

Miami County Juvenile Court 2011 Annual Report



Welcome to Miami County Juvenile Court

The Juvenile Court of Miami County is a division of the Miami County Common Pleas Court. Our purpose is to counsel and rehabilitate youth who commit crimes; protect the Miami County community from juvenile crime; assist the victims of juvenile crime; protect children from abuse, neglect and dependency; and provide allocation of parental rights for children whose parents were never married. Under the direction of Judge W. McGregor Dixon, Jr., the Court provides a broad range of community based residential treatment and prevention services. This summary is intended to help the community understand the services the Court provided in 2011.



Judge W. McGregor Dixon, Jr.



Miami County Juvenile Court

Special points of interest:

- Changing trends
- Protecting Children
- New Chief Deputy named
- Computer upgrades
- Blueprint for the future
- Title IV-E
- Community Service Incentive Programming
- 2011 Statistical Summary

Changing trends and battling teen substance abuse

Keeping up with trends impacting adolescents is the job of Miami County Juvenile Court Probation Department. During the past few years, the emergence of designer drugs and opiates, as well as social media, have necessitated more creative interventions and increased levels of supervision.

Synthetic marijuana, called Spice or K2, has become very popular with youth. Although banned in mid-2011, it continues to be available to area youth. The Probation Depart-

ment staff has kept on top of this trend by increasing its monitoring efforts. Probation Officers now use multiple forms of drug testing including hair and urine testing. In addition, they have increased the number of home searches and closely monitor youth through Facebook and other social media. Finding ways to monitor the youth creatively has been a challenge and has required extra trainings. Although supervision, monitoring and drug testing

are part of the everyday job, developing caring relationships and believing in a youth's ability to succeed is paramount. "In order for a youth to engage in changing behaviors, they need to know you care. The Probation Department's number one way to effect that change is to have meaningful relationships with the youth. We must be diligent to hold the youth accountable while showing them we care," said Julie Harmon, Chief Probation Officer.

Protecting Children is a Priority



Magistrate Rebecca Hall

In 2011 Magistrate Rebecca Hall expanded her docket to include hearings on abuse, neglect and dependency cases filed by Miami County Children’s Services Board. While these cases make up a small percentage of the total Juvenile Court caseload, they have the most direct impact on the safety and well-being of Miami County children. Magistrate Hall is passionate about serving a child’s best interest. “All children deserve to be safe from

maltreatment and be raised in a permanent and loving home,” she stated. She wants to assure that children “aging out” of the foster care system have the tools they need to become successful, participating citizens. According to Magistrate Hall, “We, as a system, must ensure that teens leaving foster care have the same skill set, educational opportunities and societal supports. Only then have we fulfilled our duty to them.”

New Chief Deputy Clerk Named

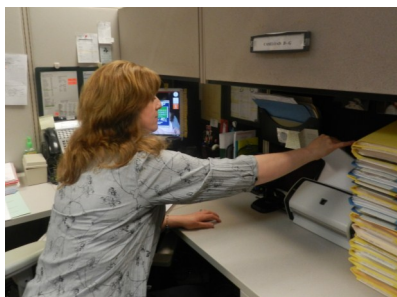
Nicole Rodriguez was named Chief Deputy clerk in June 2011. Nicole had been with the Court as a clerk for thirteen years and has been able to build upon her working knowledge of court processes. “I knew I had tough shoes to follow,” she said about taking over for retiring Chief Deputy

Beverly Bell. “I have a great staff with years of experience and a solid foundation that has been laid out for me. I am confident in our abilities to continue to improve service to the citizens of Miami County and am excited to have the opportunity to lead this office.”



Nicole Rodriguez
Chief Deputy Clerk

Upgrading Computer Imaging in Clerks Office



Kristi Stewart
Juvenile Clerk

A recent upgrade to the computer imaging system has allowed clerks to improve the process of record retention as well as significantly improve the department’s ability to access documents quickly. This process turns paper documents into digital images, which are then stored within the electronic case management system. The upgrade has enabled the office to begin imaging older documents and cases. “This has enabled us to more easily purge cas-

es and still remain true to the record retention rules,” said Nicole Rodriguez, Chief Deputy Clerk. “As you can imagine, the clerk’s office handles a lot of paper that is needed by the Judge, hearing officers and probation officers. To have a complete electronic file saves us a lot of time and paper,” she added.

“Our eventual goal is to become paperless, and this puts us one step closer,” added Angie Hubbard, System Administrator.

Blue Print for the Future—Goal Setting

Each year Probate and Juvenile Court staff spend an afternoon together identifying needs and planning for the future. “It has been a day to reflect on our accomplishments and spend some time as a group identifying projects for the next year. Then the

staff volunteer for committees which work on the projects,” said Charlene Prestopino, Court Administrator. “The projects are aimed at improving services, enhancing communication and community relationships. We have accomplished many things, like

improving court technology, writing personnel policies and implementing staff training,” she added. All staff are encouraged to contribute and take responsibility for the Court environment. This year’s theme was REVIEW, RENEW and REJUVENATE.

Reducing Placements and Increasing Accountability— Probation Department and Title IV-E

In June Miami County Juvenile Court became the 38th Juvenile Court in Ohio to become a IV-E Court. Title IV-E is a federal reimbursement program which provides financial assistance to help cover the cost of children placed out of their homes into foster or residential care. Through this program the Court acts as a child service agency and provides services which are

individualized and in the best interest of a child. To be eligible for this program, each Court must be approved by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and comply with federal and state regulations. Although the Court already been involved with making child placements, there were many changes in policy and procedures to put into place. Probation staff had to be

trained, case loads had to be redistributed and paperwork doubled. Collaborations and agreements between the local Children Services Agency and Job and Family Services were made. Through the program, 11 youth were placed in residential treatment. Several youth have been discharged and are now back in the community flourishing in their homes and school.

Community Service Incentive Programming

In 2011, the Juvenile Probation Department started the COMMUNITY SERVICE INCENTIVE PROGRAM. This program is for juveniles who have completed their court ordered community service and have made positive changes in their lives. Youth are nominated by the Community Service Staff and Probation Department because they have worked hard, shown a positive attitude and have made important changes in their lives.

The program has offered youth the opportunity to participate in extra events, such as attending pro football games, going to the zoo and

County Fair and participating in fishing trips. The program partners with Piqua Manor nursing home. The youth attend the events with elderly residents giving youth an opportunity to assist the resident and develop a caring relationship. The activities are free to the juveniles. The program also accepts ticket donations to sporting events for the juveniles to attend under staff supervision. “This program provides a positive social experience and acts as a reward for a youth’s hard work,” said Cindy Petrofes, Court Services Supervisor.



Skeeter Minney, Community Service Youth Supervisor, and youth accompany Piqua Manor residents at Columbus Zoo.

Miami County Juvenile Court

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www.co.miami.oh.us

For a copy of the entire annual
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2011 Statistical Summary

Cases Filed/Transferred In	2011
Delinquent	1261
Traffic	572
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	29
Unruly	323
Adult	138
Permanent Custody	2
Custody/Change of Custody/Visitation	798
Support Enforcement/Modifications	2034
Parentage	63
UIFSA	18
Other	11
Total Cases	5249

Types of Dispositions	2011
Bind over to adult court	0
Commitment to DYS	1
Detention	281
David L. Brown	13
West Central Day Treatment	50
West Central Rehabilitation Center	3
Other CCF	1
Community Service	367
Probation	104
Electronic Home Monitoring	39
House Arrest	304
Temporary Custody CSB	14
Protective Supervision CSB	35
Permanent Custody CSB	2
Jail Sentence (Adult)	67
Restitution	184
Cases with Fines Assessed	503
Cases with Costs Assessed	927
Waiver due to Indigence	508
Fines and Court costs	\$141,690.12