality assistance to Holmes County families and children. If you have questions or suggestions as you read this Report, please feel free to contact me. I value your input.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Lee
Juvenile Court Judge

This Annual Report of the Holmes County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, for the calendar year 1997 is prepared pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.18.

COURT PERSONNEL

Judge	Hon. Thomas C. Lee
Court Administrator Grant Administrator	Glennis R. Menuetz
Bailiff Mentor Program Coordinator	Bradley S. Conn
Chief Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk	Jennifer Evans Teresa Weir
Chief Probation Officer Probation Officer Probation Office Secretary	Robert Schlegel, L.S.W. Patrick Barnes Annette Lanham
Project STAY Office Clerk	Karen Hunter

PURPOSE OF THE COURT

Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.01 sets forth the purpose of the Juvenile Court as follows:

- (A) To provide for the care, protection, and mental and physical development of children subject to Chapter 2151 of the Revised Code;
- (B) 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 therefor a program of supervision, care, and rehabilitation;
- (C) To achieve the foregoing purposes, whenever possible, in a family environment, separating the child from its parents only when necessary for his welfare or in the interests of public safety;
- (D) To provide judicial procedures through which Chapter 2151 of the Revised Code is executed and enforced, and in which the parties are assured of a fair hearing, and their constitutional and other legal rights are recognized and enforced.

MISSION STATEMENT

Holmes County Juvenile Court exists to foster the development of a healthy community for children and families through the timely administration of justice and the delivery of quality services in a cost-effective, courteous and professional manner.

JURISDICTION

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction under Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.23 to hear the following types of matters:

Delinquent Child – Those who commit an offense, prior to their 18th birthday, that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

Unruly Child – Those who commit an offense that only applies to someone under the age of 18.

Juvenile Traffic Offender – Those who commit a traffic offense prior to attaining the age of 18.

Abused Children – Children who have been physically or sexually abused by parents, guardians, or another adult.

Neglected Children – Those children who are not properly cared for or are abandoned by their parents or guardians.

Dependent Children – Those children who are without proper care or support through no fault of their parents or guardians.

Adults – Criminal charges against adults who have contributed to the delinquency or unruliness of a child.

Paternity – Actions to determine the father of a child born out of wedlock.

Custody – Actions to determine the custody of any child not a ward of another Court of this State.

JUVENILE COURT DOCKET

The following cases were filed in Juvenile Court in 1997:

Delinquency	135
Traffic	267
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	16
Unruly	45
Adult Cases	0
Permanent Custody	1
Custody/Visitation	16
Child Support	64
Paternity	15
URESA (Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement Of Support Act)	2
Probation Violation	42
Others (Misc.)	2
TOTAL:	605

OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS

As stated in Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.01(C), the Court strives to achieve its purposes while keeping a child in a family environment, separating the child from his or her parents only when necessary for his or her welfare or in the interests of public safety. The following out-of-home placements were made in 1997:

Placements with extended family	6
Placements in foster homes	8
Placements in group homes	2
Placements in Detention Facilities	3
Total:	19

PROGRAMS

Probation Department

During calendar year 1997, the Probation Department supervised 92 youth on probation (67 males, 25 females). During this period, 44 youth were placed on probation and 47 were successfully removed from probation.

While effectively supervising probationers, the Probation Department increased and improved upon its services to the Court and community in several areas:

Better security procedures were implemented during transports of potentially violent youth.

Immediate drug testing results were made available to the probation officers with the purchase of new specimen testing devices.

Shoplifters Alternative Course was investigated and found to be a helpful resource for youth convicted of theft offenses.

Through collaboration with Your Human Resource Center, **Responsible Living Classes** were developed to help youth to address poor decision-making practices.

A **Diversion Program** was researched, developed and adopted by the Court and Probation Department. The Diversion Program began accepting cases in January 1998.

The Probation Department also assumed the duty of organizing and supervising Community Service performed by juveniles as part of their sentence. Community service requires a child to perform work beneficial to the community without pay. The program provides youth with an opportunity to "repay" the community for the problems caused by the child's behavior, as well as provide the youth with valuable work experience. In 1997 a total of 118 juveniles provided Community Service amounting to approximately 2300 hours. This was an increase of 1000 hours from 1996. At a minimum wage rate of \$5.15/hour, those 2300 hours represent services valued at \$11,845.00 to the Holmes County community.

Youth Services Grant

The Youth Services Grant is a State subsidized program designed to assist Juvenile Courts in the development of local service options for youthful offenders. The grant is administered on a fiscal year, beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30. In Fiscal Year 1998 (covering the period of July 1, 1997, through June 30, 1998) the grant provided the Juvenile Court with \$159,827.50 with which to plan and provide programs which meet the requirements and standards set by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The allocation from the State is based upon the number of juvenile felony convictions in the County during prior years, and the variable portion of the grant is debited a fixed amount per diem for the care of Holmes County children in Department of Youth Services facilities during the year. Funds not expended during the fiscal year may be carried-over for funding of additional programs in coming years.

The following programs were funded by the Youth Services Subsidy Grant in 1997:

Program Administration

This program provides part of the salary and a proportionate amount of the benefits for the Grant Administrator. The Grant Administrator administers and manages the fiscal and programmatic areas of the Youth Services Grant and related subsidy programs. The program also provides funds for the Grant Administrator to travel to and attend training sessions and meetings conducted by the Department of Youth Services.

Intensive Probation

The function of the Probation Department has been described elsewhere in this Report. This grant program provides the entire salary and benefits for one Probation Officer and the Probation Office Secretary, as well as a large portion of the Chief Probation Officer's salary and benefits. The maintenance portion of the program provides the Probation Officers with cellular phones in order to remain in contact with the Court and the Probation Office. It also provides funds for travel to training programs.

Monitoring/Surveillance

This program provides funds for electronic home supervision when the juvenile or his family do not have sufficient funds with which to pay for that monitoring system. Electronic home supervision is used when a juvenile fails to respond to the guidance and supervision of his or her custodian. Youth are electronically restricted to the home unless services and education appointments are arranged. This system offers constant monitoring of the youth's whereabouts and associations. This program was used for two juveniles in 1997.

Educational Services

The Educational Services Program provides funds for the salary of the STAY (Services To At Risk Youth) Office clerk, and additional funds which are paid directly to Tri-County Educational Service Center for a portion of the expenses related to Project STAY. Project STAY is for

youth who cannot be placed in a regular school setting. Adjudicated delinquent or unruly youth and at-risk youth are placed in the STAY Program when they fit the criteria of STAY pupils. This would include severe behavioral problems and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) students. The social workers and teachers make referrals for assessments to determine what needs will be met for each youth in the project. The Alternative Learning Center is an integral part of the Project STAY Program. Behavioral and family issues are addressed in an effort to help the student attain a positive self-image and problem solve in a mature manner. Academic classes are also provided with strong emphasis placed on proficiency in the core subject areas.

Out of Home Placement

Out of home placements have been described elsewhere in this Report. This Grant Program provides funds for placement of juveniles outside the home when every effort has been exhausted to keep the child in the home.

Clinical Assessments

This program provides funds for psychiatric, psychological, or drug and alcohol assessments for delinquent and/or unruly youth to assist the court in developing individual treatment plans.

Mentors

Under the direction of the Court and Mentor Coordinator Bradley S. Conn, the Court has developed a mentoring program called "One to One." Volunteer mentors are recruited, screened and trained by Juvenile Court Staff with assistance from other local agencies. The mentor's role is multi-faceted and includes a commitment to spend time with the child at least four hours a month for a minimum of one year. A recreational and friendship focus allows the mentor to enter the realm of the child's life (school, home, church and peers) to provide advocacy, assessment, linkage, values and citizenship role modeling. This program is directed at "at-risk" elementary and junior high age children. It focuses on the following: (1) supporting quality parenting and nurturing, (2) enriching school experiences and the child's attraction to them, (3) establishing and supporting positive peer relationships, (4) monitoring for

psychological stressors to implement earlier intervention, and
(5) attempting to counter the negative influences of low income and
impoverished families. In 1997 this grant program provided funds for
the Mentor Coordinator's salary and benefits, funds for training
materials and program-related supplies, and a payment to OSU
Extension for assistance in the development of the program.

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