

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

JUDGE JOHN M. WILLIAMS

JUDGE TRACIE M. HUNTER



Judge John M. Williams
Administrative Judge



Judge Tracie M. Hunter



Court Administrator
Curtis E. Kissinger

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OVERVIEW

Hamilton County Juvenile Court has the responsibility to hear and determine all cases and issues concerning children in Hamilton County. Additionally, the Juvenile Court administers programs and facilities providing for the custody, care and rehabilitation of youth within its jurisdiction.

The types of cases appearing before the Juvenile Court include:

- Delinquency cases in which a youth is charged with what would be a crime for an adult.
- Dependency cases in which it is alleged that a child has been abused or neglected by a parent or other person.
- Paternity/Child Support cases to determine parentage and collect support.
- Traffic cases in which a juvenile is charged with violating traffic law.
- Custody cases in which the parties disagree concerning with whom the child should live or visit.
- Adult cases in which there is an issue of contribution to a child's delinquency or failure to send a child to school.
- Various other cases which impact the best interests of children.

Two judges direct the work of the Court. In 2012, those judges were Administrative Judge John M. Williams and Judge Tracie M. Hunter. Prior to Judge Hunter's arrival to the bench in May of 2012, Retired Judge Thomas Lipps continued to serve the Court by appointment from the Ohio Supreme Court. The judges, along with the Court Administrator, Curtis Kissinger, oversee all Court operations, including:

- Department of Docketing and Case Management comprised of the Child Support Department, Clerk's Office, Dependency Department, Docketing Department and Record Room.
- Magistrates Department comprised of 22 magistrates who hear a large volume of cases in various jurisdictional areas.
- Department of Court Services comprised of the Probation Department, Intervention Unit, and Work Detail.
- The Youth Center, a 160-bed secure detention center, housing youth in secure custody pending court hearings.
- Various administrative departments encompassing the Office of Court Administrator, Human Resources, Finance, Information Services, Security and Operations.

For almost 40 years, the Court operated Hillcrest Training School, a 142-bed residential treatment center for youth court-ordered into the program for violating the law. In May 2012, Rite of Passage assumed operational control of Hillcrest through an agreement with the Court and Hamilton County. The collaborative partnership provides for a continued local placement facility for youth in need of therapeutic and educational services at a time when the Court has experienced significant financial constraints.

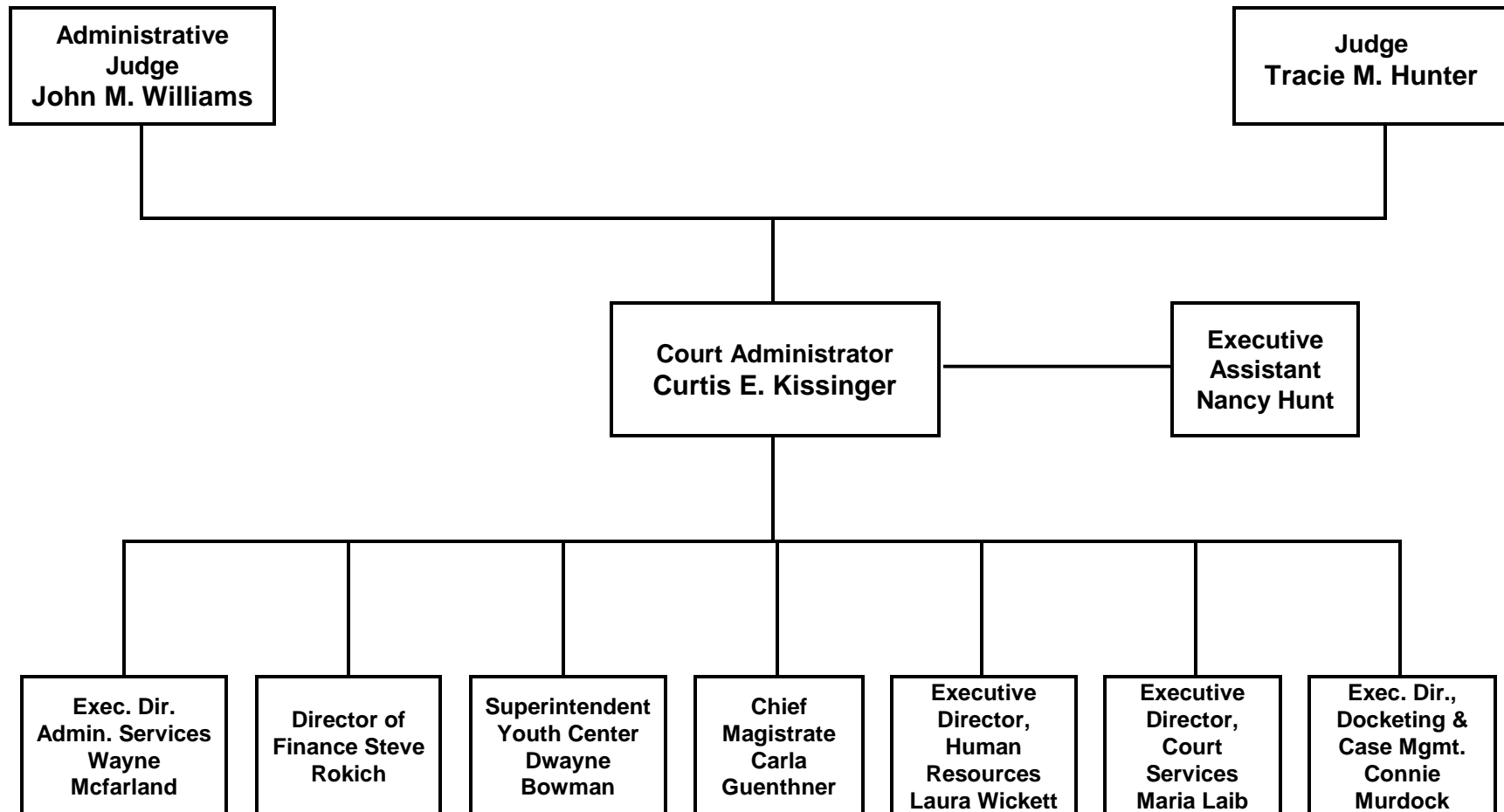
The Court also contracts with various placement and program services offered by child care agencies, including inpatient secure diagnostic services, shelter care housing children, custodial drug treatment centers, youth counseling programs, etc. Further, the Juvenile Court along with other official entities, have formed the Family and Children First Council to consolidate efforts, increase efficiency and improve service to families and children.

The Juvenile Court is fortunate to enjoy the services of many volunteers who give their time, expertise and money for the enhancement of children. Volunteer programs include over 30 community unofficial hearing officers where members of the legal profession deal with minor infractions, diverting

the case from official charges. Volunteer chaplains provide spiritual guidance to youth held in the custody of the Court. An Advisory Council composed of citizens in the community directs services and funds to enhance court programs which cannot be funded by tax revenue to provide needy children with clothes and positive life experiences.

The National Council of Juvenile Court and Family Court Judges designated the Hamilton County Juvenile Court as the nation's first model court. Hamilton County programs are praised by the national judicial and correctional associations and in published reports. Judges and officials from around the nation and across the world have traveled to Cincinnati to observe our Court.

Hamilton County Juvenile Court



COURT ADMINISTRATION

In 2012, the Hamilton County Juvenile Court again experienced a significant reduction in its budget. Since 2008, the dollars appropriated from the County General Fund to the Court have been cut by 55%. Given the economic constraints, financial decisions have been prioritized to minimize the impact of these reductions on the core services the Court provides to children and families.

A primary example of the strategies the Court has implemented aimed at managing the budget reductions is the public-private partnership the Court formed with Rite of Passage to assume operational control of the Hillcrest residential treatment facility. This partnership lowered costs for the County to enable the Court to access federal funds to offset expenses for treatment of youth. Estimated service savings are \$600,000, and estimated facility maintenance savings are \$1.5 million. New revenues from federal IV-E funds total approximately \$1.1 million.

The Juvenile Court has taken additional measures to reduce costs, including collaborating with County Human Resources to provide HR services, saving the Court an estimated \$200,000; maximizing state funds to fund the salaries of 37 probation officer positions, resulting in savings of \$1.7 million; and reducing the Work Detail Program, saving approximately \$150,000.

Fortunately, case filings of almost every type again declined in 2012. In addition, the recent trend of increasing dependency and neglect filings leveled off in 2012.

Despite financial challenges, the Court has been fortunate to retain a dedicated core of employees who, year after year, regardless of circumstances, continue to provide quality public service to the children and families of Hamilton County.

CASE MANAGEMENT

DOCKETING/CASE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Docketing and Case Management Department of the Juvenile Court is responsible for docketing and presenting all complaints filed, maintaining and updating all legal records, and maintaining audio recordings for Magistrates' hearings. The department consists of 44 employees and 5 supervisors who handle cases involving Delinquency, Unruly, Custody, Visitation, Traffic, Adult Jurisdiction, Child Support, and Dependency.

COMPLAINTS AND SOME MOTIONS FILED

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
DELINQUENT & UNRULY	18,449	15,338	13,816	12,484	12,130
TRAFFIC	4,954	4,345	3,922	3,332	3,009
PATERNITY & SUPPORT	755	662	409	530	403
UIFSA COMPLAINT FILED	N/A	N/A	24	114	60
OBJECTION TO ADMIN. ORDER	467	413	365	372	372
CONTEMPT MOTIONS	3,584	2,249	3,990	3,524	3,282
MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT	691	754	699	683	628
MOD. OF SUPPORT - CSEA	1,404	1,769	1,740	1,458	1,641
REGISTRATION of ADMIN. ORDER	3,068	2,723	2,608	2,596	2,387
REGISTRATION of FOREIGN ORDER	N/A	N/A	118	184	114
ADMIN. MODIFICATION ORDER	1,392	1,760	1,722	1,455	1,639
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT	3,315	3,407	3,499	3,530	3,597
DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT & ABUSE	677	692	631	646	679
CUSTODY, VISITATION & HABEAS CORPUS	1,387	1,371	1,426	1,530	1,378
MOTION CUSTODY / VISITATION	1,259	1,199	1,256	1,286	1,065
MISCELLANEOUS	1	3	2	3	1
ADULT MISDEMEANOR .	1,412	1,375	1,288	1,152	930
OBJ TO MAG DEC / SET ASIDE ORDER	437	404	410	408	386
JUVENILE PROTECTION ORDER	N/A	N/A	33	41	46
TOTALS	43,252	38,464	37,958	35,318	33,747
HEARINGS CONDUCTED	143,653	128,764	120,169	120,028	118,853
HEARINGS PER CASE	3.32	3.35	3.17	3.40	3.52
HEARINGS PER DAY	575	515	481	480	475
DELINQUENT FILINGS	16,861	14,285	12,682	11,432	10,970
FELONY FILINGS	2,643	2,323	1,820	1,571	1,627
JUVENILES PC TO DYS	132	107	49	48	20
JUVENILES BOGJ	70	70	49	52	35
JUVENILES SYO	2	0	0	0	0

CLERK'S OFFICE

In Hamilton County, Judge John M. Williams and Judge Tracie M. Hunter are the Ex Officio Clerks of the Juvenile Court. All cases filed are processed through either the Clerk's Office at 800 Broadway, or at the Youth Center Clerk's Office. The Clerk's Office at 800 Broadway consists of the Chief Deputy Clerk and 10 employees. The Clerk's Office staff screen, process and image new complaints and motions; send service to notify parties of court dates; prepare mandated, and internal statistical reports; establish restitution accounts; and process financial transactions for restitution, fines, court costs, purges, bond, and other ordered fees.

JUVENILE JURISDICTION

DELINQUENT COMPLAINTS FILED

HOMICIDE	2011	2012	ARSON AND RELATED OFFENSES	2011	2012
Aggravated Murder	5	1	Making Terroristic Threats	0	1
Murder	10	2	Crim. Poss. of Chemical, Biological, Radio	0	2
Reckless Homicide	0	1	Active or Nuclear Weapon		
TOTAL	15	4	Aggravated Arson – Person	3	11
ASSAULT			Aggravated Arson – Property	4	6
Felonious Assault	79	92	Arson – Private Property	5	5
Complicity Felonious Assault	1	1	Arson – Public Property	5	9
Attempt Felonious Assault	0	1	Arson – Land	0	8
Felonious Assault – Peace Officer	2	0	Complicity Arson	3	0
Aggravated Assault	2	1	TOTAL	20	44
Vehicular Assault	0	1	DISRUPTION, VANDALISM, DAMAGE		
Assault	618	606	Disrupt Communication Services	2	0
Assault, Teacher, Admin., Bus Driver	53	51	Disrupt Services – Emerg. Personnel	0	1
Assault Child Service / Agency Worker	2	5	Vandalism	22	35
Assault Corrections Officer	7	10	Attempt Vandalism	1	0
Assault Peace Officer	22	12	Criminal Damaging	431	375
Complicity Assault	0	2	Complicity Criminal Damaging	0	1
Attempt Assault	4	0	Attempt Criminal Damaging	0	1
Negligent Assault	1	1	Criminal Mischief	84	30
TOTAL	791	783	Vehicular Vandalism	5	14
MENACING			Railroad Vandalism / Trespass	1	1
Aggravated Menacing	108	122	TOTAL	546	458
Menacing	123	107	ROBBERY		
Menacing Child Service / Agency Worker	2	2	Aggravated Robbery	117	183
Menacing By Stalking	4	3	Complicity Aggravated Robbery	4	3
TOTAL	237	234	Robbery	110	133
KIDNAPPING			Complicity Robbery	1	2
Kidnapping	9	8	Attempt Robbery	1	2
Complicity Kidnapping	0	1	TOTAL	233	323
Abduction	2	1	BURGLARY		
Unlawful Restraint	6	0	Aggravated Burglary	11	9
TOTAL	17	10	Complicity Aggravated Burglary	0	1
EXTORTION			Burglary	191	220
Coercion	0	1	Complicity Burglary	11	2
TOTAL	0	1	Attempt Burglary	11	10
SEXUAL OFFENSES			Breaking and Entering	136	101
Rape	62	41	Complicity Breaking and Entering	2	2
Attempt Rape	3	1	Attempt Breaking and Entering	10	1
Sexual Battery	1	0	TOTAL	372	346
Gross Sexual Imposition	35	15	TRESPASS		
Sexual Imposition	11	14	Criminal Trespass	292	285
Importuning	0	1	Aggravated Trespass	3	1
Voyeurism	1	0	TOTAL	295	286
Public Indecency	6	13	SAFECRACKING		
TOTAL	119	85	Safecracking	3	2
PROSTITUTION			Tamper With Coin Machine	2	0
Soliciting	5	0	TOTAL	5	2
Loiter to Engage in Solicitation	4	0	THEFT		
TOTAL	9	0	Theft	1,073	978
OBSCENITY			Grand Theft	24	10
Pandering Sexual Matter Involving Minor	1	0	Theft of Drugs	11	0
TOTAL	1	0	Complicity Theft	26	12
			Complicity Grand Theft	0	1
			Attempt Grand Theft	7	6
			Attempt Theft	17	4
			Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	29	15
			Complicity Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	0	1

THEFT (continued)	2011	2012
Auto Theft	16	31
Unauthorized Use of Property	8	2
Passing Bad Checks	0	3
TOTAL	1,211	1,063

MISUSE OF CREDIT CARDS		
Misuse of Credit Cards	10	17
Complicity Misuse of Credit Cards	0	1
TOTAL	10	18

FORGERY		
Forgery	13	12
Criminal Simulation	3	1
Telecommunications Fraud	0	1
TOTAL	16	14

FRAUD		
Identity Fraud	0	1
Illegal Use of Food Stamps	1	0
TOTAL	1	1

RECEIVING		
Receiving Stolen Property	127	170
Receiving Stolen Property – Over	21	19
Complicity Receiving Stolen Property	1	0
Attempt Receiving Stolen Property	0	1
TOTAL	149	191

GAMBLING		
Public Gaming	4	2
Gambling	1	0
TOTAL	5	2

OFFENSES AGAINST PEACE		
Inciting to Violence	8	2
Aggravated Riot	3	17
Riot	8	1
Failure to Disperse	1	1
Telecommunication Harassment	18	11
Inducing Panic	26	22
Making False Alarms	37	11
Disorderly Conduct	776	876
Disorderly Conduct – Intoxicated	20	35
Misconduct at Emergency	1	4
TOTAL	898	980

OFFENSES AGAINST FAMILY		
Endangering Children	5	7
Interfere With Custody	0	1
Contribute to Unruliness / Delinquency	1	0
Domestic Violence	352	339
Domestic Violence Felony	51	54
Violation of Protection Order	2	5
TOTAL	411	406

OFFENSES AGAINST JUSTICE		
Failure to Disclose Personal Information	3	7
Intimidation	4	5
Intimidating Victim / Witness	2	2
Retaliation	5	4
Falsification	110	114
Tampering with Evidence	23	15
Failure to Report a Crime	0	1
Obstructing Official Business	449	461
Obstructing Justice	1	5
Assault on Police Dog or Horse	1	0
Resisting Arrest	100	132
Flee and Elude Police Officer	9	7

OFFENSES AGAINST JUSTICE (cont.)	2011	2012
Attempt Flee and Elude Police Officer	0	1
Fail to Comply with Police	0	1
Fail to Comply with Police – Felony	5	5
Escape	8	11
Attempt Escape	0	4
Convey Drug/Weapon into Detention	1	3
Harassment by an Inmate	2	0
TOTAL	723	778

ATTEMPT, COMPLICITY, CONSPIRACY		
Conspiracy	0	1
Attempt	6	12
Complicity	11	20
TOTAL	17	33

WEAPONS CONTROL		
Carrying Concealed Weapon	104	75
Carry Concealed Weapon Felony	5	4
Attempt Carry Concealed Weapon	1	0
Have Weapon Under Disability	31	26
Use Weapon While Intoxicated	0	1
Weapon in School Safety Zone	24	7
Possess Object Indist. from Firearm	4	9
Discharge Firearm Habitation / School	0	4
Defacing Identification of a Firearm	0	1
Possess a Defaced Firearm	2	1
Firearm – Transport Loaded	3	6
Improp. Handling Firearm in Motor Vehicle	2	2
Possess Criminal Tools	34	21
TOTAL	210	157

DRUG OFFENSES		
Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs	7	2
Trafficking Drugs	6	4
Trafficking Drugs Near School	4	6
Drug Trafficking Marijuana	18	24
Drug Trafficking Marijuana Near School	17	16
Drug Trafficking Cocaine	5	5
Drug Trafficking Cocaine Near School	4	1
Drug Trafficking Heroin	11	6
Drug Trafficking Heroin Near School	2	13
Aggravated Possession of Drug	1	6
Possession of Drug	27	27
Possession of Cocaine	21	17
Possession of Heroin	11	19
Possession of L.S.D.	1	0
Possession of Marijuana	434	420
Permit Drug Abuse in a Vehicle	0	
Possess Drug Abuse Instrument	2	7
Possess Drug Paraphernalia	202	186
Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	3	3
Possess Counterfeit Cont. Substance	9	8
Traff. Counterfeit Controlled Substance	1	3
TOTAL	791	773

MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES		
Ethnic Intimidation	3	0
Littering	4	5
Possess Fireworks	1	1
TOTAL	8	6

LIQUOR CONTROL		
Consume / Possess Liquor in Vehicle	3	0
Purchase / Consume	255	208
Possession	8	8
Permit Underage Consumption	2	9
TOTAL	268	225

DRIVER LICENSE LAW	2011	2012	VIOLATIONS	2011	2012
Fictitious License / ID Card	0	1	Violations of Court Order (VCO)	11	10
TOTAL	0	1	VCO Incurrigible	276	229
MOTOR VEHICLE CRIMES			VCO Probation	525	575
Stop After Accident – Delinquency	2	0	VCO Placement	447	476
TOTAL	2	0	VCO Runaway	537	499
PHARMACISTS, DANGEROUS DRUGS			VCO Truancy	468	456
Purchase, Poss., Sell Dangerous Drug	4	3	VCO Tobacco	2	1
TOTAL	4	3	VCO Work Detail	264	217
HABITUAL / CHRONIC TRUANCY			VCO EMU	507	420
Habitual Truancy	0	1	VCO Curfew Violation	512	408
Chronic Truancy	347	277	Parole Violation	81	88
TOTAL	347	278	Interstate Compact Supervision	0	12
			TOTAL	3,630	3,669
			MISCELLANEOUS / LOCAL CODES		
			Miscellaneous Codes	77	73
			TOTAL	77	73

TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS FILED

	2011	2012
Licensing of Motor Vehicle	52	68
Driver License Law	132	108
Financial Responsibility	1	0
Operation of Vehicle	2,044	1,859
Equipment and Loads	208	186
Motor Vehicle Crimes	43	46
Traffic Offenses	140	135
Local Ordinances	702	608
TOTAL	3,322	3,010

UNRULY COMPLAINTS FILED

	2011	2012
Runaway	333	363
Incurrigible	78	99
Incurrigible Out of County	10	14
Unruly	48	34
Curfew Violation	425	463
Habitual Truancy	164	216
Tobacco Violation	3	6
TOTAL	1,061	1,195

RESTITUTION

In 2012, the total restitution collected was \$34,803.78

FINES & COSTS COLLECTED

Fines	\$16,864.84
Court Costs	\$50,758.45
RRF & IDF	\$57,669.45
Computer Fees	\$21,110.64
Legal Research	\$6,243.00
Witness Fees	\$2,451.15
Delivery Fees	\$7,890.03
Work Detail Fees	\$397.00
Restitution Process Fee	\$1,651.28
Indigent Drivers Alcohol Fund	\$2,099.50
Public Defender Application Fee	\$3,905.59
Mediation	\$9,993.00
Special Projects	\$122,202.00
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	\$4,837.50

DISMISSALS

In 2012, 5,736 delinquent, unruly, traffic and adult misdemeanor cases were dismissed.

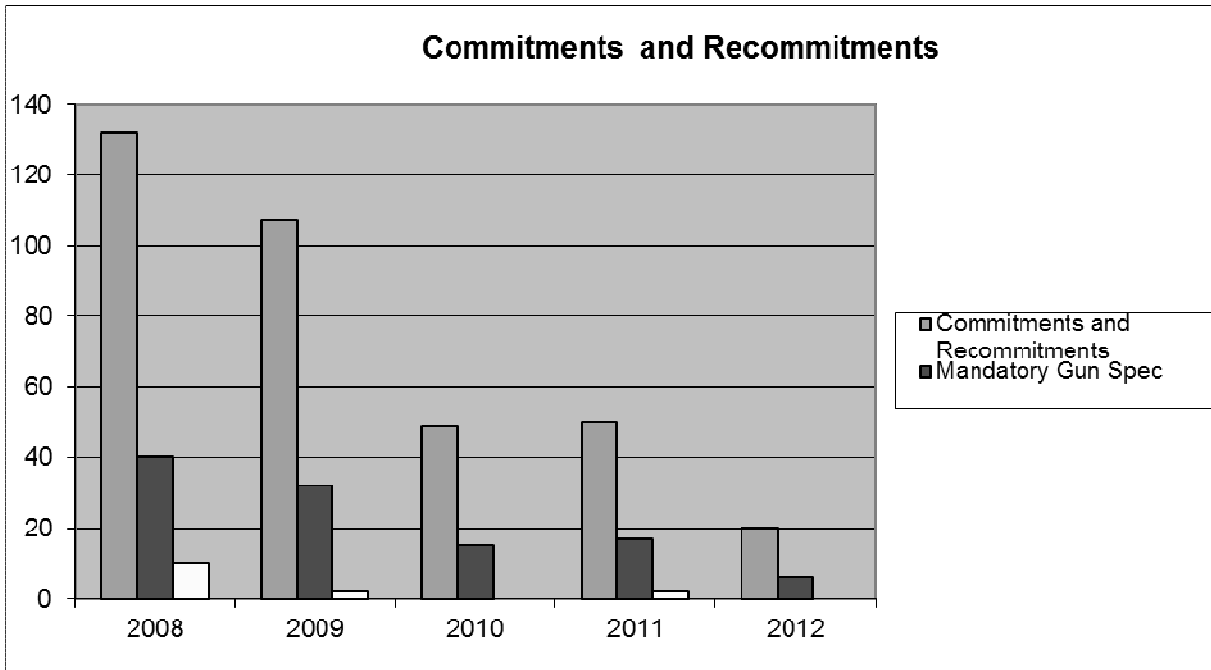
CRIMES AGAINST ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED

The following report, mandated by section 2151.18 of the Revised Code, reflects the number of complaints filed with the court, that allege that a child is a delinquent child, in relation to which the court determines under division (D) of section 2151.27 of the Revised Code that the victim of the alleged delinquent act was sixty-five years of age or older or permanently and totally disabled at the time of the alleged commission of the act.

TYPE OF OFFENSE	PROPERTY	THEFT	VIOLENT
DELINQUENT COMPLAINTS FILED	7	18	63
ADJUDICATIONS	2	11	39
ADJUDICATION & RESTITUTION	1	7	5
COMMITTED TO AN INSTITUTION	0	0	0
TRANSFERRED FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTION	0	0	0

COMMITMENTS TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

The Court committed twenty juveniles to the Department of Youth Services in 2012. Six juveniles had their parole revoked in 2012. Thirty percent of the total youth committed were mandatory commitments as a result of a gun specification.



Commitments To DYS

	Boys	2012 Girls	Total
Committed	16	0	16
Recommitted	4	0	4
Total	20	0	20
Parole Revocations	6	0	6
Grand Total	26	0	26

Commitments/Recommits Characteristics

2012	
Murder (Aggravated)	0
Felony 1	6
Felony 2	4
Felony 3	6
Felony 4	1
Felony 5	3

Five Year Trends for Commitments

	Commitments				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Boys	113	82	36	34	16
Girls	1	2	2	2	0
Total Commitments	114	84	38	36	16

Commitments vs. Recommitments

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Commitments	114	84	38	36	16
Recommitments	18	23	11	14	4
	132	107	49	50	20

Revocations

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Boys	29	22	5	4	6
Girls	2	2	1	0	0
Total Revocations	31	24	6	4	6

Five Year Trends Commitments/Recommitments - Mandatory

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Commitments	39	30	15	15	6
Recommitments	1	2	0	2	0
	40	32	15	17	6

Five Year Trends Commitments/Recommitments - Non-Mandatory

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Commitments	10	2	0	2	0
Recommitments	0	0	0	0	0
	10	2	0	2	0

TRANSFERS TO ADULT JURISDICTION

In 2012, 35 youth had their cases transferred to the adult division of the Court of Common Pleas. Of that number, 19 of those youth were required to be transferred for trial as a result of their age and the serious nature of the alleged offense.

Bindover Summary for 2012

	Cases	Youths
Carried from 2011	14	9
Carried to 2013	28	14
Filings	239	109
Mandatory	29	19
Discretionary	37	16
Total Bind Overs	66	35

ADULT JURISDICTION

DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT AND ABUSE

The Dependency Department is responsible for hearing and deciding all complaints filed by public and private agencies alleging a child to be dependent, neglected, and/or abused. If a child is placed in the care of an agency, the Court must approve and monitor the implementation of the agency's plan for each child. The priorities in handling child protection cases include protecting children, respecting the rights of parents and to obtaining permanent homes for children in a timely fashion.

	2011	2012
NEW FILINGS	561 cases 1,027 children	562 cases 941 children
FILINGS DISMISSED	101 children	90 children
INITIAL DISPOSITIONS		
Direct Custody to Individual	82 children	77 children
Protective Supervision	171 children	178 children
Temporary Custody	534 children	635 children
Permanent Commitments	41 children	38 children
Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	26 children	25 children

In 2012, the Court placed 38 children placed in permanent custody as an initial disposition and 109 children in permanent custody as a modification to a prior grant of temporary custody.

In 2012, the Court placed 25 children in planned permanent living arrangements as an initial disposition and 64 children in planned permanent living arrangement as a modification to a prior grant of temporary custody.

CHILDREN UNDER PENDING COMPLAINTS, AGENCY CUSTODY OR SUPERVISION AT YEAR END

	2011	2012
Pending Complaints	326 children	341 children
Protective Supervision	242 children	253 children
Temporary Custody	687 children	777 children
Permanent Custody	213 children	225 children
Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	236 children	241 children
TOTAL	1,704 children	1,837 children

In addition to addition to addressing child abuse, neglect and dependency cases, the Court hears and decides motions to modify prior dependency orders. New filings of these cases are set forth below:

	2011	2012
New motions to Modify Prior Dependency Dispositions	370 cases 545 children	318 cases 464 children

OTHER COMPLAINTS FILED

	2011	2012
ADULT MISDEMEANORS		
Failure to Send Child to School	995	787
Endangering Children	7	16
Tend to Cause Delinquency / Unruliness of a Minor	66	48
Contribute to Delinquency / Unruliness	13	5
Adult Probation Violation	34	51
Violation of EMU	35	23
TOTAL	1,150	930

	2011	2012
PARENT CHILD RELATIONSHIP	457	298
SUPPORT	2,739	2,629
CUSTODY	1,383	1,261
VISITATION	205	161
CHILD CARE POWER OF ATTORNEY	232	253
CARETAKER AUTHORIZATION AFFIDAVIT	27	29
HABEAS CORPUS	0	1
PERMISSION TO MARRY	1	0
PARENTAL BYPASS	3	1

SOME MOTIONS FILED	2011	2012
CONTEMPT	3,524	3,282
MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT	2,141	2,269
ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION ORDER	1,455	1,639
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS	3,530	3,597
OBJECTION TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER	372	372

HEARINGS CONDUCTED	2011	2012
TOTAL HEARINGS CONDUCTED	120,028	118,853
AVERAGE NUMBER OF HEARINGS PER FILING	3.40	3.52

MAGISTRATES

There were twenty-one Magistrates in Juvenile Court at year end. The Magistrates are appointed by the Juvenile Judges to preside over the daily case management in Juvenile Court. The powers of a Magistrate are similar to those of a Judge; however, their decisions and orders are subject to review and approval by the assigned Juvenile Court Judge. In Hamilton County, Magistrates hear and decide delinquency, unruly, dependency, custody, paternity and child support matters in Juvenile Court. Two hearing officers are assigned to preside over delinquency and unruly cases referred for unofficial hearings.

Nine Magistrates are assigned to preside over cases involving allegations of dependency, neglect and abuse of children. They are responsible for deciding the temporary and permanent placement of children. The primary goal of the dependency process is to protect the best interest of the child.

Twelve Magistrates preside over delinquency, unruly, traffic, custody, paternity and child support. In delinquency, unruly and traffic matters, Magistrates preside at the plea and trial hearings and sometimes in conjunction with the Probation Department and Court Services Department to determine appropriate dispositions.

Juvenile Court has jurisdiction of paternity, custody and child support when a child is born out of wedlock, or when married parents have not filed for divorce. The Magistrates oversee proceedings to establish the proper parent/child relationship. In addition to establishing paternity, the Magistrates also set child support orders. A Magistrate has the authority to hold a parent in contempt of court. The Magistrates also decide custody and visitation matters in Juvenile Court. Custody and visitation decisions determine who shall be the residential parent or custodian of a child and provide for the visitation schedule of a child.

UNOFFICIAL COURT PROGRAM

In March of 1975 the Court established an Unofficial Court Program to hear unruly and minor misdemeanor offenses. Supervision of the program is handled by the Executive Director of Docketing and Case Management Department, Hamilton County Juvenile Court.

During 2012 1,198 juveniles were referred to the unofficial docket on a total of 1,344 charges. Of the 1,344 charges heard, 297 charges were referred back to the official docket for hearing.

VOLUNTEER REFEREE PROGRAM

The volunteer referee diversion program exists in Hamilton County in an attempt to divert youth from official delinquent records.

Judge Benjamin S. Schwartz of Hamilton County Juvenile Court initiated the Volunteer Referee Program in 1958. It was the first program of its kind in the country. Attorneys were appointed by the Court as Volunteer Referees to hear unofficial cases of a minor nature within their own community.

The program has continued with few modifications over the years, under Judges William J. Morrissey; Olive L. Holmes; David E. Grossmann; John P. O'Connor, Sylvia Sieve Hendon, Thomas R. Lipps, Karla J. Grady, John M. Williams and Tracie M. Hunter.

Local businesses, schools, police and citizens refer cases. The advantage of the program is that cases are heard within the youth's own community. Generally the cases are heard in the evening, as it is more convenient for all parties to participate. There is high visibility of the child for enforcing house arrest, work details and other measures of discipline.

In 2012, there were 325 juveniles served by the volunteer referee program. Of this number 51 were referred back to the police department or school for further action by the Court. A total of 274 juveniles were handled unofficially and diverted from the system.

FAMILY TREATMENT DRUG COURT

MISSION

The Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court is a collaborative effort to ensure timely permanence for children in the custody of the Hamilton County Department of Job & Family Services or under agency supervision. The goal is to provide the most efficient substance abuse treatment for parents, as a safe return to a sober parent is the most natural form of permanency the system can provide. This program avoids ineffective treatment, ill-informed court decision-making and repetitive litigation that impeded permanency.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

As a condition for admission to the Family Treatment Drug Court the parent stipulates to the admissibility of all Family Treatment Drug Court findings and treatment records in any dependency proceeding and waives any further cross examination or confrontation of the reporters to the Family Treatment Drug Court. In exchange for this waiver of rights, the parent receives the benefits of close judicial monitoring of treatment, efficient exchange of information among collaborative agencies, and individualized case planning all of which are designed to effect the safe return of the child. Conversely, unsuccessful completion of the program will be documented in the findings of fact and conclusions of law issued by the Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court and will be considered by the Dependency System for all purposes in the future. This voluntary program, at its core, protects the due process rights of the participants yet offers the treatment benefits associated with adult drug courts. As a separate tract to the Hamilton County Juvenile Court's model court, which is already conducting close monitoring of the child's case plan, the Family Treatment Drug Court achieves the goal of timely permanency for children within a context that does not unduly compromise parental rights.

The Family Treatment Drug Court began in September of 2002, and received funding through a grant from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration. The program is comprised of three phases, and the anticipated time for completion of the program is one year.

STATISTICS

In 2012, eight parents entered the Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court, and the program served a total of ten clients. The Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court discharged three

participants from the program in 2012, and 67% of the participants discharged from the program were in compliance or substantial compliance with their treatment plan at the time of their discharge.

MEDIATION

Mediation offers an effective alternative to the traditional court process by using a non-adversarial conflict resolution process in an environment of collaborative problem solving. Mediation provides a forum to parties that promotes the safe, guided exchange of information following simple rules that are clearly explained from the outset. Parties are permitted to explore any avenue of possible resolution unfettered by external restraints.

CUSTODY AND VISITATION MEDIATION

The Court contracts with attorneys and social workers trained in family mediation and dispute resolution to mediate petitions and motions for custody and visitation. The magistrates referred 191 cases involving custody and visitation petitions to mediation in 2012, following a pretrial hearing.

The parties reached a full or partial agreement in 62% of the cases mediated.

CHILD PROTECTION MEDIATION

The goal of the Child Protection Mediation Program is to create an atmosphere that values children and families through a reliable process that empowers families and generates reasonable and creative solutions resulting in permanency for children. The types of cases served by the Child Protection Mediation Program included the following: custody or visitation petitions; adjudications of abuse, neglect and/or dependency; dispositional and post-dispositional requests of protective supervision, temporary custody, planned permanent living arrangement and permanent custody; and disputes related to case plan services.

The magistrates referred 43 families to mediation in 2012. The parties reached a full or partial agreement in 72% of the cases mediated.

INDIVIDUALIZED DISPOSITION DOCKET

PROGRAM HISTORY

In 2004, Hamilton County Juvenile Court partnered with the Hamilton County Community Board of Mental Health to implement a juvenile mental health court, known as the Individualized Disposition Docket. This program incorporates the following best practice principles from the *RESOURCE GUIDELINES: Improving Court Practice in Child Abuse & Neglect Cases* and the *JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GUIDELINES: Improving Court Practice in Juvenile Delinquency Cases* published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges: one magistrate/one family case assignment model; frontloading of services; family engagement in all stages of the proceedings; frequent substantive review hearings; the use of individualized dispositions that includes graduated sanctions/rewards; and community collaboration. The docket serves youth between the ages of 12 and 17 years who are adjudicated delinquent and diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance. Although these youth are at risk for out of home placement, they have a designated caregiver who will work them in an intensive, home-based intervention.

MISSION

The Individualized Disposition Docket is a community collaborative model of service delivery which utilizes an interdisciplinary and integrated team approach to treatment for youth with serious emotional disorders who are involved in Juvenile Court and require specialized, supported care in order to remain in the community. This model of service focuses on the provision of assertive, comprehensive psychiatric interventions designed to assist and empower the family in achieving individualized goals which are tailored to meet their needs, thus eliminating the risk of out of home placement or other court sanctioned dispositions.

SERVICE MODEL

In 2005, the Hamilton County Community Mental Health Board contracted with Lighthouse Youth Services to provide the intensive home-based intervention for the youth and families on this docket. Lighthouse utilizes Functional Family Therapy, an evidenced-based model of treatment. Also included in the program design are components of the Assertive Community Treatment (adult mental health court model). This model also integrates drug and alcohol services as over sixty percent of the youth on this docket presented with a co-occurring disorder. The continuum of services available through Lighthouse includes: comprehensive family assessments; twenty-four hour crisis intervention; mental health case management; psychiatric services; medication management; individual and family therapy ; educational support; behavior management; chemical dependency assessment/education; anger management/conflict resolution; and community support and resource development.

STATISTICS

In 2012, twenty youth with serious emotional disorders entered the Individualized Disposition Docket, and the program served a total of thirty-three youth and their families. The Individualized Disposition Docket discharged seventeen participants from the program in 2012, and 94% of the youth discharged were in compliance or substantial compliance with their treatment plan at the time of their discharge.

PRETRIAL DIVERSION DOCKET

PROGRAM HISTORY

In early 2004, the Hamilton County Juvenile Court partnered with the Hamilton County Community Board of Mental Health to implement a juvenile mental health court, known as the Individualized Disposition Docket. In implementing the Individualized Disposition Docket, it became apparent there was a need for early identification of mentally ill adolescents before they became entrenched in the legal system. At the same time, Hamilton County Juvenile Court received a Planning and Implementation Grant through the Department of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance for a juvenile diversion mental health court. In November of 2006, Hamilton County Juvenile Court began a 6 month planning process to divert mentally ill adolescents from traditional court services. In 2009, Hamilton County Juvenile Court received an Expansion Grant through the Department of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance to expand the types of services provided to youth and families on the docket. The Expansion grant will focus on connecting youth and families to non-traditional community supports.

MISSION

The mission of the Pretrial Diversion Docket is to provide early identification and intervention services prior to adjudication in an effort to avoid future contact with the juvenile justice system for youth diagnosed with a serious emotional disorder, who also may have a co-occurring substance use disorder, and have had no contact or minimal delinquency contact with the Hamilton County Juvenile Court.

SERVICE MODEL

In 2006 the Hamilton County Community Mental Health Board contracted with Lighthouse Youth Services to provide the intensive home-based intervention for the youth and families on this docket. Lighthouse utilizes Functional Family Therapy, an evidenced-based model of treatment. Also included in the program design are components of the Assertive Community Treatment (adult mental health court model). This model also integrates drug and alcohol services as over sixty percent of the youth on this docket presented with a co-occurring disorder. The continuum of services available through Lighthouse includes: comprehensive family assessments; twenty-four hour crisis intervention; mental health case management; psychiatric services; medication management; individual and family therapy ; educational support; behavior management; chemical dependency assessment/education; anger management/conflict resolution; and community support and resource development

STATISTICS

In 2012, the Pretrial Diversion Docket admitted sixteen youth with severe emotional disorders to the program and served twenty-eight youth and families. The Pretrial Diversion Docket discharged seventeen participants from the program in 2012, and 82% of the youth discharged from the program were in compliance or substantial compliance with their treatment plan at the time of their discharge.

HAMILTON COUNTY CROSSOVER YOUTH PRACTICE MODEL

In 2010, Casey Family Programs and the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University selected Hamilton County as one of thirteen jurisdiction across the country who began to design and implement a best practice intervention known as the Crossover Youth Practice Model. The Hamilton County Crossover Youth Practice Model [hereinafter CYPM] utilizes a strength-based approach in responding to the needs of youth who have contact with the child protection and juvenile justice systems. The CYPM Project is designed to achieve the following outcomes: reduction in out-of-home placements; reduction in congregate care placements; improved inter-agency information sharing; increased use of joint assessments; increased use of joint case management and case planning; enhanced youth and family engagement; decreased length of stays in detention; and decreased recidivism in the child protection/juvenile justice systems.

Hamilton County Juvenile Court and Hamilton County Department of Job & Family Services [hereinafter HCJFS] serve as the lead agencies for the CYPM Project. HCJFS and Juvenile Court have entered into a commitment to reform practice and the handling of dually involved youth by maximizing resources, implementing best practice approaches, utilizing evidence-based or promising treatment models and developing innovative programming and supports to improve outcomes for youth who have contact with the child protection and juvenile justice systems without compromising community safety. Juvenile Court and HCJFS have identified dedicated personnel who provide supervision of the cases assigned to Crossover.

In the first two years, 164 youth were served through the CYPM project. Preliminary findings revealed the following:

- CYPM youth were more likely to remain at home with reunification as the permanency goal at post-test, and less likely to have permanent planned living arrangement (PPLA) and custody to a relative or non-relative as a goal at post-test.
- Contact with family, contact with parents, and contact with non-family sources of support increased for CYPM youth at post-test.
- The percentage of CYPM youth involved in extracurricular activities and in structured programming increased.
- The percentage of CYPM youth attending school increased from arrest to post-test, and the percentage of these youth experiencing academic and/or behavioral problems decreased.

COURT SERVICES

The Department of Court Services is charged with the implementation of a wide variety of Court orders and services directed at prevention, intervention and rehabilitation. There are four separate departments within Court Services: the Intervention Unit, Probation, Placement and Special Services and the Youth Center Psychology Clinic. Services and programs in each of these areas work collaboratively and independently to provide services to youth and their families. Court Services uses general funds and specialized grants to fulfill its mission.

INTERVENTION UNIT

The Hamilton County Juvenile Intervention Unit, a division of Court Services, serves families as the result of a child's rebellious or incorrigible behavior. Efforts are made to contact families within 24-48 hours of receiving the referral and schedule an appointment within ten working days. If the parent(s) or guardian(s) are unwilling or unable to attend a session at the Intervention Unit, a Family Counselor will provide crisis intervention by telephone. It is the Intervention Unit's goal to provide direct treatment services to 10% of all families referred. During 2012, 20% of all cases closed were involved in ongoing treatment. Of cases in which the family made the first appointment, 44% returned for additional sessions. A total of 1475 appointments were scheduled for families in 2012.

The duration of a single crisis intervention session is typically 2-3 hours. Treatment sessions generally last 1-2 hours. Telephone interventions are provided to clients who do not utilize in-person services due to work schedules, transportation problems, lack of child-care, disinterest in counseling, or improvement in the child's behavior. Such cases are monitored for 30 days or longer should problems arise again. Families are encouraged to maintain contact with the assigned Counselor during this period; many may call for additional guidance even after the case is closed. There was an average of 6 contacts per case during 2012.

The Intervention Unit's Family Counselors have assumed case management of all runaway referrals that had been assigned to the Intake Coordinator in the past. This position was eliminated in 2008 due to the County's budget crisis. They offer supportive guidance to the family from the initial filing of the charge through disposition of the case, as well as provide counseling services if requested. Hearing reports offering background information regarding the family, and treatment recommendations are provided to Magistrates. It should be noted that the Intervention Unit's Clinical Coordinator retired from the Court at the end of the year and the vacancy has yet to be filled.

851 cases were referred to the Intervention Unit during 2012. There has been a decrease in referrals over the past four years, which is directly correlated to the Youth Center's Deputy Clerk's Office reducing the hours during which parent-driven complaints can be filed. Most affected by the change were unofficial unruly/incorrigible and first time runaway referrals. At the same time, there are more families taking advantage of treatment services.

The Unit closed 981 cases during 2012 and provided service to 65% of the families referred. Services included: case management for first time runaway cases, single session interventions, ongoing treatment services and telephone interventions. 24% of cases referred either did not respond to contact attempts or the youth's warrant remained active for over three months. 11% failed to attend their appointment. In many instances, Counselors schedule several appointments with clients prior to case closure, hoping that they would utilize services.

Substance abuse/dependency, physical and sexual abuse, and mental illness remain constant and significant factors affecting family functioning. Many of the youth have had prior exposure to mental health services or psychiatric hospitalization. Ages of youth range from 7 through 17 years. Minority populations represented 75% of youth referred; 48% of the total referrals were female. This was the fourth year that females did not constitute the majority of the referrals, which may be the result of parents not being able to file Runaway charges on weekends. 63% of the 851 referrals received during 2012 were minority youth for whom this was their first contact (unofficial or first time Runaway) with the Juvenile Justice System. The services provided by the Intervention Unit are one of the important ways that the Juvenile Court is addressing the issue of Disproportionate Minority Confinement and/or Contact.

The Intervention Unit assumed management of the Court's Unofficial Docket in 2011. Hearings are held twice per week, with an IU Counselor or the Youth Center's Detention Release Coordinator acting as Magistrate. In 2012, 1402 cases were scheduled. This is another effort by the Court to address DMC issues as well as provide a diversion process to official Court involvement. When deemed appropriate, families are referred for counseling services provided by the Unit.

In addition to the Unofficial Docket, an Intervention Unit Family Counselor was actively involved in the development and presentation of the Court sponsored L.I.V.E. Cincinnati anti-gun violence program to middle schools throughout the County. Lastly, the Intervention Unit Director continues to provide a clinical perspective to the Court's Placement Team on a weekly basis, and the Clinical Coordinator offers supervision to student interns from local universities.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Intervention Unit utilizes Brief Strategic Therapy as its primary treatment modality. Bi-weekly live video team supervision sessions occur throughout the year and all Family Counselors are required to participate. This process also ensures that fidelity to the model is maintained. The Intervention Unit's Family Counselors, as well as its Director, are licensed by The State of Ohio Counselor, Social Work, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board. The IU Director and recently retired Clinical Coordinator maintain Supervising Counselor status with the Board. In addition to the above, the Unit conducts annual customer service surveys seeking input from both parents and youth.

PROGRAM EVALUATION AND RECIDIVISM RATES

The Intervention Unit assesses the effectiveness of services based upon re-involvement with the Court. Recidivism in this case is defined as **any** subsequent official charge, but does not reflect whether there was an adjudication for the case. The results may be negatively skewed, as Counselors periodically encourage parents to pursue charges as a means of holding children accountable. In addition, minor status offenses and traffic offenses are not differentiated from delinquency charges. To provide a meaningful appraisal of positive outcome, the population was drawn from closures dating from September 2001-September 2012. A recidivism range of 3 months after case closure was used, since that is the standard set by the Department of Youth Services.

REFERRAL SOURCE	TOTAL CLOSED	NEW FILINGS	RECIDIVISM RATE
Dependency Court Magistrates	3	0	0%
Delinquency Court Magistrates	1,980	677	34%
First Time Runaway Program	4,247	1,310	31%
Clerk's Office Unofficial Referrals	5,025	960	19%
Probation Department	767	275	36%
Township Unofficial Dockets	87	20	23%
Teen Court	26	6	23%
TOTALS	12,135	3,248	23%

PROBATION

Probation and the work of the Department are defined under Section 2151 and 2152 of the Ohio Revised Code. It is the duty of all department officers to carry out the orders of the Court and serve to protect the interest of the community. It is the responsibility of Probation Officers to use all suitable methods to aid youth on probation to bring about improvement in their conduct. The Probation Department has previously been accredited through the American Correctional Association. The Probation Department is participating with the state of Ohio in the utilization of the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS). This assessment is a component of the department's classification/supervision model. It assists in identifying areas to be addressed in order to bring about improvement in the conduct of our probationers and ultimately reduce recidivism.

In 2012 the Probation Department received 852 cases, 740 referred for Investigation, 112 cases referred for Competency. Throughout the year the department averaged 596 cases under Supervision at any given time.

REFERAL STATISTICS

	2011			2012		
	F	M	Total	F	M	Total
Race						
Asian	0	1	1	0	1	1
Bi-Racial	10	20	30	6	15	21
Black-African American	136	472	608	101	470	571
Caucasian	69	218	287	56	195	251
Hispanic	1	5	6	0	3	3
Mexican-American	0	1	1	0	0	0
Other	0	2	2	1	2	3
Unknown	1	3	4	1	1	2
Referring Offense	F	M		F	M	Total
Felony	35	303	338	30	303	333
Misdemeanor	129	357	486	104	321	425
Violation of Court Order	41	44	85	24	46	70
Unruly	9	10	19	7	11	18
Traffic	3	9	12	0	6	6

Age at Referral	2011	2012
9	0	0
10	1	7
11	12	14
12	23	30
13	69	51
14	120	107
15	149	158
16	184	183
17	242	185
18	123	93
19	2	3
20 and over	15	21
Number of Youth to Terminate at Placement	330	269
Number of Youth to Transfer into Probation	369	364

Referrals to Probation by Offense**	2011	2012
Arson	5	9
Assault	87	69
Attempt, Complicity, Conspiracy	12	15
Burglary	117	127
Disruption, Vandalism, Damaging	13	15
Drug Offenses	82	70
Forgery / Fraud	2	1
Habitual / Chronic Truancy	5	5
Kidnapping	3	2
Liquor Control	20	20
Menacing	15	10
Miscellaneous Offenses	1	0
Misuse of Credit Cards	2	3
Offenses Against Family	54	54
Offenses Against Justice	23	35
Offenses Against Peace	42	51
Prostitution	3	1
Receiving	16	24
Robbery	53	79
Sexual Offenses	38	26
Theft	131	102
Traffic Related Offenses	119	6
Trespass	8	7
Violations of Court Orders	91	72
Weapons Offenses	55	33
Cruelty to Animals	1	2
Interstate Compact Supervision	0	12
** as defined for Annual Report		

PROBATION PROCESS

During the course of a Probation Investigation, the youth is assessed as to their level of risk to re-offend as well as to the type and level of service needs. Dispositional recommendations can vary from releasing the youth back to the full supervision of their parents to enforce sanctions and follow-up with service referrals, to supervision by the Probation Department of varying intensities and to ensure service follow through, to placement in a residential treatment facility designed to address their identified need, to commitment to a state run correctional institution. Along with the risk assessment, offense characteristics, prior Probation adjustment and service history play a large part in the decision making.

During the course of Probation supervision, the youth's level of risk is regularly reassessed. Should a youth be charged with a new offense or fail to abide by the rules of probation, consideration of whether the youth should be referred to placement is reviewed. Re-offending at a felony level while under Probation supervision, in most cases, moves the case in the direction of referral for placement. Consideration for placement is handled through a thorough review of the case with a decision making team consisting of the assigned officer and many levels of management.

SPECIALIZED CASELOADS

SEX OFFENDER SPECIFIC CASELOAD

Since 1989 the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Probation Department has been utilizing specialized assessments of adjudicated sexual offenders. This was part of continuum of care treatment approach that followed the youth through legal, treatment and aftercare settings. The objectives for providing such an approach were: 1.) To determine the general dangerousness of the behavior and threat to the community, current victim and potential future victims. 2.) To estimate the risk of the sexually aggressive behavior being repeated. 3.) To evaluate the specific social, family, environmental and behavioral treatment strengths and needs of the adolescent offender. 4.) To determine specific recommendations regarding the ideal course of intervention and treatment along with secondary recommendations should the ideal course not be possible. All youth adjudicated of a sexually oriented crime are assigned to specially trained probation officers.

GENDER SPECIFIC CASELOAD

Girls Empowered and Motivated for Success (GEMS) is designed to address the specific needs of adolescent females who are on probation. Four probation officers and a supervisor manage the GEMS caseload. The caseload is set up to decrease the risk for re-offending among females on probation. Girls assigned to this caseload receive traditional supervision along with promising practice gender specific programming.

MENTAL HEALTH CASELOAD

This caseload was established with the Court's creation of an Individualized Disposition Docket to address youth with Mental Health issues that lead to their continued involvement with delinquent behavior. This officer is part of a team of Court and community service providers who develop an individualized plan of care for each youth and family accepted into the program. The goal of this program is to provide a seamless system of care, which will help stabilize the youth's behavior, help improve the family's ability to manage the youth and eliminate delinquent behavior. After a period of intensive services, including Functional Family Therapy, the youth and family are transitioned back to less intensive services within their community.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING UNIT (EMU)

The Juvenile Court implemented an EMU Program in 2004. EMU is a community surveillance program managed by the Court's Probation Department to provide increased supervision of high-risk youth involved with the court. The program utilizes an electronic transmitter bracelet that is worn by the juvenile, and a field monitoring device that is connected to the existing power and phone lines in the juvenile's home. Using radio frequency technology, the receiver monitors the presence or absence of the juvenile within a specified range. Should the juvenile leave the specified range area, the curfew violation is reported to the department's monitoring center for further investigation by an on duty officer. During 2012, 552 youth were supervised under Electronic Monitoring.

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Youth who are involved with the Juvenile Court Probation Department often need additional services that require connection to community-based programs. Probation Officers are responsible for coordinating referrals and providing supervision for youth enrolled in these programs. The following is a brief description of some of the programs to which youth are referred for outpatient treatment services:

LIGHTHOUSE FUNCTIONAL FAMILY THERAPY (FFT)

The FFT program serves male and female youth age 11-17 that have identified mental health issues and are involved with the Juvenile Court system. The Court contracts with Lighthouse to serve these youth stepping down from placement to assist in the successful reintegration of those youth back into their home and community, and on occasion a general probation youth is also referred, if such referral is warranted. This is a best-practice model that is home-based intensive intervention. It has a strengths-based focus in which the specially-trained therapist engages with the family and builds an alliance towards helping motivate them to want to change. The program offers consultation by a psychiatrist and pharmacological services for youth in need of medication management. During 2012, 24 youth participated in FFT programming.

LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

Community Management Services include programming for youth transitioning out of placement. These services include: group treatment, individual & family treatment, independent living skills development, case management, vocational and employment readiness preparation, and educational assistance. The Community Management Program provides holistic services, with a continuum of intensity levels, empowering youth to develop and maintain a new productive role within the community. The services are used to target criminogenic needs using a Cognitive Behavioral (CBT) approach while maintaining a holistic view of the clients' treatment needs. The program begins while

the youth is still in residential placement and helps to acknowledge the importance of the youth's relationship with the community to facilitate youth-community interactions. The program helps prepare the youth for progressively increased responsibility and freedom in the community and incentives and graduated consequences are used throughout the stages of programming. The overall goal is for youth to transfer what they have learned in a residential setting to the community. Additionally, social controls including supervision and monitoring are used intentionally with efforts to increase the youth's internal motivations and controls. The program is separated into four phases: *Preparation, Intensive, Stepping out, and Maintenance*. The length of the program depends on the youth's overall level of motivation and ability to adhere to his specific programming and supervision plan. Typically, the program lasts for a period of approximately 6 months. Upon completion of both treatment group programming and supervision reporting requirements, Lighthouse Community Management maintains monthly contact with all program graduates for not less than a 3 month period to check on their progress after discharge from the program. During 2012, 55 youth participated in Community Management programming.

LAWN LIFE VOCATIONAL SERVICES

Lawn Life employs, trains, manages and supervises probationers referred by the Court. The program provides the probationer "hands-on" job training, development, and job readiness skills through coaching and on - site work experience. Various work locations normally include: landscaping or providing lawn service for private homes, and/or city owned locations, providing carpentry, masonry, and other skilled labor related activities. The program is dedicated to helping current "at risk" children by providing job skill(s) and employment opportunities for current probationers. During 2012, twenty-five youth participated in the program.

TALBERT HOUSE (SAFEGUARDS - SEX OFFENSE SPECIFIC TREATMENT)

Talbert House, Inc. contracts with the Court to provide ongoing group, individual and family treatment for youth adjudicated on sexual related offenses. These youth are maintained in the community but need intensive treatment for their sexually abusive behavior(s). The groups can accommodate approximately 7-8 youth at any given time, due to the lengthy nature of the treatment and the slow turnover that occurs. Additional youth are served individually. During 2012, 34 youth participated in Safeguards programming.

CAMELOT CARE MDFT

The Court contracts with Camelot Care for juveniles on probation in need of intensive in-home drug and alcohol and mental health treatment. This program is a twelve - week program utilizing the best practice approach of MDFT (Multidimensional Family Therapy), which targets youth that have co-occurring disorders of mental illness and substance abuse. During 2012, 17 youth participated in MDFT programming.

CHILDREN'S HOME OF CINCINNATI

The Court contracts with Children's Home for juveniles in need of ongoing mental health services in community settings. Youth can receive services in a variety of settings and from therapists who have developed an expertise in working with delinquent youth. During 2012, a trauma - focused cognitive - behavioral treatment group was piloted at the Cincinnati Children's Home for female probationers that could benefit from this treatment approach. During 2012, 31 youth participated in Children's home programming.

ABRAXAS COUNSELING CENTER

Abraxas Youth and Family Services provides an outpatient program in Cincinnati to serve youth with alcohol and other drug (AOD) needs through group, individual, and "in-home" services. The primary recipients of this service are youth returning to the community from residential placement settings or youth that require intensive alcohol and other drug (AOD) counseling in order to improve behavior and avoid placement. During 2012, 47 youth participated in Abraxas outpatient programming.

HOPE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

This managed care wrap around program has been in existence within Hamilton County since 1995 under several different vendors over the years. The overall mission and purpose, as well as service operations, are as follows: to purchase, evaluate, and monitor a wide variety of services directed to the County's most difficult to serve multi-system children and their families. Funding comes from pooled dollars contributed by the major child-serving systems within the county. Youth receive a wide array of services ranging from community-based to residential, and remain in the program approximately 12-18 months based on their issues and needs. The project changed management from an outside vendor (Hamilton Choices) to an internal contract (HOPE for Children and Families) on October 1, 2011. During 2012, 11 Juvenile Court probationers were served by HOPE.

TEAM CHILD PROJECT

Team Child, a project of the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati, provides interventions and advocacy so that children involved in the delinquency system can return to and remain in school and improve their educational success. Research shows that being out of school is a predictor of juvenile crime. Improving academic performance and strengthening bonds to school lessen the risk of delinquency. In 2012, 103 youth participated and received services from the program.

TRINIT-D (Mentoring Services)

The Court contracts with Trinit-D, Mentoring services to provide mentoring programming and services for referred youth. The program matches a qualified mentor to each assigned probationer and the program is designed to socially assist and train high - risk youth. Through programming and community assistance, TRINIT-D helps clients to change behavior(s) and to make better decisions. The goal program's goal is to reduce Court involvement and reduce overall delinquent behavior in the community through strong mentorship, social skills enhancement and improved problem solving ability. In 2012, 11 youth participated in mentoring programming.

COMMUNITY PLACEMENTS

COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

The Juvenile Court utilizes various residential placements to address the multiple needs of some of its client population and community safety risk. Usually these placements include an average length of stay of approximately six months, and satisfy a need that outpatient services cannot. Placements such as group homes and residential facilities in and outside the state have been utilized over this past year, including:

- Abraxas Youth and Family Services
- Talbert House (Alternatives)
- Talbert House (Passages)

- Talbert House (Bridge)
- Glen Mills School
- The Village Network (TVN)
- Tri-State Youth Academy
- Lighthouse Paint Creek
- Lighthouse Independent Living
- Starr Commonwealth
- Buckeye Ranch
- Children's Center of Ohio
- Sequel Youth Services (Lakeside)
- Altercrest
- Bellefaire JCB
- Oesterlen Youth Services
- Rite of Passage - Hillcrest Academy

In 2012, there were a total of 178 Juvenile Court youth that received treatment while in placement at the above 17 facilities.

PLACEMENT AND ENHANCED REINTEGRATION TEAM (PERT)

PERT is comprised of 9 officers and 1 supervisor. Each PERT Probation Officer is assigned with the task of maintaining a specialized caseload of approximately 20-25 probationers that are placed in residential treatment and/or correctional settings. Team members receive enhanced Probation training and skill - building in order to successfully manage a high – risk population of youth with multiple needs and dynamic family situations. The overall goal of the team is to provide comprehensive re-entry services to youth returning from placement and reducing further risk of offending. The evidence-based treatment models of Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) and Integrative Families and Systems Treatment (I-FAST) have been incorporated in the specialized services for identified youth. Thus far, this model has proven a success as anticipated outcomes are a reduction in recidivism and the number of admissions to state correctional facilities has significantly reduced. Each youth and family assigned to the PERT team receives more intensive community-based supervision and services. This has helped to build a strong network of traditional and non-traditional supports for successful reintegration from the various placement settings back with their family, school, peers and community life.

HILLCREST ACADEMY

Hillcrest Academy operates a forty-eight bed correctional/treatment program for adjudicated delinquent males placed by the Court. The program primarily serves youth adjudicated of felony offenses and offers a wide range of services, which include: an on - grounds school, substance abuse programming, anger management programming, cognitive-behavioral restructuring, psychological services, organized sports, psychiatric services, health services, and skill- building. In 2012, 96 youth were served at Hillcrest Academy. During 2012, the Hillcrest program successfully transitioned from an internal Hamilton County Juvenile Court (HCJC) program to a privatized residential treatment setting run by Rite of Passage (ROP), Inc. On May 1, 2012, ROP officially took full control of both the administrative and operational aspects of the day-to day operations at Hillcrest Academy. Through close interaction with the Court, ROP has successfully completed the transition process and is currently providing residential treatment programming for forty – eight HCJC probationers. This transition has allowed the facility to improve the overall programming and to offer additional youth services. During the transitional period, Hillcrest Academy has maintained a close

relationship with the University of Cincinnati (UC), Department of Corrections. The program is currently in the process of inheriting UC's substance abuse treatment program and plans to incorporate EPICS into its cognitive – behavioral intervention strategy. Although the transition process is ever evolving and is an ongoing process, overall the program is currently succeeding at meeting the needs of the County and of the HCJC. Close personal contact, communication, and a team-oriented approach have helped with this process and will continue to be paramount in the program's overall success.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The purpose of the psychology clinic is to provide mental-health evaluations for the Juvenile Court system at the request of judges, magistrates, probation officers and both prosecuting and defense attorneys. The evaluations are to determine whether juvenile offenders are competent to stand trial, appropriate for waiver, and to assist in dispositional planning. Occasionally, referrals from the dependency docket request clinic staff to assist in custody matters. Each member of the Psychology Clinic rotates weekly 24 hour a day on-call responsibility. The court requested services in 2011 were:

CLINIC SERVICES	TOTAL
Psychological Evaluations	127
IDD / PDD Evaluations	21
Psychiatric Evaluations	6
Evaluations for Bind Over	26
Sex Offender Risk Assessments	28
MAP Evaluations	9
Competency to Stand Trial	126
Competency Attainment	408
Competency Treatment Plans	88
Job Applicants / Volunteers	28
Emergency Referrals	493
Detention High Risk Assessments	941

SUPPORT SERVICES

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Finance Department, under the Support Services Division, is responsible for the preparation, expense and monitoring activity of the Annual County Operating budget and various state grants. Another major responsibility is the maintenance of employee sick and vacation records and production of the bi-weekly payroll. In addition, court ordered restitution is disbursed to the victim and child support for youth in placement is monitored.

2012 General Fund	Revenue	Expense
General Fund Subsidy	\$12,593,406.49	
Judges' Office	\$1,828,859.09	\$7,445,134.33
Youth Center	\$1,713,006.01	\$7,515,699.83
Hillcrest	\$1,953,476.35	\$3,127,913.78
TOTAL	\$18,088,747.94	\$18,088,747.94
Grants		
Reclaim Ohio / Youth Services	\$6,625,830.21	\$6,625,830.21
Hillcrest School	\$860,969.30	\$860,969.30
Community Control	\$106,345.38	\$106,345.38
Intervention Unit	\$3,887.29	\$3,887.29
Mental Health Collaboration	\$56,272.23	\$56,272.23
PERT	\$30,530.23	\$30,530.23
Title IV-E	\$354,298.97	\$354,298.97
JAIBG	\$59,798.00	\$59,798.00
TOTAL	\$8,097,931.61	\$8,097,931.61
GRAND TOTAL	\$26,186,679.55	\$26,186,679.55

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Hamilton County Human Resources Department provided HR management services to Juvenile Court in 2012. The HR Department's services to Juvenile Court include:

- Wage, salary and benefits administration;
- Maintenance of personnel records;
- Management of the performance review program;
- Employee relations;
- Compliance with applicable labor laws.

Projects

In 2012, the HR department's major projects included:

- Hillcrest Training School Privatization – Handled employee transition component.
 - The privatization of Hillcrest School required job abolishment for all Juvenile Court positions at Hillcrest. Hamilton County HR worked closely with the new service provider, Rite of Passage, and Juvenile Court employees regarding the transition. The majority of employees accepted employment with Rite of Passage. Some employees applied for and accepted other positions with Juvenile Court, and some chose to retire or explore other employment options.
- Implementation of a new Juvenile Court Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual.
 - On May 14, 2012, Juvenile Court's new Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual was effective. In early 2011, Hamilton County HR worked with a Policy Review Committee consisting of Juvenile Court employees from each division of the Court. This committee's review and recommendations were valuable. The Court's executive team reviewed the manual in the second half of 2011 and again in early 2012, as newer members of the executive team were in place at that time. Developing this policy manual was a group effort!
- Classification and Compensation Audit
 - In 2012, Hamilton County HR began a comprehensive review and revision of all Juvenile Court position descriptions. Working closely with managers from each Juvenile Court division, HR is updating each position description to ensure accuracy and consistency. The project will continue and be finalized in 2013.

Staffing Levels

Juvenile Court's staffing levels decreased in 2012, primarily due to the privatization of Hillcrest School. On January 1, 2012, Juvenile Court had 357 employees, including 343 Full-Time employees and 14 Part-Time employees. On December 31, 2012, Juvenile Court had 268 employees, including 261 Full-Time employees and 7 Part-Time employees.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

The basic function of the Operations Department is to determine the equipment and supply requirements for the Juvenile Court, maintain an inventory of supplies commensurate with the requirements and place all necessary vendor orders. It is the department's responsibility to maintain control of Court equipment by proper record keeping, conducting an annual inventory and monitoring maintenance contracts. The Operations Department handles the majority of the purchasing for the Juvenile Court, therefore, the department is also responsible for authenticating all invoices for payment.

The Operations Department also maintains a Print Shop for the purpose of developing, duplicating and reproducing all the forms that the Juvenile Court utilizes. The Operations Department is staffed with 2 full-time members. Along with the Operations Director, there is a Supply Clerk/Printer.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Administrative Services, as a division of the Court was established in 2011. The division is comprised of the Security Department, Information Services, Reasonable and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors (RECLAIM) management and the responsibility for the maintenance of the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

SECURITY DEPARTMENT

The Security Department is comprised of nine full-time Law Enforcement Officers and one Chief of Security. These Officers have been certified by the Ohio Peace Officers Training Commission and have received specific and advanced training. The Security Department operates in compliance with the Supreme Court of Ohio, Court Security Standards. The Security Department is responsible for providing safety, security and prisoner transports within Juvenile Court at 800 Broadway. They further provide security and prisoner transports to the courtrooms at the Youth Center, prisoner transportation to and from other jurisdictions and are responsible for providing security at the Community Services Work Detail Program.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The Information Services Department is comprised of ten full-time employees and two contract positions. Staff are responsible for the design, development, implementation and support maintenance of the Court's computer hardware and software at all four court locations. In 2012 the Information Services Department deployed over 400 pieces of new equipment to end users. The help desk call center closed 1661 tickets in 2012. The department also implemented an enhanced web filtering system to further protect software and prevent unauthorized use. The development staff updated multiple modules of the Juvenile Court Management System to accommodate changes in legislation and to assist the Court Services department with federal reporting. Uniface and Oracle upgrades to the Juvenile Court Management System were also completed in 2012.

HAMILTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT YOUTH CENTER



YOUTH CENTER

During 2012, the Youth Center continued to experience major changes in personnel, secure placement and services provided to the residents. Workforce changes included the retirement of key administrative personnel, management team positions and direct-care staff, as well.

One of the more significant changes involved the enactment of Senate Bill 337. Signed into law on June 26, 2012 by Governor Kasich, the Bill has Juvenile Court retain jurisdiction for young adults ages 18 – 21 charged with juvenile offenses and confine them in detention while giving credit for time served.

The Youth Center had 5,813 intakes (youth presented to detention under arrest), which is a reduction of 3% from the previous year. There were 2,261 youth (approximately 39% of intakes) admitted to detention, which represents a 3% decrease in admissions from 2011. The average daily population was seventy-five (75) youth in detention, with an average length of stay of thirteen (13) days. There were 3,513 youth diverted from detention after arrest.

The Youth Center successfully hired and trained (24) new employees to replace (26) vacancies left by retirements and resignations. Several previous employees returned to the Court by employment at the Youth Center having worked at The Hillcrest Training School before its transition under Rite of Passage.

Juvenile Court Youth Center continues to operate a best practice juvenile detention facility with high standards for conditions of confinement by its ongoing accreditation and work with the National Commission on Correctional Health Care Services (NCCHC), the National Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) national research and technical assistance project, Performance-based Standards (PbS) and by meeting the high standards of the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS).

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

The Clerk's Office continues to provide notice at time of (release) diversion, reducing the necessity for capiases issued for failure to appear. This practice began the year previously; however, the protocol continues to make an impact with cost saving benefits to the entire court system.

The security of the entire building and its operations was significantly increased with the upgrade of security equipment and new software in the Facility Control department. The Facility Control Department is tasked with providing building safety/ security by manning cameras, elevators, fire emergency equipment, and perimeter security.

The Youth Center continued assisting other Juvenile Court departments such as the Probation Department supervising community monitoring of youth placed on EMU (Electronic Monitoring Unit).

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The Youth Center Housing Department safely operates and maintains an availability of 80-beds on two separate floors. A third floor remains unoccupied due to budget constraints. Department focus continues to provide the best of juvenile detention services while safely retaining serious felony offenders and in keeping with community trust.

Upgrades in camera and security equipment in housing units improved during the year increasing the level of safety alike for residents and staff.

The department has successfully implemented the requirements of Senate Bill 337 by incorporating a pod and operating separate housing for male youth ages 18 – 20 years.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Medical Screenings	2,512
Full Physical Examinations	835
Sick Call Examinations by Nurse Practitioner or Physician	1,240

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Youth Center continues to provide a variety of community programs through volunteer programs and services for youth.

Volunteer Hours	1,524
Total Number of Volunteers	167
Total Number of Programs / Organizations	82
Total Number of Volunteer Hours	9,815

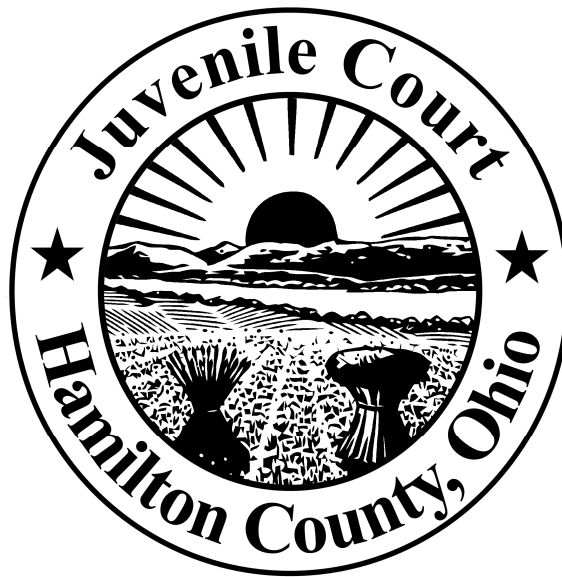
COMMUNITY SERVICES WORK DETAIL

The Work Detail program is a dispositional option for adjudicated youth in Hamilton County Juvenile Court. The program provides youth with a productive, short-term work experience as a consequence for delinquent behavior. Youth are given an opportunity to learn the principles of accountability and mend relationships in the community affected by their ill choices.

The Work Detail program operates under the fundamental ideology of restorative justice. This is where the youthful offender goes back to the community and gives repair to those which they may have harmed. This is performed by their involvement in community beautification projects performed through Court ordered Work Details.

During 2012, the Work Detail department continued its partnership with community service projects such as Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Hamilton County Park District, Hamilton County Environmental Services, Great American Cleanup, Mt Auburn Community Day, and the Cincinnati Zoo.

Number of Youth Performed Daily Work Details	431
Number of Youth Performed Saturday Work Details	996
TOTAL	1,427



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