

**Miami County
Juvenile Court**



**1994
Annual Report
Honorable Richard A. Goater, Judge**

1994 was a busy Court year with 4083 cases being filed - up 531 from the previous year. Needless to say, this impacted all court services from clerical to probation to programs and to placements. It is difficult to find causes but school filings increased significantly.

1994 also saw the stress on services from increased placement of out of county children in Miami County foster houses. The placements are kids with problems. These problems cause police involvement often late at night, behavior problems in the schools including a substantial share of SBH classroom placements, extra court time for clerks, probation officers, referee and judge. And all of this is with modest (at best) support from the placing agencies and courts. It is straining our resources and needs to be addressed as a statewide concern.

In spite of all these concerns I commend the Juvenile Court staff and other child serving agencies for doing the job and doing it well. Our community can feel that we are trying to impact kids (and are succeeding) and that community protection is paramount.

Richard A. Goater
Juvenile Court Judge of Miami County

MIAMI COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

A. Purpose -

1. To provide for the care, protection, mental and physical development of children.
2. To protect the public interest in removing the consequences of criminal behavior and the taint of criminality from children committing delinquent acts, and to substitute therefore a program of supervision, care and rehabilitation.
3. To achieve the foregoing purposes, whenever possible, in a family environment, separating a child from its parents only when necessary for his welfare or in the interest of the public.
4. To provide judicial procedure to which the laws outlined in Chapter 2151 of Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure are enforced, and in which the parties are assured of a fair hearing and their constitutional and other legal rights are recognized and enforced.

B. Functions -

1. The Juvenile Division of the Miami County Court of Common Pleas hears all proceedings wherein a person under the age of 18 years is the primary subject of a complaint such as:

DELINQUENT	NEGLECT
UNRULY	ABUSED
DEPENDENT	JUVENILE TRAFFIC OFFENDER
2. The Juvenile Division of the Miami County Court of Common Pleas hears all proceedings involving adults on misdemeanor or complaints in their relation with children such as:

CONTRIBUTING	to delinquency, unruliness, abuse, dependency or neglect
PATERNITY	Establishing parent/child relationship
CUSTODY	
CONSENT TO MARRY	

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Dr. Richard Adams, Chairperson
 Lou Havenar
 Arthur Haddad

MIAMI COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES - ADVISORY BOARD

Dennis H. Coffield, Chairperson	Troy City Schools
Don Emery	Piqua City Commission
Ed Ledenski	West Milton Schools
Ronald R. Fox	Miami Industries
Richard A. Adams	Miami County Commissioner
Dorland Loomis	Upper Valley JVS
Michael W. Short	Newton High School
Tom Davidson	Tipp City Police Chief
Steve Cruza	Troy Police Department
Joel H. Walker	Troy Daily News Editor
Yuriko M. Willcox	Piqua City Schools

MIAMI COUNTY JUVENILE COURT EMPLOYEES

Richard A. Goater	Judge
Lynita K.C. Wagner	Referee
David E. Lyons	Court Services Director
Beverly Bell	Chief Deputy
Randall D. Freeman	Chief Probation Officer
Gerald L. Dornbusch, Jr.	Asst. CPO/
Donita A. Gast	Chemical Dependency Specialist
Diane S. Long	Probation Officer
Steve Holcomb	Probation Officer
Michael Stout	Probation Officer
Laurie Lewis-Curnutte	Probation Officer/H.D. Caseworker
Sonia A. Kelchner	Clerical Case Aide
Angela Hubbard	Bookkeeper
Judy M. Manning	Deputy Clerk
Barbara Roush	Deputy Clerk
Pat Woryk	Deputy Clerk
April Hines	Deputy Clerk
Barbara Siney	Alternative Education Teacher
Tamera Detrick	Alternative Education Teacher
April Hartley	Teacher's Aide/H.D.C.W./W.P.S.
Dave Retberg	Teacher's Aide/H.D.C.W./W.P.S.
Jody Josefovsky	Work Program Supervisor
Fusty Badgett	Work Program Supervisor
Robert Wheelock	Work Program Supervisor
Scott Fisher	Home Detention Caseworker

PROGRAMS OFFERED BY MIAMI COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

1. Probation
2. Alternative Education
3. Juvenile Work Program-Restitution
4. David L. Brown Youth Center
5. Foster Care and Group Homes
6. West Central Day Treatment Program
7. Adolescent Self-Esteem
8. Psychological Services
9. Alcohol/Substance Abuse Education
10. Juvenile Traffic Offender Program
11. Adolescent Sex Offender Program
12. West Central Detention Facility
13. West Central Rehabilitation Facility
14. Other Court Services
 - A. Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Cases
 - B. Adult Civil Procedure
 - C. Adult Criminal Procedure
 - D. Marriage Consent
 - E. Custody Review Board

1. PROBATION

Probation supervision is used after an official court order by the Judge or the Referee whereby a probation officer actively supervises and monitors the young person's adjustment in the home, school, and the community. The primary objective is to effect change while insuring compliance of court orders and to protect the interests of the community. Through the development and implementation of a structured and individualized treatment plan, the probation officer encourages the child to consider other available choices and to take ownership of his decisions and subsequent behavior.

Many varied techniques and approaches are utilized during the probation period, some of which are: the use of behavioral contracts, goal setting, experimental exercises (role playing), and use of logical consequences, each enhanced by the use of positives.

In addition, a Truancy Program was developed to better serve the needs of the unruly child who has truant from the home or school. Recognizing that "truancy" itself is often the symptom, or a means of coping or reacting to some other situation, the program has as its objective the identification of casual factors. The program consists of an intensive 90 day supervision period during which the child and the

family participate in weekly meetings and complete Adolescent Self-Esteem groups as well as any additional Court orders. At the end of the 90 day period, the case is either terminated or transferred to the probation department for ongoing services. In 1994, 107 youth were ordered into the Truancy Program.

PROBATION SUPERVISION

Placed on probation	263
Males	193
Females	70
Terminated from probation	194
Males	127
Females	67
Probation violations filed	268
Males	174
Females	94

2. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

In August of 1982 an Alternative Education program was begun. The program is designed for probationary youth who have been expelled or suspended from their home school.

There are several purposes of the program. It attempts to keep students current in their subject areas while they are on suspension in order to make their eventual assimilation back to their home schools much easier. It allows the instructor the opportunity to work one-on-one with youth who have difficulty in a particular subject area.

In addition it affords the teacher and the probation staff the opportunity to work with the youth in the development of new goals with regard to education.

The program was formerly housed in the Safety Building in Troy, but in the fall of 1984 it was moved to the Troy Recreation Center. Originally begun as a program for six to eight youth, it evolved into a program for up to fifteen youth and for the past two years has been located at the David L. Brown Youth Center.

NUMBER OF YOUTH IN PROGRAM (1994)	32
Male	21
Female	11
NUMBER OF STUDENT SCHOOL DAYS	95
AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE	7.0

3. JUVENILE WORK/RESTITUTION PROGRAM

A work program involving Court youth has been in existence for several years. The major change which was initiated in 1982 was the hiring of a work program supervisor during the summer months who could assist in obtaining productive job sites and who could also supervise the youth and make their efforts more acceptable to the communities.

During the school year the youth are supervised on Saturdays by staff who provide assistance to the youth with their day to day problems while completing their work assignments.

The work program enables the youth to make restitution for the victim's loss if the defendant qualifies as being unable to make reimbursement. It also enables the youth to work off Court fines and to complete community service assignments.

During 1994 the youth continued to work at the Miami County Transfer Station and at Brukner Nature Center. In addition the youth worked at the Piqua Heritage Festival, The Troy 4th of July program, the Tipp City Park Department, the Piqua High School track complex, and cleaned stadiums after football games for West Milton, Troy and Piqua High Schools.

NUMBER OF YOUTH INVOLVED IN PROGRAM

Male 697
Female 503
194

NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED

6977

WORK CREDIT AGAINST FINES AND RESTITUTION AT \$3.00 PER HOUR

\$1,770

4. DAVID L. BROWN YOUTH CENTER

March of 1987 marked the opening of the Miami County Youth Center. Under the direction of the Miami County Juvenile Court and licensed as an Agency Group Home, the facility serves up to sixteen adjudicated males by court order from Miami, Shelby, and Darke county juvenile courts. Only those youth who do not pose a serious threat to the community are eligible for the six month treatment program. While at the Center, the youth attend a self-contained classroom eleven months per year and receive individual and family counseling services from a licensed psychologist.

In addition to providing supervision and treatment, the staff emphasizes issues of accountability, personal responsibility, and choices in an effort to assist youth in problem solving and coping services. The center was re-named the David L. Brown Youth Center in 1993 with a formal dedication service in October 1994.

NUMBER OF YOUTH ADMITTED
NUMBER OF YOUTH DISCHARGED

6
4

5. FOSTER CARE, GROUP HOMES, AND SPECIAL PLACEMENTS

The providing of alternative residential placements for youth in home-like environments continues to be an integral part of Court programming. All placements are based upon a plan for the earliest possible reunification of the family unit. Many placement needs of the Court are being met by the Miami County Children's Service Board.

6. WEST CENTRAL DAY TREATMENT

The West Central Day Treatment Program was conceived in 1990 and is funded entirely by the Department of Youth Services 414 grant allocation. This six county project includes Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Miami, Preble and Shelby counties. Currently this program is located in Troy, Ohio in the West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility. This program is designed to serve non-violent felony offenders in a scholastic environment. The teachers test each youth placement and develop individual educational plans for each one. Integration back into schools of origin or preparation for GED tests are the two primary goals for the youth placements. The West Central Day Treatment Program is considered a model of cooperation and collaboration between counties in the State of Ohio.

NUMBER OF MIAMI COUNTY YOUTH SERVED IN 1994

19

7. ADOLESCENT SELF-ESTEEM

The Adolescent Self-Esteem program is contracted with a licensed psychologist and is offered for both adjudicated and non-adjudicated youth. In 1994, it was offered ten times for youth who have been identified as being in need of establishing personal values and accepting responsibility. The youth are also those in need of getting in touch with their feelings and in developing an increased awareness of choices.

A program consists of eight one hour group sessions provided by one licensed psychologist and one co-facilitator.

NUMBER OF YOUTH IN PROGRAM

109

8. PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Through a contractual agreement with a licensed psychologist, Miami County Juvenile Court is able to provide psychological diagnostic evaluations which become part of the Court record and which assist in the development of a treatment program for the youth who are referred.

The contract provides the Court accessibility to psychological service and also an understanding by the provider of the particular needs of the Court.

NUMBER OF YOUTH IN PROGRAM 12

9. ALCOHOL/SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATION

A contract with the Miami County Alcoholism Program assists the Court with unruly/delinquent youth, professionally identified as in need of a program which may alter the symptomatic abuse of alcoholic beverages or other substances.

The youth meet Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for two hours daily during the last week of every month, excluding July and December. Parents may also attend. They are exposed to a similar curriculum, designed to increase the communication and the understanding between parent and youth where alcohol and/or substance abuse are involved.

NUMBER OF YOUTH INVOLVED IN PROGRAM 93

10. JUVENILE TRAFFIC OFFENDER PROGRAM

As in previous years, the Upper Valley JVS has provided at no cost to the Juvenile Court a traffic offender program. This program meets the first Monday of each month.

The program is designed to influence the attitudes of juveniles toward driving. It is not a driver's education program and does not teach driving skills. At the time a juvenile driver is adjudicated to have two moving traffic violations, his or her driver's license is suspended for 90 days. His license suspension may be terminated in 30 days if he elects to attend this program. Youth who are adjudicated DWI or DUI are Court-ordered to attend the program, but they may not reduce their license suspension by attending.

NUMBER OF YOUTH INVOLVED IN PROGRAM 89

11. ADOLESCENT SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM

The Adolescent Sexual Offender Treatment Group provides direct educational and counseling services to offenders and their families. An assessment is conducted by the treatment team to determine the offenders risk level to the community. This sex offender program is provided by the Miami County Mental Health Center through a contractual arrangement with the Juvenile Court.

The program provides weekly educational sessions to the offenders and their parents focusing on the psychology of the offender, progression of the offenders history, and feelings about self.

There is also a treatment phase during which the offenders participate in weekly group therapy. Families participate every third week during this portion of the project.

NUMBER OF YOUTH IN THE PROGRAM 12

12. WEST CENTRAL DETENTION FACILITY

Beginning in January of 1993, under the direction of Greg Simmons, the West Central Detention Facility began accepting youth in need of detention. Youth are court ordered into detention for an average of 3-5 days. The maximum period of detention is 90 days. During their time of incarceration, youth are given a medical physical, attend educational programming, participate in daily recreational activities and are taught to conform to a rigid curriculum designed to modify offending youth's behavior.

The West Central Detention Facility is constructed to accommodate 24 youth with 2 additional beds that may be utilized under certain circumstances. The Miami County Juvenile Court utilizes 12 beds while other counties including Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Preble, Shelby and Clinton utilize the remainder of the beds either by contract or as space is available. Previous to 1993, Miami County youth were detained in out of county detention facilities.

YOUTH DETAINED IN 1994 427
AVERAGE DAILY MIAMI COUNTY OCCUPANCY 8.7

13. WEST CENTRAL REHABILITATION FACILITY

In October of 1993, the West Central Rehabilitation Facility under the direction of Charles R. Powell, began accepting youth in their new state-funded rehabilitation program. Referrals to this program are made after youth have been adjudicated delinquent for the commission of a felony offense and a high level of programming is deemed necessary in a local secure facility. Previously these youth would have been committed to the Department of Youth Services. The Rehab facility will be able to accommodate up to 36 youth from a six-county area including Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Preble, Shelby as well as Miami counties.

YOUTH SERVED IN 1994 17
MONTHLY AVERAGE 7.5

14. OTHER COURT SERVICES

A. ABUSE, NEGLECT AND DEPENDENCY CASES

The juvenile is the only court to hear cases filed by the Miami County Children's Services Board wherein a juvenile is alleged to be an abused, neglected, or dependent child.

The court issues orders without a hearing, granting custody to Children's Services Board in emergency situations and also hears complaints for temporary custody (wherein the goal is to reunite the child with the family after the parents have complied with a plan to alter their behavior) and complaints for permanent custody (wherein it is necessary to terminate parental rights and to make permanency plans for the child.)

NUMBER OF CASES HEARD

173

These cases usually result in support orders being filed and support monies being returned to the Department of Human Services which of course is a substantial savings to the taxpayer. The total support generated includes orders from previous years and is collected for Public Assistance.

B. ADULT CIVIL PROCEDURE

The Court also acts for private citizens who are separated but who are not contemplating divorce in making support orders and custody determinations.

The Court also receives paternity case filings. Again most of these cases are filed at the behest of the Department of Human Services to obtain support for children on ADC. New advances in blood testing techniques (HLA blood grouping) have resolved a lot of legal battling that used to occur.

C. ADULT CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

Closely aligned with the civil support cases are those criminal cases filed against fathers who have failed to support and provide for their children without justifiable cause.

Also, if an adult contributes to the unruliness or delinquency of a child, he is subject to criminal prosecution in Juvenile Court. In 1994, 111 such cases were filed.

D. MARRIAGE CONSENT

When young people desire to marry and they are not of legal age and the girl is pregnant, the Juvenile Court may grant that consent, and with custodial parent's approval, they may be issued a marriage license by Probate Court.

In 1994, 1 such matter was handled.

E. CITIZEN'S CUSTODY REVIEW BOARD

The Citizen's Custody Review Board consists of five interested citizens with training or experience in the field who are appointed by the Juvenile Judge. The members study the files of all juveniles who are placed in the care or custody of a

public or private organization or agency. The board reviews the youth's placements at least annually and makes recommendations about these juveniles to the Court.

The following are members of the Custody Board.

Dr. Mark Carl	Psychologist
Jack S. Gregerson	Educator
Rita Hollenbacher	Teacher
Sandra Adams	Nurse
A. Melvin Kemmer	Attorney

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2151.18 OF THE REVISED CODE
OF THE STATE OF OHIO

1994
ANNUAL REPORT
MIAMI COUNTY JUVENILE COURT — TROY, OHIO
RICHARD A. GOATER, JUDGE

Adult cases involving children (Paternity 75, Contributing 23) 98
Children's Cases 3929
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES FILED, ADULT AND CHILDREN 4027

BREAKDOWN OF CHILDREN'S CASES FILED

Delinquency 1391
Traffic 1456
Dependency (129), Change of Custody (44) 173
Unruly 908
Other - Consent to Wed 1
TOTAL 3929

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES DISPOSED OF

Adult Cases 111
Children's Cases 4168
TOTAL 4279

TYPES OF ADULT CASES - DISPOSED OF

Contributing to Delinquency or Unruliness 36
Paternity 75
TOTAL 111

DISPOSITION OF ADULT CASES

Dismissed 11
Court Order to Support
Court Costs
Jail Sentence 25

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN'S CASES - DISPOSED OF

Official Children's Cases 3980

TYPES OF CHILDREN'S CASES AND DISPOSITION

Traffic 1418
Delinquency 1714
Unruly 885
Dependency and Custody 150
Marriage Consent and Other 1
TOTAL 4168

DISPOSITION OF CHILDREN'S CASES

Temporary Custody - Children's Services 42
Long Term Foster Care - Children's Services 4
Commitment to Department of Youth Services 11
Suspended Commitment to Department of Youth Services 31
Placed on Probation 263
Wards of Court only 1
Fines and Costs Collected
Fines (Juvenile) 20,415.50
Adult Fines 132.00
Court Costs (Adult and Juvenile) 52,807.70
Referred to Other Courts 647
License Held 89
Dismissed or Withdrawn 183
Placed in Detention 508
Restitution 166
Temporary Truancy Supervision 129
Attended Traffic School 89
Alternative Education School 61
Attended Alcohol Education Classes 93
Terminated or Closed 309
Commitment to David L. Brown Youth Center 6
Home Detention 123
Commitment to West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center 14