

HOLMES COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

JUDGE THOMAS C. LEE

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Glenn R. Menez
Court Administrator

The Court of Common Pleas

PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISIONS

HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO
THOMAS C. LEE, Judge

June 15, 2004

To the Citizens of Holmes County:

On behalf of Holmes County Juvenile Court and its staff, I am pleased to present the 2003 Annual Report. This Report contains 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 2003 is prepared pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.18(B).

COURT PERSONNEL

Judge	Hon. Thomas C. Lee
Court Administrator Grant Administrator	Glennis R. Menuez
Bailiff	Bradley S. Conn
Deputy Clerk	Christine Jenkins
Deputy Clerk	Virginia Sandison
Deputy Clerk (Child Support)	Renee Nickles
Deputy Clerk/Receptionist/Probation Office Secretary	Debora J. Helms
Chief Probation Officer	Janice Shroyer, L.S.W.
Probation Officer	David Beazel
Probation/Truancy Officer	Robert Porter
Project STAY Office Clerk	Judith Winegar

PURPOSE OF THE COURT

Ohio Revised Code Section 2152.01 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 2152 of the Revised Code;
- (B) To protect the public interest and safety;
- (C) To hold juvenile offenders accountable for their actions, restore the victim, and rehabilitate the offender through a system of graduated sanctions and services;
- (D) To provide judicial procedures through which Chapters 2151 and 2152 of the Revised Code are executed and enforced, and in which the parties are assured of a fair hearing, and their constitutional and other legal rights are recognized and protected.

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 2003:

Delinquency	155
Traffic (Details provided below)	241
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	31
Unruly	63
Adult Cases	0
Permanent Custody	0
Custody/Visitation	66
Child Support	64
Paternity	3
U.I.F.S.A.	0
Others	0
TOTAL:	625

NOTE: Twenty (21) juveniles who were first-time offenders were referred to the Diversion Program, thus reducing the number of cases brought formally before the Court.

TYPES OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS

The following types of citations were issued against juveniles and dealt with by the Court in 2003:

Seat Belt Violations	25
Failure to Control	30
Red Light Violations	5
Failure to Yield	11
Reckless Operation	5
Speed	94
No Operator's License	17
Left of Center	6
Assured Clear Distance	5
Stop Sign Violation	7
Passing School Bus	3
No Plates	1
DUI	4
Improper Lane Usage	4
No Registration	3
Parking on Roadway	2
Fail to Display	1
Window Tint	3
Allowing Unlicensed Driver to Drive	2
Littering from Vehicle	1

(These figures reflect cases disposed of by the Court in 2003, not necessarily cases filed in the year 2003.)

TYPES OF DELINQUENT CHARGES

Aggravated Menacing	4
Assault	10
Breaking & Entering	3
Burglary	1
Criminal Damaging	8
Criminal Mischief	2
Criminal Trespassing	12
Domestic Violence	6
Menacing	2
Petty Theft	19
Possession of Marijuana or Drugs	8
Probation Violation	28
Prohibitions (Under-Age Consumption)	28

Theft	6
Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle	3
Inducing Panic	1
Aggravated Possession of Drugs	1
Grand Theft	1

(These figures reflect the number of charges dealt with by the Court in 2003, not necessarily the number of cases filed in the year 2003.)

Additional Information on Delinquent/Unruly Youth

Average Age:	15 yrs.
Male/Female Breakdown:	120 Males
	73 Females

TYPES OF CASES HANDLED THROUGH DIVERSION (First-Time Offenders) IN 2003:

Assault	1
Criminal Mischief	1
Menacing	3
Petty Theft	7
Unruly	3
Criminal Trespassing	<u>2</u>
	17

FELONIES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES IN 2003:

Total felony charges:	16
Males:	12*
Females:	2*

*One individual may have committed more than one felony.

Felony Adjudications by the Court in 2003:

Breaking & Entering	2
Theft	1
Aggravated Trafficking Drugs	1
Possession of Drugs	1
Rape	1
Possession for Sale of Dangerous Drugs	2
Unlawful Possession of Dangerous Ordnance	3
Forgery	3
Gross Sexual Imposition	2

DISPOSITIONS

The following dispositions were made in the year 2003:

Delinquencies

Community Service	1360 hrs. ordered 819 hrs. completed
Apologies	10
Insight (Drug & Alcohol Assessment)	47
Psychological/Psychiatric Evaluations	7
House Arrest	5
No Association Provision	17
Court Costs	62
Fines	38
Operators License Suspensions	10
Counseling/Assessments	40
Detention	32
Suspended Detention	55
Restitution	16
Suspended Placement	5
Probation/Continued Probation	133
Ohio Dept. of Youth Services	
Suspended Commitments	18
Victim Offender Reconciliation Program	9
Project STAY	6

*Other dispositions included: Forfeit cell phone; must attend school; counseling with mother; must take medication; must have passing grades; Big Brothers/Big Sisters; and 4-H activities.

OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS

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 2003:

With extended family	1
Foster homes	0
Group homes	1
Treatment Centers	2
Boys' Village	2
Community Corrections Facility	1
Christian Children's Home	2
Ohio Department of Youth Services	1
Other (Jail)	1
Total:	11

Additional Information Regarding Placements

Multi-County Juvenile Attention System

Holmes County participates in the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System, funded jointly by Stark, Columbiana, Wayne, Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Carroll Counties. The System provides treatment and detention options to the participating Juvenile Courts, including group homes, a residential treatment center, and attention/detention centers.

Holmes County represents 4.03% of the total population of the participating counties. In the year 2003, Holmes County used 1229 "bed days" (number of juveniles placed x number of days in facilities) at System Detention Centers. All of those 1229 bed days were at the Linda Martin Attention Center (formerly Wayne-Holmes Attention Center).

Holmes County also placed 8 juveniles in the System's Treatment Centers. Two juveniles were placed in the New Philadelphia Group Home, one juvenile was placed in Roger's Honor Farm, and five juveniles were placed in the Residential Treatment Center in Canton, Ohio. The total bed days used by Holmes County at the treatment centers and detention centers represented 3.37% of the total used by all participating counties.

Ohio Department of Youth Services Facilities

One juvenile was committed to a Community Corrections Facility (CCF) during the year 2003. One juvenile who was committed to an ODYS Facility in 2002, remained committed in that facility until March 11, 2003.

PROGRAMS

Probation Department

During calendar year 2003, the Probation Department supervised 132 youth on probation (92 males, 40 females), including juveniles carried over from the year 2002. During this period, 113 youth were placed on probation, and 48 were successfully removed from probation.

The Probation Department also continued its 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 2003 a total of 819 hours were provided by juveniles for their community service commitment. At a minimum wage rate of \$5.15/hour, those 891 hours represent services valued at \$4,217.85 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 2003 (covering the

period of July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004) the original allocation for Holmes County Juvenile Court was \$149,486.20 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 or continuing programs in coming years.

The following eight (8) programs were totally or partially funded by the Youth Services Subsidy Grant in 2003:

1. Program Administration

This program provides part of the salary and a proportionate amount of benefits for the Grant Administrator and Assistant Grant Administrator. The Grant Administrator administers and manages the fiscal and programmatic areas of the Youth Services Grant and related subsidy programs. The Assistant Grant Administrator manages the data collection and reporting which the grant requires.

2. 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 our two full-time Probation Officers. 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 and funds with which to purchase drug test kits which the Probation Officers use in the course of their work with juveniles.

3. Educational Services

The Educational Services Program provides funds for the salary and benefits of the STAY (Services To At Risk Youth) Office clerk, and additional funds which are paid directly to Holmes County Department of Job & Family Services (as fiscal agent) for a portion of the expenses related to Project STAY. Project STAY provides services to 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.

In addition to the Alternative School facet of this program, in recent years Project STAY has been expanded to include the following services to youth and their families:

- * Transportation
- * Advocacy and service coordination
- * Information about and referral to other area resources, wrapping services around youth and their families
- * Parent services including family service aides, Parent to Parent support group, wellness education, parenting education, and household support

4. Out of Home Placement

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

5. 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.

6. Monitoring/Surveillance

Electronic home supervision is an available option when a juvenile fails to respond to the guidance and supervision of the custodian. Juveniles are electronically restricted to the home unless services and education appointments are arranged. It offers constant monitoring of the juvenile's whereabouts and associations. This grant program provides funds for juveniles who are unable to pay for electronic home supervision in situations where it is the Court's order that they be placed on electronic home supervision.

7. Recreation

One of the Court's major projects in the year 2003 was "Choice Camp." Funding for this project came from the Youth Services Grant.

Choice Camp was held at Camp Muskingum in Carroll County, Ohio, on August 18 through August 22, 2003. Twenty-seven adjudicated and at-risk youth attended the five-day camp, along with 17 adult staff volunteers. Judge Lee, all three Probation Officers and Bailiff Brad Conn attended from the Court. The activities and presentations had an emphasis upon personal decision-making, thus the name "Choice Camp." The four-day camp focused on the youth's value systems and life experiences, how those relate to their decision-making, and the consequences of both positive and negative choices. Along with motivational and instructional activities, the campers and staff had ample time for traditional camping fun and recreation.

8. Truancy

The Truancy Program, administered by The Center for Restorative Justice (formerly Holmes County Victim Offender Reconciliation Program), was developed to address causes of and solutions to truancy. Those solutions incorporate a restorative and mediation approach for students and families in collaboration with school officials and the Juvenile Court staff. Eighty juveniles (49 males, 31 females) and their families were served through this program in 2003.