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2017
ANNUAL REPORT
JUVENILE & PROBATE COURT

Judge Terre L. Vandervoort



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

FAIRFIELD COUNTY JUVENILE & PROBATE COURT
JUDGE TERRE L. VANDERVOORT

FOREWORD

If the Fairfield County Juvenile Court becomes an unplanned stop on a child's journey through adolescence to adulthood, we owe it to that child and to the future of our community to make the detour worthwhile. Guided by the premise that each child is a unique individual, the interventions and services developed by the Fairfield County Juvenile Court are evidence-based practices that vary in scope and intensity to match the risk level and needs of each juvenile offender.

In order to reduce the likelihood a youth will reoffend, research indicates that courts should focus resources on individuals most likely to offend. By aligning our programs with nationally recognized models, all levels of intervention are tailored to the specific risk level of each youth. The Fairfield County Juvenile Court uses research based risk assessment tools to determine whether each juvenile offender poses a low, medium, or high risk of reoffending.

Research also indicates that most delinquents outgrow their offending behaviors because they acquire skills, obtain employment, establish close, caring personal relationships, and form attachments and bonds to pro-social groups and institutions. Using a restorative justice approach, the Court has developed services to bolster competencies in five major skill areas. These include the development of pro-social skills to address conflict resolution and anger management. In addition, moral reasoning skills are taught, which focus on connecting thoughts and actions, resulting in socially acceptable ways of thinking and behaving. Academic skills are also stressed, including the strengthening of basic proficiencies in reading, writing, math, and study skills. Youth are also exposed to workforce development, focusing on acquiring a skill, and obtaining and maintaining a job. Independent living skills are also offered, enabling youth to be better prepared for adulthood.

From intake to case closure, the Fairfield County Juvenile Court has committed its resources, interventions, and decisions to achieving these principles: Protection of the community, offender accountability, and skill and competency development.



Judge Terre L. Vandervoort

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PROBATE COURT

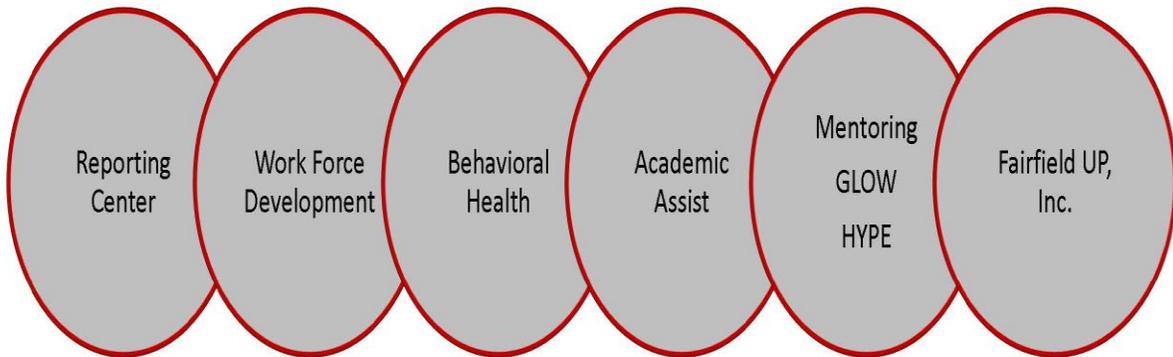
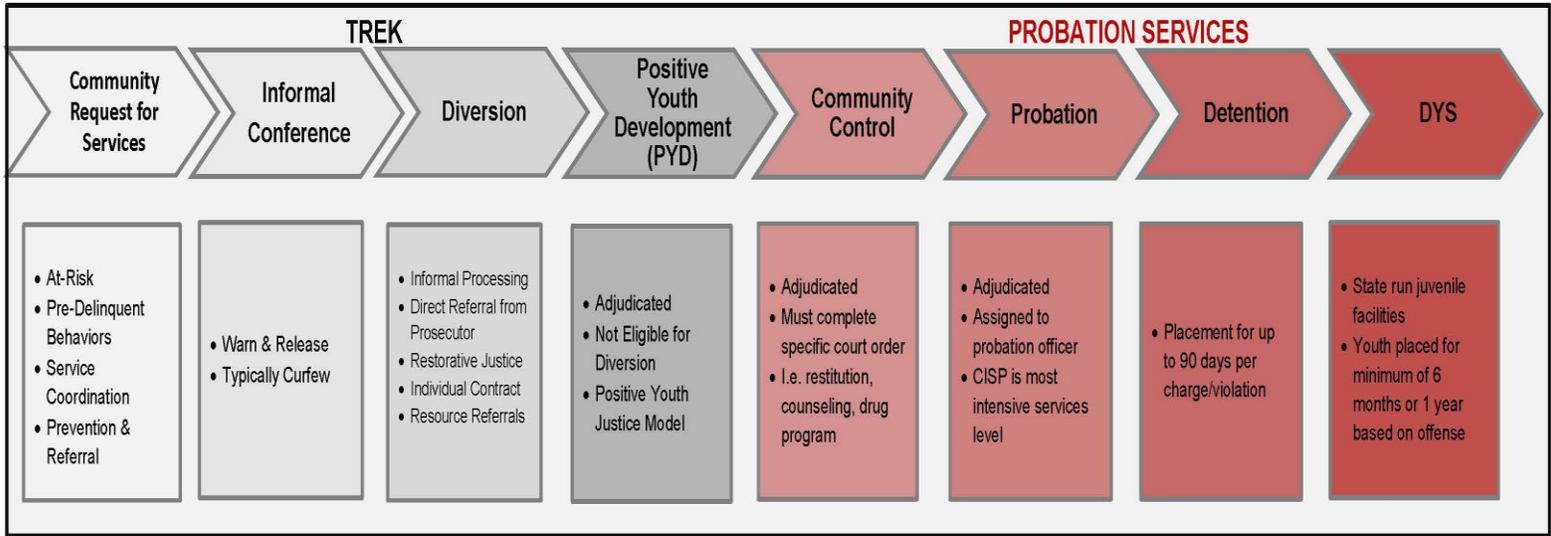
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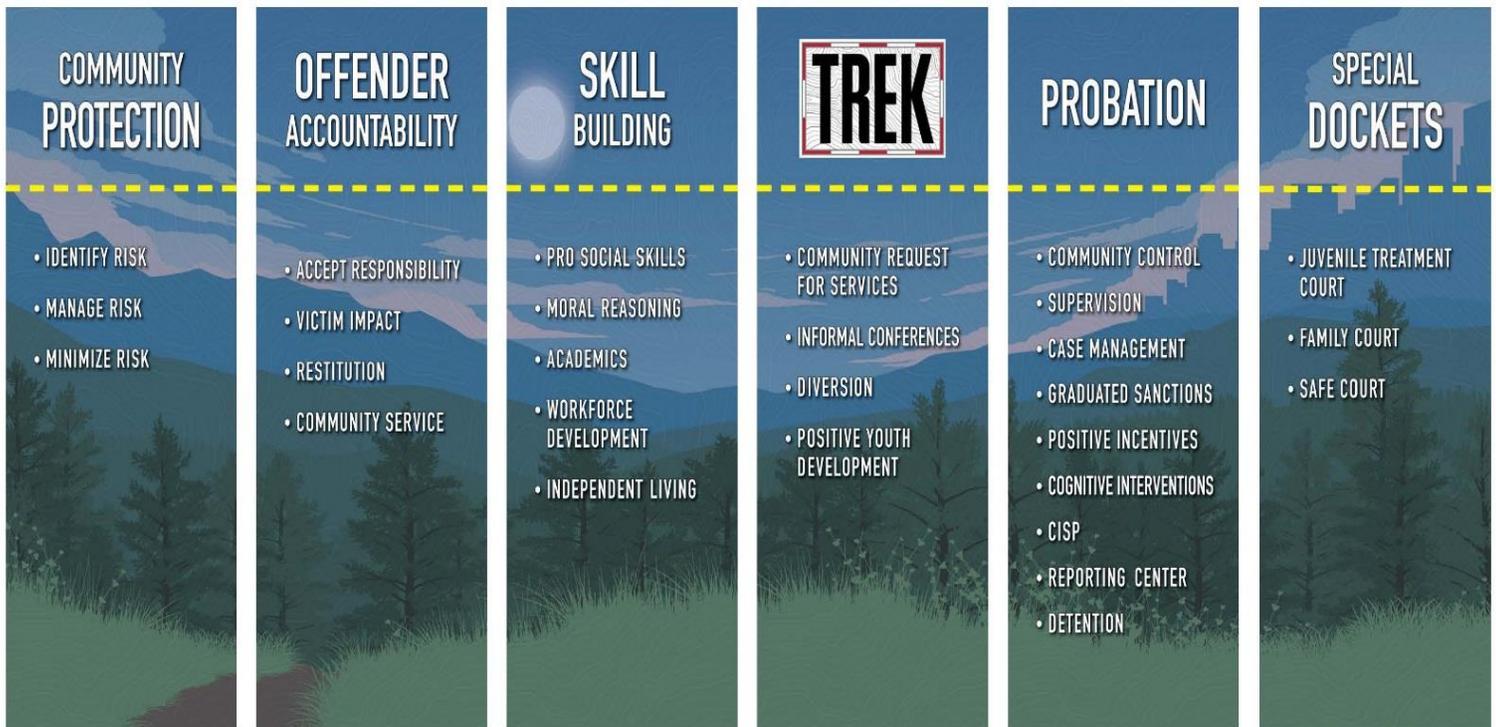
JUVENILE COURT



FAIRFIELD COUNTY JUVENILE COURT ARRAY OF INTERVENTIONS



INTERVENTIONS



COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR SERVICES

CRS	2015	2016	2017
Caseload	n/a	27	44

The Community Request for Services Program (CRS) is offered as a court-endorsed voluntary prevention program for a juvenile with no prior record by his/her family. While referrals to the program may be made by law enforcement, school officials, agency representatives, or by parent(s), CRS is offered only to those parents who want the assistance of the court and who agree to participate actively in the program.

During an interview with the youth and parent(s), the CRS Service Coordinator gathers information regarding all pre-delinquent behaviors exhibited by the child. The youth is screened for mental health and substance abuse disorders, as well as prior exposure to trauma. At the completion of the comprehensive assessment, the CRS Coordinator will refer the youth and parent(s) to the most appropriate community resources for intervention.

An Accountability Agreement, which includes action steps, is created and signed by both the child and parent(s). The signed agreement, while not a formal contract, signifies that both parties commit to follow through with all recommendations, investing time and energy into successfully completing the agreed upon actions. The length of time a child is involved in the CRS program varies with each situation.

INFORMAL CONFERENCES

INFORMALS	2015	2016	2017
Caseload	168	188	85

When a youth is referred to the Juvenile Court as the result of a citation issued by law enforcement, usually for a curfew violation or other minor misdemeanor, such as tobacco possession, a

court officer meets with the youth and parent(s). Through a brief interview, recommendations can be made for preventive or other services, and the youth is admonished and released. Informal conferences do not become part of a juvenile's record.

DIVERSION ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM

DIVERSION CASES	2015	2016	2017
Youth referred to Diversion	144	183	313
Successful completion	85.6%	85%	91.39%
Unsuccessful completion	13.4%	12.4%	8.28%
Neutral outcome due to medical reasons	1.0%	2.7%	.33%

Developed in 2015, the Diversion Accountability Program (DAP) is offered as an alternative to formal case processing and/or probation. Based on extensive research

conducted during the past 25 years, juvenile offenders deemed at low risk for reoffending benefit most from minimal court intervention. Conversely, the research indicates that providing intensive monitoring and treatment to low risk youth can have a detrimental impact on them.

DIVERSION CASES- TRADITIONAL/NONTRADITIONAL	2015	2016	2017
Traditional	56%	59%	70%
Non-Traditional	44%	41%	30%

The Diversion Accountability Program accepts referrals directly from the Prosecutor or from the Judge/Magistrate

when a youth: 1) has no prior official record; 2) is alleged to have committed an offense that is classified as unruly (e.g. truancy) or a misdemeanor; 3) admits to the offense; and 4) is deemed at low or moderate risk of reoffending through administration of the Ohio Youth Assessment System questionnaire. In a "traditional" diversion case, the delinquency or unruly matter proceeds through informal processing as opposed to adjudication. In a case referred from the Judge or Magistrate, the matter has already been filed formally. The youth then enters an admission (or is found delinquent) and the disposition order is completion of the Diversion Accountability Program.

DIVERSION CASES – OFFENSE LEVEL	2015	2016	2017
Felony	1.4%	0	1.93%
Misdemeanor	92%	70.4%	73.31%
Status Offense	6.5%	29.6%	24.76%

Diverting these particular cases from formal prosecution or probation and further involvement with the court enables the young

person to acknowledge responsibility for his/her actions and, through a contract agreement signed by the parent(s) and youth, accept and complete appropriate consequences. Diversion also provides the young person and family the opportunity to access needed resources, with the goal of preventing further involvement with the juvenile justice system.

Following the referral of a case for DAP, a comprehensive interview with the juvenile and parent(s) is scheduled and facilitated by a Diversion Officer. During the assessment interview, the Diversion Officer gathers information regarding school behavior and academic challenges, peer relations, and family dynamics. In addition, specific screening is administered for mental health and substance abuse issues, as well as prior or current exposure to trauma. If concerns are identified that may indicate a need for intervention, the Diversion Officer refers the youth and family to appropriate resources, and includes these recommendations in the DAP contract.

Other terms of the DAP contract may include the completion of an apology letter, an essay relative to the offense, payment of restitution directly to the victim, community service, referral to the Mentor program, or referral to other programs offered through the court or within the community. Youth who are accepted into the DAP remain on the program until all terms of the agreed-upon contract are fulfilled. Upon completion, averaging 60 days, the youth is successfully terminated and his/her record is sealed. The time of sealing of the case is dependent on the level of offense and if the youth reoffends during a specified period of time. If a youth fails to complete the terms of the contract, or commits a subsequent offense while on DAP, the case is terminated unsuccessfully and returned to the Prosecutor for formal processing or returned to the Court for further orders if already adjudicated.

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFENSE LEVEL	2017
Youth referred to PYD	14
Felonies	21%
Misdemeanors	65%
Status	14%

Developed in 2017, the Positive Youth Development (PYD) Program is an intermediate intervention for adjudicated youth who do not qualify for Diversion and who do not require the more intensive supervision of Probation. The focus of the PYD Program includes the development and enhancement

of skills and competencies that reduce at-risk behaviors and lead to stronger pro-social attachments and an increased sense of belonging.

The PYD Program track is available to misdemeanor-level offenders, with the possibility for felony offenders to be accepted by judicial discretion. Some general examples of offenses for which this program is best suited include: truancy/school issues, offenses committed due to a mental health disorder, or drug-related charges.

The integration of youth into multiple social environments is a key component of the PYD framework. Each referred youth accepted into the program works with the PYD Case Manager to increase involvement in school, civic improvement projects, church-related activities, and other community service activities. PYD focuses on the development of new skills and opportunities that enable each youth to actively participate in such activities and to make a positive contribution to their community.

Unlike probation, PYD minimizes the use of sanctions, focusing instead on identifying and addressing individual strengths and areas of need. By focusing efforts on enhancing and improving various life domains, such as work, education, relationships, community, health, and creativity, the PYD Program provides the support needed for youth to build on leadership strengths.

COMMUNITY CONTROL

COMMUNITY CONTROL	2015	2016	2017
Caseload	17	14	23

Community Control, a general term allowing the Judge or Magistrate to issue all other orders for disposition upon adjudication of a juvenile offender, involves less restrictive monitoring than

probation or Positive Youth Development (PYD). Youth placed on community only control are given orders for specific consequences, such as payment of restitution, enrollment in a drug education program, fulfillment of community work service hours, or other orders that are monitored by court staff through successful completion.

For adjudicated youth who do not require the intensity of monitoring or treatment provided through probation or PYD, "community control" is an intervention imposed when a specific court order must be completed.

PROBATION

PROBATION CASELOAD (Diversion began in 2015)	2015	2016	2017
Caseload	536	351	265

Probation is treated as the final step of community supervision, and is reserved for those adjudicated juvenile offenders who are at higher

risk of reoffending. The primary focus of Probation is the safety and security of the youth and the community. Ongoing monitoring of court orders is accomplished through regular and frequent contact with the juvenile, family, and collateral sources (i.e., school, employer, counselor, etc.) by a Probation Officer.

Sanctions for violating court orders vary, depending upon the severity of the violation. Graduated sanctions may include, but are not limited to: restriction of driving privileges, house arrest, electronic monitor, no-contact order, community service hours, frequent drug screens, placement at the Reporting Center for up to 20 days, placement in the Community Intensive Services Program (CISP), or detention.

The Community Intensive Services Program is the most intensive level of probation. It is designed to provide an increased level of monitoring for youth who commit more serious offenses, or for chronic offenders. The structured phases of the CISP Program include daily reporting, a GPS monitor, house arrest, mental health counseling, referral to community programs, surveillance, supervised community service, among other intensive requirements. It is ordered for youth who have been on probation and failed, or who have not met the conditions of probation and have committed subsequent offenses.

While the number of youth served by formal probation has decreased following the introduction of diversionary programming, the needs of the youth and families are far more complex and the case management is more time consuming.

DETENTION

Research on the impact of detention on adolescent development and mental health indicates that its use increases the likelihood of recidivism and negatively affects future employment and educational opportunities. At the Fairfield County Juvenile Court, detention is considered only after other graduated sanctions have been attempted. While placement in secure detention may be ordered for up to 90 days per charge or violation, it is used primarily as a short-term sanction when the youth is a danger to himself/herself or the community, or when the youth is at risk of absconding.

Fairfield County – Juvenile Detention Bed Days

YEAR	TOTAL BED DAYS	AVERAGE NUMBER OF JUVENILES IN DETENTION PER DAY
2005	4,873	13.35
2006	5,957	16.32
2007	6,026	16.51
2008	6,745	18.48
2009	6,767	18.54
2010	5,869	16.08
2011	5,110	14.0
2012	4,835	13.21
2013	6,132	16.80
2014	4,486	12.29
2015	2,961	8.11
2016	2,061	5.63
2017	2,074	5.68

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

INTAKE & ASSESSMENT

INTAKE & ASSESSMENT CASES	2015	2016	2017
Cases referred to I&A	188	194	291
Average length of time in I & A before transfer to Probation	58 Days	62 Days	61 Days

Immediately following the formal filing of a charge by the Prosecutor, the Fairfield County Juvenile Court begins the process of determining the risk level and needs of every

juvenile offender. Once the youth and parent(s) are served notice of the charge and date of initial court appearance, an Intake and Assessment (I & A) Officer makes a phone call to the parent to begin compiling a Pre-Arrest Report (PAR) for the Judge or Magistrate. This report contains basic information regarding family background, education, mental health or substance abuse issues, and pro-social activities. Based upon information from this initial phone interview, the I & A Officer is also able to include recommendations for temporary orders. The PAR is distributed to judicial staff, prosecutor, and (if appointed) attorney and guardian ad litem (GAL).

Following the youth being found delinquent or upon the signing of a waiver by the youth's attorney, the I & A Officer schedules a meeting with the youth and parent(s). The purpose of this in-depth interview is to screen for risk of reoffending, and to identify mental health/substance abuse issues, exposure to trauma, or academic concerns. Several evidence-based tools are utilized during this process: The Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) comprehensive questionnaire is administered to determine if a youth is at low, moderate, or high risk of reoffending; the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2) is completed by the youth to determine the presence of serious mental health or substance abuse issues; and the Child Trauma Screen is administered to determine prior or current exposure to trauma.

In addition to facilitating the comprehensive interview and screenings, the I & A Officer contacts collateral sources (for which releases of information have been signed by the parent), including schools, counselors, doctors, Child Protective Services, etc., to gather more information. All information, including results of the interview, screenings, and collateral source feedback, is compiled into a pre-disposition report (PDR), which also includes recommendations for monitoring and intervention. The PDR is distributed to judicial staff, prosecutors, attorney, GAL, and other necessary court staff (Behavioral Health team, pending Probation Officer, pending Diversion Officer, or Positive Youth Development Case Manager).

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CASES	2015	2016	2017
Lethality Assessments	31	27	10
Mental Health Assessments	104	57	99
Youth in ongoing treatment	66	74	82
TOTAL YOUTH SERVED Unduplicated #'s	201	158	140

Licensed social work/mental health professionals, within the Fairfield County Juvenile Court's Behavioral Health (BH) team provide in-house mental health and substance abuse assessments for juveniles referred from Probation, Diversion, Intake &

Assessment, PYD, or by the Judge/Magistrates. If, through their interview with the youth and parent(s), it is determined that further counseling or treatment is needed, the team will refer to the most appropriate community resource, or provide short-term in-house counseling.

In addition, the BH team is available for immediate lethality screening and referral when a juvenile is deemed at-risk of suicide, or is a threat to others. The BH team also provides case consultation services to all court staff.

ACADEMIC ASSIST

ACADEMIC SERVICES	2015	2016	2017
Youth provided academic assistance	55	148	85

In alignment with the priorities of its guiding principles, the Fairfield County Juvenile Court is committed to improving and enhancing the

educational pursuits of all juvenile offenders. The Academic Coordinator serves as a liaison between the court and the schools in order to facilitate that objective.

Students involved with all intervention levels of the court are evaluated upon recommendation of Judicial, Probation, PYD, DAP, or other staff. The Interim Academic Review process is ongoing, and includes evaluation of grades, attendance, and behavior.

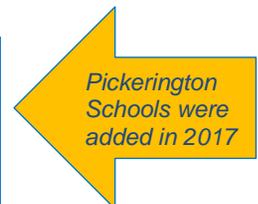
Additional interventions cover a wide array of measures, including, but not limited to: special needs assessments, scheduling, programming and placement concerns, and support services as needed.

TRUANCY

TRUANCY	2015	2016	2017
Truancy cases	55	89	71
Truancy cases diverted	9	51	50
Successful diversion of truancy cases	78%	80.4%	88%
Unsuccessful diversion of truancy resulting in unruly adjudication	12%	19.6%	12%

Due to the implementation of the HB410 Truancy legislation in April 2017 the responsibility for early intervention for school truancy was assigned to the schools. The Court continues to partner with each school district to support youth's individual truancy intervention plans.

TRUANCY COURT	2015	2016	2017
Students in Truancy Court (Lancaster City & Amanda-Clearcreek)	88	117	73
Students eventually charged for failure to improve attendance	16	14	6
Successful Interventions	82%	88%	92%
Required further involvement	18%	12%	8%



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In keeping with the principles of restorative justice, the goals of the Workforce Development Program (WFD) are to prepare court-involved youth for the workforce, and to increase their ability to obtain and retain employment. The program uses a five-step approach to achieve these goals: assessment, job readiness assistance, individual job search, job placement, and job retention.

When a youth is referred to the Workforce Development Program, the program coordinator meets with the juvenile and parent(s) to conduct a comprehensive assessment that will determine the level of assistance needed, as well as identify barriers and challenges. Following the assessment, each youth attends workshops that provide training in interviewing, time management, work habits/conduct, attendance, communication, conflict management, positive relationships with supervisors/coworkers, good hygiene, and appropriate work attire.

In order to assist with the actual job search, the program coordinator meets with each youth to create resumes, understand job postings and the value of networking, and complete online job applications. The program coordinator also assists each youth in completing employment paperwork, reviewing employer expectations, determining work schedules, arranging transportation, balancing school and work, and communicating with supervisors.

Following the acquisition of a job, each youth’s progress is followed by the program coordinator. Issues and problems are identified early and addressed as they occur in order to avoid resignation or firing. Support services are also identified and accessed to help each young person maintain employment, and school attendance and grades are reviewed on a regular basis by the program coordinator.

Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

The 2017 Summer Youth Employment Program began with 6 weeks of work readiness skills training to prepare youth for their upcoming job placements. Following the training, youth were placed in summer jobs at local businesses and organizations in a variety of entry level positions including: landscaping, food service, receptionist/customer service and retail. Service elements for **SYEP** included: Pre/Post Assessments, Pre-Employment Skills Training, Subsidized Work Experience, Pre/Post Evaluations and Transition to Unsubsidized Employment.

- Pre- and post-**assessments** identified the youth’s initial skill level compared to their skill level at the completion of the program. **There was a 48% increase in post assessment scores and the average increased score was 11 points per student.**
- Pre- and post **evaluations** were completed by each employment site and reviewed with youth participants. The evaluations rated the youths work behaviors and skills in a range of job readiness areas to determine their job readiness by the end of the program.
- **Accomplishments and Positive Youth Outcomes Achieved**

Accomplishments and Positive Youth Outcomes Achieved	2017
Total Youth Served	45
Work Readiness Training Referrals	26
Work Readiness Training Successful Completions	19
SYEP Placements	17
SYEP Successful Completions	13
Obtained Unsubsidized Employment	28
Retained Unsubsidized Employment	18

MENTOR PROGRAM

MENTORING	2015	2016	2017
Mentoring Youth Served	NA	NA	20

The goal of the Fairfield County Juvenile Court’s Mentor Program is to provide adjudicated, at-risk youth opportunities to work one-on-one with a screened and trained adult mentor whose support and camaraderie will contribute to the development of positive skills in all areas. Studies show that more than 76% of at-risk young adults who had a mentor aspire to enroll in and graduate from college versus 56% of at-risk young adults who had no mentor.

Three types of mentoring are available through the court’s Mentor Program: one-on-one, where a pre-screened and trained adult is paired with a court-involved youth; group mentoring, involving a weekly meeting with a mentor group facilitator, who will coordinate and lead a variety of pro-social activities; and team mentoring, where two or more mentors are assigned to one or more youth (an example may be a husband and wife who are mentoring one or more youth).

GLOW & HYPE MENTORING GROUPS

In 2015, the Fairfield County Juvenile Court developed two specific groups for juvenile offenders. Based on research that indicates most delinquents outgrow their offending behaviors because they acquire skills, develop close, caring personal relationships, and form attachments and bonds to pro-social groups, both female and male offenders are offered the opportunity to participate in each of the groups.

GLOW, the group established for girls, stands for “Girls Light Our World.” HYPE, the group for boys, is an acronym for “Helping Young People Excel.” Both GLOW and HYPE were formed to provide a mentoring and educational experience within a pro-social environment. The primary goal of both groups is to build on skills that empower the participants to gain confidence and emotional strength, as well as to increase self-awareness and belief in their ability to succeed. Cognitive behavior techniques are built into the GLOW and HYPE curriculum, modeled after the National Institute of Correction series, “Thinking for a Change.”

GLOW and HYPE accept referrals from the Probation Department, and consist of ten weekly, 1-2 hour sessions. The groups are limited to 8-10 participants and are facilitated by female and male court staff, respectively. The GLOW group includes activities such as self-defense and safety awareness, community outreach, holiday projects, fundraising for causes, such as March of Dimes, craft projects, cyber safety, and health and fitness. Participants in the HYPE group learn hands-on skills, such as woodworking, techniques of grilling, public speaking, appropriate grooming, as well as others.

As part of the GLOW and HYPE curriculum, guest speakers from the community are also invited to share knowledge, skills, and experiences with the group participants. Both GLOW and HYPE have been nominated to receive a Community Recognition Award from the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM (COMMUNITY SERVICE)

YOUTH ORDERED TO PERFORM COMMUNITY SERVICE	2015	2016	2017
Number of Youth Ordered to Community Service	174	123	130
Hours completed during time period	3,654.25 hrs.	2,291.75 hrs.	1,927 hrs.

The Youth Accountability Program (YAP) provides court-involved youth the opportunity to participate in community service work. Youth are referred to the program by the

Judge/Magistrates, Probation, Diversion, PYD, or Intake & Assessment. Each youth can work off assigned hours under the supervision of the YAP Coordinator at several work sites throughout Fairfield County. Sites include Habitat for Humanity Restore (Pickerington and Lancaster), food pantries, Maywood Mission, Foundation dinners, local churches, highway cleanup, and many more.

Through working with the YAP Coordinator and other approved volunteers, youth assigned to community service are provided the opportunity to regain community trust, pay restitution, and fulfill obligations while developing new skills and building quality relationships with adult mentors.

REPORTING CENTER

REPORTING CENTER <i>(Started in 2016)</i>	2015	2016	2017
Youth ordered in lieu of detention	n/a	29	82
Days served in lieu of detention	n/a	454	5,839

Located at ConneXion West, the Fairfield County Reporting Center was established in September, 2016, for the purpose of reducing the

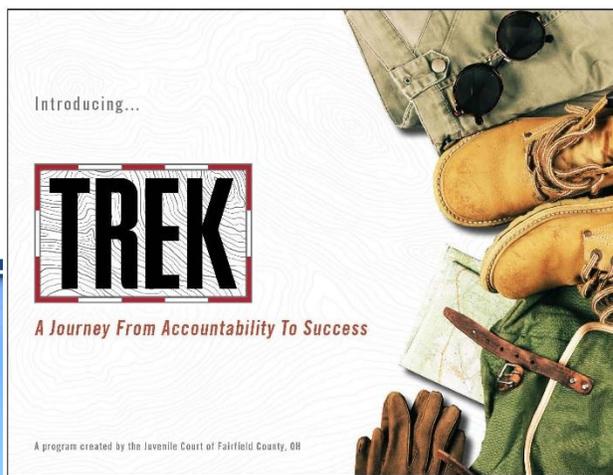
number of youth who are placed in secure detention. Funded through the Ohio Department of Youth

Services, the Reporting Center is open Monday through Friday, 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., and operates two separate tracks.

The *Detention Alternative* track accepts youth, ages 13-17, who are referred by Intake & Assessment, Probation, or by the Judge/Magistrates. Eligible youth must be ordered pre-adjudication, by the court at adjudication, or as a condition of probation. This track provides intensive supervision, as well as supportive services that address identified needs of juveniles who are referred. Programming is based on cognitive behavioral change and structure. Youth who are eligible include those who are not a danger to themselves or others, or to the property of others. In addition, a youth who is a flight risk is not eligible for placement in the Reporting Center. Youth placed in the Detention Alternative track can remain at the Reporting Center for up to 20 days. At times, this track is used when youth on probation need temporary supervision when parent(s) are unable to provide it.

The *Safe Harbor* track is designed for youth referred by Probation, Diversion, or PYD, who will benefit from participation in one of many community sponsored programs offered at the Reporting Center. Programs include art classes, academic assistance, cooking classes, independent living skills, job readiness, mentoring groups, anger management groups, among others offered throughout the year.

The two tracks, Detention Alternative and Safe Harbor, are kept separate at all times. Each is located in a separate classroom, and provided meals in separate locations and at separate times.



SPECIALIZED DOCKETS

TREATMENT COURT

JUVENILE TREATMENT COURT	2015	2016	2017
Participants	21	17	12
Participants graduated from high school	2	3	3
Participants terminated	3	4	4
Status hearings	99	91	80
Graduates	5	6	2

Designed to serve the needs of non-violent, court involved youth who have a diagnosed substance use disorder (SUD), or a dual diagnosis of a mental health disorder and substance use disorder, the Fairfield County Juvenile Treatment Court serves

adjudicated juvenile offenders referred by probation, parent/guardian, or their attorney/GAL. The mission of the Juvenile Treatment Court is to reduce juvenile delinquency and substance abuse through therapeutic best practice interventions and close judicial supervision.

Through an intensively monitored phase program, the Treatment Court provides opportunities and resources for participants to become alcohol and drug free, achieve success in school, and complete probation. In addition, participants who are struggling with mental health issues are linked with appropriate treatment resources and expected to follow all therapeutic recommendations.

In addition to providing intensive monitoring, the Treatment Court team also links participants with court or community programs that focus on skill building and competency development. Referrals are also made when needs are identified in the areas of education, employment, medical care, training, housing, and transportation.

FAMILY COURT PROGRAM

FAMILY COURT	2015	2016	2017
Participants	10	15	16
Participants Terminated	2	6	3
Status Hearings	36	85	57
Graduates	6	1	7

Through a specialized docket of the Fairfield County Juvenile Court, "Family Court" is a court-supervised treatment program designed to improve outcomes for

families who are experiencing a substance use disorder and involved with the child protection system. Participants include parents who are 18 years old or older. The goals of Family Court are to enhance available services, increase parental participation and success in recovery, and reduce the number of days of out-of-home placement of children. Through the use of tools for rapid substance and trauma screening, parents are offered early access to services and supports.

Family Court is a three-phase program. Referrals to the Family Court are made by Child Protective Services, attorneys and Guardians ad Litem, and successful completion of the Family Court program becomes part of the CPS case plan for reunification. Upon acceptance into Family Court, participants are expected to actively participate in treatment, refrain from using and/or possessing any mood-altering substance, submit to random drug screens, attend all required counseling sessions, appear for regularly scheduled status hearings, and comply with all rules of the treatment plan and program.

S.A.F.E. COURT

SAFE COURT	2015	2016	2017
Participants	n/a	4	19
Participants Terminated	n/a	0	9
Status Hearings	n/a	16	48
Graduates	n/a	1	4

Structured Activities for Family Engagement (S.A.F.E.) Court, a collaborative effort between Fairfield County Child Protective Services, the Fairfield County Juvenile Court, and community partners, is a program designed to

improve outcomes for families who are involved with the child protection system and experiencing a substance use disorder prior to formal filing of a case in Juvenile Court. The goals of this collaboration are to: 1) enhance available services; 2) increase parental participation and success in recovery; 3) reduce out of home placement of children while maintaining safety, and; 4) avoid formal filing in Juvenile Court. All this is done through a voluntary child protection case. All status hearings are conducted by a hearing officer contracted by the Juvenile Court.

As part of the S.A.F.E. Court program, parents are screened for substance use and exposure to trauma. Early access to services and supports are made available, along with case management, judicial oversight, and a peer recovery coach mentoring program for parents.



TITLE IV-E COURT

IV-E	2015	2016	2017
No. of Youth in Care & Control of Court	8	7	5

The Juvenile Court operates as a Title IV-E Court under the Federal Code. This means that,

in a delinquency or unruly matter the Court, rather than ordering custody to an agency or relative/kinship person, places the youth in the care and control of the Juvenile Court directly. Care and control means Fairfield County Juvenile Court has assumed responsibility of the child to assure the safety and well-being of the child through a Court Order. The biological parents of the child maintain residual rights and shall continue to participate in school activities, receive updates regarding progress their child is making, and be included in any educational planning for said child. The Court must comply with the same standards of placement followed by Child Protective Services under federal and state rules and laws.



JUVENILE COURT FUNDING

JUVENILE DIVISION
JUDGE TERRE L. VANDERVOORT

FUNDING SOURCE	PROVIDES FOR	2015	2016	2017
County General Fund	Court Operations Employees	1,797,010	1,856,247	1,975,569.00
Department of Youth Services 510	Employees Counselors Psychological Evaluations Training	770,616.26	779,472.73	901,004.65
Juvenile Recovery Fund	Employees	24,139.59	178,417.56	32,452.58
Computer/Computer Research	Maintenance Upgrades to Software Equipment Website	19,655.10	15,908.64	57,568.72
Alternative School Fund	Closed	1,274.51	249.25	0
Drug Court Fund	Drug Court Operations	65,164.85	108,900.00	37,500.00
Multi-System Pooled Fund	Mental Health Counselors	130,000	130,000.00	130,016.81
Title IV-E Fund	Foster Care Diversion Facility	821,714.51	305,564.37	368,397.77
TOTAL JUVENILE REVENUE		\$3,629,574.82	\$3,374,759.55	\$3,502,509.53

JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS

JUVENILE DIVISION
JUDGE TERRE L. VANDERVOORT

NEW CASES	2015	2016	2017
Adult	75	165	137
Delinquency	409	402	515
Unruly	1	4	36
Traffic	728	746	751
Abuse, Neglect, Dependency	186	169	128
Grandparent Power of Attorney & Miscellaneous	67	50	59
Motion for Permanent Custody (including refiles)	23	25	29
Custody, Change of Custody, Visitation & Motions filed in A, N, D	121	167	137
Private Custody / Transferred and Filed	33	19	38
TOTAL	1,714	1,848	1,987

COMPARISON OF CHARGES AND/OR FILINGS	2015	2016	2017
Felony Filings	71	51	55
Firearm or Other on School Property	78	77	168
Trespass	9	18	31
Criminal Mischief	128	7	13
Criminal Damaging/Vandalism	36	28	54
Theft	74	60	66
Arson	1	2	5
Burglary, Robbery, B&E	13	8	11
Disorderly Conduct	74	37	113
Drug and Alcohol	111	78	115
Tobacco	0	1	1
Truancy	49	115	70

VIOLENT CRIMES	2015	2016	2017
Assault/Aggravated, Attempted, and/or Felonious Assault	46	42	50
Menacing/Aggravated	14	23	27
Domestic Violence	21	24	82

AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER OR PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED	2015	2016	2017
Victim Over 65	0	1	3

SEXUAL OFFENSES	2015	2016	2017
Rape / Sexual Battery	26	5	1
Gross Sexual Imposition / Sexual Imposition	27	7	15
Disseminating	9	2	6

TRAFFIC	2015	2016	2017
Speed	328	347	336
ACDA	80	85	88
OVI	6	14	10
Felony	0	0	0
Vehicular Homicide	0	0	0
Other	309	328	413

PROBATE COURT

PROBATE DIVISION
JUDGE TERRE L. VANDERVOORT

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED DURING THE YEAR

- Full implementation of the Local Probate Court Rules with additional amendments to the Rules based upon feedback from staff, local counsel, and the public.
- Implementation of a revised compliance and citation process to ensure that cases move through the probate process effectively and efficiently.
- Reorganization of case file management among the probate clerks so that all estate and guardianship cases are assigned to a clerk based upon an alphabetical breakdown to ensure cross-training and effective file management.

GOALS FOR 2018

- Organization of a workgroup consisting of employees from both the Probate Court and Fairfield County Adult Protective Services to explore ways the Court can be utilized by Adult Protective Services to effectively serve the community.
- Formation of a workgroup consisting of local counsel and other community partners to explore the possibility of forming a Guardianship Services Board for Fairfield County similar to the model recently developed in Franklin County.
- Implementation of updated civil commitment policies, procedures, and forms including an Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program to provide ongoing Court involvement for the mentally ill in the community.

PROBATE COURT FUNDING

PROBATE DIVISION
JUDGE TERRE L. VANDERVOORT

FUNDING SOURCE	PROVIDES FOR	2015	2016	2017
County General Fund	Court Operations Employees	\$549,784	\$653,257.00	\$645,558.00
Computer/Computer Research	Maintenance/ Upgrades	\$33,362	\$42,826.62	\$20,228.00
Indigent Guardian Funds	Guardians/Attorney for Indigent Wards	\$17,299	\$13,650.00	\$13,620.00
Special Projects	Court Special Projects	\$33,269.26	\$50,278.08	\$46,247.50
TOTAL PROBATE REVENUE		\$633,678.26	\$760,011.70	\$725,653.50

PROBATE COURT STATISTICS

NEW PROBATE CASES	2015	2016	2017
Adoptions & Placements	45	58	51
Civil Actions	49	51	19
Estates	589	522	511
Wrongful Death Actions	3	6	2
Guardianships (All Types)	73	57	55
Mental Affidavits	34	35	38
Name Changes	81	65	82
Minor's Settlements	12	12	9
Birth Record Corrections	3	9	7
Trusts	8	5	7
Conservatorships	0	0	0
TOTAL	897	820	781

MARRAGE LICENSES	2015	2016	2017
Marriage Licenses Issued	875	834	861

DISTRIBUTION LIST

1. Commissioner Steve Davis
2. Commissioner Dave Levacy
3. Commissioner Mike Kiger
4. Carri Brown, County Administrator
5. Fairfield County Website
6. Supreme Court of Ohio

COST OF PRINTING

1. Prepared in house
2. Posted on Fairfield County Website – Juvenile & Probate Court