

HOLMES COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
2005 ANNUAL REPORT



JUDGE THOMAS C. LEE


June 1, 2006

To the Citizens of Holmes County:

On behalf of Holmes County Juvenile Court and its staff, I am pleased to present the 2005 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Lee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas C. Lee
Juvenile Court Judge

This Annual Report of the Holmes County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, for the calendar year 2005 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)	Beth Ernst
Deputy Clerk/Receptionist/Probation Office Secretary	Debora J. Helms
Chief Probation Officer	Janice Shroyer, L.S.W.
Probation Officer	David Williams, L.S.W.
Probation/Truancy Officer	Robert Porter
Project STAY Office Clerk	Judith Winegar
Advocacy Coordinator	Beverly Theil

PURPOSE OF THE COURT

Ohio Revised Code Section 2152.01 set 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 2005:

Delinquency	131
Traffic (Details provided below)	227
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	63
Unruly	60
Custody/Visitation	61
Child Support	71
Paternity	8
Others	<u>2</u>
TOTAL:	623

NOTE: Eight (8) 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 2005:

Seat Belt Violations	24
Failure to Control.....	22
Red Light Violations.....	7
Failure To Yield.....	8
Reckless Operation	9
Speed.....	82
No Operator's License.....	11
Left of Center.....	5
Assured Clear Distance.....	17
Stop Sign Violation.....	18
Expired Plates	2
No Registration.....	2
No Plates	3
Parking on Roadway.....	2
Following Too Closely	2
Driving Without a Licensed Driver	2
Passing School Buss	3
Improper Lane	2
No Eye Protection.....	3
No Helmet.....	

TYPES OF DELINQUENT CHARGES

Aggravated Menacing.....	3
Assault	8
Breaking and Entering	3
Burglary	4
Criminal Damaging	11
Criminal Trespassing.....	7
Domestic Violence.....	5
Menacing	3
Petty Theft	10
Possession of Marijuana or Drugs	7
Probation Violation.....	23
Prohibitions (Under-Age Consumption)	33
Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle	4
Falsification	4
Attempted Gross Sexual Imposition.....	1
Contributing to Unruliness or Delinquency of Minor	2
Disorderly Conduct.....	2

(These figures reflect the number of charges dealt with by the Court in 2005, not necessarily the number of cases filed in the year 2005.)

TYPES OF CASES HANDLED THROUGH DIVERSION IN 2005:
(First-Time Offenders)

Petty Theft	3
Tobacco Violations	3
Falsification	2

FELONY ADJUDICATIONS

Total felony charges:	13
Males:	12
Females:	1

Felony Adjudications by the Court in 2005:

Breaking and Entering	2
Theft.....	1
Burglary	2
Trafficking in Drugs	1
Attempted Gross Sexual Imposition.....	1
Assault of Peace Officer	1
Rape	1
Trafficking in Marijuana.....	1
Vandalism	1
Obstructing Justice.....	1
Possession of Drugs	1

DISPOSITIONS

The following dispositions were made in the year 2005:

Delinquencies

Community Service 1225 hours ordered
 1117.6 completed

Apologies	22
Insight (Drug and Alcohol Assessment).....	32
Psychological/Psychiatric Evaluations	6
House Arrest	2
No Association Provision	6
Court Costs	46
Fines.....	41
Operators License Suspensions	3
Counseling/Assessments.....	24
Detention.....	14
Suspended Detention	24
Restitution.....	12
Suspended Placement	3
Probation/Continued Probation	118
Ohio Dept. of Youth Services Suspended Commitments	2
Victim Offender Reconciliation Program.....	4
Project STAY.....	3

*Other dispositions included: Forfeit cell phone; must attend school; counseling with mother; must take medication; must have passing grades; driving privileges revoked.

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 2005:

With extended family	1
Foster homes	2
Youth With A Purpose	1
Group Homes	1
MCJAS Residential Treatment	3
Community Corrections Facility	1
Christian Children's Home	1
Total:	10

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 5.12% of the total population of the participating counties. In the year 2005, Holmes County used a total of 2485 "bed days" (number of juveniles placed x number of days in System Residential Treatment and Detention Centers). The Juvenile Court utilized 1066 bed days at the Linda Martin Attention Center (formerly Wayne-Holmes Attention Center) and two (2) bed days at the Stark Attention Center for detention purposes. The Court also used 1417 bed days in residential facilities as follows: 32 bed days at The Canton Boys Group Home, 157 bed days at The New Philadelphia Girls Group Home, 257 bed days at Rogers Group Home, and 971 bed days at The Residential Treatment Center in Canton, Ohio.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES FACILITIES

Two (2) juveniles were committed to the Community Corrections Facility (CCF) during the year 2005. No juveniles were committed to an ODYS Facility in 2005.

PROGRAMS

Probation Department

During calendar year 2005, the Probation Department supervised 101 youth on probation (52 males, 49 females), including juveniles carried over from the year 2004. During this period, 118 were placed on probation, and 69 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 2005, a total of 1117.6 hours were provided by juveniles for their community service commitment. At a minimum wage rate of \$5.15/hour, those hours represent services valued at \$5,755.64 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 2006 (covering the period of July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006) the original allocation for Holmes County Juvenile Court was \$172,912.65 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 six (6) programs were totally or partially funded by the Youth Services Subsidy Grant in 2005:

1. 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 (2) 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.

2. 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 and 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

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Advocacy

The Advocacy Program was initiated in September, 2005, and is designed for one-on-one advocacy for youth who need intervention in the areas of education and socialization in order to prevent recidivism in the juvenile system, reduce high school drop-outs, to develop employment (and related social) skills, teach youth alternative forms of conflict resolution through mediation and provide alternative, appropriate, family interactions. A qualified advocate and mediator will provide service to youth and their families.

It has long been known that a significant portion of the adult prison population had both juvenile court experience and educational deficits in their past. Their educational deficits made employment difficult to impossible to achieve. Lack of appropriate social and personal interaction skills, especially relating to family, led to problems in the community and at work. These combined deficits often lead to antisocial acts that result in incarceration. Our program will provide early intervention with these deficits, resulting in fewer juveniles re-entering the juvenile justice system and those in diversion having no further entry.

Further, through the use of mediation, especially victim-offender mediation, youth will develop understanding and acceptance of his/her responsibility for his/her delinquent

act. Mediation between parent-child will also give the youth skills to avoid family conflicts that can lead to continued involvement with the juvenile system.

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