

Lorain County Court of Common Pleas

Domestic Relations Division
Juvenile Branch



2011 Annual Report

The Court

**Lorain County Justice Center
225 Court Street
2nd and 4th Floors
Elyria, Ohio 44035**



Off Site Locations

**Community Intervention Program
320 No. Gateway Blvd.
3rd Floor
Elyria, Ohio 44035**

Juvenile Complex:

**Pathways, 1076 Infirmary Road
Stepping Stone, 1064 Infirmary Road
Turning Point, 1080 Infirmary Road**



**Multi-Purpose/Administration
1070 Infirmary Road
Elyria, Ohio 44035**

**Lorain County Detention Home, 9967 S. Murray Ridge Road
Elyria, Ohio 44035**



The Citizens of Lorain County:



Debra L. Boros
Judge



David J. Berta
Administrative Judge



David A. Basinski
Judge

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Basinski".

David A. Basinski
Judge

The Court is very pleased to present our *2011 Annual Report* for your information and use. This report documents the Court's continuing efforts to enhance the services and programming provided to Lorain County citizens. Significant areas of activities are documented throughout this report through narrative, operating statistics and data.

The Court has a long-standing approach of maintaining a high level of services for the citizens of Lorain County. The Judges and staff pledge to seek innovative and efficient means of providing these services. We extend our gratitude to our many friends in the community for their continual support, collaboration and encouragement.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra L. Boros".

Debra L. Boros
Judge

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Berta".

David J. Berta
Administrative Judge

MISSION STATEMENT

Lorain County Domestic Relations Court will serve the Citizens of Lorain County in a professional, dignified and timely fashion. The Court will protect the public interest, make cost-effective use of public funds, engage appropriate community resources in providing services, and endeavor to provide for the safety of the public. The Court will strive to ensure that parties receive a just determination in every Court proceeding and enforcement of their constitutional and legal rights. Foremost, the Court will provide for the care, protection, and well being of the children and families who come before it.

FORWARD

The Domestic Relations Division of the Lorain County Court of Common Pleas has exclusive jurisdiction over all domestic matters as well as jurisdiction over all juvenile cases. 2011 was another busy year for our Court, as the stresses of the economy took its toll on the families in Lorain County. It remained our commitment to the citizens of Lorain County, doing our best, with fewer resources, to assist the families we serve in the resolution of their matters before the Court.

Case resolution in the courtrooms, however, continues to be only a part of the total service the Court provides. The Court has a well-established history of providing services and programming to the community. Further, there remains ongoing evaluation, oversight, and innovation to assure that programming and services remain relevant, necessary, and operated in the most efficient and cost effective manner.

During 2011, the Court reduced staff, cut expenses to levels not seen in a decade, and strived to maintain the services to the public that the citizens of Lorain County have come to expect.

The staff of the Lorain County Domestic Relations Court takes great pride in their jobs and strives to set the standard of being the best example of public service.

The following pages will provide the foundation for a working knowledge of the makeup and responsibilities of the Court.

Doug Messer
Court Administrator

JUDGES

The three Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court Judges are very active in their courtrooms, hearing a variety and multitude of cases. The Judges refer a wide range of cases to the Magistrates. The type of cases and matters heard by the judiciary include, but are not limited to, the following:

Marriage dissolutions

Divorces - contested and uncontested

Civil protection order petitions - domestic violence

Pre and Post-Decree domestic relations contempt motions

Juvenile hearings involving the following:

- Motions to bind the juvenile over to the general division
- Commitments to the Department of Youth Services (DYS)
- Out-of-home placements
- Serious youthful offender matters
- Cases involving Sexual offender registration and notification

Objections to Magistrates orders and decisions

Motions to vacate Magistrates' orders

Motions to vacate final judgments

Permanent surrenders for adoptions

Judicial bypass hearings

Judicial releases from DHS

Marriage consents

Court Filings in 2011			
	New Filings	Reopened	Terminations
Divorce with Children	383	21	405
Divorce w/o Children	300	32	344
Dissolution with Children	187	1	205
Dissolution w/o Children	217	2	208
Change of Custody	0	154	154
Visitation	0	19	21
Support	50	590	610
Domestic Violence	441	19	474
Uresa	0	0	0
All others	10	203	227
Total	1588	1041	2648

MAGISTRATES

Due to the volume of cases and hearings before the Court, Magistrates are essential to the work being accomplished in an expedient and efficient manner.

PERSONAL COURT MAGISTRATES

Each Judge has on their personal staff three Magistrates, having general responsibility for covering all domestic and juvenile cases. Types of cases, issues, and hearings heard by the Magistrates are determined at the discretion of their Judge.

GENERAL COURT MAGISTRATES

Several areas in the Court require Magistrate involvement. The following comprise this group (the departments are described later in this Report):

Intake Magistrate – An Attorney Intake Magistrate, with an office located in the Boys' Detention Home has a multitude of duties. Along with an Intake Officer and an Intake Supervisor, Intake staff review all requests for detention and admission to the shelter care facility. The Magistrate conducts a variety of hearings, including arraignments on children brought to the Detention Home and hearings on unruly matters.

CSEA - Two full time magistrates, in a dedicated unit, conduct child support hearings.

Mediation - A magistrate hears and journalizes all agreements reached in the pro-se mediation process. In addition, this Magistrate serves as the Supervisor of the Mediation staff, a program of Family Court Services.

ADMINISTRATION

Doug Messer, Court Administrator

Administration has responsibility for the management and direction of all Court operations, with the exception of the Judges and their personal staffs. The team is made up of the Court Administrator, Deputy Court Administrator and the Administrative Assistant. The Deputy Court Administrator supervises the Department Directors, the Investigation and Referral (I&R) Team, and the Assignment Commissioners. In 2011, the Deputy Court Administrator continued to assume the duties of directing the Residential Services programs, following the prior year's commitment to absorbing the Director of Residential Services duties, a position eliminated due to budget constraints.

The Court now consists of four departments with approximately 185 employees. Court operations include: service provider contracting; fiscal management; human resources; program planning, implementation, development, and evaluation; handling disciplinary issues and conducting disciplinary hearings; public relations/media contact; and the operation and maintenance of the Court's physical facilities.

The Deputy Court Administrator has responsibility for the following: recruiting, interviewing, performing background checks, selection of qualified applicants; developing and planning staff training; development and ongoing oversight of the IV-E reimbursement program; developing and managing special projects; and representative to the Integrated Services Partnership (ISP), as well as collecting statistical information related to ISP placements. This position will also act in the place of the Court Administrator when the Court Administrator is unavailable.

INVESTIGATION AND REFERRAL TEAM

The Investigation and Referral Team, through information gathering, investigation, and case assessment, makes a recommendation to the Court as to the appropriate level and type of Court intervention for juveniles needing probation services.

Case Planners review cases prior to disposition and develop case plans when needed. The process includes screening (using the MAYSI and OHIO SCALES), completion of the DIR and OYAS and a review of the findings. If warranted, a mental health screening, psychological assessment, psychiatric evaluation or an alcohol/drug assessment may be arranged. Upon referrals to Court programs, the program staff will provide input into the case plan development. Recommendations will be created based upon the information that is gathered. The task of I & R becomes blending the level of supervision with the risk for re-offending and the needs of the child and family, and identifying community resources to address the concerns revealed in the I & R process.

At disposition, these recommendations will be presented for the Court's consideration, reflecting a specific case plan for the youth, including community control expectations for all parties and therapeutic interventions. This year there were 393 cases referred. Out of that number, 106 were re-referrals.

There is an ongoing effort to continue to review and augment our evidence based programming.

The department employs an Education and Prevention Specialist, who coordinates the psycho-educational programming offered by the Court. The Education and Prevention Specialist also provides direct services to youth who are sentenced to the Detention Home. When needed, community based services may also be provided to families who otherwise might not have access to them.

A forensic psychologist is contracted to provide evaluations for youth when mental health or developmental concerns are present. The psychologist also provides competency, bind over and parental evaluations when needed. The psychologist is available for staff consultation as well. In 2011, this psychologist provided 145 evaluations, nearly doubling the number from last year.

The I&R Program Manager also acts as the liaison for the Bellefaire Juvenile Offender Project, a collaborative effort between the local Mental Health Board, Lorain County Juvenile Court, and Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau. The project provides for an extensive psychological evaluation of violent juvenile offenders, residential placement for continued evaluation, if needed, and ongoing in-home services.

The comprehensive evaluation involves psychometric testing, review of collateral contacts, assessment of family functioning and review of Court records. From this evaluation, recommendations are formulated to address the identified needs.

During 2011, 20 youth were provided with a psychological evaluation through the Juvenile Offender Project and Bellefaire JCB, more than doubling the number from last year. Additional youth were evaluated by a private contractor. The recommendations provided through the evaluation process were instrumental in determining an appropriate level of supervision and direction for Court intervention and referral.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY COURT SERVICES

John Ollerton, Director

INTRODUCTION

Family Court Services is involved in both domestic and juvenile matters. The domestic side involves Family Divorce Services and Domestic Support while the Voices for Children program advocates for abused and neglected children.

FAMILY DIVORCE SERVICES

This department can be utilized by either Court order or party request when an agreement as to issues of custody and visitation cannot be reached or when assistance in compliance with orders of the divorce decree is needed.

Family Divorce Services covers seven major areas:

1. Court-ordered Mediation
2. Pro-Se Mediation
3. Truancy Mediation
4. Visitation Assessment
5. Home Study
6. Seminar for Separating Parents
7. Seminar for Unmarried Parents with visitation hearings

Court-ordered Mediation is a process whereby the parents and a third-party mediator work together to gather information, isolate issues of disagreement, generate options to settle those issues, negotiate among those options, and reach a mutually satisfactory agreement to accommodate the needs of both parents and their children. This past year, 72 cases were submitted for Court ordered mediation. 55 cases were mediated with 35 agreements approved by the Court for a 63.6% success rate. There were 11 mediations of clients returning for a second time, reaching 9 agreements for an 81.1% success rate. Hearings were held for all mediated agreements.

The *Pro-Se Mediation* program enables citizens who divorced, established parentage in this county, or obtained an administrative order of paternity through the Lorain County Child Support Enforcement Agency to avail themselves of mediation. Issues for mediation include property that has not been returned or transferred, exchange of medical insurance information, unpaid medical bills, noncompliance with visitation schedules, and establishing visitation. In 2011, the Court received 430 referrals with 144 cases mediated. Agreements were reached in 65.9% of the cases mediated. There were 26 clients with prior mediation returning for a second time, reaching 9 agreements, for a success rate of 34.6%. Hearings were held for all mediated agreements.

Juvenile Truancy Mediation was continued again this year. These mediations bring together the child and the parent (or legal guardian) to examine the issues in the family that interfere with the child attending school on a consistent basis. No other parties are present for this mediation. In 2011,

there were 78 referrals made for mediation. 44 of those referred actually participated in truancy mediation. Of those who participated, 79.5% resulted in a mediated agreement.

The *Visitation Assessment* unit assists the Court and parties in the implementation of visitation orders. This assistance may include an investigative report with recommendations to the Court regarding companionship, as well as implementing, monitoring or supervising visitation schedules, and supervising visitation in the Department. A visitation assessment may be requested by either a client or his/her attorney but requires an accompanying Court order to access the service. In 2011, there were 76 cases referred for assessments with 114 reports completed and submitted to the Court. Their reports include facilitation reports, supervised visitation reports, and other reports. A total of 312 supervised visits took place in the department this past year, serving 791 clients.

The *Home Study* unit prepares an investigative report to the Court. Information is gathered through interviews with parties and outside resources. The study assists the Court in determining the most appropriate placement for children and must be accessed by Court Order.

Home Studies Received for Investigation

Divorce	16
Allocation of Parental Rights.....	20
Out of County.....	0
Total	36

The *Seminar for Separating Parents* is a required program that seeks to better inform parents about the impact of divorce on their children and provide them the information to minimize these conflicts. The two-hour presentation provides pertinent information and resources early in the divorce process and strives to enhance the likelihood of parental cooperation. Attendance is mandatory for parents with minor children, with the philosophy that a child's future welfare depends upon the parents' ability to help their children navigate through the divorce without being subjected to unnecessary parental conflict. Judge David A. Basinski and staff present the seminar. A Court-produced video specifically addresses the needs of separating parents and is shown at times when the Judge is not available. The Court's publication, From Crisis to Cooperation, is a guide to assist families in coping with the divorce process and is given to all participants. The seminar is provided at no cost to the participants. This past year 958 parents completed the seminar.

The *Seminar for Unmarried Parents* was developed to help unmarried parents understand both the legal and emotional issues involved with visitation. Family Divorce Services staff facilitates the seminar and a Court magistrate is present to answer legal questions. The Court-produced video illustrates the importance of positive parental communication, the need for positive parent/child contact, and answers common legal questions. The seminar is provided at no cost to the participants. The seminar is followed by the offer of individual visitation conferences designed to journalize a companionship schedule for the non-residential parent. This past year 117 parents completed the seminar resulting in the following:

Visitation Conference Outcomes

Conferences Held	33
Standard Order of Visitation Reached	10
Cases Referred to FDS Visitation Unit	8
Defendant (no appearance) Conference	12
Special Circumstance Conference	3
Cases Dismissed	56
Received Certificate Only.....	63

DOMESTIC SUPPORT UNIT

The Lorain County Domestic Support Unit provides judicial services to the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA), operated by the State of Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Ohio's child support program is a federal, state and county partnership charged with creating and implementing programs that meet federal and state laws and regulations. The Lorain County Domestic Relations Court contracted for both judicial services and juvenile clerking services for 2011. The juvenile clerking contract totaled \$359,841 and the magistrate services contract totaled \$359,887. The contracts provide funding for the operation of the Domestic Support Unit and include full and partial reimbursement of salary and benefits for 16 court employees, including two magistrates.

The purpose of the Domestic Support Unit is to provide hearings to address all issues involving the support of children, including establishment, modification and contempt. The juvenile clerking unit provides staff to prepare and file all journal entries pertaining to child support in the Juvenile Clerk's Office.

During the 2011 calendar year, the Domestic Support Unit conducted 5,691 hearings involving issues of child support. The staff in the Juvenile Clerk's Office registered 24,162 journal entries for filing during the twelve-month period of 2011.

Hearings Conducted in 2011

Paternity	341
Contempt	3,980
CNS	132
Arrears.....	358
Terminations... ..	226
Modifications	512
All others	142
Total.....	5,691

VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Voices for Children (VFC) is a member of the nationally recognized National Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem Association (NCASA/GAL Assoc.). The mission of the Voices for Children Program is to speak up for the "Best Interest" of abused, neglected and dependent children who are involved in the court system through no fault of their own. Based on the belief that every child is entitled to a safe, permanent and nurturing home, the Voices for Children Program works in the court system through trained volunteers within our community in collaboration with key agencies, legal counsel and community resources to serve as the child's advocate and represent the child's needs and wishes before a Magistrate or Judge.

In order for a volunteer CASA/GAL to make a sound recommendation to the court on behalf of the child's best interest, he or she must investigate the circumstances and family life of the child. In addition, he or she will review records, interview the children, parents, relatives, foster parents, teachers, neighbors, caseworkers, etc, which have direct involvement and/or knowledge of the child. Once the preliminary investigation is complete, the volunteer CASA/GAL will submit a report to the Court with his or her findings and recommendations as it pertains to the "Best Interest" of the child.

In order to become a volunteer CASA/GAL, one must submit an application with 3 non-related personal references; be interviewed by the staff; undergo a

criminal background check through the Web Check System and be screened through Lorain County Children Services. The volunteer CASA/GAL must complete 30 hours of pre-service training that includes four classroom sessions (30 hours) and courtroom observation (minimal of 2 hours). At the last training session, the Judge administers an oath. At that time, all of the volunteer CASA/GAL trainees are recognized as Officers of the Court. In addition, the volunteer CASA/GAL must attend 12 hours of continuing educational training per year.

The success of the Voices for Children Program is due to the commitment of the volunteer CASA/GALs recruited from within the community, the program and support staff, private citizens, community organizations and the Voices for Children Board of Directors. The Board assists the program in fund raising, marketing, public awareness and recruiting.

2011 Funding

Court: \$127,769

County: \$10,723

State: \$3,199

Title IV-E funding (federal funds): \$10,765

VOCA (Grant): \$32,669

Total: \$185,125

Volunteers

The volunteer CASA/GALs represented a wide diversity, similar to the population of Lorain County.

- 142 active volunteers
- Ages: 21-29 (11) / 30-39 (27) / 40-49 (25) / 50-59 (35) / 60+ (44)
- Gender: 111 Females and 31 Males
- Education: High School (25) / Some College (53) / College Graduate (31) / Post Graduate (33)
- Race: Caucasian (117) / African American (17) / Hispanic (4) / Asian (1) / Multi-Racial (2) / Native American (1)

Children Served

- Total number of children served in 2011: 428
- Gender of children served: Female (202) Male (226)
- Ages of children served: Birth to 5 (184) / 6 to 11 (150) / 12 to 15 (54) / 16 to 17 (25) / 18 and above (15)

- Racial Makeup of children served: Caucasian (291) / African American (37) / Hispanic (27) / Multi Racial (70) / Asian (2) / Other (1)
- Total number of children whose case had closed in 2011: 214

Reason for Court/Program Closure

- Adopted: 17
- Case Removed from Docket: 26
- Family Moved: 5
- Case Transferred to another Jurisdiction: 5
- Child Aged out of System: 6
- Placed with Legal Guardian: 33
- Returned to Home of Origin: 117
- Long-Term Foster Care: 5

Types of Petitions

Abuse/Dependency:	2
Abuse/Dependency/Neglect:.....	11
Dependency:.....	11
Dependency/Neglect:	402
Deserted Child:	1
Divorce/Custody:.....	8
Neglect:.....	8

Allegations

Dependency:.....	12
Dependency/Neglect:.....	442
Educational Neglect	2
Medical Neglect:	1
Neglect:	5
Physical Abuse:	5
Physical Neglect:	1

(Count of Petitions/Allegations may exceed number of children if multiple Petitions/Allegations per child)

DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION AND YOUTH SERVICES

Patricia Wilson, Director

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Probation and Youth Services provides direct and indirect services for youth who have been referred to the Court for delinquent (misdemeanor and felony level) and status (ungovernable, curfew, etc) offenses. The department encompasses Juvenile Probation and related programs, the Intake Department (the Intake function that controls admissions to the Detention Home and conducts initial detention hearings), the Pay-Back program, the M.E.R.I.T program and the Court-School Liaison program.

Department personnel make recommendations to the Magistrates and Judges on all cases.

The Court has continued to serve youth and families that are identified by the Court for supervision and other on-going services in Calendar Year 2011. In addition to supervision and internal Court programs, Court staff collaborates with other community agencies to ensure that services and resources are identified and secured to assist youth and families and to reduce or eliminate barriers and address their needs. The Court continues to seek grants and funding for the necessary services available to assist families and works closely with community providers addressing the needs of the shared population we serve.

The Department of Probation and Youth Services has been incorporating more "evidence-based" practices and programs in case plans and approaches for youth and family interventions. Cognitive based therapy, Strengthening Families, Girls' Circle, Boys' Council, Anger Reduction Training and Anger Control Therapy are examples of evidence-based programs that have been utilized throughout 2011. Many of the Probation staff have been trained to facilitate these programs and utilize these skills in their one-on-one supervision of youth on probation.

The Probation staff utilizes the Ohio Youth Assessment Survey (OYAS), the new Risk / Needs assessment tool developed by the University of Cincinnati specifically for the State of Ohio. This instrument assists the Court in effectively targeting services and interventions that result in a higher rate of successful completions of Probation by reducing risk factors. Assessing youth and providing strength-based approaches geared at reducing risk factors, continues to be the foundation of our programs. Effective screening results in case plans that assist in determining the most appropriate supervision and programming for a youth and their family.

The Probation staff provides different levels of supervision to Court-involved juveniles who remain in the community. The diverse strengths and needs of juveniles and their families require unique interventions and levels of supervision. The programs and services are as follows:

COMMUNITY CONTROL

Juveniles placed on General Community Control have been assessed as not needing significant and intensive Court services. However, they are required to complete a Court ordered case plan. Juveniles placed on General Community Control are assigned a Community Control Officer (CCO). The Officer monitors the juvenile's compliance of Court orders and case plans through contact with the juvenile, school officials, parents, service providers and other people significant in the juvenile's life.

The juvenile and family will be responsible for completing case plan components and following all rules of Community Control. The Officer is responsible for making reports to the Court regarding the youth's progress or behavioral concerns. Rewards and sanctions are administered through continual oversight of the juvenile's conduct. The responsibilities of the CCO include notifying all parties of hearings, providing security services for the Court, participating in meetings with outside agencies, assisting families in working with those agencies and working with various school systems.

Four (4) Community Control Officers are assigned to the General Probation Unit of the department. These officers serve youth and families from all the communities of Lorain County as well as youth who are maintained on probation that live out of County. A total of 495 juveniles were served on General Probation in 2011. These included youth that were placed on Temporary Orders prior to final disposition of their case. 98.4% of the youth released from Community Control in 2011 had a decreased Level of Service Indicator (LOSI) score, while 1.96% had an increase in their LOSI score. A decreased LOSI score demonstrates reduction of criminogenic factors. General Community Control Officers also provide supervision for those adults placed on supervision for Contributing to the Unruliness or Delinquency of a Minor.

The Court can place an adjudicated youth on Monitored Time. While on Monitored Time, the juvenile will be required to report to the Community Control department on a predetermined basis. One hundred seven (107) youth were placed on this type of Community Control in 2011. Two (2) Inside CCO's are responsible for this caseload. They make phone contact with the youth, parents, school and service providers and report the progress of the youth to the Court. The CCO's also track continued cases and do initial interviews of youth and families referred for additional Court services.

Two (2) Community Control Officers supervise juveniles placed on Status Probation, offenses that would not be illegal if committed by an adult. Ninety-five (95) youth were served on Status offender probation. These youth were provided supervision and given an opportunity for additional Court services. Some of these youth were referred for in-home services such as an Alternative to Secure Detention program, providing counseling to the youth in the home to address multiple problems.

IN-HOME DETENTION

The In-Home Detention Program provides a service that offers an alternative to detaining a youth in the Detention Home. Juveniles designated for placement in the program are, generally, less serious offenders who do not represent a danger to themselves or to the community. The release of some youth from the Detention Home will require the use of electronic monitoring equipment, which is supervised by program staff. Use of this equipment permits 24-hour monitoring of a youth's adherence to "home detention".

To ensure compliance, all youth accepted into the program are required to sign a contract. Parents, or legal guardians, are also required to pledge to ensure compliance and report any non-compliance with program rules. Court personnel monitor the adjustment of the youth while they are in the program. Random home visits and phone calls are conducted repeatedly. Staff will also visit schools and work sites to ensure compliance with the rules of the program and the signed contract. Violation of the rules could result in the child being remanded to detention in the secure facility until a final Court hearing.

Calendar Year 2011

143 Juveniles were provided in-Home Detention Services

116 (81%) of juveniles successfully completed program requirements

27 (19%) of juveniles readmitted to the Detention Home

COMMUNITY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (CIP)

The Community Intervention Program (CIP) provides intensive Court supervision and services to delinquent youth throughout Lorain County. Youth are placed into the program by a Judge or Magistrate as a disposition when adjudicated delinquent for a criminal offense. The target population is adjudicated delinquent youth ranging from 12 to 18 years of age.

The program is based on a traditional intensive supervision model. The make-up of the program is characterized by low caseloads, averaging 10 to 15 youth. The youth placed in the program have a prescribed case plan based on identified risks and needs. The program functions on a level system comprised of four phases. As the participant demonstrates appropriate behavior, the level of supervision is diminished. A 45-day family team meeting with CIP staff and service providers and a 90-day review hearing before the assigned Judge is conducted to assess the progress of the participant.

The youth may participate in groups that address anger management, social skill building, employment skills and art therapy. All programs have been restructured in an effort to incorporate a more cognitive behavioral approach, inclusive of the utilization of a Cost Benefit Analysis. Program participants in need of mental health and substance abuse services receive assistance through partnerships with various community agencies and service providers. In addition to providing positive interventions, program participants are required to engage in community service opportunities in an effort to afford the participant with an alternative framework for thinking about their wrongdoings.

Calendar Year 2011

- 97 Juveniles participated in CIP (with a 2010 carry-over of 36)
- 62 Juveniles released from the program
- 49% Youth had felony level charges
- 51% Youth had misdemeanor charges
- 37 Youth were released Successfully from the program (60%) (completed all Court requirements and were released from Court supervision)
- 25 Youth were released Unsuccessfully (40%) (removal from the home and placed in out-of-home placement or the Ohio Department of Youth Services)

SPECIALIZED SERVICES

SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM

Juveniles adjudicated delinquent for a sexual offense are referred for a sex offender risk assessment. The assessment determines appropriate recommendations, with options including community treatment, out-of-home placement, or commitment to the Ohio Department of Youth Services. For juveniles who remain in the community, the Community Control Officer (CCO)

will design safety plans to provide adequate supervision of the offender and protection for the victim and the community. Two (2) CCO's supervise juveniles by monitoring their participation in sex offender specific treatment, monitor the juveniles' behavior and actions at home, school, in the community, and supervise compliance with dispositional orders of the Court. The CCO's receive specific training to assist in identifying behavior that can lead to further offending.

Offenders participate in individual and/or group therapy with local agency treatment providers. The CCO maintains frequent contact with the treatment providers to share information, observations, and interventions. Programming lasts between 12 and 24 months. Failure to complete all requirements of the program will result in further Court action, probably requiring out of home placement.

Based on age and type of offense, the Court may classify an offender as a Sexually Oriented Offender Registrant (JSORN). In 2011, one (1) juvenile was classified or re-classified upon completion of disposition.

Calendar Year 2011

- 37 Juveniles supervised and participated in treatment
- 14 Completed all Court orders and were released from Community Control
 - 1 Juvenile committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services
 - 0 Juveniles sentenced to the Lorain County Jail

These numbers only reflect youth who were initially placed on Community Control after adjudication and assessment. Six (6) youth received residential treatment at the Northern Ohio Juvenile Community Corrections Facility (NOJCCF), operated in conjunction with ODYS. Three (3) juveniles received treatment in other residential facilities.

MENTALLY ILL – DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED CASELOAD (MI-DD)

Juveniles who are lower functioning and/or have a significant mental health diagnosis are placed on this specialized caseload. These juveniles often already have an Individual Educational Plan (IEP), psychiatric and psychological treatment services, and/or in-home counseling in place prior to Court involvement. They will often need additional assessments, hospitalizations, and other intensive services due to their presenting needs.

Two (2) Community Control Officers (CCO's) provide close supervision and facilitate communication between community service providers, the family, and the Court. This facilitation is vital in identifying and overcoming barriers, recognizing progress, and resolving problems of the child and family. Social Workers and other case management service providers work closely with the CCO that is providing intensive supervision.

Calendar Year 2011

- 18 Juveniles carried over in the program from the 2010 caseload
- 16 Juveniles placed on Probation
- 15 Successfully released from Community Control
 - 1 Juvenile committed to Ohio Department of Youth Services
 - 0 Placed at Court operated Group Homes

BELLEFAIRE / JOP

The Juvenile Offender Project (JOP) is a collaborative effort between the Court, Integrated Services Partnership of Lorain County, the Board of Mental Health, and Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau. This partnership provides an extensive assessment and psychological evaluation for juveniles currently involved with the Court, primarily for offenses of violence that have exhibited significant mental health issues. The evaluation is comprised of multiple testing tools, an assessment of the family, and charts and reports from previous service providers and school systems. The assessments may be done by Bellefaire JCB or a contracted service provider. Community resources are recommended and services put in place to assist the juvenile and family. Bellefaire also provides a JOP / residential bed when the need for inpatient treatment is indicated.

Community Control Officers are responsible for monitoring and assisting in the components of the case plans. Court staff monitors and documents all contacts with the juvenile and family, attends staff meetings, makes home visits, participates in JOP / 4-C Children's Continuum of Care Committee reviews, and provides transportation services, if necessary.

Calendar Year 2011

- 22 JOP level evaluations completed
- 11 Juveniles placed on Specialized Services Supervision (SFY, MI/DD)
- 11 Juveniles placed in other Court programs
- 0 Juveniles committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services

SUCCESS FOR YOUTH

Success for Youth provides skill development for lower functioning, delinquent youth. Programming offers an opportunity to learn social skills, computer skills, and job skills to assist juveniles in obtaining employment and eventual independence. Success for Youth focuses on males and females from Elyria and Lorain, aged 15 – 17, who are experiencing difficulties due to their low level of intellectual functioning.

Catholic Charities collaborates with the Court to provide case management, social skills development, assistance with career development, preparation of resumes, computer skills and realistic job skills training. Programming is designed to meet educational and employment needs, as well as personal development.

Calendar Year 2011

- 21 Juveniles served
- 5 Successfully released from Community Control
- 2 Juveniles committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services
- 0 Juveniles committed to the Lorain County Detention Home/Lorain County Jail

MENTAL HEALTH COURT

The Mental Health Court, under the direction of the Honorable Judge David J. Berta, is a specialized program that works within the framework of the existing Domestic Relations Court. It began in February, 2010 and serves juveniles charged in Juvenile Court who also have a mental health diagnosis which may have traditionally presented barriers to the youth's success. The goals of the program are to divert these youth into Court monitored treatment, to reduce recidivism among mentally ill delinquents, and to empower the participants to lead more clinically stable, safe and law-abiding lives in the community. In the short-term, the program can provide opportunities to youth who would not necessarily get treatment on their own. In the long-term, the program assists in preventing further involvement with the Court and increasing their responsibility to the community.

The Juvenile Mental Health Court serves youth who have been adjudicated delinquent, who have severe and persistent mental illnesses that are contributing or mitigating factors in their law enforcement involvement and

for whom Court-monitored treatment and other services would enhance their ability to lead a law-abiding life. Based on an agreement with the Lorain County Prosecutor's office, the youth's presenting charges will be dismissed if they successfully complete the program.

Calendar Year 2011

- 25 Juveniles served in program.....(12 Males 13 Females)
- 7 Juveniles terminated from program.....(4 Males 3 Females)
- 9 Juveniles completed program / Charges dismissed...(6 Males 3 Females)

JUVENILE DRUG COURT

The Lorain County Juvenile Drug Court program provides a therapeutic and strengths-based approach in assisting juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent and have significant substance abuse issues. The program is funded, in part, by a grant through the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services.

The Honorable Judge Debra L. Boros presided over the team of the Juvenile Drug Court in 2011. The team consists of the Judge's Magistrate, Program Manager, Community Control Officer / Case Manager, a chemical dependency assessor from the Court and the addiction services counselor from the Nord Center. Weekly hearings are held with each participant to review both positive and negative behavior. The Juvenile Drug Court utilizes contingency-based rewards to recognize positive behavior.

Participants must abstain from drugs and alcohol, demonstrate positive behavior in the community and school, obtain employment and cooperate with treatment components to advance through the five levels of the program. Parents and / or guardians participate in treatment sessions, in addition to attending Court hearings on a weekly basis. The Court makes every effort to assist families in overcoming barriers that may inhibit success. Based on an agreement with the Lorain County Prosecutor's Office, the presenting charges are dismissed upon successful completion of all program components. Failure to comply with the program results in termination from the program and the case being set for disposition.

Calendar Year 2011

	Males	Females
Participants	23	2
Terminations	14	2
Graduations	1	0

FAMILY DRUG COURT

Family Drug Court is funded through a grant from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS). Family Drug Court assists clients of Lorain County Children Services (LCCS) who are drug / alcohol dependent and their children have either been adjudicated abused, neglected or dependent, or the clients are involved with LCCS on unofficial / In-Home cases. Participation in Family Drug Court is voluntary, but upon agreeing to participate, a court order, or agreement through a Contract of Participation, requires compliance. Compliance is expected with all program components. The ultimate goals are for participants to retain or regain custody of their children, working towards completion of the case plan components and maintaining sobriety. Failure to comply can result in LCCS seeking permanent family / relative placement, temporary custody, permanent custody, foster care or adoption.

The Family Drug Court team is comprised of the Honorable Judge Debra L. Boros and her Magistrate (who preside over Family Drug Court), Program Coordinator, treatment counselor from LCADA, a representative from Voices for Children (guardian ad litem), Elyria YWCA, Faith House, the Nord Center and Lorain County Children Services. Collaboration between agencies provides In-Kind services addressing drug / alcohol dependency, parenting skills, domestic violence awareness, life-skills preparation, employment guidance and assistance in obtaining housing. Participants are also referred to mental health agencies for assessments, individual counseling, parenting skills and domestic violence sessions.

Calendar Year 2011

- 17 Women served
- 0 Children placed with a parent or relative
- 0 Children placed in foster care
- 0 Family Drug Court Graduates

JUVENILE INTAKE DEPARTMENT

The Juvenile Intake Department, located at the Boys' Detention Home, performs several functions for the Court. This unit handles the following:

- Unofficial complaints
- First offense shoplifting cases
- Tobacco violations

- Arraignments on official status charges
- Unofficial hearings for intervention and diversion purposes

There were three (3) Intake Staff available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days per week, to respond to law enforcement's requests for admissions to the boys' and girls' detention homes.

Calendar Year 2011

- 1388 Referrals were Reviewed and Processed
- 246 Unofficial Hearings conducted
- 362 Hearings on official charges on non-detained juveniles
- 534 Preliminary detention / arraignment hearings and release hearings for juveniles admitted to the detention homes

The Adolescent Domestic Violence / Anger Management Program is a collaboration between Catholic Charities and the Court to provide an alternative to post-adjudication detention. When children involved in domestic violence are admitted to the Detention Home or Turning Point, a social worker will screen, assess and then provide group sessions to juveniles and families. There were 161 referrals to this program in 2011.

The Lorain County Juvenile Intake Department's responsibilities include oversight of Diversion Services programming. There were 189 referrals for diversion services in 2011. Fifty-eight (58) families availed themselves of these services and another thirty-two (32) families participated in the program after an unofficial hearing. Community Control Officers contacted the families, identified issues, and made referrals to appropriate community services. Follow-up communications were made to ensure that services were accessed and were appropriate.

ATS Program / Alternative to Suspension / Smoking Treatment Program

The Court, in conjunction with LCADA, offers a treatment program for juveniles who have been cited for Underage tobacco use. Juveniles appear in Court and may be placed in the educational program, or may waive the hearing and pay Costs.

Calendar Year 2011

- 54 Juveniles charged with Underage Tobacco use
- 17 Juveniles referred to ATS program
- 10 Attended the program

The remaining juveniles either paid a waiver fee or were repeat offenders and were ineligible to participate in the ATS program.

SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS

YES Program

The Youth Education Shoplifting Program (YES Program) is an educational, rehabilitative program offered to juveniles referred to Court for first time petty theft / shoplifting offenses. Participants are ordered into the program from both official and unofficial cases heard by Intake.

Calendar Year 2011

119 Juveniles completed the program / testing analyzed and scored:

- 60% Low Risk to Re-Offend
- 18% Moderate Risk to Re-Offend
- 23% High Risk to Re-Offend

EDUVENTION / Substance Abuse Education Program

The Court's Eduvention Program is designed to provide drug and alcohol education and information to juveniles and parents, when juveniles are referred to the Court for misdemeanor alcohol and / or drug offenses. Juveniles and their parent / guardian can attend the four sessions of education in lieu of a delinquency charge being filed. Eligible participants are typically, but not exclusively, first time offenders. Some participants are Court-ordered to attend the sessions, while most are referred from a police report provided to the Court from the Prosecutors' office without official charges being filed. A record of their attendance is docketed into the Court record. Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services (LCADA) provides, at no cost to the participants, Eduvention programming, off-site from Court operations. Pre- and post- program testing, as well as a screening instrument, is administered to participants to determine the need for further assistance or treatment. After an orientation meeting with families, some are determined to require additional interventions and LCADA staff refers them accordingly.

Calendar Year 2011

- 214 Referrals to the program
- 166 Juveniles completed the program
 - 29 Completed substitute / alternate programs
 - 17 Juveniles officially charged and arraigned

PAY-BACK PROGRAM

Restitution is an essential component in the rehabilitation process and is also the means whereby victims find recourse through the justice system. Offenders are held accountable for their financial obligations to victims. The Pay-Back Program has four objectives:

- Ensure the offender's compliance with Court orders
- Provide a work experience that allows the offender to make restitution
- Provide victims with access to the Court for reasonable redress
- Facilitate communication between the Court, victims, prosecutors, insurance companies, etc...

The process is initiated by a Court order for restitution and requires a victim to supply documentation to the Court of their loss. Once the restitution amount is determined, a juvenile is given two payment options:

- Execution of a monitored, monthly payment schedule
- Placement in Court developed jobsite (Juveniles credited with minimum wage compensation and payment to the victim is made through the Lorain County Treasurer's Office)

The program partners with jobsites throughout the county, which provide a work experience for offenders while on-site supervisors evaluate the offender's work performance.

Calendar Year 2011

428	Cases referred for investigation of restitution
89	Cases admitted to the program
80	Cases terminated, with 87% successful (69)
\$23,974.98	Collected through payment schedules and dispersed to Victims
\$ 8,995.98	Paid to Victims through the Treasurer's Office for Community Service hours completed through the Work for Pay program
1,429.75	Hours of Community Service performed

COURT-SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM

The Lorain County Juvenile Court's Court-School Liaison program addresses the attendance issues of students deemed to be truant from school. To address truancy, the program utilizes a formal process, which involves the collaborative efforts of the Lorain County Education Service Center,

participating school districts, the Lorain County Juvenile Court and the Lorain County Prosecutor's Office.

The process for addressing truancy follows a continuum of approaches from prevention to intervention to prosecution. As a *preventative* measure, the school principal initiates the "process" with a letter to the parents of each student showing an early pattern of excessive absences. The letter explains the compulsory education laws, explains the district's school attendance policy, and advises of a referral to the Court-School Liaison program, if the problem continues.

When a student has accumulated five unexcused absences, he/she may be formally referred to the attendance officer by the school principal or assistant principal. Upon receiving a referral, it is the responsibility of the attendance officer serving the school to address the issue of truancy with the parent(s) and the child utilizing a number of interventions. Student attendance is monitored on a *weekly* basis to determine the interventions needed to address the attendance problem.

During the 2010 - 2011 school year, 92% of the 1,035 cases referred to the attendance officers responded to interventions. Of the 9% of cases which did not respond to interventions:

- 77 juveniles (7.4% of referrals) were referred for Truancy charges
- 10 adults were referred on charges of Failure to Send a Child to School and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor.

Attendance Officers participate in the prosecution process through:

- Preparation of a narrative report and case materials
- Participation in all adult/juvenile legal proceedings
- Monitoring of the compliance of Court orders
- Filing a sworn affidavit with the Prosecutor's Office for the violation of court orders, which enables the Prosecutor's Office to file a motion for the violator to show good cause for failure to comply with a Court order.

During the 2010-2011 school year, four Attendance Officers addressed 1,035 referrals from the following school districts (and alternative schools):

- Avon61 referrals
- Avon Lake41 referrals
- Clearview 108 referrals
- Columbia28 referrals

- Elyria..... 335 referrals
- Firelands13 referrals
- Keystone.....47 referrals
- Midview 158 referrals
- North Ridgeville69 referrals
- Oberlin24 referrals
- Sheffield/Sheffield Lake80 referrals
- Wellington31 referrals
- Lorain County Academy11 referrals
- Lorain County JVS.....20 referrals
- Education Alternatives..... 4 referrals
- PEP (Positive Education Program) 5 referrals

A program social worker was contracted to address at-risk family issues, which interfere with the child’s attendance to school.

- 112 “high risk” families referred to the program’s social worker
- 88 families signed a case plan with the social worker
- 100% of referred students reduced unexcused absences to school

Calendar Year 2011

- 83% Students referred to the program with reduced unexcused absences
- 43% Average decrease of unexcused absences per child
- 9% Program’s rate of recidivism

M.E.R.I.T. Program

The M.E.R.I.T. (Managing Effective Resources to Impact Techniques) Program maintains responsibility for the tracking of youth compliance with Court orders, the monitoring of attendance for Court-sponsored psycho-education programs, the generating of data relative to psycho-education programs and community service.

Psycho-educational groups are interventions intended to reduce the risk factor associated with criminal behavior. During 2011, the Court utilized evidence-based programming to address criminogenic factors. Evidence-based programs are those whose outcomes have been researched and found to be effective. Training was provided to staff to assist in the facilitation and presentation of these groups.

Anger Management:

In 2011, the court’s Education and Program Coordinator oversaw two anger management programs which provided basic intermediate psycho-educational

groups to aid juveniles and their parents in addressing anger issues. Anger Control Training, facilitated by Psychiatric and Psychological Services, is a basic nine-week program, while Aggression Replacement Training, facilitated by Court staff is a more intensive ten-week, twenty-session program.

Anger Control Training (ACT)	Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
28 Youth ordered/participated	70 Youth ordered / participated
25 Youth completed	49 Youth completed
4 Unsuccessful terminations	17 Unsuccessful terminations
2 Neutral terminations	5 Neutral terminations

Strengthening Families: Youth 5-9 years of age, Youth 10-13 years of age and Youth 14-17 years of age

The Strengthening Families program is a joint effort between Catholic Charities, LCADA and the Lorain County Domestic Relations Court. The programs' goals are to prepare youth for their teen years, avoid problems with drugs and alcohol and strengthen family communication. Parents discuss what youth in the age range of their groups are like, making rules and enforcing consequences, how to solve problems with youth and ways to show love and support. The youth learn how to handle frustration, resist peer pressure, appreciate parents/caregivers, and how to get along with others.

Strengthening Families 5-9

1 Youth ordered / participated
1 Youth completed

Strengthening Families 10-13

16 Youth ordered / participated
5 Youth completed
10 Unsuccessful terminations
0 Neutral terminations

Strengthening Families 14-17

63 Youth ordered / participated
50 Youth completed
15 Unsuccessful terminations
18 Neutral terminations

Thinking For A Change

Thinking For A Change is a cognitive behavioral program that addresses problem solving, social skills and cognitive self-change. The program utilizes role-plays, as well as other appropriate interventions. The goal is to change behavior as a result of changing thoughts.

150 Youth ordered / participated
126 Youth completed
29 Unsuccessful terminations
11 Neutral terminations

Girls' Circle

The "Pathways to the Future" curriculum is a skill building support circle for use with at-risk or Court-involved girls. It examines thoughts, beliefs and actions about friendship, trust, authority figures, mother / daughter relationships, sexuality, dating violence, HIV, drug abuse, stress and goal setting. It encourages girls to explore their choices and decision making through lively, prepared discussions and activities.

46 Youth ordered / participated

31 Youth completed

19 Unsuccessful terminations

7 Neutral terminations

Boys' Council

Boys' Council is a strengths-based group approach to promote boys' and young men's healthy, safe development and encourages them to act safely, show respect in their relationships, develop a healthy perspective, see other's points of view, use good judgment and identify goals and dreams. The topics that may be addressed include: competition, bullying, valuing diversity, safe expression of emotions, making safe and healthy decisions and rejecting violence.

46 Youth ordered / participated

43 Youth completed

8 Unsuccessful terminations

2 Neutral terminations

Dialectical Behavioral Therapy

DBT is an approach which has been shown to be effective in helping adolescents and their families cope with complex and difficult problems in life. Adolescents and their family members learn to apply a variety of skills so that they are able to better focus their attention where they want it, handle stressful situations, cope with their feelings and effectively deal with others.

16 Youth ordered / participated

12 Youth completed

1 Unsuccessful termination

0 Neutral terminations

Teen Violence Prevention Program

The Teen Violence Prevention Program is a collaborative effort between Catholic Charities of Lorain County and the Court. A Domestic Violence screening is completed by a social worker employed by Catholic Charities staff

following a domestic violence incident or a similar anger management incident. Based upon the screener’s recommendation, a juvenile may be referred to the Teen Violence Prevention Program. The youth may be Court-ordered to attend the program or may voluntarily participate in the program. The program provides both the juvenile and parent(s) with appropriate coping, decision-making and anger management skills to prevent additional domestic violence incidents which may ultimately result in formal charges. The eight-session psycho-educational group meets weekly and focuses on the following skill-building areas:

- Awareness of maladaptive reactions to strong emotions or difficult situations
- Developing healthier coping and decision-making skills
- Improving interpersonal relationships among family members
- Reducing tension and conflict that can lead to physical and verbal aggression

- 62 Youth recommended to participate following screening
- 27 Youth Court-ordered / participated
- 27 Youth completed
- 12 Youth participated / Alternative to Teen Violence Prevention Program
- 12 Youth ordered to participate in Alternative Program
- 1 Unsuccessful termination
- 0 Neutral terminations
- 5 Youth NOT screened but participated in the program
- 2 Youth completed
- 0 Unsuccessful / neutral terminations

Community Service

- 574 Youth Court-Ordered to participate in Community Service
- 532 Youth completed Community Service
- 13.86 Average Number of Community Service Hours Ordered per Youth
- 5 Unsuccessful terminations
- 10 Neutral terminations

JUVENILE STATISTICS

Age and Gender of Youth	Female	Male	Total
Age 8	0	0	0
Age 9	0	1	1
Age 10	1	8	9
Age 11	3	9	12
Age 12	15	31	46

Age 13	37	80	117
Age 14	88	142	230
Age 15	132	232	364
Age 16	132	261	393
Age 17	111	296	407
Age 18	10	37	47
Age 19+	0	2	2
Total	529	1099	1628

Where Youth Reside	Female	Male	Total
Amherst	10	29	39
Avon	7	17	24
Avon Lake	10	39	49
Columbia Station	2	6	8
Elyria	179	343	522
Grafton	15	30	45
LaGrange	5	3	8
Lorain	191	374	565
North Ridgeville	22	74	96
Oberlin	10	53	63
Sheffield Lake/ Sheffield Village	9	26	35
South Amherst	2	2	4
Vermilion	8	12	20
Wellington	10	21	31
Other	49	70	119
Total	529	1099	1628

Reason for referral	Female	Male	Total
Aggravated Murder	0	2	2
Alcohol Consumption	19	61	80
Arson	1	6	7
Assault	42	111	153
Attempted Murder	0	0	0
Breaking & Entering	0	2	2
Burglary	7	38	45
Criminal Damaging	19	41	60
Criminal Mischief	0	23	23
Disorderly Conduct	84	108	192
Domestic Violence	66	86	152
Drug Offenses	15	86	101
Escape	0	0	0
Falsification	3	3	6
Induce Panic	1	3	4

Kidnapping	1	0	1
Menacing	6	21	27
Obstructing Official Business	7	18	25
Other	3	14	17
Rape	0	12	12
Receiving Stolen Property	3	28	31
Resisting Arrest	1	3	4
Riot	5	10	15
Robbery	2	27	29
Runaway	3	0	3
Sex Offenses	3	15	18
Telephone Harassment	2	2	4
Theft	74	88	162
Tobacco	11	44	55
Trespassing	14	35	49
Truancy	61	58	119
U.U.M.V.	4	4	8
Ungovernable	72	120	192
Vandalism	0	12	12
Veicular Homicide	0	0	0
Weapons Offense	0	18	18
Total	529	1099	1628

Dispositions	Female	Male	Total
Committed to Adult Correctional Facility	8	36	44
Committed to ODYS/Northern Ohio	6	30	36
Continued on Probation	24	51	75
Courtesy Supervision	2	2	4
Dismissed	112	281	393
Fines & Costs and/ or Restitution	65	71	136
Fines & Costs and/ or Restitution- Suspended	166	208	374
Judicial Release/Revoke	2	2	4
Other	2	9	11
Placed on Monitored Time/ Felony	5	16	21
Placed on Monitored Time/ Misdemeanor	26	32	58
Parole	0	1	1
Parole Revocation	1	5	6
Placed on CIP/ Felony	4	27	31
Placed on CIP/ Misdemeanor	6	20	26
Placed on General Community Control/ Felony	13	41	54
Placed on General Community Control/ Misdemeanor	23	53	76
Placed on Community Control- Other/ Felony	1	12	13
Placed on Community Control- Other/ Misdemeanor	7	14	21
Placed on Community Control- Sex Offender/ Felony	1	10	11

Placed on Community Control- Sex Offender/ Misdemeanor	0	1	1
Placed on Community Control- Status	19	22	41
Residential Facility Placement/ Felony	4	13	17
Residential Facility Placement/ Misdemeanor	11	19	30
Sentenced to Detention Center/ Felony	2	5	7
Sentenced to Detention Center/ Misdemeanor	18	39	57
Serious Youth Offender	0	0	0
Sex Offender Classification Modified	0	0	0
Suspended Commitment/ Sentence	1	7	8
Transferred to Adult Court	0	8	8
Transferred to Another Court	39	59	98
Unavailability	49	106	155
Suspended DH/Felony	1	1	2
Suspended DH/Misdemeanor	12	23	35
Total	630	1224	1854

Traffic Violations	Female	Male	Total
Alcohol Offenses	5	16	21
Assured Clear Distance	80	77	157
Driving Under Suspension	6	19	25
Failure To Control	32	41	73
Failure To Yield	33	28	61
Impeding Traffic Flow	0	0	0
Improper Backing	0	2	2
Improper Lane Usage	11	11	22
Improper Turn	4	4	8
Jaywalking	5	8	13
Leaving the Scene	3	8	11
License Plates	7	6	13
Lights Violation	22	22	44
No Driver's License	24	43	67
Noise Violation	0	2	2
Other	23	11	34
Parking Violations	2	3	5
Reckless Operation	4	29	33
Seat Belt	25	43	68
Speeding	196	314	510
Squealing Tires	0	2	2
Tinted Windows	0	0	0
Traffic Control Device	47	54	101
Unsafe Vehicle	4	9	13
Walking in Roadway	4	3	7
Total	537	755	1292

Traffic Dispositions	Female	Male	Total
Absentia	1	5	6
Dismissed	71	102	173
Fines & Costs	224	297	521
Fines & Costs Suspended	7	10	17
License Restricted	106	134	240
License Suspended	21	53	74
Other	0	0	0
Seatbelt Mail-in Waiver	21	30	51
Transfer to Another Court	59	114	173
Unavailability	6	7	13
Total	516	752	1268

DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

David Lucey, Deputy Court Administrator

INTRODUCTION

The Juvenile Facilities Complex provides locked and unlocked residential placement and shelter care for male and female juveniles. The complex consists of two detention centers and four buildings providing residential services in a campus-style setting.

Lorain County Juvenile Detention Home

9967/9911 South Murray Ridge Road, Elyria

The purpose of the detention home is to provide secure confinement of appropriate juveniles under age 18. Judges and magistrates determine if detention is appropriate as indicated by statute or the Ohio Supreme Court Rules. Unruly or ungovernable youth may not be placed in detention beyond twenty-four hours. However, delinquent youth may be confined to detention by an order of the Court for a period not to exceed 90 days. Commencing in 2004, the Court sentenced juveniles to the Lorain County Detention Home for up to 90 days. In 2011, there were 140 youthful offenders sentenced to the detention home with 37 offenders held at the Lorain County Sheriff's Department for being 18 years or older.

As a cost-cutting measure, the Girls Detention Home was closed and the girls relocated to the Boys Detention Home at the end of 2008. During 2011, both male and female residents were housed in separate wings of the Boys Detention Home.

The Lorain County Detention Homes are licensed and monitored by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The facilities are designed to house 44 males and 12 females. The staff ratio during daylight hours is 12:1, with a ratio increasing to 25:1 during the 10-6am shift.

During the admission process each youth is administered the Maysi II test which screens for mental health issues. Beach Brook will conduct an assessment if issues are highlighted. The medical staff is available at any time for consultation and have regularly scheduled hours. Within seven days of admission, the detention home nurse or doctor physically examines every juvenile and administers a tuberculosis screening.

While in detention, education continues year-round through the Educational Service Center of Lorain County. Upgrades now provide for twenty-five individual computer stations with emphasis placed on the state proficiency exams.

2011 Admissions

- 631 males
- 262 females
- 893 juvenile admissions
- Average length of stay: 20.06 days
- Average male daily population: 39.10
- Average female daily population: 10.20
- Average daily population total: 49.30

Pathways Group Home / Stepping Stone Residential Center

1076 / 1064 Infirmary Road, Elyria

Pathways Group Home and Stepping Stone Residential Center are non-secure court-operated programs for female and male offenders, ages 13-17. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services licenses and monitors these facilities, which are limited to 10 females and 20 males.

Pathways and Stepping Stone prepare residents for successful reintegration into the community. Programs assist juveniles in managing personal problems and family issues, as well as developing an increased ability to access community resources and establish positive goals for the future.

Referrals to Pathways and Stepping Stone are made through internal processes of the court. The Department of Probation & Youth Services, Investigation and

Referral Team, Magistrates, Lorain County Children Services, and mental health workers provide input in this process. A Judge makes the final determination and places appropriate candidates into the programs.

The formats of Pathways and Stepping Stone parallel each other. Each is a one-year program divided into two phases. Phase one (1) is a minimum 21-week in-house stay. The child will participate in graduated off-grounds visits with the parent-guardian ranging from one (1) hour to seventy-two (72) hours during the first phase of the program. The child and parent-guardian will receive appropriate services on an individualized basis during this phase based on the resident's case plan. Parental cooperation and participation is vital. Some group programming for the child will also be included. During this phase the child will receive a physical exam within the first sixty (60) days of placement with appropriate follow-up. If the child remains in placement beyond 21 weeks a dental exam will be secured by the 180th day of placement. The Educational Service Center of Lorain County provides educational services for the residents in the facilities. Two certified teachers are present M-F to work with the residents of Pathways and Stepping Stone.

Phase two (2) is aftercare. The child will live at the home of the parent-guardian during this phase under the supervision of a Community Control Officer (CCO). Applicable services will be received during this phase on an individualized basis.

Case plans are developed for each juvenile. Areas addressed through service providers include daily family issues, health, living skills, individual and family counseling, and drug and alcohol issues. The Stepping Stone residents had the opportunity to participate in the Boy Scouts in 2011. They had monthly meetings and went on several day trips to camp grounds in the area.

<u>2011</u>	<u>Pathways</u>	<u>Stepping Stone</u>
Participants	32	58
New Admissions	18	32
2010 Carry-Over	14	26
Successful Completion	08	14
Committed to ODYS	01	04
Sentenced to Detention Home	07	08
Lorain County Jail	00	03
Transferred to CIP	02	00
Moved out of County	00	00

Transferred to Other Probation	00	00
Out of County Placement	00	00
Currently in Program	14	29

Turning Point

1080 Infirmary Road, Elyria

Turning Point is a non-secure residential facility providing short-term care (maximum 14 days) for 5 males and 5 females ages 12-17. The juveniles are involved in domestic dispute situations or selected status offenses. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services licenses Turning Point. Turning Point provides 24-hour supervision and guidance by trained childcare staff. In addition, a full-time social worker provides services to the juveniles and their families with appropriate referrals to service providers in the community. In addition, youth who are involved with domestic disputes receive a domestic violence screening by Catholic Charities of Lorain County. This information is shared with the Social Worker to establish an appropriate reunification plan.

Admissions are approved by the Intake Department and judicial orders. Turning Point does not function as a sentencing or dispositional alternative. It is a program for youth in crisis or emergency situations.

The goal of Turning Point is to return the youth to their home after a brief respite without further intervention by the court. During 2011, Turning Point served a total of 258 youth – 132 males and 126 females.

DEPARTMENT OF FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Deborah Tansey, Director

INTRODUCTION

In 2011, the continuation of the economic downturn that began in 2008 proved to be particularly hard hitting in the State of Ohio and on local governments. The so called ‘Great Recession’ officially ended in July of 2009. However, high unemployment persists in Ohio and Lorain County. Home values declined and consumer confidence remains low despite the official data that shows a modest recovery. In the fall of 2011, voters turned down the County’s proposal for a ¼ of 1 percent sales tax increase which will result in additional budget cuts in future years.

While the Court's General Fund budget remained at the 2010 funding level, price increases and normal inflationary pressures have reduced the buying power of those funds. Obtaining the levels of service required to serve the public has been challenging to the Court. Wherever possible the Court has reduced staff by attrition and sought out better and more efficient ways to carry out its duties.

Long term planning has helped the Court insulate itself from many of the cuts that have been devastating to other county departments; but challenging times continue, and continued vigilance and prudent financial planning is needed to allow the Court to provide the services mandated by law.

Department Overview

The Fiscal Department is comprised of four departments, the Financial Accounting Department (Fiscal), the Juvenile Clerks Department (Clerks), the Grants Department (Grants) and the Information Systems Department (Systems).

Fiscal

The Fiscal Department is responsible for financial processing and reporting, including accounting and processing payroll, benefits and Court appointed counsel payments.

The Fiscal Department prepares and monitors the Court's annual budget, recording revenue and processing payments of nearly \$14 million in 2011.

On a bi-weekly basis, nearly 200 time sheets were checked for accuracy and documented for use of sick and vacation leave. Once completed, a payroll of approximately \$280,000 was generated and disbursed each pay cycle. In addition to processing payroll payments in excess of \$7 million in 2011, benefits of approximately \$2.2 million dollars in healthcare premiums and life insurance were processed and monitored.

In 2011, the Fiscal Department processed approximately \$313,000 of payments to Court appointed counsel.

In the calendar year 2011, the Fiscal Department processed 11 new hires through their initial payroll and benefit packages, explaining court policy

regarding vacation, sick leave, and various life and health insurance benefits. The Fiscal Department tracks accrued sick and vacation leave for the Court and uses the information to prepare the Court's Compensated Absences Report for the County's Certified Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The Fiscal Department also maintains the asset inventory records and prepares the Court's Annual Fixed Asset Inventory for the County's Certified Annual Financial Report.

Juvenile Clerks

In Lorain County, The Administrative Judge is the Ex Officio Clerk of the Juvenile Court. All cases filed are processed through the Clerk's Office at the Lorain County Justice Center on 225 Court Street in Elyria. The Clerk's Office consists of the Office Manager and 20 Clerks. The Clerks provide customer service to the general public, attorneys, and various officers of the court and the positions require a broad knowledge of the court and its functions. 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.

Grant Writing and Management

The Grants Department is responsible for researching grant opportunities available through state, federal and local agencies, writing grant proposals and monitoring grant and entitlement programs received. The Grants Department is also responsible for recording and monitoring Special Revenue funds throughout the Court. In calendar year 2011, Grants was responsible for obtaining and monitoring more than four million dollars of revenues and expenditures.

Systems Management

The Systems Management Unit (Systems) is responsible for the Court's computer hardware, software and related systems. The Court's key computer system is the CourtView system used to maintain the Court's docketing, case, judicial and probation management systems.

The Systems Department continues to maintain and enhance a Court website to provide information to the citizens of Lorain County and an intranet that facilitates communication within the Court. In 2011, the Systems Department upgraded the intranet interface and the wireless connections between the Justice Center Building and the Detention Home and Juvenile Facilities buildings increasing the functionality of both.

In 2011, the Court's Systems Department continued to expand the number of departments using the document imaging system in a continuing effort to increase the courts efficiency and reduce paper consumption. The Systems Department assisted several departments in establishing data bases where information could be gathered.

Systems also oversaw the high resolution digital security camera system in the Boys and Girls Detention Facilities. The system allows for remote monitoring and archiving 90 days of security camera data. The video security system provides comprehensive monitoring capabilities and a heightened level of safety for the juveniles and the workers.

Our goals for 2011 turned into accomplishments which included a CourtView upgrade and a new automated certified mailer system that is expected to save the Court and the County significant mailing costs.

Our goal for 2012 is to reduce costs through coordination of efforts between county departments and to review our options for operating system and software updates.

For the calendar year 2011, the Domestic Relations Court's General Fund Expenditures were as follows:

Judicial/Administrative/Divorce Services	\$2,020,308
Juvenile Probation.....	1,762,959
Juvenile Detention Home	1,914,712
Domestic Support.....	712,946
Pathways Group Home	275,092
Turning Point Shelter.....	407,776
Multi-Purpose.....	<u>11,897</u>
Total County General Fund	<u>\$7,105,690</u>

Various State and Federal Pass-through grant and reimbursement programs:

Ohio Department of Youth Services	
Program supported: Various.....	\$1,681,425
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services	
Program supported: (Title IV-D) Domestic Support	430,830
Program supported: (Title IV-E) Various	1,071,126
Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Services	
Program supported: Drug Court	77,404
Program supported: Drug Court ARRA.....	29,385
Ohio Department of Mental Health	
Program supported: Juvenile (Violent) Offender.....	39,120
Ohio Department of Education	
Program supported: Detention Home – Food Service.....	129,487
Ohio Attorney General’s Office	
Program supported: Voices for Children	35,788
Local School Districts (Fees for Service)	
Educational Service Center	72,800
Elyria City School District.....	33,600
Lorain County Joint Vocational School	16,800
North Ridgeville City Schools	<u>11,200</u>
Program supported: Truancy Intervention.....	<u>134,400</u>
Miscellaneous Non-General Fund Revenues	
Fines and Fees.....	100,846
Stepping Stone Reimbursements	108,084
Children’s Services support of Turning Point Shelter.....	72,000
WorkForce Investment-Lorain County Commissioners	<u>10,450</u>
Total local, state and federal resources (non-county)	<u>\$3,920,345</u>
Total 2011 General Fund and Grants Programs	<u>\$11,026,035</u>

The Domestic Relations Division of the Lorain County Court of Common Pleas is sincerely grateful to the many agencies, community leaders and providers that all work toward the common goal of providing effective and efficient services to the citizens of Lorain County.

This goal, coupled with the creative vision, energy, and passion of those involved, allows this Court to continue being a positive force in addressing the needs of the community.

We sincerely thank all those who contributed their time, energy, resources, and effort into making Lorain County a leader among Courts in the state of Ohio.

Domestic Relations Court Contact Information

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Judge David Berta – 440-329-5357.....Fax – 440-329-5438

Judge Debra Boros – 440-328-2201Fax – 440-328-2211

Administration – 440-329-5360Fax – 440-329-5232

Juvenile Clerk - 440-329-5187.....Fax – 440-329-5271

Family Divorce Services – 440-326-4849Fax – 440-326-4844

Juvenile Probation – 440-326-4880Fax – 440-326-4896

Domestic Support – 440-326-4835Fax – 440-326-4844

Assignment Commissioners:

Domestic Relations 440-329-5368

Domestic Relations 440-329-5362

Domestic Relations 440-329-5369

Juvenile 440-328-2200

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Domestic Relations Division and Juvenile Branch
Lorain County Justice Center
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Doug Messer
Court Administrator

50 Copies @ \$6.02 each