

Fairfield County Juvenile & Probate Court
2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Judge Terre L. Vandervoort



Forward by *Judge Terre L. Vandervoort*

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 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.

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.

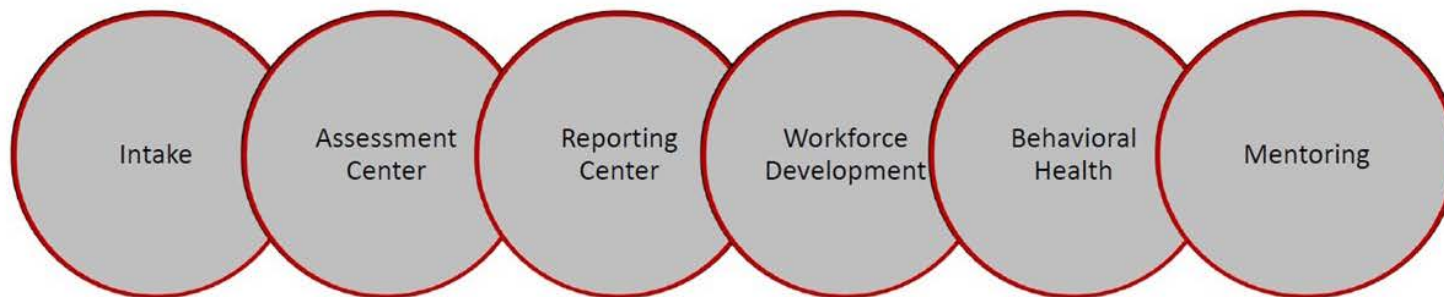
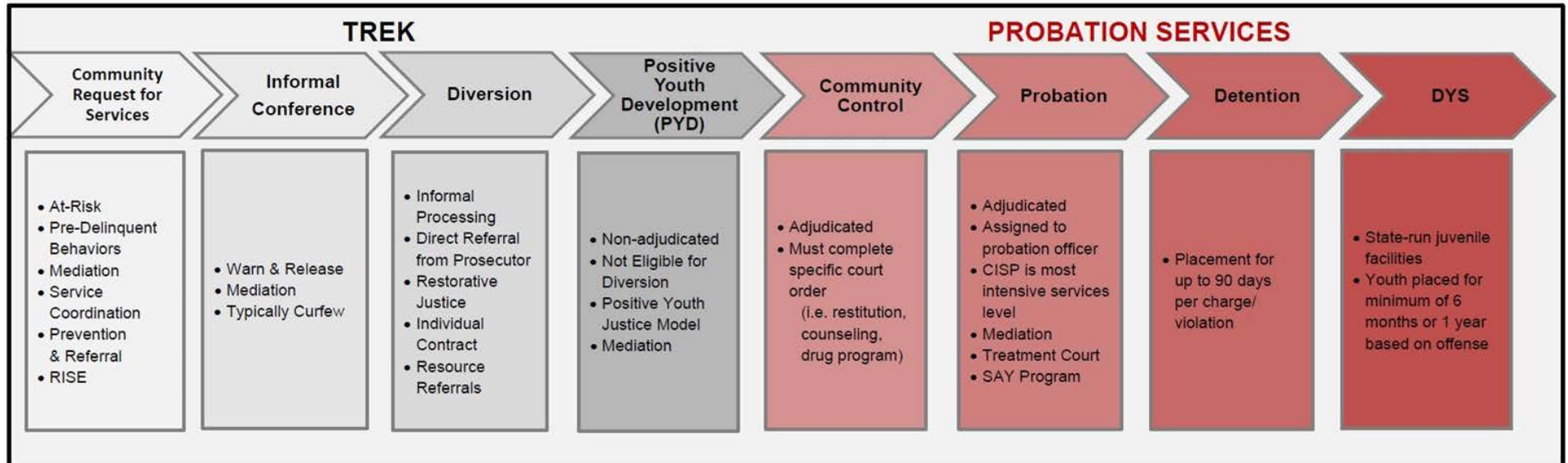


From intake to case closure, the Fairfield County Juvenile Court has committed its resources, interventions, and decisions to achieving these principles: protection of the community, offender accountability, and skill and competency development.

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FAIRFIELD COUNTY JUVENILE COURT ARRAY OF INTERVENTIONS



Fairfield County Juvenile Court Interventions

Community Protection	Offender Accountability	Skill Building	TREK	Probation	Special Dockets
Identify Risk	Accept Responsibility	Pro Social Skills	Community Request for Services	Community Control	Juvenile Treatment Court
Manage Risk	Victim Impact	Moral Reasoning	Informal Conferences	Supervision	Excel (formerly Family Court)
Minimize Risk	Restitution	Academics	Diversion	Case Management	
	Community Service	Workforce Development	Positive Youth Development	Graduated Sanctions	
		Independent Living		Positive Incentives	
				Cognitive Interventions	
				Community Intensive Services Program	

Assessment Center

Fairfield County Juvenile Assessment Center serves as a single point of entry providing individualized processing, screening, and referral of at-risk youth and juvenile offenders. Referrals to the Center can come from the community or from law enforcement.

Assessment Center staff respond to immediate crises as well as ongoing needs of youth and their families, while increasing law enforcement availability to the community through provision of timely service.

The Assessment Center partners with community-based agencies to provide coordinated best-practice and cost-effective responses, services and resources to youth and their families – including screenings, assessments, and referrals.

The Center has a dual goal of preventing the progression of behaviors that put the youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement, and preventing the use of secure detention for youth who can be safely served while maintaining family stability. The Center has two different tracks —

one for youth transported by law enforcement agencies and one for community-based referrals.

The Community Track strives to keep youth at home and out of the juvenile justice system by connecting families with supportive services to promote safe, healthy and happy kids. Young people receive early intervention screening and assessment to identify factors contributing to concerning behavior. These informal referrals are accepted from parents and professionals.

The process for **the Law Enforcement Assessment Track** is for the Officer to bring the youth to the Center, where custody is exchanged. Once the complaint is completed, the Officer clears the case and returns to duty. Parents/guardians are contacted to come in as well.

There are several possible outcomes of this initial referral, based on the screenings and interview:

- Youth returns home with parent/caregiver; or

- Youth stays with relative/or other for the night until morning; or
- Youth may be taken to detention by court staff; or
- Emergency respite is an option that Fairfield County will explore; or
- If no emergency respite is available, detention is not warranted, and no parent/safe place is available, youth may sleep at the Center until the next day.

The next morning, the Assessment Center staff will interact with the Fairfield County Prosecutor to determine if a case can be diverted, should be formally filed, or will be handled informally.

Funded by the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the Assessment Center's Community Track began providing services July 1, 2019. The Law Enforcement Track opening is slated to begin in January 2020.

Assessment Center 2019 Data

Assessment Center Community Track

Assessment Center Law Enforcement Track

2019 Total Referrals: 54

Opening January 2020

Informal Conferences

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.

Informal Conferences 2019 Data

Informal Conferences Caseload				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
168	188	85	98	58

Diversion Accountability Program (DAP)

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, research indicates that providing intensive monitoring and treatment to low-risk youth can have a detrimental impact on them.

The Diversion Accountability Program accepts referrals directly from the County 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),
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.

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/their 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 the DAP, a comprehensive interview with the juvenile and parent(s) is scheduled and facilitated by a Diversion Specialist.

During the assessment interview, the Specialist 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 Specialist refers the youth and family to appropriate resources; these recommendations are included in the DAP contract.

Other terms of the DAP contact 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.

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Diversion Accountability Program (DAP)

(continued from page 8)

Youth who are accepted into the Diversion Accountability Program remain in it until all terms of the agreed-upon contract are fulfilled. Upon DAP completion, which averages 60 days, the youth is successfully terminated, and his/her/their record is sealed. The time between successful termination and sealing of a Diversion case depends on the level of offense and whether or not 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 is returned to the Prosecutor for formal processing or is returned to the Court for further orders if already adjudicated.

Diversion Accountability Program 2019 Data

Diversion Cases					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Youth referred to Diversion	144	183	313	229	255
Successful completion	85.60%	85.00%	91.39%	83.62%	90.0%
Unsuccessful completion	13.40%	12.40%	8.28%	15.82%	9.20%
Neutral outcome due to medical reasons	1.00%	2.70%	0.33%	0.56%	0.80%
Traditional Diversion Cases	56%	59%	70%	77%	81%
Non-traditional Diversion Cases	44%	41%	30%	23%	19%
Offense Level: Felony	1.40%	0.00%	1.93%	0.44%	0.80%
Offense Level: Misdemeanor	92.00%	70.40%	73.31%	78.76%	69.40%
Offense Level: Status	6.50%	29.60%	24.76%	20.80%	29.80%

Positive Youth Development (PYD) Program

Developed in 2017, the Positive Youth Development (PYD) Program is an intermediate intervention for adjudicated youth who neither qualify for Diversion nor require the more intensive supervision of Probation.

Focus of the PYD Program includes 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. 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.

Integration of youth into multiple social environments is a key component of the PYD framework. Each referred youth accepted into the program works with a PYD Specialist to increase involvement in school, civic improvement projects, church-related activities, and/or 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.

Positive Youth Development Program 2019 Data

Positive Youth Development			
	2017	2018	2019
Youth referred to PYD	14	77	51
Offense level: Felony	3 (21%)	2 (8%)	3 (6%)
Offense level: Misdemeanor	9 (65%)	54 (70%)	34 (67%)
Offense level: Status	2 (14%)	17 (22%)	14 (27%)

Community Control

Community Control, a general term for 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 the Positive Youth Development (PYD) Program. Youth placed on Community 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.

Community Control 2019 Data

Community Control Caseload				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
17	14	23	19	17

Probation

Probation is treated as the final step of community supervision and is reserved for 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 (e.g. school, employer, counselor, etc.) by a Probation Case Manager.

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 include daily reporting, a GPS monitor

house arrest, mental health counseling, referral to community programs, surveillance, and 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 who are served through formal Probation has decreased following the introduction of diversionary programming, the needs of the youth and families served are far more complex, and the case management is more time-consuming.

Probation 2019 Data

Probation Caseload				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
536	351	265	205	139

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 Fairfield County Juvenile Court, detention is considered only after other graduated sanctions have been attempted.

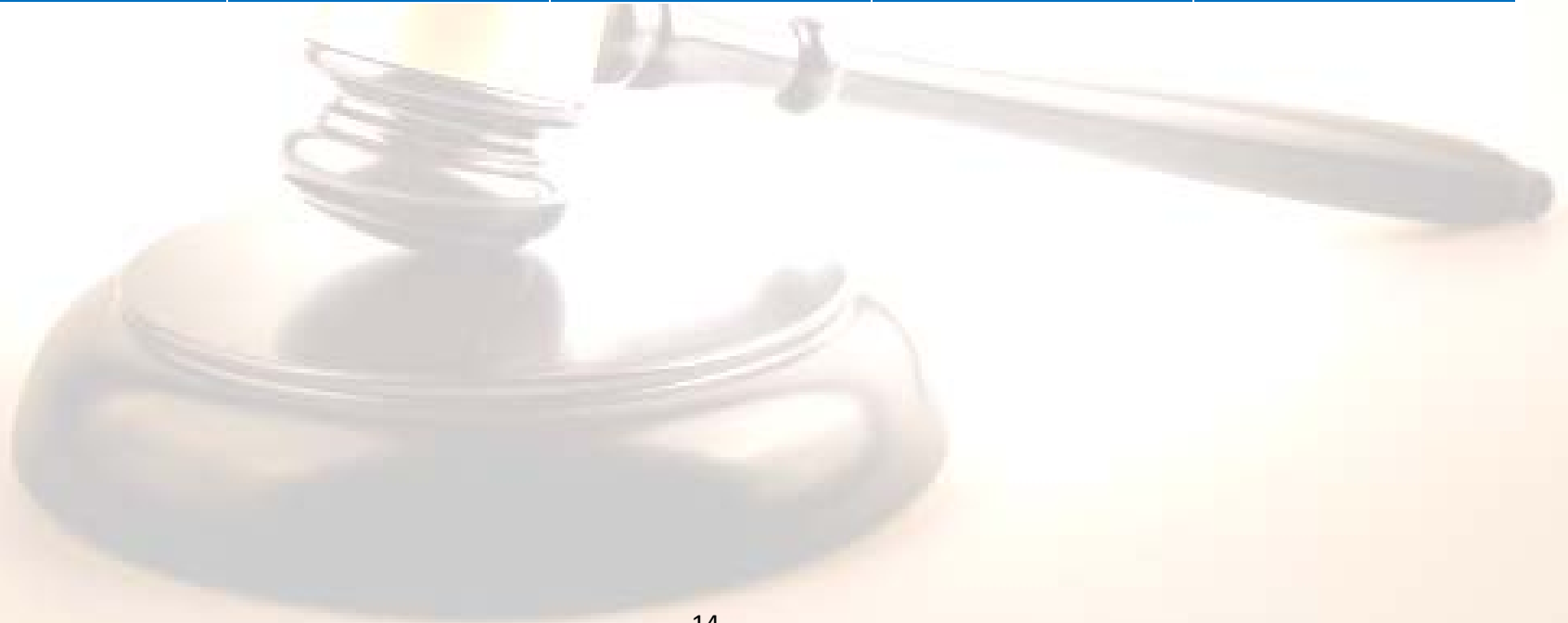
While placement in secure detention may be ordered for up to 90 days per charge or violation, it is used primarily as a short-term sanction when the youth is a danger to himself/herself/ themselves or the community, or when the youth is at risk of absconding.

Detention 2019 Data

Year	Total Number of Bed Days	Average Number of Juveniles in Detention Per Day
2005	4,837	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	14.00
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
2018	2,767	7.58
2019	2,093	5.73

Fairfield County Juvenile Court Programs & Services

Intake & Assessment	Behavioral Health	Truancy	Juvenile Justice Summit	Rise Program
Workforce Development	Subsidized Youth Employment Program	Mentor Program/Groups	Community Service	Reporting Center



Intake & Assessment

Immediately following the formal filing of a charge by the Prosecutor, 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) Specialist makes a phone call to the parent to begin compiling a Pre-Arrest report (PAR) for the Judge or Magistrate.

The PAR contains basic information regarding family background, education, mental health and/or substance abuse issues, and pro-social activities.

Based upon information from this initial phone interview, the I & A Specialist is also able to include recommendations for temporary orders. The PAR is distributed to the 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 Specialist schedules a meeting/interview with the youth and parent(s).

The purpose of this meeting/in-depth interview is to screen for the youth's 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 and/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 Specialist 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 Case Manager, pending Diversion Specialist, or Positive Youth Development Case Manager).

Intake & Assessment 2019 Data

Intake & Assessment Caseload					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Cases referred to I & A	188	194	291	260	162
Average length of time in I & A before transfer to Probation	58 days	62 days	61 days	66 days	61 days

Behavioral Health

Licensed social work/mental health professionals within Fairfield County Juvenile Court's Behavioral Health (BH) team provide 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 make a referral for the youth 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 at risk for suicide or is a threat to others. The BH team also provides case consultation services to all Court staff.

Behavioral Health 2019 Data

Behavioral Health Cases					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lethality assessments	31	27	10	36	6
Mental Health assessments/consult	104	57	99	116	94
Youth in ongoing treatment	66	74	82	37	43
TOTAL YOUTH SERVED (unduplicated #s)	201	158	140	156	129

Truancy

Due to the implementation of 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 youths' individual truancy intervention plans. Youth who subsequently receive truancy charges are served through the Court's Diversion programs when at all possible.

Truancy 2019 Data

Truancy Cases					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Truancy cases	55	89	71	65	56
Truancy cases diverted	9	51	50	30	56
Successful diversion of Truancy Cases	78.0%	80.4%	88.0%	67.0%	72.5%
Unsuccessful diversion of truancy resulting in unruly adjudication	12.0%	19.6%	12.0%	30.0%	25.0%
Diverted truancy cases closed with neutral status	—	—	—	3.0%	2.5%
Truancy Court					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Students in Truancy Court (2019 — Pickerington Local School District Only)	88	117	73	197	182
Students eventually charged for failure to improve attendance	16	14	6	5	24
Successful Interventions	82.0%	88.0%	92.0%	80.0%	86.8%
Unsuccessful Required further involvement	18.0%	12.0%	8.0%	20.0%	13.2%

Juvenile Justice Summit

Fairfield County Juvenile Court presented the 2019 Juvenile Justice Summit on November 21 at Crossroads Event Center in Lancaster.

This was the third year for the annual community conversation that shares information about trauma informed care, community response to trauma, and court updates and projections.

Participants numbered 92 and included individuals from the justice system, faith-based sector, mental health agencies, education, and other service providers that partner with the Court to serve at-risk youth and their families in the community.

All presenters were from Fairfield County Juvenile Court: Judge Terre L. Vandervoort, Assessment & Intervention Director Rebecca Edwards, Court Administrator

Michael Orlando, and Behavioral Health Specialist Keith Tremblay.

The annual Summit features presentation of Starfish Awards. Created by the Court, the Starfish Award recognizes the power of change in Fairfield County in both our community partners and in our youth.

The award recognizes youth who are making changes in their lives and community partners who are breaking down barriers, changing culture, utilizing innovative programming, and using best-practice models to support our youth in Fairfield County.

2019 Starfish Award recipients were youth Keelee Prince-Turner and Lily Iser, and community partners Lancaster City Schools and Pickerington Alternative School.

Each award recipient was presented a certificate and a glass starfish.

The youth each received a Starfish Award for "committing to positive change for yourself, your family, and your community."

Lancaster City Schools' award was given for that district's "commitment to become a trauma-informed school district through professional development, informed practices, and programming focused on the effects of trauma on the behavioral and academic development of youth."

Pickerington Alternative School received the honor for "supporting and participating in juvenile probation transformation through enhanced communication, removal of service barriers, and a willingness to partner with Fairfield County Juvenile Court."

Juvenile Justice Summit



THE STARFISH STORY


One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?" The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

"Son", the man said, "Don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said "I made a difference for that one."

-Loren Easley



Rise Program

The Rise Program (formerly Early Warning System) is a collaboration for resources and expertise between Lancaster City Schools, Fairfield County ADAMH Board, Ohio Guidestone, and Juvenile Court. The purpose of Rise is to identify youth who are at risk for entrance into the juvenile justice system and provide timely targeted services at an earlier stage. Work groups met through 2018 to develop a 5-year plan that identified three main areas of need:

1. Mental Health in schools
2. Earlier intervention with youth
3. Programming/services for family

During 2019, collaborative efforts focused on trauma informed practices, restorative justice practices, and early referrals from all Lancaster City Schools.

Rise 2019 Data

Referrals to Rise from Lancaster City Schools			
Elementary School	Junior High School	High School	Total
22	6	3	31

Workforce Development Program

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

When a youth is referred to the WFD Program, the WFD Coordinator meets with the juvenile and parent(s) to conduct a comprehensive assessment

to determine the level of assistance needed and identify barriers and challenges. Each youth attends Job Readiness 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.

The Coordinator meets with each youth to help create resumes, explain job postings and the value of networking, and complete online

job applications. The Coordinator also assists each youth with completing employment paperwork, reviewing employer expectations, determining work schedules, arranging transportation, balancing school and work, and communicating with supervisors.

Workplace issues and problems are identified early and addressed as they occur to avoid resignation or firing. Support services are also identified and accessed to help each young person maintain employment. School attendance and grades are reviewed on a regular basis.

Workforce Development 2019 Data

Workforce Development Outcomes			
	2017	2018	2019
Youth referred to WFD	52	48	45
Obtained unsubsidized employment	26	38	30
Retained unsubsidized employment for at least 4 months	10	20	16
Average wage	\$8.30	\$8.38	\$8.96
Completed Work Readiness Training	19	20	18

Subsidized Youth Employment Program

The Subsidized Youth Employment Program (SYEP) provides subsidized wages to at-risk youth while giving employers incentives to provide participants with 120 hours of quality on-the-job training. Youth can be placed with public, private or non-profit employers. SYEP Participants are youth ages 15 to 18 who have multiple barriers that have limited their employability. The goal of SYEP is to help youth develop the necessary skills and work ethic to transition into

unsubsidized employment at the conclusion of the program. Participants attend Job Readiness workshops to prepare for their placement.

Fairfield County Juvenile Court has partnered with TeenWorks, Inc. since the program's inception in 2018 to operate the SYEP program. TeenWorks provides administrative oversight.

Funding comes from the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners,

Columbus Foundation, Fairfield County Foundation, and the United Way of Fairfield County.

The Workforce Development Coordinator maintains consistent contact with employers and youth to monitor and evaluate progress and address any issues, as needed. She ensures participants are equipped to be successful on the job, and she provides support services.

Subsidized Youth Employment Program 2019 Data

Program Resources	Short-term Outcomes	Enrollments	Achieved Goal
Work Readiness training	Received a Certificate of Completion	13	11 (85%)
Work Readiness training	Increased score/skill level	13	11 (85%)
On-the-job training	Completed 120 hours	12	9 (75%)
On-the-job training	Conducted pre- and post-program evaluations	12	9 (75%)
Workforce Development Services	Obtained unsubsidized employment	12	9 (75%)
Workforce Development Services	Retained unsubsidized employment for at least 4 months	12	8 (67%)

Mentor Program

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 with 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, through which a pre-screened and trained adult is paired with a Court-involved youth; group mentoring, which involves a weekly meeting with a mentor group facilitator who coordinates and leads a variety of pro-social activities; and team mentoring, involving two or more mentors assigned to one or more youth. An example of team mentoring is a husband and wife mentoring one or more youth.

Mentor Program 2019 Data

Number of Youth Served through the Mentor Program				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	20	50	40

Community Service

Community Service provides Court-appointed youth the opportunity to participate in community service work. (The program was formerly known as Youth Accountability Program.) Youth are referred to Community Service by the Judge/Magistrates, Probation, Diversion, PYD, or Intake & Assessment. Each youth can work off assigned hours under the supervision of the Mentoring/Community Services Specialist at several work sites throughout Fairfield County. Sites have included Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Lancaster and Pickerington, food pantries, Maywood Mission, Foundation Dinners, local churches, highway cleanup sites, and many more.

Through working with the Specialist 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.

Community Service 2019 Data

Youth Ordered to Perform Community Service					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of youth ordered to Community Service	174	123	130	137	142
Hours youth completed in Community Service	3,654.25	2,291.75	1,927.00	1,784.50	1,858.50

Reporting Center

Located at Connexion West in Lancaster, the Fairfield County Reporting Center was established in September 2016 for the purpose of reducing the number of youth placed in secure detention. Partially funded through the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the Reporting Center is open Monday through Friday from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The program accepts youth ages 13 through 17 who are referred by Intake & Assessment, Probation, or by the Judge/Magistrates. Eligible youth may be ordered pre-adjudication, by the Court at adjudication, or as a condition of probation. The Reporting Center 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 Center can participate in programming 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.

Reporting Center 2019 Data

Reporting Center					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of youth ordered in lieu of detention	NA	29	82	66	106
Number of hours served in lieu of detention	NA	454	5,839	6,250	4,846

Fairfield County Juvenile Court Specialized Dockets

Juvenile
Treatment Court

Excel
(Formerly Family Court)



Juvenile Treatment Court

Juvenile Treatment Court is 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. Treatment Court serves adjudicated juvenile offenders who are referred by Probation, parent/guardian, or the youth's attorney/GAL.

Juvenile Treatment Court's mission is to reduce juvenile delinquency and

substance abuse through therapeutic best practice interventions and close judicial supervision.

Through an intensively monitored phase program, Juvenile Treatment Court provides opportunities and resources for participants to become alcohol and drug free, achieve success in school, and complete probation. Additionally, 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 Juvenile Treatment Court team links participants with Court or community programs that focus on skill building and competency development. Referrals to appropriate resources are also made when needs are identified in the areas of education, employment, medical care, training, housing, and transportation.

Juvenile Treatment Court 2019 Data

Juvenile Treatment Court					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total number of participants	21	17	12	13	8
Number of participants who graduated from high school	2	3	3	1	0*
Number of participants terminated	3	4	4	5	2
Number of program graduates	5	6	2	2	3

* All participants remained in high school.

Excel

Provided through a specialized docket of Fairfield County Juvenile Court, Excel 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 at least 18 years old.

The goals of Excel (formerly known as Family Court) are: Enhance available services; Increase parental participation and their 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.

In the first quarter of 2019, Excel transformed from a sanction-based to an incentive- and strength-based program. Focus is on goal-setting and achievement, with participants earning incentives for their accomplishments. Incentives have included such things as self-care items, cleaning supplies, housewares, gift cards, and family-focused games and movies.

Referrals to Excel are made by Child Protective Services (CPS). Successful completion off Excel becomes part of the CPS case plan for reunification.

Upon acceptance into Excel, 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.

Excel 2019 Data

Excel					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total number of participants	10	15	16	13	31
Number of participants terminated	2	6	3	7	9
Number of program graduates	6	1	7	2	4

Fairfield County Juvenile Court Funding & Statistics

Juvenile Court Funding	New Cases Stats	Comparisons of Charges and/or Filings Stats	Violent Crimes Stats
Offenses against an Individual 65 years of Age or Older	Sexual Offenses	Traffic	



Juvenile Court Funding

Funding Source	Provides For	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Fairfield County General Fund	Court Operations & Employees	1,797,010.00	1,856,247.00	1,975,569.00	2,083,396.00	2,355,338.00
Department of Youth Services 510	Employees —Counselors, Psychological Evaluations & Trainings	770,616.26	779,472.73	901,004.65	714,265.97	974,868.72
Juvenile Recovery Fund	Employees	24,139.59	178,417.56	32,452.58	30,768.39	225.54
Computer/Computer Research	Maintenance, Upgrades to Software and Equipment, Website	19,665.10	15,908.64	57,568.72	14,208.12	13,974.00
Drug Court Fund Grant ODMHAS	Drug Court Operations	65,164.85	108,900.00	37,500.00	30,011.82	63,811.00
Multi-System Pooled Fund	Mental Health Counselors	130,000.00	130,000.00	130,016.81	131,001.68	130,000.00
Title IV-E Fund	MSY Placement Shared Pool & Workforce Development	821,714.51	305,564.37	368,397.77	209,743.20	311,871.73
TOTAL JUVENILE REVENUE		\$3,629,574.82	\$3,374,759.55	\$3,502,509.53	\$3,213,395.18	\$3,850,088.99

Juvenile Court Statistics

New Cases	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Adult	75	165	137	125	110
Delinquency	409	402	515	424	270
Unruly	1	4	36	71	56
Traffic	728	746	751	593	573
Abuse, Neglect, Dependency	186	169	128	162	143
Grandparent Power of Attorney & Miscellaneous	67	50	59	35	39
Motion for Permanent Custody (including refiles)	23	25	29	23	37
Custody, Change of Custody, Visitation & Motions filed in A, N, D	121	167	137	130	131
Private Custody/ Transferred & Filed	33	19	38	Combined with above	Combined with above
TOTAL	1,714	1,848	1,987	1,563	1,359

Comparison of Charges and/or Filings	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Felony Filings	71	51	55	66	41
Firearm or Other on School Property	78	77	168	277	67
Trespass	9	18	31	21	10
Criminal Mischief	128	7	13	8	6
Criminal Damaging/Vandalism	36	28	54	30	22
Theft, Petty or Grand, & Safecracking	74	60	66	75	42
Arson	1	2	5	1	0
Burglary, Robbery, B&E	13	8	11	11	10
Disorderly Conduct	74	37	113	99	33
Drug & Alcohol	111	78	115	90	27
Tobacco	0	1	1	0	2
Truancy	49	115	70	21	51

Juvenile Court Statistics

Violent Crimes	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Assault—Aggravated or Attempted, Neglect, Felonious Assault	46	42	50	77	52
Menacing/Aggravated by Stalking, Kidnapping, Abduction	14	23	27	54	26
Domestic Violence	21	24	82	59	33
Against an Individual 65 Years of Age or Older or Permanently & Totally Disabled	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Victim Over 65	0	1	3	16	13
Sexual Offenses	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Rape, Sexual Battery	26	5	1	13	8
Gross Sexual Imposition, Sexual Imposition	27	7	15	24	16
Disseminating, Importuning, Public Indecency, Pandering	9	2	6	17	3
Traffic	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Speed	328	347	336	245	262
Assured Clear Distance Ahead	80	85	88	72	70
Operating a Vehicle While Impaired	6	14	10	16	2
Felony	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicular Homicide (not technically a traffic case)	0	0	0	1	0
Other	309	328	413	361	303

Fairfield County Probate Court

Probate Court Update

Probate Court Funding

Probate Court Statistics



Probate Court Updates

Projects and Accomplishments

The Probate Court continued efforts in 2019 to establish the Fairfield County Guardianship Service Board to serve indigent individuals in need of a guardianship. Three Board members were appointed, a Coordinator was hired by the Board, and several guardianships were transferred from attorney-guardians to the Guardianship Service Board.

Ongoing development of an Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program to assist the mentally ill in the community also took place in 2019. The Court conducted monthly hearings with program participants and regularly met with community providers to enhance services for participants. Judge Terre Vandervoort and Magistrate Troy Sitzmann attended a national conference in Columbus along with other Fairfield County partners to explore ways to enhance the program.

The Probate Court leadership continued to engage and address community partners with respect to the services and programs offered through Probate Court. For example, on separate occasions, Judge Vandervoort and Magistrate Sitzmann addressed the Tri County Estate Planning Council and Fairfield Medical Center staff in order to provide updates on Probate Court programming.

Goals for 2020

The Probate Court will continue the process of transferring guardianship cases from attorney-guardians to the Guardianship Service Board. In coordination with the Board, the Court will meet with community partners to present data, exchange ideas, and plan for the future of the Board.

The Court will work with Fairfield Medical Center and other community partners to adjust the civil commitment process to meet the needs of many Fairfield County residents who are initially hospitalized outside of Fairfield County. This will include the coordination of efforts with Franklin County Probate Court to have certain cases transferred to Fairfield County so that patients can benefit from the Court's Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program.

The Probate Court will continue to explore innovative uses of technology to enhance services for the citizens of Fairfield County. The Court will look to expand the ways in which customers can utilize technology to access Probate Court services as well as participate in Probate Court hearings.

Probate Court Funding

Funding Source	Provides For	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Fairfield County General Fund	Court Operations & Employees	549,784.00	653,257.00	645,558.00	673,937.10	712,495.00
Computer/Computer Research	Maintenance/Upgrades	33,362.00	42,826.62	20,228.00	20,772.26	21,197.74
Indigent Guardian Funds	Guardians/Attorney for Indigent Wards	17,299.00	13,650.00	13,620.00	14,290.00	14,988.00
Special Projects	Court Special Projects	33,269.26	50,278.08	46,247.50	43,763.00	45,947.79
TOTAL PROBATE REVENUE		\$633,678.26	\$760,011.70	\$725,653.50	\$752,762.36	\$794,628.53

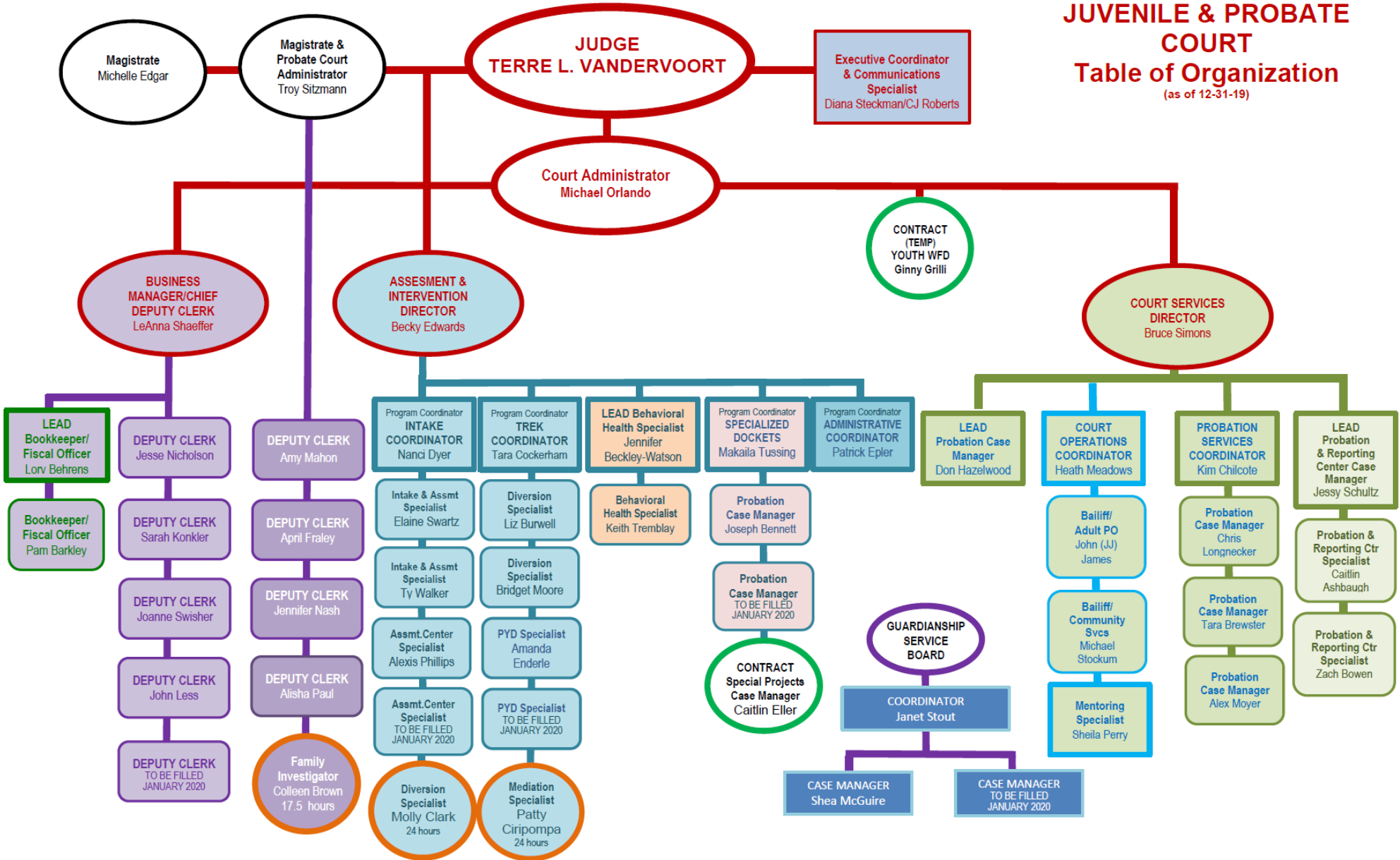
Probate Court Statistics

New Probate Cases	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Adoptions & Placements	45	58	51	40	66
Civil Actions	49	51	19	8	14
Estates	589	522	511	549	562
Wrongful Death Actions	3	6	2	2	2
Guardianships (All Types)	73	57	55	106	120
Civil Commitments	34	35	38	60	63
Name Changes	81	65	82	72	67
Minor's Settlements	12	12	9	15	11
Birth Record Corrections	3	9	7	7	10
Trusts	8	5	7	1	3
Conservatorships	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL NEW PROBATE CASES	897	820	781	860	918
Marriage Licenses	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Marriage Licenses Issued	875	834	861	864	824

JUVENILE & PROBATE COURT

Table of Organization

(as of 12-31-19)



Fairfield County Juvenile & Probate Court 2019 Annual Report Distribution List

Email Distribution	Cost of Printing
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Commissioner Steve Davis2. Commissioner Dave Levacy3. Commissioner Jeff Fix4. County Administrator Dr. Carri Brown5. Fairfield County Website: fairfieldcountyprobate.com6. Supreme Court of Ohio	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prepared in house2. Posted on Fairfield County Website: fairfieldcountyprobate.com

