

Fairfield County Juvenile & Probate Court 2020 Annual Report

Judge Terre L. Vandervoort



Forward by Judge Terre L. Vandervoort

To say 2020 was an unusual year may be the understatement of the century. COVID-19 affected every single person on the globe in some way or another. And like the rest of the world, my team and I and the individuals and families we serve adapted our daily lives to face previously unimaginable challenges. My staff and I headed home to work or added masks to our office-wear, observed social distancing, and worked behind Plexiglas. Face-to-face contact was replaced with phone calls, FaceTime, GoToMeeting and Zoom.

Despite all of 2020's challenges, Fairfield County Juvenile Court's Guiding Principles remained as our focus: to achieve balanced attention to the protection of the community, imposition of accountability, and the development of skills and competencies needed to improve family functioning. Our approach to achieving these guiding principles involves basic balanced and restorative justice principles and evidence-based practices and interventions that measure risk, intervention, quality, efficiency, and outcomes.

If 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 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, Fairfield County Juvenile Court has developed services to bolster competencies in five major skill areas: pro-social skills to address conflict resolution and anger management; moral-reasoning skills which focus on connecting thoughts and actions; academic skills; workforce development; and independent living skills.

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



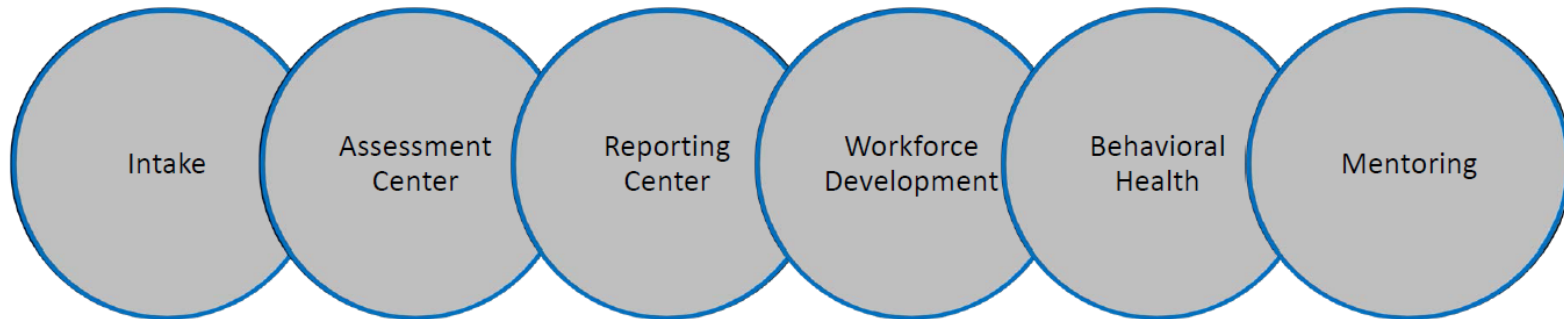
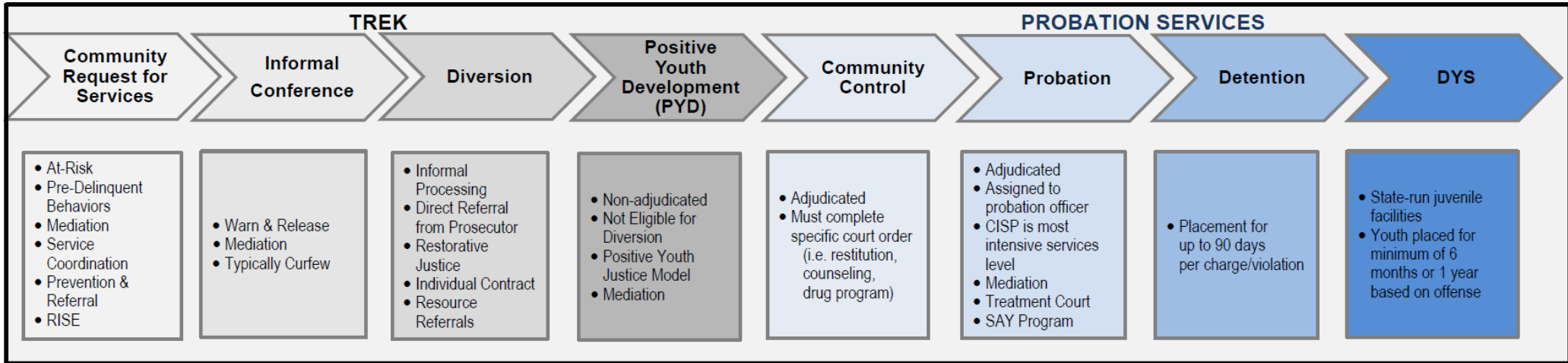
Judge Terre Vandervoort and her remote office co-worker, Mowgli

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FAIRFIELD COUNTY JUVENILE COURT ARRAY OF INTERVENTIONS



Fairfield County Juvenile Court Interventions

Community Protection

Identify Risk
Manage Risk
Minimize Risk

Offender Accountability

Accept Responsibility
Victim Impact
Restitution
Community Service

Skill Building

Pro-Social Skills
Moral Reasoning
Academics
Workforce Development
Independent Living

TREK

Community Request for Services
Informal Conferences
Diversion
Positive Youth Development

Probation

Community Control
Supervision
Case Management
Graduated Sanctions
Positive Incentives
Cognitive Interventions
Community Intensive Services Program

Special Dockets

Juvenile Treatment Court
Excel (formerly Family Court)

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:

1. Prevent the progression of behaviors that put the youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement.
2. Prevent 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 other family members, as well as professionals—including law enforcement, school officials, and agency representatives. The **Law Enforcement Assessment Track** process begins with an officer bringing a 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/other adult 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 Assessment Center staff 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 began formal operations on January 20, 2020. However, the Assessment Center was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective March 23, 2020, youth were no longer brought into the physical facility; a transition to remote (phone and virtual) interaction with youth and law enforcement began. A return to in-person services is projected for summer 2021.

Assessment Center Data

Assessment Center Community Track

2020 Statistics

48 Youth Referred; 36 Youth Served

2019 Statistics

36 Youth Referred; 36 Youth Served

Assessment Center Law Enforcement Track

2020 Statistics

22 Youth Referred; 17 Youth Served

2019 Statistics

Scheduled to open 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 Data

Informal Conferences Caseload

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
86	58	98	85	188	168

Diversion Accountability Program (DAP)

Developed in 2015, the Diversion Accountability Program (DAP) is offered as an alternative to formal case processing and/or probation. Extensive research conducted during the past 25 years shows that 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. DAP accepts referrals directly from the County Prosecutor or from the Judge/Magistrate when a youth:

1. Is alleged to have committed an offense that can range from a status offense to a misdemeanor, * and
2. Admits to the offense, and
3. Is deemed at low or moderate risk of reoffending as determined through administration of the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) 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; the disposition order is completion of DAP.

Diverting these particular cases from formal prosecution or probation and further involvement with the Court enables the young person to acknowledge responsibility for their actions and, through a contract agreement signed by the parent(s) and youth, accept and complete appropriate consequences. Diversion also provides the youth 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 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.

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 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.

* In some cases, felonies are addressed through Diversion.

Diversion Accountability Program (DAP) Data*

Youth Referred to Diversion

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
200	255	229	313	183	144

Successful Completion

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
86.5%	90.0%	83.6%	91.4%	85.0%	85.6%

Unsuccessful Completion

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
12.50%	9.20%	15.82%	8.28%	12.40%	13.40%

Neutral Outcome Due to Medical Reason

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
1.00%	0.80%	0.56%	0.33%	2.70%	1.00%

Traditional Diversion Cases

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
88%	81%	77%	70%	59%	56%

Non-traditional Diversion Cases

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
12%	19%	23%	30%	41%	44%

Diversión Accountability Program (DAP) Data (continued)

Offense Level: Felony

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
1.1%	0.80%	0.44%	1.93%	0.00%	1.40%

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
60.6%	69.4%	78.76%	73.31%	70.40%	92.00%

Offense Level: Status (curfew, tobacco)

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
38.30%	29.80%	20.80%	24.76%	29.60%	6.50%

* 2020 showed a reduction in Diversión cases, which was directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the impact of SB 57, which legalized hemp but not marijuana, limiting the ability to prosecute marijuana-related offenses.

Safe Harbor

Human trafficking of women and children is a reality for the Fairfield County community. Trafficking in a rural setting may look different than it does in larger urban communities, but its prevalence is increasing.

In 2019, University of Cincinnati identified 4,209 youth in Ohio at risk as victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. This staggering number affects every area of the state, including Fairfield County. In 2020, Fairfield County Juvenile Court saw an increase in the type of juvenile cases that exhibited red flags of human trafficking.

Ranging from the traditional out-of-state runaway arrested at an airport to young people living in hotels with no visible means of support or parent engagement, these cases were the impetus to a new initiative led by the Court and joined by these Fairfield County community partners: Child Protective Services; Community Action Homeless Youth Program; Family, Adult and Children First Council; and Gracehaven in Columbus.

The name, Safe Harbor, was taken from Ohio legislation that provides for special handling of these troubling cases. Safe Harbor automatically diverts some charges, such as prostitution and soliciting. In rural Ohio, juveniles are not typically receiving

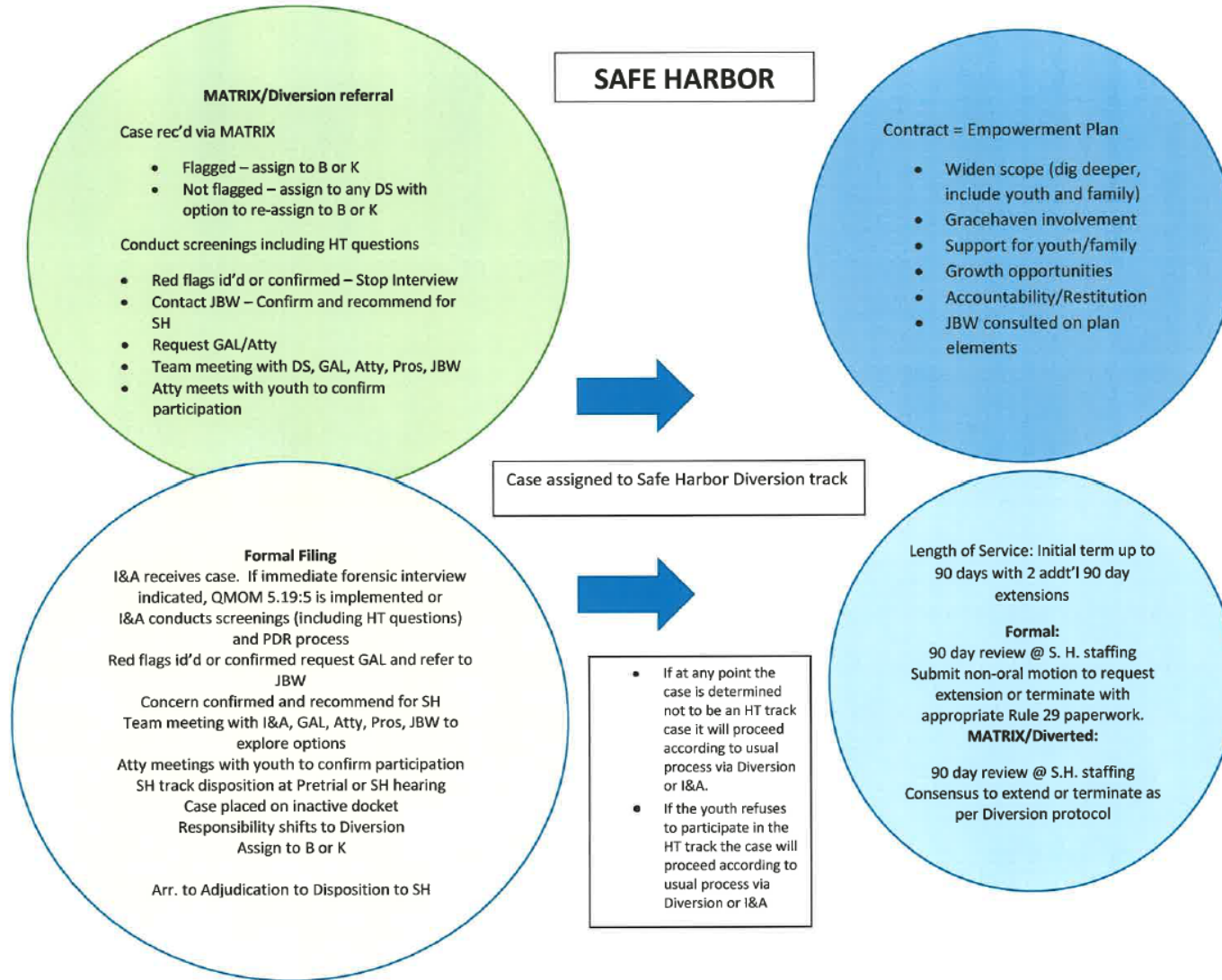
those type of charges. However, charges of truancy, theft, and runaway/unruly youth are red flags that human trafficking may be happening. National and other Ohio best practice protocols have been used to develop the Court's Safe Harbor program.

Judge Vandervoort convened the Fairfield County Safe Harbor Initiative Advisory Board to begin development of a comprehensive county-wide approach. Advisory Board members researched and attended relevant training. A proposal to the Fairfield County Foundation Women's Giving Circle was submitted to fund community-wide training for Fairfield County child- and family-serving agencies.

Cases diverted through Safe Harbor receive behavioral health assessments and referrals, Child Protective Services involvement, skill-building, and empowerment/support for the youth as well as support in addressing the charges they did receive. The youth, once confirmed into Safe Harbor, is considered a victim or survivor of human trafficking.

The Court's Behavioral Health Unit developed a human trafficking screening protocol for all youth who interact with the Court, regardless of which pathway they come into the Court.

Safe Harbor Process



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 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. 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.

The Diversion and Positive Youth Development programs were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective March 23, 2020, youth were no longer brought into the physical facility, and a transition to remote (phone/virtual) interaction with youth and families was made to continue providing support, as well as consequences, for each youth.

Positive Youth Development (PYD) Program Data

Youth Referred to PYD

2020	2019	2018	2017
50	51	77	14

Positive Youth Development (PYD) Program Data (continued)

Offense Level: Felony

2020	2019	2018	2017
7 (14%)	3 (6%)	2 (8%)	3 (21%)

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

2020	2019	2018	2017
25 (50%)	34 (67%)	54 (70%)	9 (65%)

Offense Level: Status

2020	2019	2018	2017
18 (36%)	14 (27%)	17 (22%)	2 (14%)

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 Data

Community Control Caseload

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
17	17	19	23	14	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 (CISP) 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 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. CISP 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 Data

Probation Caseload

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
74	139	205	265	351	536

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 themselves or the community, or when the youth is at risk of absconding.

Detention Data

Total Number of Bed Days

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
887	2,093	2,767	2,074	2,061	2,961	4,486	6,132	4,835	5,110	5,869	6,767	6,745	6,026	5,957	4,837

Average Number of Juveniles in Detention Per Day

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
2.42	5.73	7.58	5.68	5.63	8.11	12.29	16.80	13.21	14.00	16.08	18.54	18.48	16.51	16.32	13.35

Fairfield County Juvenile Court Programs & Services

Intake & Assessment

Behavioral Health

Truancy

Rise Program

Mentor Program/Groups

Community Service

Reporting Center

Workforce Development

Subsidized Youth Employment Program

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 Data

Cases Referred to Intake & Assessment

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
115	162	260	291	194	188

Average Length of Time in Intake & Assessment before Transfer to Probation

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
71 days	61days	66 days	61 days	62 days	58 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 Data

Lethality Assessments

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
3	6	36	10	27	31

Mental Health Assessments/Consult

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
67	94	116	99	57	104

Youth in Ongoing Treatment

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
3	6	36	10	27	31

Total Youth Served (Unduplicated)

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
77	129	156	140	158	201

Truancy

Due to the implementation of HB 410 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 individual youth truancy intervention plans. Youth who subsequently receive truancy charges are served through the Court's Diversion programs when at all possible. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on school attendance and therefore truancy, the Court partnered with schools to provide support for families during this challenging year.

Truancy Data

Truancy Cases

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
47	56	65	71	89	55

Truancy Cases Diverted

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
47	56	30	50	51	9

Successful Diversion of Truancy Cases

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
71.2%	72.5%	67.0%	88.0%	80.4%	78.0%

Unsuccessful Diversion of Truancy Cases Resulting in Unruly Adjudication

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
25.4%	25.0%	30.0%	12.0%	19.6%	12.0%

Diverted Truancy Cases Closed with Neutral Status

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
3.4%	2.5%	3.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A

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. Collaborative efforts focus on trauma-informed practices, restorative justice practices, and early referrals from all Lancaster City Schools. The RISE Program addresses three main areas of need:

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

Rise Program Data

Referrals to Rise from Lancaster City Schools

	2020	2019
Elementary School	7	22
Junior High School	15	6
High School	3	3
TOTAL	25	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. 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 the youth to help create resumes, explain job postings and the value of networking, and complete online job applications.

The Coordinator also assists the 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 identified and accessed to help each young person maintain employment. School attendance and grades are reviewed on a regular basis.

Workforce Development Program Data

Youth Referred to Workforce Development

2020	2019	2018	2017
27	45	48	52

Obtained Unsubsidized Employment

2020	2019	2018	2017
14	30	38	26

Retained Unsubsidized Employment for at least 4 Months

2020	2019	2018	2017
8	16	20	10

Average Hourly Wage Earned

2020	2019	2018	2017
\$9.17	\$8.96	\$8.38	\$8.30

Completed Work Readiness Training

2020	2019	2018	2017
4*	18	20	19

* Due to COVID-19, last scheduled training took place in February 2020.

Subsidized Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

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 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.

SYEP was heavily impacted by COVID-19; in 2020, 2 individuals were enrolled, compared to 13 in 2019.

Subsidized Youth Employment Program 2020 Data

Program Resource	Short-term Outcome	Enrollment	Achieved Goal
Work Readiness Training	Received a Certificate of Completion	2	2 (100%)
Work Readiness Training	Increased Score/Skill Level	2	1 (50%)
On-the-Job Training	Completed 120 Hours	2	1 (50%)
On-the-Job Training	Conducted Pre- and Post-Program Evaluations	2	1 (50%)
Workforce Development Services	Obtained Unsubsidized Employment	2	1 (50%)
Workforced Development Services	Retained Unsubsidized Employment for at least 4 Months	2	1 (50%)

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 Data

Mentor Program Caseload

2020	2019	2018	2017
36	40	50	20

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 Data

Number of Youth Ordered to Perform Community Service

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
128	142	137	130	123	174

Hours Youth Completed in Community Service

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
1,796.60	1,858.50	1,784.50	1,927.00	2,291.75	3,654.25

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 typically 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.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court was unable to bring youth into the Reporting Center after March 23, 2020. Center Staff developed a virtual program which enabled the Court to continue providing support to individual youth and families through a creative use of technology and increased staff engagement.

Reporting Center Data

Number of Youth Ordered in Lieu of Detention

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
49	106	66	82	29

Number of Hours Served in Lieu of Detention

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
2,046	4,846	6,250	5,839	454

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.

The mission of 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, 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 and/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 Data

Total Number of Participants

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
5	8	13	12	17	21

Number of Participants Who Graduated from High School

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
0*	0*	1	3	3	2

Number of Participants Terminated

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
4	2	5	4	4	3

Number of Program Graduates

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
0*	3	2	2	6	5

* 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. Excel is an incentive- and strength-based program. Focus is on goal-setting and

achievement, with participants earning incentives for their accomplishments. Incentives have included self-care items, cleaning supplies, housewares, gift cards, and family-focused games and movies.

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

Excel Data

Total Number of Participants

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
35	31	13	16	15	10

Number of Participants Terminated

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
11	9	7	3	6	2

Number of Program Graduates

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
8	4	2	7	1	6

Fairfield County Juvenile Court Funding & Statistics

Juvenile Court Funding

New Cases Statistics

Comparisons of Charges and/or Filings Statistics

Violent Crimes Statistics

Offenses Against an Individual 65 Years of Age or Older

Sexual Offenses

Traffic

Juvenile Court Funding

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Provides For</u>	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fairfield County General Fund	Court Operations & Employees	2,567,972.00	2,355,338.00	2,083,396.00	1,975,569.00	1,856,247.00	1,797,010.00
Department of Youth Services 510	Employees—Counselors, Psychological Evaluations & Trainings	842,991.08	974,868.72	714,265.97	901,004.65	779,472.73	770,616.26
Juvenile Recovery Fund	Employees	821.86	225.54	30,768.39	32,452.58	178,417.56	24,139.59
Computer/Computer Research	Maintenance, Upgrades to Software and Equipment, Website	17,225.36	13,974.00	14,208.12	57,568.72	15,908.64	20,479.60
Drug Court Fund Grant ODMHAS	Drug Court Operations	60,000.00	63,811.00	30,011.82	37,500.00	108,900.00	65,164.85
Multi-System Pooled Fund	Mental Health Counselors	65,000.00	130,000.00	131,001.68	130,016.81	130,000.00	130,000.00
Title IV-E Fund	MSY Placement Shared Pool & Workforce Development	909.80	311,871.73	209,743.20	368,397.77	305,564.37	821,714.51
<u>Total Juvenile Revenue</u>		\$3,554,098.24	\$3,850,088.99	\$3,213,395.18	\$3,502,509.53	\$3,374,759.55	\$3,629,574.82

Juvenile Court Statistics

<u>New Cases</u>	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Adult	57	110	125	137	165	75
Delinquency	221	270	424	515	402	409
Unruly	36	56	71	36	4	1
Traffic	451	573	593	751	746	728
Abuse, Neglect, Dependency	164	143	162	128	169	186
Grandparent Power of Attorney & Miscellaneous	31	39	35	59	50	67
Motion for Permanent Custody (including refiles)	24	37	23	29	25	23
Custody, Change of Custody, Visitation & Motions filed in A, N, D	180	131	130	137	167	121
Private Custody/Transferred & Filed	Combined with above	Combined with above	Combined with above	38	19	33
<u>Total</u>	1,164	1,359	1,563	1,987	1,848	1,714

Juvenile Court Statistics (continued)

<u>Comparison of Charges and/or Filings</u>	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Felony Filings	48	41	66	55	51	71
Firearm or Other on School Property	47	67	277	168	77	78
Trespass	10	10	21	31	18	9
Criminal Mischief	9	6	8	13	7	128
Criminal Damaging/Vandalism	24	22	30	54	28	36
Theft—Petty or Grand, & Safecracking	64	42	75	66	60	74
Arson	0	0	1	5	2	1
Burglary, Robbery, Breaking and Entering	19	10	11	11	8	13
Disorderly Conduct	18	33	99	113	37	74
Drug & Alcohol	13	27	90	115	78	111
Tobacco	0	2	0	1	1	0
Truancy	47	51	21	70	115	49

Juvenile Court Statistics (continued)

	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2015</i>
Assault—Aggravated or Attempted, Neglect, Felonious Assault	23	52	77	50	42	46
Menacing/Aggravated by Stalking, Kidnapping, Abduction	18	26	54	27	23	14
Domestic Violence	14	33	59	82	24	21
Victim Older Than 65	2	13	16	3	1	0
Rape, Sexual Battery	0	8	13	1	5	26
Gross Sexual Imposition, Sexual Imposition	1	16	24	15	7	27
Disseminating, Importuning, Public Indecency, Pandering	5	3	17	6	2	9
Speed	203	262	245	336	347	328
Assured Clear Distance Ahead	53	70	72	88	85	80
Operating a Vehicle While Impaired	1	2	16	10	14	6
Felony Traffic Offense	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicular Homicide (not technically a traffic case)	0	0	1	0	0	0
Other	260	303	361	413	328	309
Violent Crimes	Against an Individual 65 Years of Age or Older or Permanently & Totally Disabled		Sexual Offenses		Traffic	

Fairfield County Probate Court

Probate Court Updates

Guardianship Service Board Statistics

Probate Court Funding

Probate Court Statistics

Probate Court Updates

Projects and Accomplishments

- The Probate Court continued its efforts in 2020 to fully implement the Guardianship Service Board (GSB) to serve indigent individuals in need of a guardianship. The Court continued to move away from the old model of attorney-guardians by transferring cases previously held by attorneys to the Board. During the year, more than 100 wards were served by the GSB.
- During 2020, the Probate Court greatly enhanced its ability to conduct Court proceedings virtually. Beginning in March 2020 and for the remainder of the year, the vast majority of Probate Court hearings were held utilizing video and audio technology. This adjustment allowed the Court to move all of its proceedings forward with minimal delay. In many instances, the use of technology allowed friends and family members of hearing participants to view proceedings that they would have otherwise been unable to attend.
- In addition to conducting hearings virtually in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Probate Court developed a process to issue marriage licenses without requiring an in-person appearance. This process allowed the Court to continue to meet public need while assuring the safety of Fairfield County citizens and Court staff. During 2020, the Probate Court issued nearly 800 marriage licenses. The vast majority were issued virtually, and this number represents only a 3% decrease from marriage licenses issued in 2019.

2021 Goals

- The Probate Court will continue to facilitate the development of the Guardianship Service Board. As the Board continues to collect data, the Court will work with community partners to make appropriate adjustments and enhancements to the Board. Additionally, the Court will provide community outreach presentations to various groups to celebrate the successes of the Board and to further educate the community on its purpose.
- The Court will continue to utilize many of the technology advancements pushed forward during the COVID-19 pandemic, even as pandemic restrictions are lifted. For example, if the Court is able to conduct adoption proceedings in person at the Court, the Court will continue to provide a virtual option so that friends and family who are unable to attend in person may do so virtually. The Court will seek guidance from the Supreme Court and other Ohio Courts to determine which technology uses will be utilized long-term.
- The Court will review the Fairfield County Local Probate Court Rules of Practice to determine if changes are necessary and appropriate. For example, the Court may add provisions to further encompass the role of the GSB. Additionally, the Rules may need to reflect enhancements in technology uses pushed forward during the pandemic. If necessary, the Court will seek guidance from local counsel with respect to proposed changes.

Guardianship Service Board Statistics

- **102** Total Cases (**57** Male and **45** Female)
- **3** Contact hours per ward per month
- **19 to 96** Age Range
- **45 (44%)** Age 60 or Older
- **44 (43%)** Non-residential (long-term care facility)
- **58 (57%)** Residential (living in the community)

Qualifying Conditions (Wards may have more than one condition.)

- **80 (78%)** Mental Illness
- **54 (53%)** Cases with Allegations of Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation
- **46 (44%)** Other Physical or Cognitive Impairment That Impacts
Decision-Making
- **40 (39%)** Developmental Disability
- **35 (34%)** Dementia
- **29 (28%)** Substance Abuse

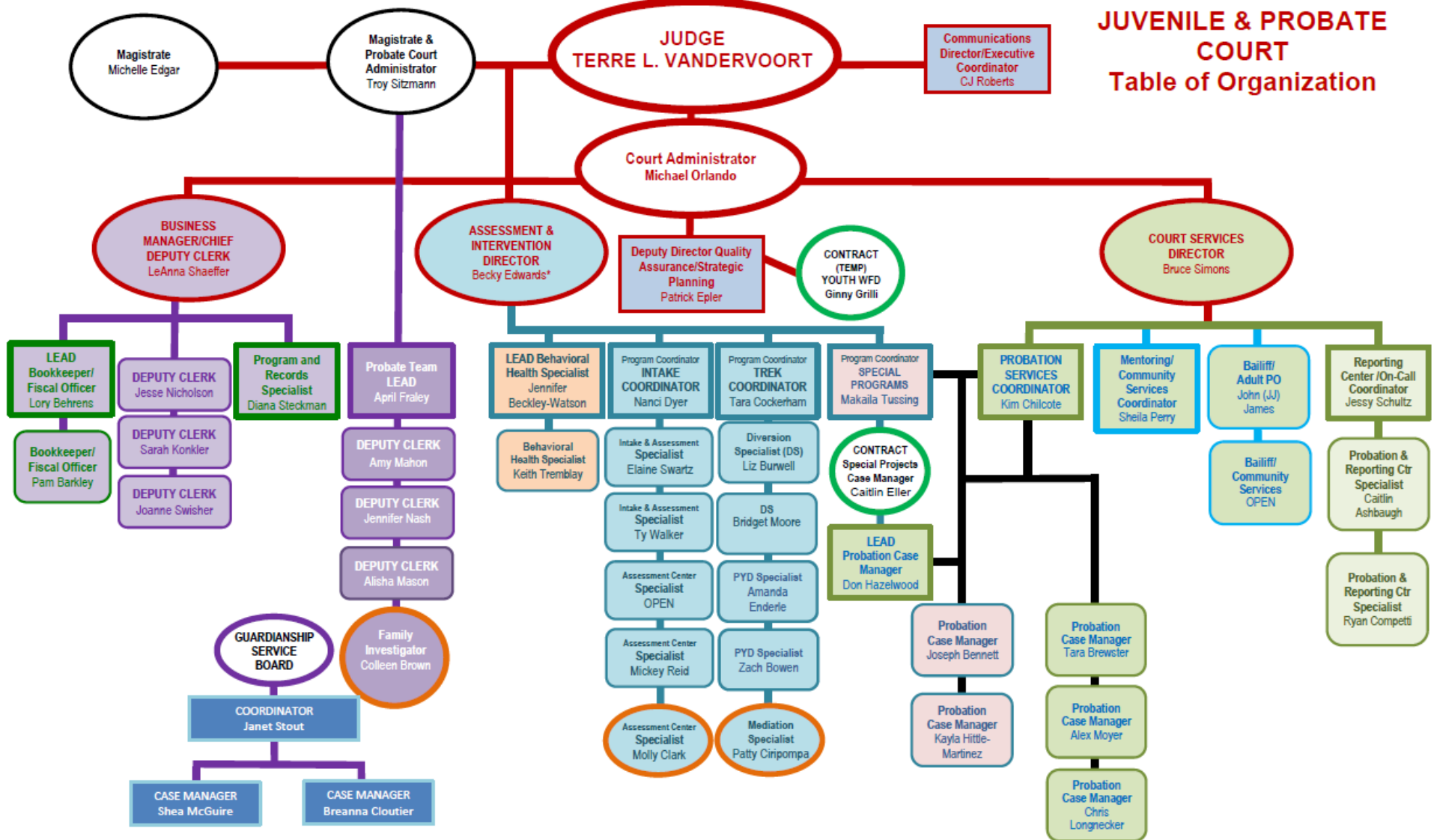
Probate Court Funding

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Provides For</u>	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fairfield County General Fund	Court Operations & Employees	710,529.00	712,495.00	673,937.10	645,558.00	653,257.00	549,784.00
Computer/Computer Research	Maintenance/Upgrades	36,178.18	21,197.74	20,772.26	20,228.00	42,826.62	33,326.00
Indigent Guardian Funds	Guardians/Attorney for Indigent Wards	13,072.00	14,988.00	14,290.00	13,620.00	13,650.00	17,299.00
Special Projects	Court Special Projects	34,180.50	45,947.79	43,763.00	46,457.50	50,278.08	33,269.26
<u>Total Probate Revenue</u>		\$793,959.68	\$794,628.53	\$752,762.36	\$725,653.50	\$760,011.70	\$633,678.26

Probate Court Statistics

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Adoptions & Placements	61	66	40	51	58	45
Civil Actions	21	14	8	19	51	49
Estates	500	562	549	511	522	589
Wrongful Death Actions	5	2	2	2	6	3
Guardianships (All Types)	89	120	106	55	57	73
Civil Commitments	31	63	60	38	35	34
Name Changes	71	67	72	82	65	81
Minors' Settlements	13	11	15	9	12	12
Birth Record Corrections	2	10	7	7	9	3
Trusts	4	3	1	7	5	8
Conservatorships	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Total New Probate Cases</u>	797	918	860	781	820	897
Marriage Licenses Issued	792	824	864	861	834	875
New Probate Cases			Marriage Licenses			

JUVENILE & PROBATE COURT Table of Organization



* Tracy Galway effective February 2021

Fairfield County Juvenile & Probate Court 2020 Annual Report Distribution & Printing

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2. Commissioner Dave Levacy
3. Commissioner Jeff Fix
4. Fairfield County Administrator Carri Brown
5. Fairfield County Deputy Administrator Aundrea Cordle
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