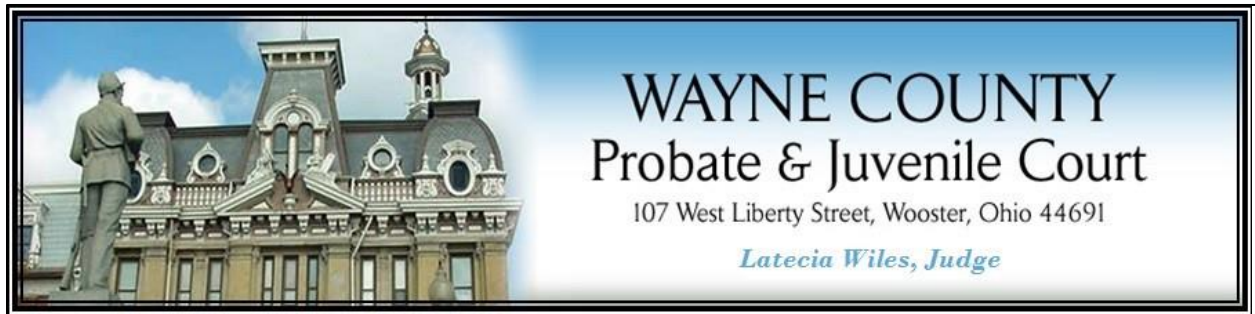


**WAYNE COUNTY, OHIO
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
JUVENILE DIVISION**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2019**

Photo Courtesy of Jane Robbins, 2019; Copyright Jane Robbins



To:
The Honorable Ron Amstutz
The Honorable Sue A. Smail
The Honorable Rebecca S. Foster

Commissioners of Wayne County, Ohio



June 9, 2020

Ohio Revised Code § 2151.18 requires Juvenile Courts in Ohio to annually report to their Board of County Commissioners, the Supreme Court of Ohio, and the communities they serve – showing the number of cases, kinds of cases, and disposition of cases coming before the Court for the preceding year, plus any other pertinent information on the work of the Court.

We are pleased to present to you the Court's Annual Report for 2019. If you are accessing this report online, please use the links provided throughout the report for additional information from our website and from other related sources.

The Court is always seeking to improve its service to the community through innovative and efficient means. I extend the Court's – and its staff's – continuing gratitude to the many friends in the community for their support, collaboration, and encouragement.

We hope you find this report informative, and we welcome any questions or comments.



Respectfully Submitted,

Latecia Wiles

Latecia Wiles, Judge

SUPREME COURT REPORTS

Ohio Courts are subject to the Rules of Superintendence of the Supreme Court of Ohio. The Rules of Superintendence include rules governing operations, funding, standards for courthouse facilities, and a requirement that all Ohio Courts file monthly reports with the Supreme Court in order to verify that the Court is hearing and resolving cases in a timely fashion.

Each month, Ohio Juvenile Courts file reports to inform the Supreme Court on the number of new cases filed or transferred into the Court, along with cases heard and terminated in the month of the report. The detail of the reports also includes information on whether the cases were heard by the judge or a magistrate. The Supreme Court provides guidelines that recommend the maximum time a case may be before the Court from filing to termination.

The following table is a recapitulation of all the cases filed, transferred into the Court, and terminated by the Court in the calendar year 2019. Each case type is tracked on the report, and every case is accounted for each year. Cases carried over from the previous year are counted only as terminations. In 2019, 348 cases were carried over from 2018. The Juvenile Court has a clearance rate of 102% for all new, transferred, reactivated, and redesignated cases.

Cases Filed and Terminated 2019

		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	T	V	
		Delinquency	Traffic	Dependency, Neglect, or abuse or unruly	Adult Cases	Motion for Permanent Custody	Custody, Change of Custody, Visitation	Support Enforcement or Modification	Parentage	U.I.F.S.A	All Others	TOTAL	Visiting Judge		
Pending Beginning of Period	1	69	48	19	15	2	8	111	67	9	0	0	348	0	1
New Cases Filed	2	383	435	128	162	59	0	132	125	14	0	31	1469	0	2
Cases transferred in, reactivated or redesignated	3	68	2	0	14	9	31	121	531	36	0	6	818	0	3
Total (Add lines 1 - 3)	4	520	485	147	191	70	39	364	723	59	0	37	2635	0	4
Terminations By		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	T	V	
Trial By Judge	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Trial By Magistrate	6	4	5	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	14	0	6
Dismissal by party, judge, or prosecutor	7	58	3	22	50	15	13	55	13	6	0	1	236	0	7
Admission to judge	8	1	0	99	0	0	21	8	594	41	0	1	765	0	8
Admission to magistrate	9	241	406	0	88	38	0	195	7	0	0	3	978	0	9
Certification/Waiver granted	10	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	10
Unavailability of party for trial	11	21	4	0	3	10	0	4	51	2	0	5	100	0	11
Transfer to another judge or court	12	110	17	0	36	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	168	0	12
Referral to private judge	13	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Interlocutory appeal or order	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Other terminations	15	46	2	0	6	0	0	1	1	0	0	23	79	0	15
Total (Add Lines 5 - 15)	16	481	437	121	183	65	34	270	666	50	0	33	2340	0	16

TYPES OF CASES HEARD IN JUVENILE COURT

Delinquent Child: When a person under the age of eighteen commits an act that, if committed by an adult, would be a crime, the juvenile is determined to be “delinquent” – that is – late in developing proper judgment to follow the requirements of law. In 2019, the Court addressed 481 delinquency cases. [Click here to read more about delinquency on the Juvenile Court’s website.](#)

Traffic: When a juvenile violates a traffic law, the juvenile is referred to as a “juvenile traffic offender.” Juveniles are subject to different penalties, referred to as “consequences,” compared to adult traffic offenders. In 2019, the Court addressed 437 juvenile traffic cases. [Click here to read more about traffic on the Juvenile Court’s website.](#)

Abused, Neglected, or Dependent: The Court may determine that a child is abused, neglected, or dependent under the definitions of the law. The Court may remove the child from an inappropriate or dangerous environment in order to place the child in foster care or with relatives, or the Court may leave the child in the care of his or her family but under supervision. In 2019, the Court addressed 121 abuse, neglect, and dependency cases. [Click here to read more about abuse, neglect, and dependency on the Juvenile Court’s website.](#)

Unruly: A child who does not submit to the reasonable control of the child’s parents, teachers, or guardian may be adjudicated an unruly child. A child who is truant from school or behaves in a manner as to injure or endanger his or her health or morals or the health or morals of others also may be adjudicated an unruly child. The Court has broad discretion to fashion a remedy to resolve the unruly behavior. In 2019, the Court addressed 183 unruly cases.

Adult: Adult cases are prosecutions against persons over the age of eighteen years, accused of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. In 2019, the Court addressed 65 adult cases.

Motions for Permanent Custody: Motions for permanent custody are filed in situations where the child’s environment is so inappropriate and the parents’ ability to care for the child is so inadequate that the situation warrants permanently terminating the rights of parents in the parent-child relationship. Such motions may be filed as part of an abuse, neglect, or dependency case. In 2019, the Court addressed 34 motions for permanent custody. [Click here to read more about abuse, neglect, and dependency on the Juvenile Court’s website.](#)

Custody/Visitation: The domestic relations division of the Court of Common Pleas hears issues of custody and visitation concerning parents who are or previously were married to each other. The Juvenile Court, on the other hand, has jurisdiction over issues of custody and visitation where the parents have never been married to one another. In 2019, the Court addressed 270 custody and

visitation matters. [Click here to read more about custody and visitation on the Juvenile Court's website.](#)

Support: Issues of child support between parents who are or were once married to each other are addressed by the domestic relations division of the Court of Common Pleas. The Juvenile Court hears issues over child support for children whose parents were never married to each other. In 2019, the Court addressed 666 support cases. [Click here to read more about child support on the Juvenile Court's website.](#)

Parentage: A parentage action may be commenced by a child, a person claiming to be the parent of a child, such parent's representatives, or the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA). Determination is usually made by the use of DNA testing of the parents of the child. Once parentage is established, issues of parental rights and support may be addressed. In 2019, the Court addressed 50 parentage matters. [Click here to read more about parentage on the Juvenile Court's website.](#)

U.I.F.S.A.: The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act is embodied in Ohio law in § 3115.01 *et seq.* of the Ohio Revised Code. This Act provides a procedure whereby court orders of support in different states may be enforced in Ohio if one of the parties is an Ohio resident. Cases brought under this Act are typically brought by the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA). In 2019, there were no U.I.F.S.A. cases filed with the Court.

All Others: Cases that do not fall into the categories listed here are recorded in the Supreme Court Report. These cases include Grandparent Powers of Attorney, Caretaker Affidavits, Judicial Bypass, Marriage Consents, Civil Protection Orders, Reclassification Petitions, and any other matters that do not fall into other categories. In 2019, the Court addressed 33 miscellaneous cases.



CASE TERMINATION EXPLANATION

As part of the Court's accounting for all cases filed or transferred into the Court, the Supreme Court of Ohio requires each Juvenile Court to report the manner in which all cases were terminated. The following is an explanation of the terminology used in the Supreme Court Report.

Trial by Judge: This line reports the cases in each category that were terminated as a result of an adjudicatory and dispositional hearing by the judge.

Trial by Magistrate: This line reports the cases in each category that were terminated as a result of an adjudicatory and dispositional hearing by a magistrate.

Dismissal by Party, Judge, or Prosecutor: This line reports the cases in each category that were terminated as a result of a dismissal by a party, the judge, or a prosecutor.

Admission to Judge: This line reports the cases in each category that were terminated as a result of admission or agreement before the judge.

Admission to Magistrate: This line reports the cases in each category that were terminated as a result of admission or agreement before a magistrate.

Certification/Waiver Granted: This line reports any delinquency cases that are transferred for criminal prosecution in another court in accordance with § 2151.12 of the Ohio Revised Code. These cases are commonly referred to as "bindovers."

Unavailability of Party for Trial: This line reports the cases in each category that were terminated as a result of a party not being available for hearing or trial.

Transfer to Another Judge or Court: This line reports the cases in each category that were transferred to another Juvenile Court pursuant to Juvenile Rule 11.

Referral to Private Judge: This line reports the cases in each category that were transferred to a "private judge" under § 2701.10 of the Ohio Revised Code.

All Other: Any case terminated in any manner not specifically required to be reported on the lines described above is reported on this line.

ROLES IN THE JUVENILE COURT

JUDGE

The judge of the Wayne County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, is elected to a six-year term, and is the chief judicial officer of the Court. The judge of the Juvenile Court is also the Clerk of the Court. In order to qualify to seek the office of judge, a person must have received a law degree from an accredited college of law, must have taken and passed the Ohio bar examination, and must have been admitted to the bar and been engaged in some form of law practice for at least six years. Judge Wiles is also the Judge and Clerk of the Probate Division.

MAGISTRATES

Magistrates hear cases and conduct hearings in the same manner as the judge, however, their decisions are subject to objection by one or both of the parties to the legal action being decided. Upon written objection, the judge may decide to rehear the case, may modify the magistrate's decision or may remand (send back) the case to the magistrate for further hearing. Magistrates must also be attorneys admitted to the bar. Magistrates are appointed by the elected judge and serve an indefinite term. In 2019, the Juvenile Court employed one full-time and four part-time magistrates.

COURT ADMINISTRATOR

The Court Administrator is the person charged with responsibility for the overall operations of the Court. The Administrator supervises staff, manages the processes of the Court and Clerk offices, and implements policies and procedures in concert with the judge to provide for the efficient operation of the Court.

DEPUTY CLERKS

Since the judge of the Court is also the Clerk of the Court, the judge is authorized to appoint deputy clerks to assist in the administration of the Court. Deputy clerks receive pleadings and other documents filed with the Court, receive and distribute payment of fines, court costs and fees, issue notices and generally maintain the records of the Court by processing the paperwork of the Court from case filing to termination. The Court employed six deputy clerks in 2019, and one Chief Deputy Clerk.

PROBATION OFFICERS

Probation officers manage juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent and unruly to assist in the rehabilitation of the youth. The Court employed five full time probation officers in 2019. More about probation programs can be found later in this Report.

AUTOMATION

With the implementation of the Benchmark Case Management System, the Juvenile Court utilizes paperless procedures and anticipates becoming completely paperless internally in the future. The Court has embraced service by email for registered users of the system. The Court continues to perfect processes that will make the Court more environmentally friendly and electronically available.

PUBLIC RECORDS ACCESS

Although most of the Juvenile Court's records are non-public, the Court provides access to the few case types that are public through the internet on the Court's docket, found through



Benchmark. [Public access to Benchmark can be found through the Court's website or by clicking here.](#) To acquire copies of public records that have been filed on public case types, a public records request must be made to the Court. The Court may charge a copying fee for public records requests. [Click here to read more about public records through the Juvenile Court's website.](#)

ELECTRONIC FILING

The Court accepts electronically filed ("e-filed") documents from registered users through the Benchmark Case Management System. E-filing gives attorneys continuous access to file pleadings from their own computers any time of the day or night and on weekends. Additionally, e-filing further cuts down on time spent and paper used within the Court.

CREDIT CARD ACCEPTANCE

The Court accepts credit cards as a method of payment, subject to a small convenience fee.

VOLUNTEER GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM

Karin Connolly Wiest became the coordinator of this program in October 1998. Her position is funded through a one-year VOCA/CASA grant with Wayne County providing matching funds.

In 2019, the program had 18 volunteer guardians handling cases, plus the coordinator as well as 2 attorneys working through the *pro bono* program. Through these volunteers, coordinator, and attorneys, the Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem Program served 125 children in 2019. When volunteers are not available, the Court must appoint attorneys or otherwise trained and approved individuals to act as guardians ad litem.



Five volunteer guardians receive their oath

APPOINTED COUNSEL

The United States and Ohio Constitutions require that parties to a criminal or quasi-criminal case understand their legal rights. In cases where there is a need for legal representation, and the parties are financially unable to pay for private counsel, attorneys must be appointed at public expense. The right to counsel arises when there is a potential for loss of liberty or when a fundamental substantive legal right is at issue, such as termination of parental rights. The Court paid a total of \$195,605.22 for appointed counsel in 2019.



Judge Wiles and Magistrate Smith present procedure updates to local attorneys.

In 2019, the Court also paid \$39,737.11 for non-attorneys appointed to serve as guardians ad litem. Guardians ad litem are unbiased persons who assist the Court to investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, and dependency, and make recommendations regarding the best interests of children in those cases.

GRANTS

The Court applies for and receives several grants that assist the Court in covering the cost of services to youth and families. In 2019, the Court received awards through 9 grant programs. A summary of these funding sources and their projects follows:

<u>GRANT NAME</u>	<u>GRANTOR ENTITY</u>	<u>AWARD</u>	<u>PROGRAM/BENEFIT</u>
<i>Addiction Treatment Program (ATP)</i>	Supreme Court of Ohio	\$1,418.00	Family Dependency Treatment Court
<i>CIP Technology Grant</i>	Supreme Court of Ohio	\$33,288.26	Server, Random Drug Screening Program
<i>JDAI Program</i>	Ohio Dept. of Youth Services	\$49,417.06	Juvenile Detention Alternatives
<i>OhioMAS Services Grant</i>	Ohio Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services	\$30,000.00	Family Dependency Treatment Court
<i>OSBF Discretionary Grant</i>	Ohio State Bar Foundation	\$2,300.00	Public education and outreach
<i>RECLAIM Grant</i>	Ohio Dept. of Youth Services	\$249,366.63	Juvenile Probation, Diversion, Out-of-Home Placement
<i>SVAA Grant</i>	Ohio Attorney General	\$1,786.00	Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program
<i>VOCA Grant</i>	Ohio Attorney General	\$24,823.56	Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program
<i>Youth Services Grant</i>	Ohio Dept. of Youth Services	\$167,203.00	Juvenile Probation, Diversion, Out-of-Home Placement

FAMILY DEPENDENCY TREATMENT COURT (FDTC)

In 2017 and in partnership with various Wayne County public and private entities, the Juvenile Court started the Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC). The FDTC was established as a specialized docket on the abuse, neglect, and dependency docket in an effort to better assist parents in need of substance use treatment. Wayne County's FDTC was certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio's Specialized Docket Section in 2017.

The FDTC consists of weekly court hearings and meetings with a multidisciplinary treatment team, made up of representatives from the Court, Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Wayne County Public Defender, Wayne County Children Services Board, OneEighty, ANA·ZAO Community Partners, and A New Day. This treatment team coordinates services throughout their respective agencies to help provide ongoing treatment and support to parents seeking reunification with their children or otherwise working to address underlying concerns in the household.

In 2019, the FDTC worked with 21 adult participants as well as their collective 35 children. A total of 3 participants successfully graduated from the program in 2019. A total of 13 participants continued into the program in 2020.



HELP DESK

The Court started the Help Desk program at the start of 2018 in an effort to assist unrepresented individuals unable to afford legal representation or advice. Qualifying participants sign up through court staff for scheduled time slots to meet with local attorneys who volunteer pro bono to assist these individuals. Participants can then meet with the attorneys as arranged and receive legal advice relevant to the participants' current or anticipated legal issues. The Help Desk is offered for Juvenile Court matters as well as Probate Court matters.

In 2019, 3 local attorneys volunteered to provide legal advice at 35 scheduled sessions. Of those sessions, 12 were designated for probate, and 23 were designated for juvenile. For probate, there were 47 appointments scheduled for a total of 27 participants who received no-cost legal advice. For juvenile, there were 130 appointments scheduled and a total of 59 participants who received services.

PROBATION SERVICES

Probation is the Court-based supervision of juveniles who have been adjudicated unruly or delinquent children. Not all juveniles appearing before the Court are assigned to probation supervision. In some of these cases, the probation department may have been ordered to gather additional information for the hearing officer, and compile it in a predisposition report with recommendations to substantiate the findings.

Youth may be assigned regular probation or TEMP probation. TEMP Probation is a specialized probation caseload created to respond to chronic truants. For those juveniles placed on regular or TEMP probation, the probation officer is responsible for monitoring the activities of assigned probationers, and ensuring compliance with Court orders. Five full-time probation officers were employed by the Court in 2019 and are assigned cases based on the home school district of the juvenile. This allows for efficiency in the department since probation officers consult with school personnel, conduct in home visits, and confer with local law enforcement.

Probation officers have arrest authority over any juvenile assigned to the department, and are responsible for filing the necessary legal documents when doing so. The probation officers administer drug tests and assessment instruments, as well as obtain psychological and risk assessments from outside resources to supplement their information. The Court's probation department is certified by ODYS to complete assessments for juvenile sex offenders. Additionally, probation officers refer the juvenile and his or her family to local agencies for services to address the areas of need.

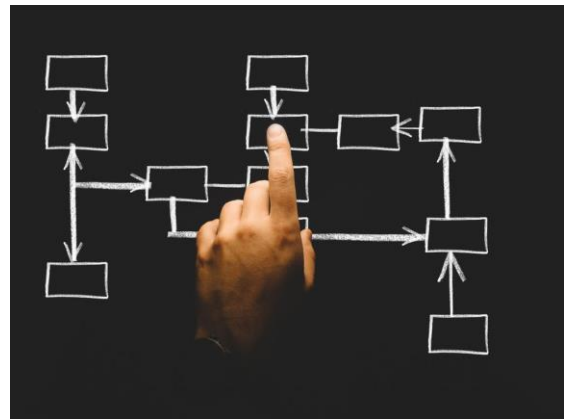
In cases where the juvenile fails to respond to probationary efforts, or presents a safety risk to the community or him- or herself, an out of home placement may be ordered by the Court. Probation officers are responsible to seek an appropriate residential placement and monitor the juvenile's progress while in placement, as well as assist in after-care when the juvenile is returned to the community. The probation officers fulfill other duties as ordered by the Court, such as conducting community safety evaluations, collecting DNA specimens, and monitoring electronic house arrest.

In 2019, the probation department supervised a total of 79 youth on probation (42 at the beginning of the year and 37 throughout the year). The probation department completed 44 pre-dispositional reports. 33 youth (25 at the beginning of the year and 8 throughout the year) were assigned to TEMP Probation. Including all services performed by the probation department, Court probation officers worked with a total of 156 youth this past year.

JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE (JDAI)

Beginning in 2010, Ohio joined the nationwide Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), starting with just five counties. Wayne County joined the initiative in 2018. Established by the Annie E. Casey Foundation over 20 years ago, JDAI is designed to address the efficiency and effectiveness of juvenile detention. JDAI is designed to help counties make prudent use of secure detention, promote efficient use of resources, and support public safety. At the statewide level, JDAI is coordinated through the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

In Wayne County, implementation of JDAI includes a multidisciplinary collaboration between the Court, Wayne County Children Services Board, Wayne County Board of Commissioners, Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Wayne County Public Defender, Mental Health and Recovery Board of Wayne and Holmes Counties, multiple local law enforcement agencies, representatives of local school districts, and representatives of local treatment and social services agencies. In 2019, Wayne County's efforts in furtherance of JDAI included holding a JDAI kickoff event for community partners, training JDAI executive committee on JDAI fundamentals, and upgraded electronic monitoring units to allow for more youth to remain in their homes while charges are pending. These efforts as well as adoption of the philosophy behind JDAI helped Wayne County reduce detention utilization and increase utilization of community-based alternatives throughout 2019.



OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS

The Court's practice is to make use of local resources to rehabilitate youth whenever possible. In some cases, community-based programs are not a viable option because of community safety issues, or because the child's behavior present a danger to his or her health or well-being, or because the child has not been amenable to other efforts to affect change. In instances where it is necessary to place juveniles in private treatment facilities, group homes, therapeutic foster homes, or Multi-County Juvenile Attention System (MCJAS) facilities, the Court system refers to this generally as "out of home placement."

Juveniles found delinquent because they have committed a misdemeanor or felony may be placed in detention locally. Those juveniles who have been delinquent because they have committed an act that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony, may be committed to the Ohio

Department of Youth Services or a community corrections facility. In 2019, 1 youth was committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services, and 2 youth were committed to a community corrections facility.

At disposition, out of home placements may be made. Where appropriate, a juvenile may be placed in a facility other than detention or the Ohio Department of Youth Services. As a part of disposition, the Court determines which facility will be the most appropriate to reform the juvenile's behavior. In 2019, 3 youth were ordered into out of home placement other than detention or the Ohio Department of Youth Services. A summary of these out of home placements and their facilities follows:

2019 Placement Summary

<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>TOTAL YOUTH PLACED</u>
<i>Mohican Young Star Academy</i>	3
<i>Residential Treatment Center (MCJAS)</i>	1

FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

Children who present multiple needs and specialized treatment placements are referred to the Wayne County Family and Children First Council. Numerous county agencies work together to set policy for the Council, including Wayne County Children Services, Wayne County schools, Wayne County Health Department, and many others. Misty Hanson, as Chief Probation Officer of the Court, serves as the Juvenile Court's representative on the Council's clinical diversion team, which also includes the Council coordinator and representatives from Wayne County Children Services, The Counseling Center, Wooster City Schools, Tri-County Educational Services, agencies with alcohol and drug services, and Wayne County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Through a team approach, this group formulates interagency cooperative planning (and funding) for referred youth with special needs.

COMMUNITY CONTROL COMPLIANCE

Not all youth who are adjudicated delinquent or unruly in the Court come to probation for monitoring. Many youth are placed under Community Control and given a variety of sanctions. Those sanctions can include community service, the requirement to obtain a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalence, the requirement to obtain a substance use assessment and/or substance use treatment, attendance in anger management counseling, to serve monitored time, to have electronic monitoring with house arrest, to pay restitution, to write letters of apology, and/or any other remedy the Court deems reasonable. Starting in 2012, a designated probation officer was assigned to monitor compliance of those Community Control sanctions by these non-probation youth. This probation officer also monitors a probation caseload.

Once a youth is ordered on Community Control with sanctions (excluding probation), a copy of that entry is forwarded to the probation officer in charge of monitoring. The probation officer will track the due dates of the sanctions and send letters 30 days in advance to remind the youth of the upcoming due date. Once all sanctions under Community Control are met, the probation officer will make a Motion to the Court requesting Community Control be terminated. If the youth has not been granted an extension, and the due date passes with no proof of completion submitted, the probation officer will file a complaint for Violation of a Court Order or a Motion for Contempt.

In 2019, the Community Control Compliance Program monitored 225 cases, with 143 cases terminating, showing all sanctions being completed, and 82 cases remaining open and monitored into 2020. The Community Control Compliance program has allowed the Court to be more efficient in monitoring its Orders and holding individuals who violate Community Control accountable.

TRUANCY DIVERSION

In April, 2017, Ohio Revised Code § 2151.27 was amended to address habitual truancy. The Annual Report must specify the number of children placed in alternatives to adjudication under § 2151.27(G), the number who successfully completed alternatives to adjudication, and the number who failed to complete alternatives to adjudication and were adjudicated unruly.



In 2019, 29 youth were placed in the truancy diversion program. 17 youth successfully completed the program, and 6 youth were unsuccessful in their attempt and adjudicated unruly. 6 youth remained in the program into 2020.

STRIVE MENTORING PROGRAM

The Strive Mentoring Program began in late 2017, through a collaboration with Catholic Charities Community Services. The year-long program pairs at-risk or court-involved youth ages 10-17 with a community volunteer, who serves as a supportive individual to help the youth deal with various life challenges. The youth and their mentor spend time together one on one, and also participate in monthly group activities. Examples of activities include baking cookies, laser tag, making crafts, and similar activities.

In 2019, 10 youth were paired with mentors with 8 youth remaining with mentors into 2020.

WORK PROGRAM

The Work Program started in July 2012 as a replacement for the Saturday at Work Program. The Work Program is designed to provide an immediate response to youth who violate their probation or fail to complete their community service. The program also allows youth with difficult schedules or circumstances, and who need direct supervision, an avenue to complete community service hours.

The program allows five juveniles per program day to complete community service hours under the direct supervision of two probation staff. The program is scheduled for one day each month, six hours per day. Work sites vary according to the availability in the community and

weather conditions. The program is funded through the RECLAIM Ohio Grant and operates on a fiscal year from July 1 through June 30.

In 2019, there were 36 referrals made to the program. Of the 36 referrals, 28 youth were successful in completing the program.

CHEMICAL ABUSE AND BEHAVIOR (CAB)

The Chemical Abuse and Behavior (CAB) group is a program initiated by the probation department in 2011. The group focuses on substance abuse and behavior issues and uses various curriculums addressing thinking errors, relationship building, problem solving skills, etc. The group is run by a certified substance abuse counselor from Catholic Charities. The Court contracts with Catholic Charities to provide this service, which is paid out of the RECLAIM Ohio grant. A youth may be assigned to this group as a result of a positive drug screen, as a sanction for possession or usage of illegal substances or paraphernalia, or as part of an aftercare plan following a more intensive treatment program. The group meets Thursdays after school and is interactive by design.



Fredy Robles of Catholic Charities works with youth in CAB.

In 2019, 15 youth were referred to the Chemical Abuse & Behavior Program.

JUVENILES ADDRESSING RESTITUTION (JAR)

The judicial system seeks to hold juveniles accountable for their actions as well as requiring them to make restitution for damages experienced by the victim. In cases involving violations against property, the Court strives to aid the victim in receiving compensation for damages or loss of property, caused by the delinquent acts of juveniles.

In order to do this, the Court may require the payment of restitution to the victim. The ability to collect monetary compensation for the victim can be hindered by various factors, such as the limited sources of revenue for the juvenile, the age or functioning level of the juvenile prohibiting employability, the availability of jobs, lack of transportation in order to obtain a job, and/or parental inability to pay.

JAR is a program operated by the Court that provides a means for juveniles to pay Court-ordered restitution. Referral to the program is made from the bench by the Judge or Magistrate. The program allows juveniles to perform community service work that is converted to minimum wage per hour worked. The Court's Compliance Officer monitors and tracks the community services hours performed by the juvenile.

The Compliance Officer arranges community service work sites or in cases where the juvenile has access to a volunteer work source, they may make their own arrangements at an approved work site. Work hours are documented and the Compliance Officer submits proof of completed hours to the Court for processing of payment. Restitution payment is made by the Court directly to the victim using money secured through the RECLAIM grant.

Should a juvenile be appropriate for the JAR program and was not referred from the bench, the Compliance Officer may file a request with the hearing officer for the referral. A juvenile may be dismissed from the JAR program for failure to comply with the conditions of the program.

The purpose of the JAR program is to aid the victim of certain crimes committed by the delinquent acts of juveniles in receiving restitution for their losses as determined by the Court. While the primary goal is to repay the victims, the program does provide for the offender to be held directly accountable for his/her actions by giving of their time and effort.

In 2019, 12 youth were admitted to the JAR program and \$1236.13 was paid to victims for losses. 4 youth successfully completed the JAR program in 2019, and 4 youth were still active in the program into 2020.

SATURDAY SCHOOL



Saturday School participants learn how to change a car's tire and oil.

The Court's Saturday School program started in 2015 as an alternative sanction for Court involved youth demonstrating behavioral, attendance, or academic issues at school. The program runs two Saturdays a month during the school year and is staffed by two teachers and one probation officer. The Court coordinates with the youth's school to ensure the youth has school work to complete, and to determine any areas that the youth could benefit from additional assistance, and passes that information along to the teachers at the program.

In 2019, 96 youth were ordered into the Saturday School Program, and 71 successfully completed the program.

BOOK CLUB

Since the Book Club was established in 2003, the Court has participated in an alternative community service option and invited appropriate youth to join the Juvenile Court Book Club. Youth are referred to the Book Club by either the Probation Officers or the Prevention and Intervention Officer.

Participants read nine books, including *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson and *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry. Those youth who are successful receive community service credit. They must show that they have read the book and participate in weekly “club meetings” to obtain credit. A library of books for participants was created from funds made available through an award from the Mental Health and Recovery Board and the Martha Hawks Bequest.

In 2019, 4 youth participated, and 3 were successful in completing the program.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service is a frequently used dispositional order that requires a youth to perform work beneficial to the community. The program provides youth with an opportunity to “repay” the community for the problems caused by the youth’s behavior, as well as provide the youth with the opportunity to gain work experience. Youth who participate in the Court’s Diversion program may also be assigned community services as a condition of that program.

In 2019, 1685 hours of community service were ordered, and 1015 hours were completed.

LIFE SKILLS



Since 1982, the Court has cooperated with Goodwill Industries to provide a job skills program that allows youth to develop appropriate work skills and experience. Youth are also able to earn funds to pay fines, costs and restitution. The Probation Department is responsible for supervising these placements and working with the Goodwill staff to provide a support system for the youth. Goodwill also provides a life skills class to help those in the program learn about different careers, interview tips, and how to apply for employment. This program is funded by the RECLAIM Ohio grant.

In 2019, 17 youth were referred to Life Skills. 7 of those referred were successful, 4 were not successful, and 6 remained working in the program into 2020.

FITTING IT ALL TOGETHER (FIAT)

A significant number of youth involved in the Court system lack, or are delayed, in social skills, and have limited exposure to appropriate activities. These youth may suffer from a lack of structure in their home environment and in their free time, and have no positive adult role models, or their families may not have the financial means or ability to access resources. Research shows youth learn social skills and develop positive assets by being directly involved in appropriate activities. Exposure to recreational, vocational, and educational activities broadens their awareness and increases their knowledge. Furthermore, youth connected with a mentoring program tend to be less involved in criminal activity.

As a result of this need, the Court developed a program, now referred to as the FIAT (Fitting It All Together) program, with ANA·ZAO Community Partners. The partnership allows the Court to refer youth who need structured, positive social activities to the FIAT Program.

Youth Development Specialists coordinate and supervise the FIAT program, which provides educational and social activities for youth. Activities may be co-ed or specifically for females or males, depending on the participant's needs. One activity is Hoops and Homework, which is done in cooperation with the College of Wooster. The youth receive homework assistance as well as an opportunity to be involved in a physical activity (such as basketball or dodge ball), both with college students.

In addition to group activities, FIAT customizes one-on-one activities to address individual needs of each youth. The program utilizes resources such as libraries, bike trails, parks, recreation centers, and local businesses as much as possible to expose the youth to what is available to them locally. The Youth Development Specialists also work with youth to transition them from adolescence to adulthood by linking them with community resources that can provide ongoing services and assistance.



In 2019, 30 youth participated in FIAT – 7 girls and 23 boys.

MULTI-SYSTEMIC THERAPY (MST)

In August of 2013, due to a Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice grant that was awarded to the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Wayne and Holmes County, the Court was able to implement the M.S.T. program in a continued effort to keep youth in the community and out of placement. The M.S.T. program targets juvenile offenders with serious behavioral issues that cause them to be at a significant risk for out of home placement.

A specially trained M.S.T. therapist from the Crisis Intervention and Recovery Center of Stark County, Inc. is assigned to work with the families of Wayne County who are candidates for this type of program, and provides intensive family and community based treatment that addresses the multiple factors that contribute to a juvenile's delinquent behavior. The M.S.T. therapist works to bring key participants of the juvenile's life together to form a support system, so that once the Court is out of the family's life, the family has support to continue on a positive path.

In 2019, a total of 12 families participated in the MST Program, including 5 who began the program in 2018.

MULTI-SYSTEMIC THERAPY FOR PROBLEM SEXUAL BEHAVIORS (MST-PSB)

In January 2015, the Court applied for and received a three-year Competitive RECLAIM grant through the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The Court used the funds to implement the MST-PSB program. This evidence-based pro-gram allows youth who are either adjudicated of a sexually-oriented offense, or youth who are displaying problem sexual behaviors, to receive

treatment in their community rather than placement outside of the home. Referrals for this program are made by either the Court or Wayne County Children Services.

An MST-PSB therapist from the Crisis Intervention and Recovery Center of Stark County, Inc. works intensively with the youth and their families in a home-based setting. MST-PSB is unique, goal-oriented, and comprehensive evidence-based intensive treatment program designed to promote victim safety and reduce the likelihood of future problem behaviors and criminal activities.

In 2019, 10 families participated in the MST-PSB program, and 5 were still active in the program going into 2020.

CHARACTER BUILDING GROUP

In January of 2014 in collaboration with Catholic Charities, the Court launched the Character Building Group. This intervention was designed to address several criminogenic needs of the participants which include; poor problem solving skills, poor self-control and self-management, antisocial attitudes and identification and association with antisocial role models. The overall goal is to help the participants identify and problem solve the factors that landed them in the court system and assist them in formulating a plan to not return to the court system. Participants attend one, three-hour group session.

In 2019, 64 youth were referred to the program, and 59 of those youth successfully completed.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN COOPERATING TOGETHER (PACCT)

PACCT is a home-based family therapy program provided by contract through Catholic Charities Community Services. To be eligible for services, families must reside in Wayne County, have one or more children in the family who was referred as a condition of a diversion contract, or who has been adjudicated delinquent or unruly. The program is funded by Catholic Charities, United Way, and the Court.

Youth at high risk for out-of-home placement are referred to this program along with youth who may avoid any Court involvement by being successful with the program. The program is flexible and works with the family to address whatever issues are creating problems for the youth and their family. Services may be short term and intensive or continue for a longer period of time depending on the specific needs of the youth. During FY 2019, 32 youth participated in the PACCT program.

A major focus of the program is to provide home-based counseling to referred youth and their families. This approach allows the therapist to address family issues that may impact the functioning of the referred youth as well as assist siblings to avoid future problems. Youth and families, at the time of the referral, also do not necessarily see the value of family counseling and one of the elements of the program is to find ways to interest families in engaging in the therapy process.

As a result of PACCT, Catholic Charities Community Services has developed anger management groups to aid youth in better controlling their feelings of anger and aggressive behavior.

CARTEENS



Carteens is a driver education program designed for low-level or first-time juvenile traffic offenders and has operated in Wayne County for over 20 years. In 2019, 190 teen traffic offenders were referred to Carteens.

DIVERSION AND INTERVENTION SERVICES

The Prevention and Intervention Officer is responsible for implementation of the Diversion Program. The goal of the Diversion Program is to divert first time juvenile offenders from the court system. The Officer receives referrals from the Prosecutor's Office of juveniles who have had police reports filed. First time offenders with misdemeanor offenses, and occasional felony offenses, may be eligible for Diversion. The youth will comply with the program components, which may include:

- 90 day minimum agreement
- daily attendance at school
- curfew, essays, community service
- no additional charges filed within 90 days
- referral to community resources (counseling, substance use education, anger management)

If the youth completes all requirements of the agreement, the youth will be removed from the program and no further action will occur. If the youth does not meet the requirements of the Diversion agreement, the youth is then terminated from Diversion as unsuccessful. The original complaint that brought him/her to Diversion is returned to the Prosecutor for possible formal action.

In 2019, the Prevention and Intervention Officer received 108 new referrals. Of the youths in Diversion in 2019, 77 were successful, 14 were un-successful, and 17 remained open going into 2020.

GIRLS CIRCLE

The Court launched the Girls Circle Program in 2015. This eight to twelve week program is a structured support and developmental group for girls between the ages of 9 and 18. Girls Circle aims to counteract social and interpersonal forces that impede girls' growth and development by promoting an emotionally safe setting, and structure within which girls can develop caring relationships and find their own beliefs, utilizing a strength-based approach.

Referrals for Girls Circle can be made by the Court or any local providers, including schools. In 2019, 4 youth participated in Girls Circle.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SCREENING PROGRAM

In order to identify the needs of Court-involved youth as early in the process as possible, the Court developed the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Screening Program in May of 2014. Through a contract with Catholic Charities, the Court is able to have a clinician on site for eight hours per week to perform screenings. The program serves both youth participating in the Court's Diversion Program as well as any youth adjudicated of an offense through the Court prior to disposition. The screenings allow the Court have the information necessary to put in place the most appropriate interventions specific to each individual youths needs to prevent future Court involvement.

Drug screens are administered by the Court's probation officers and prevention and intervention officer as an aid in monitoring youth's compliance with probation and diversion or for evaluation purposes. The drug screens are paid for by the youth and from the Probation Services Fund.

In 2019, 208 youth received mental health and substance abuse screenings through this program.

CLINICAL AND DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATIONS

The Court obtains psychological evaluations and risk assessments for a variety of reasons. The findings and recommendations of these evaluations are used for case planning, dispositional options, amenability, sex offender classification purposes, or for cases where out of home placements are being considered. The Court contracts with outside sources to obtain these evaluations. In 2019, 13 psychological and risk assessments were performed. The evaluations and assessments are funded by the RECLAIM Ohio grant.

COMMUNITY AGENCIES – THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUED ASSISTANCE

As has been noted in this and prior reports, community-based programming would fail without the aid of local partnering agencies. The help of ANA·ZAO Community Partners, One Eighty, the Counseling Center of Wayne and Holmes Counties, Catholic Charities, Goodwill, the Wayne-Holmes Mental Health and Recovery Board, and many other community agencies is greatly appreciated.



WAYNE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

This year's cover features an image of the historic Wayne County Courthouse after undergoing significant, historically accurate renovations that were necessary to restore and



preserve the Courthouse. The renovations began in 2014 and were completed in 2016. The image was captured by Jane Robbins, Administrative Secretary and Chief Deputy Clerk to the Juvenile Court. The Courthouse is located at 107 West Liberty Street in Wooster. It was designed by architect Thomas Boyd and built in 1870. The Courthouse is built of stone and is attached to a brick office building that was built in 1869. The Courthouse was constructed in the French Renaissance style.

The Wayne County Courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. [Additional information on more of Ohio's historic courthouses is available on the Supreme Court of Ohio's website.](#)



IMAGES AND COPYRIGHTS

Photographs of the Wayne County Courthouse are courtesy of Jane Robbins, a previous employee of the Juvenile Court. Other photographs were either taken by Court staff of actual programming or obtained freely from voluntary submissions through Pexels, an online stock image sharing service.

PRINTING COSTS

Ohio Revised Code § 2151.18 requires that the Court include on each printed copy of the Annual Report the cost of each printed copy. The 2019 Annual Report was printed using a court-owned color desktop printer, so no exact costs are associated with its printing. Only two printed copies are being made in order to satisfy the legal requirement that two copies remain on file with the Court. Distribution of the Annual Report is again being made online in order to minimize costs. [Click here for additional links to Annual Reports from this year and previous years.](#)