

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Judge John M. Williams  
Administrative Judge



Court Administrator  
Curtis E. Kissinger

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## OVERVIEW

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

The types of cases appearing before the 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.

Judge John M. Williams is the Administrative Judge for the Court. The Judge, along with Court Administrator Curtis Kissinger, oversees all court operations, including:

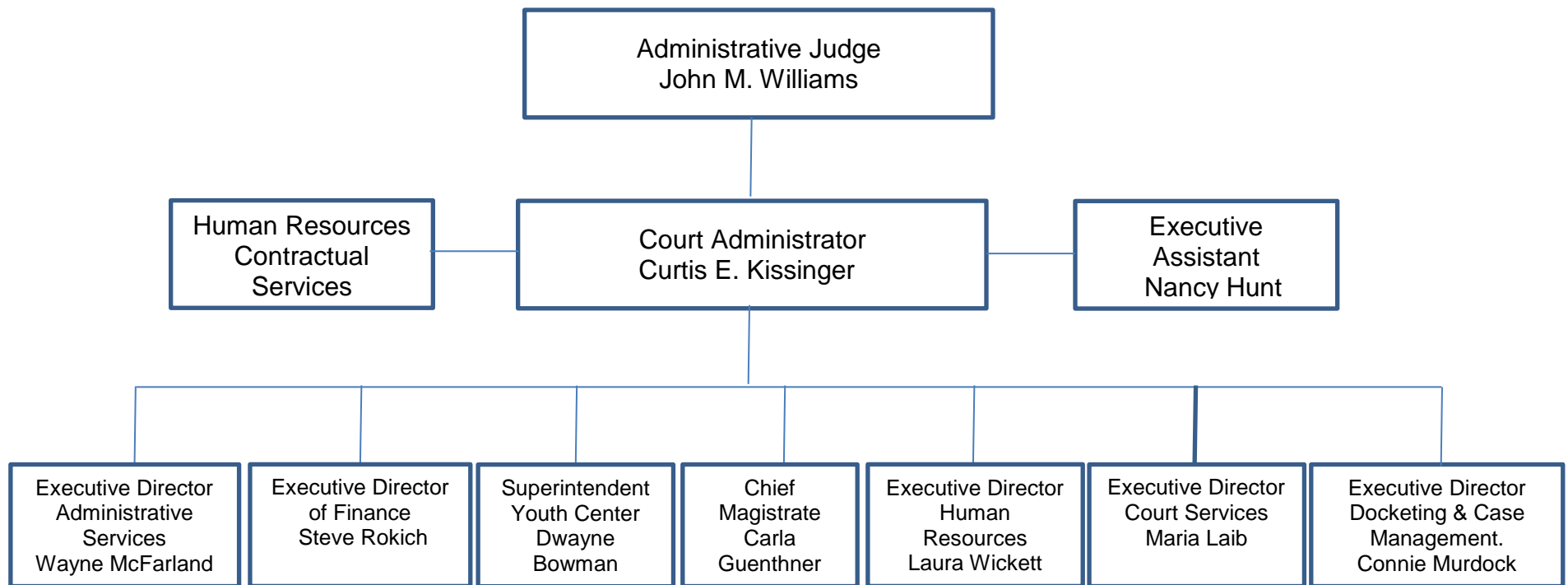
- Department of Docketing and Case Management, which is comprised of the Child Support Department, Clerk's Office, Dependency Department, Docketing Department and Record Room;
- Magistrates, which is comprised of 19 full-time and two part-time magistrates who hear a large volume of cases in various jurisdictional areas;
- Department of Court Services, which comprised of the Probation Department, Placement and Special Services and Department of Behavioral Services;
- The Youth Center, which is a 160-bed secure detention center that houses youth in secure custody, pending court hearings.
- Various administrative departments encompassing the Office of Court Administrator, Human Resources, Finance, Information Services, Security and Operations.

The Court 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, and more.

The 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 the diversion program, in which over 20 community unofficial hearing officers who are members of the legal profession deal with minor infractions, diverting the cases 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**

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Hamilton County Juvenile Court focused in 2014 on providing core services to children and families, despite budget reductions. In 2014, the Court again experienced a reduction in its budget. Since 2008, the dollars appropriated from the County General Fund to the Court have been cut by 60%. 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.

In a continuing effort to manage the budget reductions, the Court has focused on pursuing available state and federal funds to offset expenses for the treatment of youth. For example, with the public-private partnership the Court formed with Rite of Passage to assume operational control of the Hillcrest residential treatment facility, the Court realized new revenues from federal IV-E funds totaling approximately \$877,000. The Court has also allocated three of its magistrates to preside over child support cases exclusively, whereby increasing its entitlement to federal IV-D funds.

The Court also made progress accessing IV-E maintenance and administration dollars to offset other funding reductions.

Funding for residential placement of youth continues to be a concern for the Court. State funding from Reclaim grant is anticipated to be reduced by \$2 million dollars for FY2016.

Case filings of almost every type declined in 2014. However, the Court has seen a noticeable rise in felony delinquency filings which appears consistent with the serious incidents of youth violence and offenses involving guns.

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**

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### **DOCKETING/CASE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

The Docketing and Case Management Department of the Court is responsible for processing and presenting complaints, maintaining and updating all legal records, and maintaining audio recordings for Magistrates' hearings. The department consists of 45 employees and 5 supervisors who handle cases involving Delinquency, Unruly, Custody, Visitation, Traffic, Adult Jurisdiction, Child Support, and Dependency.

## COMPLAINTS AND SOME MOTIONS FILED

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
DELINQUENT & UNRULY	13,816	12,484	12,130	11,719	11,155
TRAFFIC	3,922	3,332	3,009	2,804	2,537
PATERNITY & SUPPORT	409	530	403	261	305
UIFSA COMPLAINT FILED	24	114	60	13	10
OBJECTION TO ADMIN. ORDER	365	372	372	236	230
CONTEMPT MOTIONS	3,990	3,524	3,282	2,755	2,407
MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT	699	683	628	489	443
MOD. OF SUPPORT - CSEA	1,740	1,458	1,641	1,237	1,135
REGISTRATION of ADMIN. ORDER	2,608	2,596	2,387	1,740	2,135
REGISTRATION of FOREIGN ORDER	118	184	114	71	54
ADMIN. MODIFICATION ORDER	1,722	1,455	1,639	1,208	1,165
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT	3,499	3,530	3,597	3,374	3,872
DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT & ABUSE	631	646	679	663	637
CUSTODY, VISITATION & HABEAS CORPUS	1,426	1,530	1,378	1,333	1,380
MOTION CUSTODY / VISITATION	1,256	1,286	1,065	1,047	1,100
MISCELLANEOUS	2	3	1	3	3
ADULT MISDEMEANOR	1,288	1,152	930	933	852
OBJ TO MAG DEC / SET ASIDE ORDER	410	408	386	455	433
JUVENILE PROTECTION ORDER	33	41	46	41	44
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>37,958</b>	<b>35,318</b>	<b>33,747</b>	<b>30,382</b>	<b>29,897</b>
HEARINGS CONDUCTED	120,169	120,028	118,853	118,800	118,669
HEARINGS PER CASE	3.17	3.40	3.52	3.91	3.97
HEARINGS PER DAY	481	480	475	475	475
DELINQUENT FILINGS	12,682	11,432	10,970	10,636	9,950
FELONY FILINGS	1,820	1,571	1,627	1,655	1,624
JUVENILES PC TO DYS	49	48	20	31	56
JUVENILES BOGJ	49	52	35	16	25
JUVENILES SYO	0	0	0	0	1

## CLERK'S OFFICE

In Hamilton County, Judge John M. Williams is the Ex Officio Clerk of the 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

<b>HOMICIDE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Aggravated Murder	2	3
Involuntary Manslaughter	0	1
Murder	1	5
Murder- Purposely	0	7
Reckless Homicide	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>

<b>ASSAULT</b>		
Felonious Assault	78	68
Complicity Felonious Assault	4	1
Attempt Felonious Assault	1	0
Felonious Assault – Peace Officer	1	2
Aggravated Assault	3	6
Vehicular Assault	1	0
Assault	566	556
Assault, Teacher, Admin., Bus Driver	42	35
Assault Child Service / Agency Worker	0	3
Assault Corrections Officer	9	10
Assault Peace Officer	15	18
Aggravated Assault on Peace Officer	0	2
Complicity Assault	0	1
Negligent Assault	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>702</b>

<b>MENACING</b>		
Aggravated Menacing	103	86
Complicity Aggravated Menacing	1	0
Menacing	106	81
Menacing Child Service / Agency Worker	3	0
Menacing By Stalking	3	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>167</b>

<b>KIDNAPPING</b>		
Kidnapping	5	0
Kidnapping- Risk Harm, Mental Incomp, Age	0	3
Complicity Kidnapping	0	0
Abduction	0	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

<b>EXTORTION</b>		
Coercion	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>SEXUAL OFFENSES</b>		
Rape	39	48
Complicity Rape	1	0
Attempt Rape	4	0
Gross Sexual Imposition	21	24
Attempt Gross Sexual Imposition	1	1
Sexual Imposition	3	7
Sexual Battery- Victim Under 13	0	1
Sexual Battery	0	2
Voyeurism	0	2
Voyeurism- UpSkirt/Down Blouse	0	1
Importuning	0	0
Public Indecency	6	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>92</b>

<b>PROSTITUTION</b>		
Soliciting	1	3
Loiter to Engage in Solicitation	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>OBSCENITY</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Pandering Obscenity	1	0
Pandering Sexual Matter Involving Minor	4	2
Disseminate Material Harmful to Juvenile	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

<b>ARSON AND RELATED OFFENSES</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Making Terroristic Threats	0	0
Crim. Poss. of Chemical, Biological, Radio	0	0
Active or Nuclear Weapon		
Aggravated Arson – Person	7	3
Aggravated Arson – Property	9	4
Complicity Aggravated Arson	1	1
Arson – Private Property	12	7
Arson – Public Property	6	0
Arson – Land	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>19</b>

<b>DISRUPTION, VANDALISM, DAMAGE</b>		
Disrupt Communication Services	1	9
Disrupt Transportation/Utility Services	5	0
Disrupt Services – Emerg. Personnel	0	0
Vandalism	46	28
Criminal Damaging	269	231
Complicity Criminal Damaging	2	10
Attempt Criminal Damaging	0	0
Criminal Mischief	33	30
Vehicular Vandalism	2	4
Railroad Vandalism / Trespass	5	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>312</b>

<b>ROBBERY</b>		
Aggravated Robbery	132	207
Complicity Aggravated Robbery	6	10
Robbery	162	111
Complicity Robbery	6	0
Attempt Robbery	3	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>335</b>

<b>BURGLARY</b>		
Aggravated Burglary	11	24
Complicity Aggravated Burglary	0	0
Attempt Aggravated Burglary	2	0
Burglary	276	196
Complicity Burglary	9	0
Attempt Burglary	27	7
Breaking and Entering	106	99
Complicity Breaking and Entering	1	0
Attempt Breaking and Entering	2	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>334</b>

<b>TRESPASS</b>		
Criminal Trespass	366	329
Aggravated Trespass	9	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>333</b>

<b>SAFECRACKING</b>		
Safecracking	0	3
Tamper With Coin Machine	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>THEFT</b>		
Theft	863	779

<b>Theft-Continued</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Theft Elderly Person/Disabled Adult	2	9
Grand Theft	7	5
Theft of Drugs	2	1
Complicity Theft	18	7
Complicity-Attempt Theft Misdemeanor	0	3
Complicity Grand Theft	1	0
Complicity – Theft (F3, F4, F5)	0	1
Attempt Grand Theft	2	1
Attempt Theft	8	18
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	27	23
Complicity Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	0	2
Auto Theft	41	26
Unauthorized Use of Property	4	2
Passing Bad Checks	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>877</b>

<b>MISUSE OF CREDIT CARDS</b>		
Misuse of Credit Cards	4	12
Complicity Misuse of Credit Cards	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>

<b>FORGERY</b>		
Forgery	2	7
Criminal Simulation	4	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

<b>FRAUD</b>		
Telecommunications Fraud	0	1
Identity Fraud	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

<b>RECEIVING</b>		
Receiving Stolen Property	59	67
Receive Stolen Prop – Drug/Auto/Firearm	116	142
Receiving Stolen Property – Over	21	25
Attempt Receiving Stolen Property	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>234</b>

<b>GAMBLING</b>		
Public Gaming	6	1
Gambling	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>

<b>OFFENSES AGAINST PEACE</b>		
Inciting to Violence	1	1
Aggravated Riot	2	11
Riot	0	2
Failure to Disperse	1	1
Telecommunication Harassment	9	11
Inducing Panic	48	35
Making False Alarms	15	4
Disorderly Conduct	720	727
Disorderly Conduct – Intoxicated	7	22
Misconduct at Emergency	3	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>814</b>

<b>OFFENSES AGAINST FAMILY</b>		
Endangering Children	1	4
Interfere With Custody	1	0
Contribute to Unruliness / Delinquency	1	0
Domestic Violence	334	346
Domestic Violence Felony	29	15
Violation of Protection Order	3	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>371</b>

<b>OFFENSES AGAINST JUSTICE</b>		
Failure to Disclose Personal Information	4	7
Intimidation	0	1
Intimidating Victim / Witness	1	4
Retaliation	0	0
Falsification	137	108

<b>OFFENSES AGAINST JUSTICE-Cont</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Tampering with Evidence	19	20
Complicity-Falsification	0	1
Falsification	137	108
Failure to Report a Crime	0	0
Obstructing Official Business	525	475
Obstructing Justice	3	2
Resisting Arrest	104	112
Flee and Elude Police Officer	3	10
Attempt Flee and Elude Police Officer	0	0
Fail to Comply with Police	6	5
Fail to Comply with Police – Felony	8	11
Escape	7	6
Complicity Escape	1	0
Attempt Escape	0	0
Convey Drug/Weapon into Detention	3	1
Harassment by an Inmate	3	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>875</b>

<b>ATTEMPT, COMPLICITY, CONSPIRACY</b>		
Conspiracy	0	2
Attempt	9	4
Complicity	20	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>14</b>

<b>WEAPONS CONTROL</b>		
Carrying Concealed Weapon	118	98
Carry Concealed Weapon Felony	10	10
Have Weapon Under Disability	22	20
Weapon in School Safety Zone	16	22
Possess Object Indist. from Firearm	3	7
Discharge Firearm Habitation / School	4	1
Possess Dangerous Ordnance	1	1
Possess a Defaced Firearm	3	2
Firearm – Transport Loaded	4	1
Improp. Handling Firearm in Motor Vehicle	7	2
Possess Criminal Tools	31	26
Attempt Carry Concealed Weapon	0	1
Disch Firearm on/near Prohib Premises	0	1
Illegally Manufacturing or Possessing Expl	0	3
Firearm Improperly Furnished to Minor	0	1
Firearm Underage Purchase	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>197</b>

<b>DRUG OFFENSES</b>		
Corrupt Another with Drugs	0	1
Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs	7	2
Agg. Trafficking in Drugs Near School	2	1
Trafficking Drugs	2	2
Trafficking Drugs Near School	2	1
Drug Trafficking Marijuana	12	9
Drug Trafficking Marijuana Near School	12	10
Drug Trafficking Cocaine	1	1
Drug Trafficking Cocaine Near School	2	5
Drug Trafficking Heroin	0	20
Drug Trafficking Heroin Near School	1	7
Attempt Drug Trafficking	1	0
Aggravated Possession of Drug	4	14
Possession of Drug	20	17
Possession of Cocaine	19	14
Possession of Heroin	15	15
Possession of L.S.D.	2	0
Possession of Marijuana	456	503
Possession of Hashish	1	0
Permit Drug Abuse in a Vehicle	3	1
Possess Drug Abuse Instrument	2	2
Possess Drug Paraphernalia	151	150
Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	1	0
Possess Counterfeit Cont. Substance	9	8
Traff. Counterfeit Controlled Substance	1	1
Misc. List (see attached)	7	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>790</b>

**MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES**

Illegal Dist. Of Tobacco Products

2013 2014  
1 0

2013 2014  
Ethnic Intimidation 0 2  
Littering 2 2  
Possess Fireworks 3 1  
**TOTAL 6 5**

**LIQUOR CONTROL**

Purchase / Consume 208 148  
Possess Open Flask 12 3  
Permit Underage Consumption 7 8  
Misrepresentation to Obtain 0 1  
**TOTAL 227 160**

**DRIVER LICENSE LAW**

Fictitious License / ID Card 0 1  
**TOTAL 0 1**

**PHARMACISTS, DANGEROUS DRUGS**

Purchase, Poss., Sell Dangerous Drug 1 1  
**TOTAL 1 1**

**HABITUAL / CHRONIC TRUANCY**

Habitual Truancy 0 0  
Chronic Truancy 492 472  
**TOTAL 492 472**

Miscellaneous Local Codes  
**TOTAL 68 64**

**VIOLATIONS**

2013 2014  
Violations of Court Order (VCO) 13 13  
VCO Incurigible 216 196  
VCO Probation 485 518  
VCO Placement 479 353  
VCO Runaway 496 421  
VCO Truancy 422 424  
VCO Tobacco 3 6  
VCO Work Detail 157 160  
VCO EMU 431 362  
VCO Curfew Violation 370 325  
Parole Violation 50 36  
Interstate Compact Supervision 12 11  
Delinquency 0 3  
**TOTAL 3,134 2828**

## TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS FILED

	2013	2014
Licensing of Motor Vehicle	39	46
Driver License Law	115	91
Operation of Vehicle	1,828	1592
Equipment and Loads	161	148
Motor Vehicle Crimes	37	34
Traffic Offenses	81	78
Local Ordinances	543	548
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>2,804</i></b>	<b><i>2537</i></b>

## UNRULY COMPLAINTS FILED

	2013	2014
Runaway	429	464
Incorrigible	86	76
Incorrigible Out of County	18	14
Unruly	21	19
Curfew Violation	397	402
Habitual Truancy	146	219
Tobacco Violation	4	2
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>1101</i></b>	<b><i>1196</i></b>

## RESTITUTION

In 2014, the total restitution collected was \$19,951.15

## FINES & COSTS COLLECTED

Fines	\$7,284.90
Court Costs	\$30,985.99
RRF & IDF	\$38,148.85
Computer Fees	\$24,415.00
Legal Research	\$7,162.00
Witness Fees	\$1,327.60
Delivery Fees	\$4,671.95
Work Detail Fees	\$204.00
Restitution Process Fee	\$773.47
Indigent Drivers Alcohol Fund	\$1,369.50
Public Defender Application Fee	\$1,227.00
Mediation	\$6,034.85

**FINES & COSTS COLLECTED-****Cont.**

Special Projects	\$128,430.00
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	\$3,195.50
Diversion Fee	\$76,825.00

**DISMISSALS**

In 2014, 6,653 delinquent, unruly, traffic and adult misdemeanor cases were dismissed.

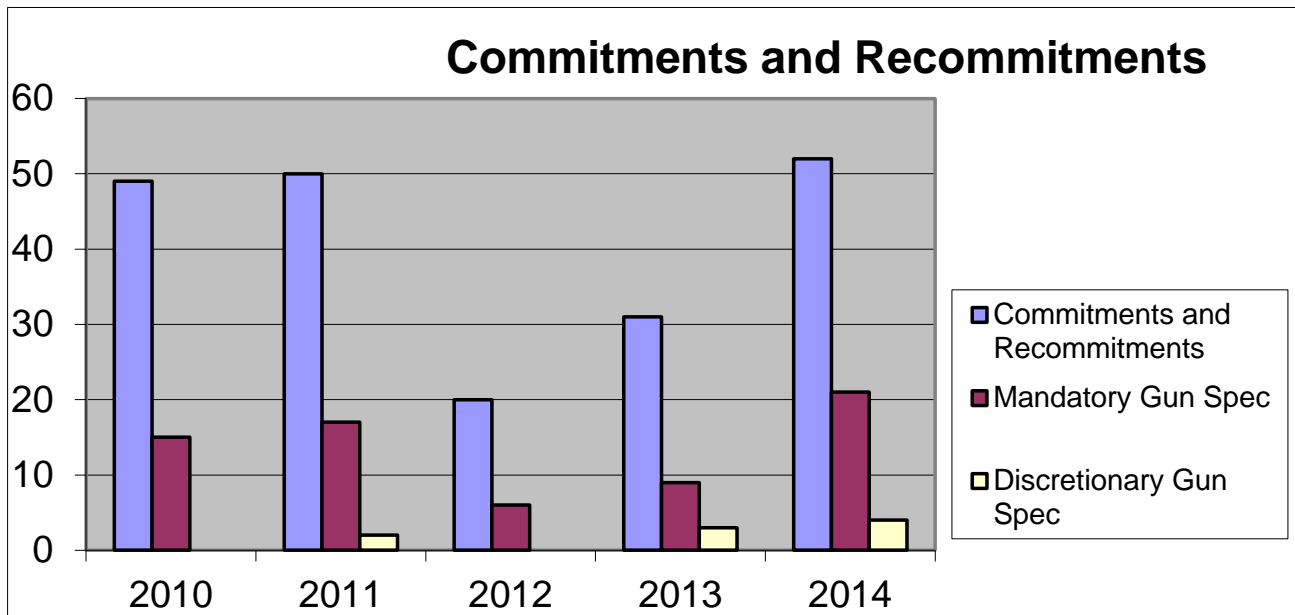
**CRIMES AGAINST ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED**

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.

<b>TYPE OF OFFENSE</b>	<b>PROPERTY</b>	<b>THEFT</b>	<b>VIOLENT</b>
DELINQUENT COMPLAINTS FILED	3	55	78
ADJUDICATIONS	1	37	34
ADJUDICATION & RESTITUTION	1	30	25
COMMITTED TO AN INSTITUTION	0	0	1
TRANSFERRED FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTION	0	0	1

## COMMITMENTS TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

The Court committed fifty-two youth to the Department of Youth Services in 2014. Six youth had their parole revoked in 2014. Forty percent of the total youth committed were mandatory commitments as a result of a gun specification.



### Commitments to DYS

	2014		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Committed	50	2	52
Recommitted	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>52</b>
Parole Revocations	5	1	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>58</b>

### Commitments/Recommitments Characteristics

	2014		
	Commit	Recommit	Total
Murder/Agg. Murder	1	0	<b>1</b>
Felony 1	20	0	<b>20</b>
Felony 2	14	0	<b>14</b>
Felony 3	8	0	<b>8</b>
Felony 4	6	0	<b>6</b>
Felony 5	3	0	<b>3</b>

### Five Year Trends for Commitments

	Commitments				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Boys	36	34	16	26	50
Girls	2	2	0	0	2
<b>Total Commitments</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>52</b>

	Commitments v. Recommitments				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Commitments	38	36	16	26	52
Recommitments	11	14	4	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>52</b>

	Revocations				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Boys	5	4	6	7	5
Girls	1	0	0	1	1
<b>Total Revocations</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>

### Five Year Trends Commitments/Recommitments - Mandatory Gun Spec

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Commitments	15	15	6	8	21
Recommitments	0	2	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>

### Five Year Trends Commitments/Recommitments - Discretionary Gun Spec

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Commitments	0	2	0	2	4
Recommitments	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

### Bindover Summary for 2014

	Cases	Youths
Carried from 2013	33	18
Carried to 2015	51	21
Filings	257	108
Mandatory	54	20
Discretionary	18	7
<b>Total Bindovers</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>25</b>

**2014 Note:** In the Youths column, Total Bindovers does not match the sum of Mandatory and Discretionary Bindovers, because two youths had both types of bindover on the same day, and were each only counted once in Total Bindovers.

## ADULT JURISDICTION

### DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT AND ABUSE

The Dependency Department is responsible for 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 Dependency Department must approve and monitor the implementation of the agency's plan for each child. The goals of the statutes that define the operation of the department are to protect children, to respect the rights of parents and to obtain permanent homes for children in a timely fashion.

	2013	2014
<b>NEW FILINGS</b>		
	496 cases	532 cases
	942 children	990 children
<b>FILINGS DISMISSED</b>	150 children	84 children
<b>INITIAL DISPOSITIONS</b>		
Direct Custody to Individual	93 children	93 children
Protective Supervision	182 children	132 children
Temporary Custody	536 children	512 children
Permanent Custody	27 children	20 children
Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	16 children	7 children

During 2014, in addition to the 20 children placed in permanent custody as an initial disposition, 91 children were modified from a status of temporary custody to permanent custody.

During 2014, in addition to the 7 children placed in planned permanent living arrangements as an initial disposition, 26 children were placed 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

	2013	2014
Pending Complaints	299 children	446 children
Protective Supervision	258 children	180 children
Temporary Custody	679 children	643 children
Permanent Custody	254 children	232 children
Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	253 children	198 children
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1737 children</b>	<b>1560 children</b>

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

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
New Motions to Modify Prior Dependency Dispositions	308 cases 480 children	358 cases 531 children

#### **OTHER COMPLAINTS FILED**

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
ADULT MISDEMEANORS	770	777
Failure to Send Child to School	17	9
Endangering Children	46	54
Tend to Cause Delinquency / Unruliness of a Minor	3	1
Contribute to Delinquency / Unruliness	68	9
Adult Probation Violation	29	2
Violation of EMU		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>852</b>

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
PARENT CHILD RELATIONSHIP	160	217
SUPPORT	1,887	2195
CUSTODY	1,197	1,236
VISITATION	170	144
CHILD CARE POWER OF ATTORNEY	226	169
CARETAKER AUTHORIZATION AFFIDAVIT	24	41
HABEAS CORPUS	0	0
PERMISSION TO MARRY	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	3	3

<b>SOME MOTIONS FILED</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
CONTEMPT	2,755	2,407
MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT	1,726	1,578
ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION ORDER	1,208	1,165
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS	3,374	3,872
OBJECTION TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER	236	230

<b>HEARINGS CONDUCTED</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
TOTAL HEARINGS CONDUCTED	118,800	118,669
AVERAGE NUMBER OF HEARINGS PER FILING	3.91	3.99

## **MAGISTRATES**

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There were 19 full-time and 2 part-time Magistrates in the Court at year end. The Magistrates are appointed by the Juvenile Judges to preside over the daily case management in the 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 Judge. In Hamilton County, Magistrates hear and decide delinquency, unruly, dependency, custody, paternity and child support matters in the Court. Two hearing officers are assigned to preside over delinquency and unruly cases referred for unofficial hearings.

Eight 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.

Nine Magistrates preside over delinquency, unruly, traffic, custody, paternity and child support. In delinquency, unruly and traffic matters, Magistrates preside over the plea, adjudication and disposition hearings. Three Magistrates are dedicated to hear and decide paternity and child support cases.

The 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 the 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 some misdemeanor offenses. Supervision of the program is handled by the Executive Director of Docketing and Case Management Department.

During 2014, 934 juveniles were referred to the unofficial docket on a total of 1,036 charges. Of the 1,036 charges heard, 37 charges were referred back to the official docket for hearing.

## **VOLUNTEER REFEREE PROGRAM**

The volunteer referee diversion program that exists in Hamilton County is designed to divert certain eligible youth from formal juvenile justice involvement.

Judge Benjamin S. Schwartz of the 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.

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 2014, there were 393 juveniles served by the volunteer referee program. Of this number, 19 were referred back to the police department or school for further action by the Court. A total of 374 juveniles were handled unofficially and diverted from the system.

## **HAMILTON COUNTY/CALL YOUTH COURT**

In May 2014, the Court partnered with the Cincinnati Bar Association and the Cincinnati Academy of Leadership for Lawyers (CALL) to implement a Youth Court. The goal of the CALL Youth Court is to serve as an early-intervention program for young people charged with low-level offenses. The CALL Youth Court trains local teenagers to serve as jurors, handling real-life cases involving peers. The goal of the CALL Youth Court is to use positive peer pressure to ensure that young people who have committed minor offenses pay back the community and receive the help they need to avoid further involvement in the justice system.

Successful participation in the CALL Youth Court results in no further processing of the charge through the Court. Benefits also include hearings in the evenings and successful completion will result in the youth not having an official record.

From May 14, 2014, through December 2014, forty-eight youth participated in the CALL Youth Court program. Of those, 90% completed the sanctions imposed by the teen jurors, resulting in the charges being dismissed.

## **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 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 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 2014, ten parents entered the Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court, and the program served a total of seventeen clients. The Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court discharged thirteen participants from the program in 2014, and 46% of the participants discharged from the program were in compliance or substantial compliance with their treatment plan at the time of their discharge.

# **INDIVIDUALIZED DISPOSITION DOCKET**

## **PROGRAM HISTORY**

In 2004, the 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 2014, twenty-two youth with serious emotional disorders entered the Individualized Disposition Docket, and the program served a total of thirty-seven youth and their families. The Individualized Disposition Docket discharged twenty-two participants from the program in 2013, and 86% 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 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, the 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, the Court began a 6 month planning process to divert mentally ill adolescents from traditional court services. In 2009, the 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**

This 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 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 2014, the Pretrial Diversion Docket admitted nineteen youth with severe emotional disorders to the program and served twenty-six youth and families. The Pretrial Diversion Docket discharged thirteen participants from the program in 2014, and 54% of the youth 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 160 cases involving custody and visitation petitions to mediation in 2014, following a pretrial hearing.

The parties reached a full or partial agreement in 51% 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 62 families to mediation in 2014. The parties reached a full or partial agreement in 75% of the cases mediated.

## **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 three departments within Court Services: Probation, Placement and Special Services, and Behavioral Health Services. 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.

### **Probation and Placement/Special Services Departments**

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.

In 2014 the Probation Department received 784 cases; 605 referred for Investigation/Supervision and 179 cases referred for Competency. Throughout the year the department averaged 556 cases under Supervision at any given time.

#### **Referral Statistics**

<b>Race</b>	<b>2012</b>			<b>2013</b>			<b>2014</b>		
	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Asian	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	2
Bi Racial	6	15	21	11	20	31	1	20	21
Black-African American	101	470	571	126	465	591	99	482	581
Caucasian	56	195	251	53	130	183	53	124	177
Hispanic	0	3	3	0	6	6	0	3	3
Mexican-American	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	0
Unknown	1	1	2	0	3	3	0	0	0

<b>Referring Offense</b>	<b>2012</b>			<b>2013</b>			<b>2014</b>		
	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Felony	30	303	333	40	341	381	35	373	408
Misdemeanors	104	321	425	122	242	364	90	230	320
Violation of Court Orders	24	46	70	22	35	57	23	22	45
Unruly	7	11	18	5	5	10	5	3	8
Traffic	0	6	6	2	3	5	2	1	3

Age at Referral	2012	2013	2014
9	0	0	0
10	7	3	2
11	14	5	7
12	30	26	22
13	51	62	54
14	107	97	101
15	158	164	165
16	183	163	164
17	185	166	173
18	93	104	70
19	3	5	4
20 and over	21	22	22

	2012	2013	2014
# of youth who Term. at P.I.	269	233	204
# of Youth who transfer into Prob.	364	368	339

Referrals to Probation by Offense	2012	2013	2014
Arson	9	9	6
Assaults	69	79	68
Attempt, Complicity, Conspiracy	15	24	31
Burglary	127	130	126
Disruption, Vandalism, Damaging	15	10	9
Drug Offenses	70	55	36
Forgery/Fraud	1	5	0
Gambling	0	0	0
Habitual / Chronic Truancy	5	0	4
Homicide	0	1	1
Kidnapping	2	0	2
Liquor Control	20	9	4
Menacing	10	21	9
Miscellaneous Offenses	0	0	0
Misuse of Credit Cards	3	1	1
Obscenity	0	2	4
Offenses Against Family	54	56	41
Offenses Against Justice	35	24	28
Offenses Against Peace	51	45	39
Prostitution	1	0	1
Receiving	24	26	32
Robbery	79	82	97
Safecracking	0	0	0
Sexual Offenses	26	19	36
Theft	102	80	63
Traffic Related Offenses	6	5	3
Trespass	7	5	8
Violations of Court Orders	72	62	48
Weapons Offenses	33	71	56
Cruelty to Animals	2	0	0
Interstate Compact Supervision	12	12	15

## **PROBATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **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 across a continuum that include: releasing the youth back to the full supervision of their parents to enforce sanctions and follow-up with service referrals, supervision by the Probation Department of varying intensities and to ensure service compliance, placement in a residential treatment facility designed to address their identified need, to commitment to a state run correctional institution. In addition to 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, results in a referral for placement. Consideration for placement is handled through a thorough review of the case by the assigned officer and the management team.

### **Specialized Caseloads:**

#### **SEX OFFENDER SPECIFIC CASELOAD**

The Hamilton County Juvenile Court Probation Department utilizes specialized assessments in the investigation of adjudicated sexual offenders. This is part of continuum of care treatment approach that follows the youth through legal, treatment and aftercare settings. The objectives for providing such an approach are: 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 offense 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, typically including Functional Family Therapy, the youth and family are transitioned to less intensive services within their community.

## **In-House Surveillance Activities:**

### **ELECTRONIC MONITORING UNIT (EMU)**

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 violation is reported to the department's monitoring center for further investigation by an on duty officer. During 2014, 584 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 contracted or coordinated programs to which youth are referred for outpatient treatment intervention services:

### **LIGHTHOUSE FUNCTIONAL FAMILY THERAPY (FFT)**

The FFT program serves male and female youth aged from 11 to 17 years who 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. On occasion, a general probation youth is also referred, if such referral is warranted. This is a best-practice model that is an intensive, home-based intervention. It has a strengths-based focus in which the specially-trained therapist engages with the family and builds an alliance to help motivate behavioral change. The program offers consultation by a psychiatrist and pharmacological services for youth in need of medication management.

### **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 a minimum of 3 months to check on their progress after discharge from the program.

### **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 lawn service for private homes, and/or city owned locations; and carpentry, masonry, and other skilled labor related activities. The program is dedicated to helping "at risk" youth by providing job skill(s) and employment opportunities for current probationers.

### **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.

### **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 with co-occurring disorders of mental illness and substance abuse.

### **ABRAXAS COUNSELING CENTER**

Abraxas Youth and Family Services has an outpatient center in Cincinnati to serve youth through two different programs:

- An alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment program that provides 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;
- Cognitive-behavioral group curricula that is evidence-based and community service intervention through the Community and Youth Services Initiative (CYSI). This program serves moderate to high risk offenders who are on community supervision.

### **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.

### **TRINIT-D (Mentoring Services)**

The Court contracts with Trinit-D to provide mentoring 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 change behavior(s) and make better decisions. The program's goal is to reduce Court involvement and overall delinquent behavior in the community through strong mentorship, social skills enhancement and improved problem solving ability.

### **I DREAM ACADEMY (Mentoring Services)**

This group treatment and mentoring program serves youth placed at Hillcrest Academy who want to begin mentoring services while in residential treatment. The *I Dream Academy* approach consists of eight group sessions focused on youth strengths and individual abilities. Upon the successful completion of the eight groups, the youth is assigned an individual mentor. His assigned mentor then continues mentorship during the duration of the mentees stay at Hillcrest Academy and upon his release, into the community.

### **INTERSYSTEM SERVICE COLLABORATION**

In an effort to work in coordination with outside child-serving systems, HCJC has partnered with the County's Intersystem Service Collaboration Committee. This joint effort consists of representation of several teams and entities. Representatives of Cincinnati Public Schools, *Team Child*, Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services, Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, and Hamilton County Job and Family Services all work together in order to help address the needs of those youth who cross systems. Part of each team's commitment includes staffing child and family cases in order to insure that all mental health and other service needs are met. Additionally, the team maintains an ongoing phone hotline for families in crisis. The hotline responsibilities are manned on a rotating basis and are used as a County asset for families in need of local mental health, child advocacy, or other services. Finally, in addition to the intersystem collaboration committee, the Court also actively collaborates with both the County's *Hope for Children and Families* and *Journey to Successful Living* programs.

- **HOPE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

This managed care wrap around program has been in existence within Hamilton County since 1995. The mission is 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. Pooled funding comes from the major child-serving systems within the county. Youth receive a wide array of services ranging from community-based to residential. The average time in the program is approximately 12-18 months based on individual issues and needs.

- **JOURNEY TO SUCCESSFUL LIVING**

*Journey* is a youth driven, parent - guided approach to wrap around services. The Hamilton County *Journey* program is designed for youth in need of treatment or other outpatient services. Youth referred and accepted into the program have been diagnosed with a mental health disorder and are in need of community - based services and support in order to successfully achieve their specific and individual life goals. Youth assigned to this program are considered able and ready to take on the challenges of their own life. These youth are assigned a *Journey* case worker and choose from an array of community services offered through the program. The goal is for the child to steer his or her own path and to take the lead in his or her own success.

## **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-eight months, and satisfy a need that outpatient services cannot. Placements in residential facilities in and outside the state have been utilized over this past year, including:

- Abraxas Youth Services
- Talbert House Boys Residential
- Talbert House Girls Residential
- Talbert House Adult Programs
- The Village Network
- Lighthouse Paint Creek
- Lighthouse Youth Diversion Center
- Foundations for Living
- Buckeye Ranch
- Sequel Youth Services (Lakeside)
- Altercrest
- Muskegon River Youth Center LLC
- Rite of Passage - Hillcrest Academy
- Pomegranate Health Systems

In 2014, a total of 158 youth received treatment while in placement at the above 14 facilities.

### **Placement and Enhanced Reintegration Team (PERT)**

PERT is comprised of 9 probation officers and 1 supervisor. Each PERT Probation Officer maintains a specialized caseload of approximately 20 probationers who 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 thereby reducing further risk of offending. The evidence-based treatment models of Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) and Solution Focused/ Multicultural Family Counseling (a treatment model that utilizes techniques from evidenced-based family systems therapy models) have been incorporated in the specialized services for identified youth. Anticipated outcomes include a reduction in recidivism and an increase in pro-social functioning in the community. 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 is a seventy bed residential 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 May 2012, the Hillcrest program transitioned from an internal Hamilton County Juvenile Court (HCJC) program to a privatized residential treatment setting run by Rite of Passage (ROP), Inc. In partnership with the Court, ROP has fully transitioned and currently provides residential treatment programming for more than 40 HCJC probationers. Hillcrest Academy maintains a close relationship with the University of Cincinnati's Corrections Institute (UCCI). The program successfully implemented UC's substance abuse treatment curriculum, and incorporated Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) and trauma-informed treatment into its overall cognitive – behavioral intervention strategy. Hillcrest Academy has also added both vocational training and community service components to its programming. In 2014, 68 Court youth were served at Hillcrest Academy.

## **Department of Behavioral Health Services**

In December of 2013, the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Intervention Unit and Psychology Clinic merged into one department and was renamed the Department of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS). The goal of this merger was to enhance the continuity of care for youth involved in the legal system. The DBHS mission is *"leading the way to wellness for court involved youth and their families through innovative psychological assessment and evidenced-based therapeutic intervention."* DBHS offers psychological assessment, prevention and education services, mental health training, crisis management, individual counseling, family counseling and cognitive behavioral groups. All services are available to court involved youth and their families.

DBHS is staffed by highly trained Master's and Doctoral level mental health professionals with backgrounds in psychology, counseling and social work.

### **Assessment/Evaluation Services**

Court ordered evaluations help inform the Judge, Magistrates, Probation Officers, Defense and Prosecuting attorneys about the individualized needs of youth while weighing the safety needs of the community. Evaluation results are used to determine whether juvenile offenders are competent to stand trial, appropriate for waiver and to assist with dispositional planning.

The Court requested evaluation services for 2014 were:

<b>Evaluation Type</b>	<b>2014</b>
Miranda Rights Evaluations	2
Bindover Evaluations	19
Competency Evaluations	247
Psychiatric Evaluations	9
Psychology Evaluations	157
Risk Assessment Evaluations	28
Court Appearances	6
<b>Total Evaluations</b>	<b>466</b>

### **Risk Assessment**

DBHS clinicians provide daily risk assessments and crisis management services at the Youth Center to reduce resident risk for suicide, self-harm or other assaultive behavior toward other residents or staff.

Highly trained mental health professionals assess a youth's appropriate risk classification, which ultimately determines the necessary behavior management and risk monitoring expectations. Youth Center administration and staff can also access DBHS clinicians after hours by utilizing **On Call** crisis management services.

Upon admission to the Youth Center, residents are evaluated and are classified as either High or Low risk. High Risk status indicates a high probability for engaging in behavior that would be considered a suicide attempt, suicide threat or harm to others. Low Risk status indicates a low probability for engaging in behavior that would be considered a suicide attempt, suicide threat or harm to others. A youth's risk level determines the amount of supervision necessary while housed at the Youth Center as well as the frequency and intensity of crisis intervention and supportive counseling services required to maintain their safety and stability.

Suicide Assessment/Crisis Intervention Services for 2014 were:

<b>Suicide Assessment/Crisis Intervention</b>	<b>2014</b>
Priority 1 (Suicide Attempt)	116
Priority 2 (Suicide Threat)	76
Priority 3 (New Admission/Risk Assessment)	1265
Priority 4 (Request for Counseling/Follow-Up)	380
On Call Responses	59
<b>Total Crisis Services</b>	<b>1896</b>

## ***Competency Attainment Services***

Youth who were determined to be "Not Competent" for trial are referred to the Competency Attainment Program. Competency Attainment is an educational service provided DBHS to help youth understand the trial process and to learn how to assist with their legal defense.

The Competency Attainment Program is divided into four modules and three levels: (beginner/intermediate, advanced and individual). Each module has a pre and post-test designed to assess learning outcomes. Participants attend weekly classes and monthly Court hearings. Individual sessions are also offered during the week and on Saturdays to prepare for follow-up competency evaluations and for those participants struggling with learning disabilities and/or behavioral issues.

To successfully complete the Attainment Program and be considered for a Competency follow-up evaluation, participants must pass Modules 1-3 with a minimum post-test score of 70% and the Module 4 Master Exam with a score of 85% or higher.

The Competency Attainment Services provided in 2014 were:

<b>Competency Attainment Services</b>	<b>2014</b>
Attainment Plans	294
Attainment Classes (Individual)	242
Attainment Classes (Groups)	162
Attainment Attendance (Groups)	723
<b>Total Attainment Services</b>	<b>1421</b>

## ***DBHS Counseling/Intervention Services:***

Court involved youth and their families have access to counseling services when they are housed at the Youth Center or when coming from the community. Magistrates, Judges, and Probation Officers can make referrals to DBHS for counseling services. Likewise parents or legal guardians of youth with current or past involvement in Juvenile Court can request counseling services by filing a complaint at the Clerk's Office or directly contacting DBHS to schedule an appointment.

## ***Available Counseling Services:***

**Cognitive Behavioral Groups** – Teaches youth effective coping strategies for managing anger, solving problems and developing healthy social skills.

**Individual Counseling** – Highly trained therapists with disciplines in social work, counseling and psychology work with youth individually utilizing their preferred therapeutic theoretical orientations. Individual counseling and intervention services are also guided by evidence-based treatment curriculums designed for court-involved youth.

**(SFMC) Solution Focused/Multicultural Family Counseling** - A treatment model that utilizes techniques from evidenced-based family systems therapy. The family counseling goal is to obtain a mutually agreed upon action plan for successful change, or when necessary, direct the family to more appropriate services in the community.

**(SFMC) Live Team Supervision** – A process where families agree to allow a team of experts to view their live family session and offer immediate feedback and recommendations to the treating therapist. Families leave with a mutually agreed upon action plan for successful change.

**(OASIS) Outpatient Alternative Specialized Individualized Services** – An intensive outpatient treatment program that offers an alternative to placement for youth with escalating levels of risk.

**(CPR) Communication, Peaceful Problem Solving & Reunification Services** –A brief Educational program designed to reduce future family conflict or legal charges for Domestic Violence.

Counseling/intervention services provided for 2014 were:

<b>Treatment /Intervention Services:</b>	<b>2014</b>
Appointments Attended	713
Appointment No Shows	171
Appointments Rescheduled	258
Appointments Cancelled	88
<b>Total Scheduled</b>	<b>1230</b>

<b>New Cases Received</b>	<b>2014</b>
Dependency Referrals	0
Unofficial Deputy Clerk's Office Referrals	368
First Time Runaway Referrals	266
Magistrates Referrals	82

Probation Referrals	60
PERT Referrals	0
Teen Court Referrals	0
Unofficial Township Docket Referral	0
Unofficial - 800 Broadway Referrals	27
<b>Total Received Cases</b>	<b>803</b>

<b>Cases Closed</b>	<b>2014</b>
Appointment Scheduled/No Show	84
FTR Intervention Completed At Intake Level	109
Intervention Session Completed	175
No Response To Contract Attempts	139
Telephone Diversion	69
Treatment Completed: Terminated	134
Warrant Open 2 + Months	30
<b>Total Closed Cases</b>	<b>740</b>

## **DBHS Prevention/Education Programs**

### ***Diversionsary Court Programs/Unofficial Docket -***

Diversionsary Court programs are considered "Unofficial Court" procedures to hear unruly and minor misdemeanor offenses committed by youth with no prior official Juvenile Court record.

Participants agree to individual counseling, family counseling or education to prevent future involvement with the official Juvenile Court system. The Intervention Unit (DBHS) assumed management of the Court's Unofficial Docket in 2011. The DBHS Clinical Supervisor and Youth Center Detention Release Coordinator hold unofficial hearings twice per week at the Youth Center.

### ***L.I.V.E Cincinnati Anti-Gun Violence Program –***

A DBHS family counselor has been involved in the development and implementation of L.I.V.E Cincinnati since 2011. This program provides anti-gun violence prevention and education services to youth in junior high schools throughout Hamilton county.

### ***DBHS Trainings -***

The trainings listed below are provided to HCJC employees working at the Youth Center as part of their new hire and annual refresher training. The trainings are also available by request for other employees of the Court and affiliated agencies in Hamilton County. Trainings offered during 2014 were:

- Suicide Assessment & Risk Management
- Mental Health Awareness
- Adolescent Development
- Anger Management & Social Skills Training for Youth

## **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

The Finance Department 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.

<b>2014</b>		
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
<b>General Fund Subsidy</b>		10,594,403.29
<b>Judges' Office</b>	6,945,477.01	2,418,614.00
<b>Youth Center</b>	6,871,377.21	795,361.83
<b>Hillcrest</b>	12,178.16	20,653.26*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,829,032.38</b>	<b>13,829,032.38</b>
<b>Grants</b>		
<b>Reclaim/Youth Services</b>	8,241,531.71	8,015,162.15
<b>Mental Health Court</b>	72,692.57	58,292.80
<b>Legal Research/Special Fund</b>	173,717.47	161,625.15
<b>Youth Center Medical</b>	1,179,748.50	1,179,748.50
<b>Youth Center Food Service</b>	596,606.48	231,048.63
<b>Title IV-E</b>	2,552,044.56	1,327,299.92
<b>JAIBG</b>	27,735.00	60,690.70*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,844,076.29</b>	<b>11,033,867.85</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>26,673,108.67</b>	<b>24,862,900.23</b>

\* reimbursements from prior year expenses

## **Operations**

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

The Operations Department also maintains a print shop for the purpose of developing, duplicating and reproducing many of the forms that the Court utilizes. The Operations Department is staffed with 2 full-time members: the Operations Director and a Supply Clerk/Printer.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

The Hamilton County Human Resources Department provided Human Resources services to the Court in 2014. The Human Resources Department's services to the 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 2014, the HR department completed two major projects with collaboration from all Court departments: Completed a Class and Compensation audit, in which the Court's position descriptions were updated; and developed and implemented a Court-Wide Internship program, which enables college students to gain insight and experience working within the court system. HR also facilitated the development of the Court's updated records retention schedule and implemented a key policy review component to the performance development process, requiring employees to review several of the Court's Personnel Policies annually.

### **Court Staffing Levels**

The Court's staffing levels increased slightly in 2014, as the Court made efforts to fill vacancies at the Youth Center, where staffing levels are critical for safe and secure operations. On January 1, 2014, the Court had 276 employees, including 264 Full-Time employees and 12 Part-Time employees. On December 31, 2014, the Court had 290 employees, including 279 Full-Time employees and 11 Part-Time employees.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

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The Administrative Services Department 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 Court's Security Department is comprised of a total of ten full time Law Enforcement Officers and one Chief. The Officers have been certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and have received specific and advanced training. The department operates in compliance with the Supreme Court of Ohio Court Security Standards. The department is responsible for providing safety, security, processing warrants, and detainee transports within the Courts. Security also provides detainee extraditions and transports to other jurisdictions.

In 2014, the Security Department processed over 4,000 detainees in its holding facility including juveniles and adults. The department transported 785 adults and 1,777 juveniles to their hearings.

The Security Department responded to 12 panic alarms, 10 requests for emergency medical assistance and completed 24 special transports and extraditions.

### **INFORMATION SERVICES**

The Information Services Department is comprised of five full-time employees and one and a half contract positions. Staff responsibilities include design, development, implementation, support and maintenance of the Court's computer hardware and software at all three of the Court's locations.

The Help Desk call center addressed over 521 employee assistance calls during 2014 and the department processed over 20 public records requests. The network group continues to consolidate file servers, update mobile smart phones and has deployed Surface tablets to Probation staff to test usability and feasibility. Several servers, including email, were migrated to the Youth Center which has backup power to improve up time in the event of emergencies such as power outages. Use of remote video conferencing was expanded to the web by implementation of the Citrix GoToMeeting service.

The development staff updated multiple modules of the Court's Management System to accommodate changes in legislation, Judicial requests, Ohio Supreme Court reporting and to assist the Court Services department with federal reporting.

The Court's Continuity of Operation Plan was implemented on January 7, 2014, due to a water main break at 800 Broadway. Access to the Juvenile Court Management system was rerouted within one day and statutorily required Court hearings were held at the Court's Youth Center and the Hamilton County Courthouse until power was restored at 800 Broadway.

# HAMILTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT YOUTH CENTER



## **YOUTH CENTER**

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The Youth Center is a locked, secure facility that provides short-term confinement and structured programming for youth awaiting adjudication, waiting transfer to another jurisdiction or agency, or serving a short-term commitment ordered by the Court. While in detention, youth have access to medical, dental and, mental health services. Education services are provided five days a week, all-year through Cincinnati Public Schools. Programming at the Youth Center is aimed at helping youth take responsibility for their offenses and learn socially acceptable skills. In keeping with the primary objective of maintaining the safety and security of youth in its care by employing caring, trauma trained and informed persons, the Youth Center has continued to strengthen its collaborative strategies with the Court Services division of the Department of Behavioral Health Services, (DBHS) located in the adjacent, detention and court services section of building. In a collaborative effort between the Youth Center and DBHS, a streaming video presentation was developed and installed on closed circuit TV in the Youth Center Lobby providing children and families with important information about the services provided in detention and made available by the Court to meet the unique needs of children during and after their stay in detention.

Senate Bill 337, signed into law on June 26, 2012, by Governor Kasich, requires the Court to retain young adults, 18 – 20 years of age, charged as juveniles and awaiting adult prosecution. Since the enactment of the bill, the Youth Center continues to safely and effectively manage the special needs of this particular segment of youth. The Senate Bill unit has successfully implemented and managed a comprehensive behavior management protocol suitable for young adults with revised visitation procedures and age appropriate evidenced informed programming to meet the needs of this older population.

In 2014, the Youth Center processed 5,675 intakes, which represents all youth presented to detention. Most intakes, after careful consideration of the facts and assuring public safety, are not held for detention, but are cited to court before a magistrate at a later time. Of those youth presented for intake, 1,942 youth were admitted to detention which represents a 17% decrease from the previous year. The remaining 3,733 intakes were diverted from detention. The average length of stay for admitted residents during 2014 was (16) days, which is an increase of 14%. This increase is attributed to the longer stay of bindover youth once previously transferred to the adult system. The Youth Center average daily population for 2014 was at (91), which was also impacted by the length of stay for bindover residents. Many of the youth diverted from the Youth Center having been adjudicated delinquent and are ordered to participate in another diversion program rather than serve time in locked detention. Diversion programs are designed to hold youth accountable, enhance public safety, and prevent further involvement into the juvenile justice system.

### **RESIDENT HOUSING**

The overall goal of the housing department is to ensure the overall safety and security of the youth in our custody. The Youth Center maintains an availability of 90 beds on two separate floors. The fourth floor remains unoccupied due to budget limitations and carefully controlled population numbers. Youth Center staff provide intensive supervision and offer secure, humane, and quality treatment. In order to meet the unique needs of residents in our care and custody, juvenile corrections officers are often required to perform custodial, supervisory and counseling roles. Youth are treated with respect and given the opportunity to make positive, pro-social choices that will help them improve their lives.

In 2014, the Youth Center embarked on a multi-phased project to incorporate trauma-informed care in the way in which we manage the behaviors of our residents and housing units. Additionally, several

nationwide, incentive-based behavior management programs were sought, researched and studied with the purpose of encouraging Youth Center residents to demonstrate positive, pro-social behaviors. With program development still underway, the product is starting to take shape with the invaluable input and feedback of our juvenile corrections staff, managers and training department.

Additionally, improvements to the security system and cameras have provided corrections staff with a greater range of observation in monitoring resident behavior and security of guests during visitations. The housing units were also equipped with tablets in order to increase staff efficiency and complete daily monitoring reports, all while being environmentally responsible (green) by reducing paper costs.

## **STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

The mission of the Youth Center Staff Development and Training division is to provide the most effective and up-to-date training and evaluation to employees of the Youth Center. Youth in detention overwhelmingly face multiple challenges which require specialized training to mitigate conflict and foster an environment which promotes the development of social skills. All Juvenile Corrections Officers and contracted staff at the Youth Center receive annual mandatory Core Competency Training in areas that include CPR and Standard First Aid, Automatic External Defibrillator, Blood borne Pathogens, Communicable Diseases, Emergency Response , Crisis Prevention (suicide prevention and intervention), and Verbal De-Escalation. Staff who directly interact with residents receive at least 40 hours total of training annually in accordance with Ohio Department of Youth Services standards. All newly hired direct, direct-care staff receives at least 160 hours of pre-service orientation training and on-the-job instruction before being released to active duty.

In 2014, the Training Department provided 12,428 hours of instruction and hands-on training. In addition, the department continued partnering with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and other local agencies to provide new training opportunities for staff on emerging trends on gangs, street drugs and the increasing prevalence of the underground human trafficking trade.

## **EDUCATION SERVICES**

The Education Services division is a satellite of Cincinnati Public Schools and is staffed by highly qualified teachers and paraprofessionals. While youth are placed at the Youth Center, the division abides by all state and federal mandates of a traditional school system. The education services meet or exceed the standards set by the Ohio Department of Education and the Department of Youth Services.

Upon entering detention, youths' abilities are assessed, and each student receives a personal education plan. The division also administers the Ohio Graduation and Ohio Achievement Assessment tests and offers a pre-GED program. While in detention, the division coordinates with each student's school and teachers to ensure information concerning the student's progress is appropriately shared. Residents with special educational requirements work with assistance on their individualized educational plans, (IEP).

Youth in detention receive instruction in core academic areas including Math, Science, Reading, History, Art, Physical Education and Financial Literacy. Teachers utilize a variety of educational resources and instructional strategies including web-based curriculum software, thematic teaching, cooperative learning, and hands-on activities. In addition, all students have access to a lending library as well as an after-school tutoring program for students who need additional instruction.

Notably, students at the Youth Center continue to display their talents by winning several local and statewide art competitions. In addition, in cooperation with other local districts, some residents have donated their artwork for sale to benefit schools around the world.

## **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

In addition to meeting the basic needs of the youth in our care and custody, the Youth Center delivers programming that affords youth the opportunity to begin to develop beneficial social life skills. Programming is strategically focused on reducing recidivism by assisting youth in reclaiming their lives and becoming productive citizens of the community. In 2014, a diverse group of nearly 92 local citizens, members of the faith-based community, and other stakeholders provided increased hours of programming focused on providing life skills, substance abuse prevention, health and hygiene counseling, arts and crafts, anger management, conflict resolution and job readiness skills to residents at the Youth Center. All community volunteers undergo a criminal background check, orientation process and annual training before and while interacting with the supervised residents of the Youth Center.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK DETAIL**

The Work Detail program is a dispositional option for adjudicated youth in the Court. The purpose of the program is to hold youth accountable for their delinquent behavior through a productive, short-term work experience. The Work Detail program operates under the fundamental ideology of restorative justice. Youth are given the opportunity to work off court ordered restitution owed to their victims and service hours owed to the community. In 2014, youth performed a total of 2,073 community work details including both daily and Saturday work details. The program continued its long standing partnership in the community with many non-profit agencies to assist in the cleanup and beautification of a variety of meaningful work sites. These projects included Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Hamilton County Park District, Hamilton County Environmental Services, Great American Cleanup, Mt. Auburn Community Day, and Cincinnati Zoo. Work Detail projects completed by the youth add real value to participating agencies and the community. While on work detail, youth are counseled and instructed by caring work crew (staff) leaders on ways to be better members of our community, and on the impactful consequences of our actions.

## **MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES**

All youth detained at the Youth Center receive a medical screening upon intake as well as a comprehensive health assessment at admission to address any immediate medical concerns. The Youth Center contracts with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center to provide medical coverage 24 hours per day, 7 days per week to the residents in its care. Through a partnership with the Ohio Department of Health youth have access to STD testing and treatment. The standard of care at the Youth Center also includes intervention-focused protocols to address and educate youth on management of chronic disease, health and nutrition, and substance abuse prevention. Healthcare services at the Youth Center are accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare (NCCCHC). The Youth Center also contracts with a separate provider to address youths' acute dental needs.

Number of Medical Screenings	2,067
Number of Full Physical Examinations	693
Number of Sick Call Examinations	3,839
Number of Dental Screenings	320

## **FACILITIES MAINTENANCE**

Youth Center staff works closely with County Facilities to oversee the general condition and operational efficiency of the Youth Center. Of primary concern is establishing a schedule of preventative maintenance on mechanical and electrical systems, structures, and the outside grounds. In 2014, the maintenance team instituted a number of capital improvement projects aimed at increasing energy efficiency and overall sustainability of the building. Key initiatives included installing automation controls for air handlers and upgrading plumbing to increase system performance as well as reduce overall water consumption. Additionally, motion detection light fixtures were installed to conserve energy and reduce operational costs.

## **OPERATIONS**

The Operations division is comprised of the Intake Office and the Facility Control. The Intake Office is the central point of arrival and departure for all youth entering and exiting the facility. The division is responsible for the processing of youth at intake including gathering information concerning youths' personal, physical, and mental health history. In addition, Intake staff work in conjunction with the Cincinnati Police Department to lawfully and ethically process complaints, bonds, arrest warrants and documents, and emergency orders. In an effort to continuously improve operational processes, the Intake Office, in collaboration with the Psychology and Intervention units has revised the department's Mental Health Screening protocol. Specific strategies have been implemented to identify, deescalate, and effectively manage potential behavioral issues of youth during the intake process. The Facility Control Department is vital to maintaining a safe and secure environment for residents, staff, and visitors of the Youth Center. Staff assigned to the department control movement inside the building, monitor the perimeter of the facility, and serve as the initial contact for court officials, agencies, and visitors entering the building. Additionally, from inside the control booth, staff provides both direct and indirect supervision of housing units and visitors to ensure the rights of residents are protected as well as provide an additional layer of proactive behavior management.

## **ACCREDITATION**

**PERFORMANCE BASED STANDARDS (PbS)** was launched by the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to challenge youth-serving agencies to deliver effective and safe rehabilitation and reentry services for youths in custody. PbS monitors youths' constitutional rights to reasonable safety, adequate medical and mental health treatment, rehabilitative programming and education. In 2014, the Youth Center continued its' participation with Performance Based Standards (PbS) and with the help of a project coach, worked to increase and improve program services, improve overall safety for both residents and staff, and improve the conditions of confinement using performance outcome measuring.

**NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE (NCCHC)** offers a voluntary health services accreditation program utilizing external peer review to evaluate the quality of healthcare in jails, prisons, and juvenile confinement facilities. The Youth Center continues to remain compliant with all the "Essential" standards and at an impressive level of compliance with the "Important" standards.

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES (ODYS)** is the juvenile corrections system for the State of Ohio. ODYS ensures that facilities within its jurisdiction adhere to the standards for juvenile detention facilities as set forth in the Ohio Administrative Code. An annual inspection of the Youth Center indicated that the facility was with all "Mandatory" standards and at an impressive level of compliance with nearly all "Recommended" standards.



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