

Lorain County Court of Common Pleas

**Domestic Relations Division
Juvenile Branch**



2015 Annual Report

The Court

Lorain County Justice Center
225 Court Street
2nd and 4th Floors
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



Frank J. Janik
Administrative Judge



Lisa I. Swenski
Judge

The Court is very pleased to present our 2015 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", written over a horizontal line.

Debra L. Boros
Judge

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank J. Janik", written over a horizontal line.

Frank J. Janik
Administrative Judge

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa I. Swenski", written over a horizontal line.

Lisa I. Swenski
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 is a dual jurisdiction court; it has exclusive jurisdiction over both Domestic Relations Court and Juvenile Court matters. 2015 was another busy year for our Court, as the stresses of the economy continue to take 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 2015, the Court continued to monitor expenses while striving 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 aim 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.

Jody Barilla
Court Administrator

JUDGES

The three Domestic Relations/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 delinquency 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 juvenile sex offender registration and notification

Objections to Magistrate's orders and decisions

Motions to vacate Magistrate's orders

Motions to vacate final judgments

Permanent surrenders for adoptions

Judicial bypass hearings

Judicial releases from DHS

Marriage consents

Court Filings in 2015			
	New Filings	Reopened	Terminations
Divorce with Children	245	38	304
Divorce w/o Children	272	22	315
Dissolution with Children	191	2	192
Dissolution w/o Children	217	2	216
Change of Custody	0	114	108
Visitation	0	43	45
Support	31	487	589
Domestic Violence	460	13	463
Uresa	1	0	1
All others	7	146	164
Total	1424	867	2397

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. All Magistrates are licensed attorneys.

PERSONAL COURT MAGISTRATES

Each Judge has three Magistrates on his or her personal staff, having general responsibility for covering all domestic and juvenile cases assigned to his or her Judge's docket. 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 Intake Magistrate, with an office located in the Boys' Detention Home has a multitude of duties. The Intake Magistrate reviews 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. She also hears all truancy cases filed with the court.

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

ADMINISTRATION

Jody Barilla, Court Administrator

Administration is responsible 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, Director of Human Resources and Facilities and the Administrative Assistant.

The Court consists of four departments with approximately 175 employees. These departments include Family Court Services, Probation and Youth Services, Fiscal Management, and Residential Services. Court operations include: service provider contracting; fiscal management; grant writing; 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 Director of Human Resources and Facilities is responsible for the following: recruiting, interviewing, performing background checks and selection of qualified applicants; developing and planning staff training; 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 also acts 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 that may need 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 304 cases referred.

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

The department employs an Education and Program Specialist, who coordinates the psycho-educational programming offered by the Court. The Education and Program 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 2015, this psychologist provided 121 evaluations.

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 2015, 17 youth were provided with a psychological evaluation through the Juvenile Offender Project and Bellefaire JCB. 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.

Court-Sponsored Psycho-Educational Programs

Psycho-educational groups are interventions intended to reduce the risk factor associated with criminal behavior. During 2015, 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 2015, two anger management programs provided basic intermediate psycho-educational groups to aid juveniles and their parents in addressing anger issues. Aggression Replacement Training (ART), facilitated by Court staff, is an intensive ten-week, twenty-session program. Keeping Your Cool (KYC) is a skill building program that provides strategies to control anger and aggression and looks at changing your thinking in order to effect change. It is comprised of ten (10) consecutive sessions.

Aggression Replacement Training (ART)

- 30 Youth ordered
- 28 Completions*
- 26 Successful completions
 - 1 Unsuccessful terminations
 - 1 Neutral terminations
- *(Carryover)

Keeping Your Cool (KYC)

- 11 Youth ordered
- 15 Completions*
- 10 Successful completions
 - 3 Unsuccessful completions
 - 2 Neutral terminations
- *(Carryover)

Strengthening Families

The Strengthening Families 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 parent/caregivers, and how to get along with others.

- 19 Youth ordered
- 27 Youth completed*
- 20 Successful completions
- 5 Unsuccessful terminations
- 2 Neutral terminations
- *(Carryover)

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.

- 31 Youth ordered
- 49 Youth completed*
- 33 Successful completions
- 13 Unsuccessful terminations
- 3 Neutral terminations
- *(Carryover)

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.

- 26 Youth ordered
- 31 Youth completed*
- 14 Successful terminations
- 14 Unsuccessful terminations
- 3 Neutral termination
- *(Carryover)

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.

- 43 Youth ordered
- 46 Youth completed*
- 36 Successful Completions
- 7 Unsuccessful terminations
- 3 Neutral terminations
- *(Carryover)

Dialectical Behavioral Therapy

DBT is a joint effort between the Nord Center and the Domestic Relations Court and 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. All female adolescents who are placed at Pathways Group Home engage in DBT.

38 Juveniles ordered to participate in 2015

Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)

The Personal Responsibility Education Program is a comprehensive sex education program that provides young people with complete, medically accurate and age appropriate sex education in order to help them reduce their risk of unintended pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and to educate young people on both abstinence and contraception to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

In addition to education on abstinence and contraceptive use, PREP also offers services to prepare young people for adulthood by implementing activities that address the subject areas below:

- Healthy relationships, including development of positive self-esteem and relationship dynamics, friendships, dating, romantic involvement, marriage and family interactions;
- Positive adolescent development, to include promotion of healthy attitudes and values about adolescent growth and development, body image, racial and ethnic diversity, and other related subjects;
- Financial literacy, to support the development of self-sufficiency and independent living skills;
- Parent-child communication skills;
- Education and employment preparation skills;
- Healthy life skills, such as goal-setting, decision making, negotiation, communication and interpersonal skills, and stress management.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY COURT SERVICES

Lori O'Connor, 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. The Juvenile Clerks Office provides customer service to the general public, attorneys, and various officers of the court.

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

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, 76 cases were submitted for court-ordered mediation with 44 cases reaching agreement. Agreements were approved by the Court for a 58% success rate. There were 3 mediations of clients returning for a second time, reaching 2 agreements for a 67% 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 2015, the Court received 225 referrals with 43 cases mediated. Agreements were reached in 53% of the cases mediated. There were 3 clients with prior mediation returning for a second time, reaching 2 agreements, for a success rate of 67%. Hearings were held for all mediated agreements.

The **Juvenile Truancy Mediation** program brings together the child and the parent (or legal guardian) for a mediation session to examine the core issues in the family that interfere with the child attending school on a consistent basis. No other parties are present for this mediation. In 2015, there were 22 referrals made for mediation. 10 of those referred actually participated in truancy mediation. Of those who participated, there were 9 agreements reached for a 90% success rate.

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, implementing or monitoring 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 2015, there were 48 cases referred for assessments with 64 reports completed and submitted to the Court. These reports include facilitation reports, supervised visitation reports, and other reports. A total of 186 supervised visits took place in the department this past year serving 440 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 the children and must be accessed by Court Order.

Home Studies Received for Investigation

Divorce	5
Allocation of Parental Rights.....	8
Out of County.....	0
Total	13

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 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. Retired Judge David A. Basinski and Family Divorce Services 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 717 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 develop a companionship schedule for the non-residential parent. This past year 233 parents completed the seminar.

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 comply with federal and state laws and regulations. The Lorain County Domestic Relations Court contracted for both judicial services and juvenile clerking services for 2015. The juvenile clerking contract totaled \$455,490.34 and the magistrate services contract totaled \$384,645.78. 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.

In 2015, the Domestic Support Unit conducted 5,920 hearings involving issues of child support. The staff in the Juvenile Clerk's Office registered 24,059 journal entries for filing during the twelve-month period.

Hearings Conducted in 2015

Paternity.....	304
Contempt	4,010
CNS	201
Arrears	245
Terminations.....	172
Modifications	362
All others.....	626
Total	5,920

VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Voices for Children (**VFC**) is affiliated with and a member of the nationally recognized Court Appointed Special Advocate (**CASA**) Program. Voices for Children's purpose is to provide volunteer guardian ad litem (**GALs**) to the Court

to advocate on behalf of the neglected and dependent children coming before it. The GAL volunteer undertakes an investigation into the circumstances and the family life of the child. They review records, interview parents, relatives and foster parents, talk to teachers, neighbors and most importantly, the child. Upon completion of the investigation, the GAL appears in Court, provides the information and makes recommendations to the Court as to what course of action is in the best interest of the child.

GAL volunteers must complete 30 hours of pre-service training which includes four classroom sessions (30 hours) and additional hours for courtroom observation (minimum of 2 hours). All GALs are screened, interviewed, and a criminal background check is administered through the Web-Check System. The Judge administers an oath and the volunteers are then recognized as Officers of the Court. In addition, the volunteer CASA/GAL is required to attend 12 hours of continuing education annually.

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

2015 Funding

Court: \$174,979
County: \$10,236
State (SVAA): \$3,119
VOCA (Grant): \$30,709

Total: \$196,399

Volunteers

The volunteers represented a wide diversity, similar to the population of Lorain County.

- 140 active volunteers
- Ages: 21 to 60+ (median age – 51.1)
- 126 Females and 14 Males
- Education spans high school graduate to post college graduate
- Diverse racial mix: Caucasian - (130); African American - (5); Hispanic - (7); Asian - (2); Multi-Racial - (2); Pacific Islander – (1)

Children Served

- Total number of children served in 2015: 443
- Gender of children served: Female - (226); Male - (217)

- Ages of children served: Birth to 5 - (229); 6 to 11 - (149); 12 to 15 - (44); 16 to 17 - (18); 18 and above - (3)
- Racial Makeup of children served: Caucasian - (361); African American - (44); Hispanic - (43); Multi Racial - (38)

Total number of children whose cases were closed in 2015: **233**

Reasons for # of closed cases

- Adoption: 11
- Case Removed from Docket: 3
- Case Transferred to another Jurisdiction: 2
- Placed with Legal Guardian: 18
- Returned to Family: 89
- Long-Term Kinship Care: 103
- Family Moved: 5
- Death of a Child: 0
- Long-Term Foster Care: 0
- Child Aged out of System: 2

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 19 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.

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, Community Service and the Court/School Attendance 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 2015. In addition to supervision and internal Court programs, Court staff collaborate 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 evidence-based practices and best-practices approaches and programs in case plans for youth and family interventions. Cognitive based therapy, Strengthening Families, Thinking For A Change, In-Home Based Treatment, Girls' Circle, Boys' Council, the PREP program, Anger Reduction Training and Keeping Your Cool are examples of programs that have been utilized throughout 2015. Several of the Probation staff members 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), a 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 with 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 are 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 (inclusive of the specialized Sex Offender Community Control Caseload) 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 290 juveniles were served on **General Probation** in 2015. Eighty-four (84%) of juveniles successfully released from Community Control upon completion of their individual case plans decreased their Risk score based on the OYAS standards. These included youth who were placed on Temporary Orders prior to final disposition of their case. 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. A total of 43 juveniles were served on Monitored Time/Community Control in 2015. Two 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 closely monitor the Magistrates' dockets, track continued cases and do initial interviews of youth and families referred for additional Court services.

One Community Control Officer supervised the **Status Offender caseload**, which supervised a total of 31 juveniles throughout 2015. These juveniles have been charged with offenses such as Chronic Truancy, Ungovernable or Prohibitions/Underage Consumption, charges that would not be illegal if committed by an adult. 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 appear to 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, inclusive of landline, cell and GPS units, 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 2015

144 Juveniles were provided In-Home Detention Services
123 (85%) of juveniles successfully completed program requirements
21 (15%) 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 or a status offense but determined to be at high or moderate criminogenic risk. 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, and employment skills. 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 provide the participant with an alternative framework for thinking about their wrongdoings.

Calendar Year 2015

67 Juveniles participated in CIP (with a 2014 carry-over of 19)
45 Juveniles released from the program
31% Youth had felony level charges
69% Youth had misdemeanor charges
23 Youth were released successfully from the program
22 Youth were released unsuccessfully

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. The Community Control Officer (CCO) will design safety plans for juveniles who remain in the community to provide adequate supervision of the offender and protection for the victim. One CCO supervises this caseload by monitoring their participation in sex offender specific treatment, monitors the juveniles' behavior and actions at home, school, in the community, and supervises compliance with dispositional orders of the Court. The CCO receives 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).

Calendar Year 2015

- 40 Juveniles supervised and participated in treatment
- 10 Completed all Court orders and were released from Community Control
 - 0 Juveniles committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services
 - 0 Juveniles sentenced to the Detention Home
 - 5 Juveniles placed in other residential placements

MENTALLY ILL – DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED CASELOAD (MI-DD)

Juveniles who are lower functioning (not necessarily with lower Full scale IQ scores) and/or have a significant mental health diagnosis are placed on this caseload. These youth typically 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. Typical referents will have recent (within the past 6 months) episodes of self-harming behavior, psychiatric hospitalization, and/or suicidal ideations/attempts; experiencing crisis based upon their psychiatric symptoms. Youth will have a pervasive mental health diagnosis which results in their inability to regulate their behavior based upon their mental health symptoms.

The Community Control Officer (CCO) provides close supervision and facilitates 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 who is providing intensive supervision.

Calendar Year 2015

- 30 Juveniles carried over in the program from the 2014 caseload
- 29 Juveniles placed on Probation
- 21 Successfully released from Community Control
- 0 Juvenile committed to Ohio Department of Youth Services
- 1 Placed at Court operated Group Homes
- 11 Transferred to a different level of supervision (CIP, General, DH)

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 when necessary. The MI/DD Community Control Officers work closely with the JOP participants, their families and service providers.

Calendar Year 2015

- 17 JOP level evaluations completed
- 9 Juveniles placed on Specialized Services Supervision (SFY, MI/DD)
- 5 Juveniles placed in other Court programs
- 2 Juveniles placed "out of the home" (i.e. Stepping Stone Residential Center, Pathways Group Home, Detention Home or Ohio Department of Youth Services)
- 1 Juvenile placed in the Mental Health Court program

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 in Lorain and Elyria, ages 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 that is designed to meet educational and employment needs, as well as personal development.

Calendar Year 2015

- 23 Juveniles served
- 14 Released from Community Control
(10 Successful, 2 Unsuccessful, 1 Transferred to other programming)
- 1 Juvenile committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services

MENTAL HEALTH COURT

The Mental Health Court docket under the direction of the Honorable Judge Frank J. Janik is not a separate Court, but 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. In an agreement with the Lorain County Prosecutor's office, the youth's presenting charges will be dismissed if they successfully complete the program.

In 2014, the Juvenile Mental Health Court was awarded final certification and recognition as a Specialized Docket as outlined by the Rules of Superintendence of the Ohio Supreme Court. Reapplication for continued certification will occur in 2017.

Calendar Year 2015

- 15 Juveniles served in program (7 Males 8 Females)
- 5 Juveniles terminated from program..... (4 Males 1 Female)
- 4 Juveniles completed program / Charges dismissed.....(0 Males 4 Females)

JUVENILE DRUG COURT

The Lorain County Juvenile Drug Court program serves juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent and have been diagnosed as being substance abuse dependent. The program is funded, in part, by a grant through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The Honorable Judge Debra L. Boros presides over the team of the Juvenile Drug Court. Participants must engage in drug and alcohol treatment, demonstrate stability in their educational program, engage in positive activities in the community and achieve sobriety with the assistance of intensive treatment and supervision. Juvenile Drug Court utilizes a level system and graduated sanctions and rewards system. Based on an agreement with the Lorain County Prosecutor's Office and upon successful completion of the program, the presenting charge(s) are dismissed and the record is sealed. Failure to comply with the terms of the program results in termination from the program and the case being set for disposition.

In 2014, the Juvenile Drug Court was awarded final certification as a Specialized Docket as outlined by the Rules of Superintendence of the Ohio Supreme Court.

Calendar Year 2015

		Males	Females
Participants	19	14	5
Terminations	5	4	1
Graduations	8	7	1

FAMILY DRUG COURT

Family Drug Court is partially funded through a grant from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. 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 Participant Agreement 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 (who presides over Family Drug Court), Program Coordinator, Court Case Manager, treatment counselor from The LCADA Way, a representative from Voices for Children (guardian ad litem program), Elyria YWCA, Faith House, the Nord Center and a designated caseworker from 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. Mental health counseling is also an integral part of the program.

Calendar Year 2015

- 24 Clients served (23 females and 1 male)
- 19 Clients terminated due to failure to comply with LCCS, treatment and/or mental health components
- 8 Children placed outside the home with a parent or relative
- 11 Children placed in foster care
- 3 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

One primary Intake Magistrate, with the assistance of three Court Magistrates, is available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days per week, to respond to law enforcement requests for admission of boys and girls to the Detention Home and Turning Point Shelter. The Intake Magistrate conducts the majority of Preliminary Detention hearings, arraignments and Release hearings for juveniles who have been admitted to the Detention Home.

Calendar Year 2015

- 865 Referrals were Reviewed and Processed
- 205 Unofficial Hearings conducted
- 353 Hearings on official charges on non-detained juveniles
- 356 Preliminary detention/arraignment hearings and release hearings for juveniles admitted to the Detention Home
- 36 Cases certified from outside of Lorain County

Children involved in domestic violence who are admitted to the Detention Home or Turning Point Shelter are assessed by the Turning Point Shelter Social Worker, who then provides recommendations to the Court regarding risk factors and recommends services to assist the juvenile and family. There were 143 Domestic Violence assessments conducted to determine risk in 2015.

Reports that are referred to the Court for consideration of Diversion services are reviewed by the Diversion Specialist. These reports are Unofficial Complaints filed by parents/guardians, school officials and the public, or designated police reports that are screened through the Prosecutor's Office. There were 365

referrals for Diversion Services in 2015. Each referral is reviewed and handled on an individual basis. Thirty-five (35) families availed themselves of actual Diversion services. These cases may require an initial contact with a parent or legal guardian, filing as a Record Purpose matter, unofficial conference with the Diversion Specialist (the Diversion Specialist held 205 conferences with juveniles and their parent/guardian), referral for community resources for assistance, follow-up contact, possible official legal charges or Court supervision based on a Status offense (an act that would not be illegal if committed by an adult).

ATS Program / Alternative to Suspension / Smoking Treatment Program

The Court refers juveniles who have been cited for Underage Tobacco use to an online educational program which provides open and honest information to the cited juveniles. This information attempts to ensure that underage consumers are well-informed about the legal and medical ramifications of smoking.

Calendar Year 2015

- 15 Juveniles charged with Underage Tobacco use (plus carryover from 2014)
- 5 Juveniles referred to an online educational program
- 4 Completed the online educational program
- 2 Paid a waiver fee
- 4 Cases were dismissed
- 3 Cases paid Fine & Costs
- 1 Case certified back to county of residency
- 1 Case remains open due to warrant on additional delinquency matters

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 Magistrates and the Diversion Specialist.

Calendar Year 2015

64 Juveniles completed the program/testing analyzed and scored:

38%	Low Risk to Re-Offend	National Average	59%
25%	Moderate Risk to Re-Offend	National Average	15%
37%	High Risk to Re-Offend	National Average	26%

EDUVENTION / Substance Abuse Education Program

The Court's Eduvention Program is designed to provide drug and alcohol education and information to juveniles and parents who are referred to the Court for misdemeanor alcohol and/or drug offenses. Juveniles and their parent/guardian can attend the four sessions of the program 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 others 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. The LCADA Way (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 2015

188 Referrals to the program (27 carried over from 2014)

121 Juveniles completed the program

20 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 the Lorain County Prosecutors' Office prior to dispositional hearings. The victim is required to supply documentation to the Prosecutor verifying their loss. Once the restitution amount is determined, it is ordered at disposition. Following the dispositional hearing, the juvenile and parent/guardian meet with the PayBack Program Manager to establish a payment plan. The juvenile is given two payment options:

- Execution of a monitored, monthly payment schedule
- Placement in a Court approved, non-profit jobsite, credited with minimum wage compensation and payment to the victim is made through the Lorain County Treasurer's Office.

Calendar Year 2015

119 Cases admitted to the program

100 Cases terminated from the program

86 Successful cases terminated

\$32,747.97 Collected through payment schedules and dispersed to Victims

\$10,959.16 Paid to Victims through the Treasurer's Office for Community Service hours completed through the Work for Pay program

Community Service

Dispositional Orders may include community service hours as a means of “giving back” to the community. The Judge or Magistrate may order a specific number of hours of community service for a juvenile to perform as part of their dispositional orders. Placement in a Court-approved, non-profit organization to complete the Court-ordered community service is acceptable. Another option to complete the order is to purchase and donate non-perishable items that are then distributed to various organizations or needy families throughout the county.

Calendar Year 2015

235 Juveniles ordered to complete Community Service

127 Successfully Completed

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROGRAM

The Lorain County Juvenile Court’s School Attendance 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’s School Attendance 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 2014-2015 school year, 94% of the 1,377 cases referred to the attendance officers responded to interventions. Of the 6% of cases which did not respond to interventions:

- 44 juveniles were referred to the Prosecutor for Truancy charges
- 32 adults were referred on charges of Failure to Send a Child to School and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor and found guilty

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 2014-2015 school year, five Attendance Officers addressed 1,377 referrals from the following school districts (and alternative schools):

- Avon 31 referrals
- Avon Lake 16 referrals
- Clearview..... 196 referrals
- Columbia 9 referrals
- Firelands..... 50 referrals
- Keystone 39 referrals
- Lorain 720 referrals
- Midview 123 referrals
- North Ridgeville 57 referrals
- Oberlin..... 28 referrals
- Sheffield/Sheffield Lake..... 43 referrals
- Wellington..... 41 referrals
- Lorain County Academy 6 referrals
- Lorain County JVS..... 17 referrals
- Education Alternatives 1 referral
- PEP (Positive Education Program)..... 0 referrals

Families identified with "at-risk" family issues which interfere with a child's school attendance may be referred for In-Home services provided by a service provider within the community. Services are voluntary, but provide assistance for the entire household.

Calendar Year 2015

- 36% Of the students referred to the program maintained or reduced their number of unexcused absences to school
- 19 Affidavits filed during the 2014-2015 school year (Violation of a Court Order)

JUVENILE STATISTICS

Age and Gender of Youth	Female	Male	Total
Age 9 and under	0	0	0
Age 10	1	2	3
Age 11	2	7	9
Age 12	18	19	37
Age 13	41	51	92
Age 14	60	117	177
Age 15	109	223	332
Age 16	91	221	312
Age 17	125	309	434
Age 18	10	26	36
Age 19	0	1	1
Total	457	976	1433

Where Youth Reside	Female	Male	Total
Amherst	10	18	28
Avon	3	28	31
Avon Lake	9	24	33
Columbia Station	2	7	9
Elyria	119	259	378
Grafton	9	21	30
LaGrange	3	11	14
Lorain	212	413	625
North Ridgeville	21	47	68
Oberlin	16	28	44
Sheffield Lake/ Sheffield Village	5	12	17
South Amherst	0	2	2
Vermilion	6	14	20
Wellington	12	25	37
Other	30	67	97
Total	457	976	1433

Reason for referral	Female	Male	Total
Aggravated Murder	0	1	1
Alcohol Consumption	17	29	46
Arson	5	6	11
Assault	37	112	149
Attempted Murder	0	0	0
Breaking & Entering	2	15	17
Burglary	5	38	43

Criminal Damaging	3	37	40
Criminal Mischief	1	17	18
Disorderly Conduct	34	58	92
Domestic Violence	67	86	153
Drug Offenses	17	67	84
Escape	5	12	17
Falsification	5	10	15
Induce Panic	2	8	10
Kidnapping	2	0	2
Menacing	4	24	28
Obstructing Official Business	9	22	31
Other	6	15	21
Rape	0	8	8
Receiving Stolen Property	0	31	31
Resisting Arrest	0	1	1
Riot	10	3	13
Robbery	0	25	25
Runaway	1	1	2
Sex Offenses	3	10	13
Telephone Harassment	0	4	4
Theft	52	74	126
Tobacco	5	11	16
Trespassing	10	39	49
Truancy	91	98	189
U.U.M.V.	1	9	10
Ungovernable	58	72	130
Vandalism	0	15	15
Vehicular Homicide	0	2	2
Weapons Offense	5	16	21
Total	457	976	1433

Dispositions	Female	Male	Total
Committed to Adult Correctional Facility	0	6	6
Committed to ODYS/Northern Ohio	0	31	31
Continued on Probation	11	35	46
Courtesy Supervision	1	5	6
Dismissed	145	238	383
Fines & Costs and / or Restitution	80	188	268
Fines & Costs and / or Restitution- Suspended	73	188	261
Judicial Release/Revoke	0	0	0
Other	3	3	6
Placed on Monitored Time / Felony	0	8	8
Placed on Monitored Time / Misdemeanor	8	23	31
Parole	0	0	0
Parole Revocation	0	2	2
Placed on CIP / Felony	0	15	15

Placed on CIP / Misdemeanor	4	28	32
Placed on General Community Control / Felony	6	12	18
Placed on General Community Control / Misdemeanor	17	38	55
Placed on Community Control - Other / Felony	5	3	8
Placed on Community Control - Other / Misdemeanor	18	20	38
Placed on Community Control - Sex Offender / Felony	0	11	11
Placed on Community Control - Sex Offender / Misdemeanor	0	2	2
Placed on Community Control - Status	5	8	13
Residential Facility Placement / Felony	1	7	8
Residential Facility Placement / Misdemeanor	10	18	28
Sentenced to Detention Center / Felony	1	14	15
Sentenced to Detention Center / Misdemeanor	21	35	56
Serious Youth Offender	0	0	0
Sex Offender Classification Modified	0	0	0
Suspended Commitment / Sentence	0	3	3
Transferred to Adult Court	0	12	12
Transferred to Another Court	15	53	68
Unavailability	23	68	91
Suspended DH/Felony	0	0	0
Suspended DH/Misdemeanor	15	62	77
Total	462	1136	1598

Traffic Violations	Female	Male	Total
Alcohol Offenses	6	8	14
Assured Clear Distance	50	71	121
Driving Under Suspension	2	4	6
Failure To Control	19	37	56
Failure To Yield	20	29	49
Impeding Traffic Flow	0	0	0
Improper Backing	7	8	15
Improper Lane Usage	6	14	20
Improper Turn	4	17	21
Jaywalking	0	0	0
Leaving the Scene	2	7	9
License Plates	4	10	14
Lights Violation	1	6	7
No Driver's License	30	37	67
Noise Violation	0	1	1
Other	10	18	28
Parking Violations	0	6	6
Reckless Operation	4	17	21
Seat Belt	11	28	39

Speeding	209	349	558
Squealing Tires	0	1	1
Texting while Driving	1	3	4
Traffic Control Device	22	22	44
Unsafe Vehicle	1	1	2
Walking in Roadway	1	10	11
Total	410	704	1114

Traffic Dispositions	Female	Male	Total
Absentia	4	7	11
Detention Home Sentence	0	0	0
Dismissed	233	602	835
Fines & Costs	103	159	262
Fines & Costs Suspended	1	7	8
License Restricted	10	36	46
License Suspended	8	17	25
Other	3	5	8
Seatbelt Mail-in Waiver	14	19	33
Transfer to Another Court	46	103	149
Unavailability	0	0	0
Total	422	955	1377

DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

David Lucey, Director of Human Resources and Facilities

INTRODUCTION

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

Lorain County Juvenile Detention Home

9967 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 2015, there were 50 youthful offenders sentenced to the Detention Home.

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. Both male and female residents are currently 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 10pm-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. Each youth also reviews a 30 minute video presentation on the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and is informed of our zero tolerance policy for sexual abuse/rape, harassment, and how to report it. The medical staff is available at any time for consultation and has regularly scheduled hours. Within seven days of admission, the detention home nurse or doctor physically examines every juvenile.

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.

2015 Admissions

- 403 males
- 168 females
- 571 juvenile admissions
- Average length of stay: 25.84 days
- Average male daily population: 30
- Average female daily population: 10
- Average daily population total: 40

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 to the child's success in the program. Some group programming for the child will also be included. The Educational Service Center of Lorain County provides educational services for the residents in the facilities. Three certified teachers are present Monday - Friday 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, independent living skills, individual and family counseling, and drug and alcohol treatment.

<u>2015</u>	<u>Pathways</u>	<u>Stepping Stone</u>
Participants	18	43
New Admissions	11	26
2014 Carry-Over	7	17
Successful Completions	5	10
Committed to ODYS	0	2
Sentenced to Detention Home	6	9
Lorain County Jail	0	2
Transferred to CIP	0	3
Moved out of County	0	1
Specialized Services	2	2
Out of County Placement	0	0
N.O.J.C.C.F.	0	1

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 the social worker. The information gathered is used 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 2015, Turning Point served a total of 255 youth – 117 males and 138 females.

DEPARTMENT OF FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Kristen Richardson, Director

Introduction

The Domestic Relations Court receives the majority of its funding from the Lorain County Board of Commissioners. Funding is applied to youth services, operational costs, and support staff salaries and benefits for over 160 employees. Supervision fees are also collected from youth placed on court supervision by Judges and Magistrates.

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

Fiscal

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

The Fiscal Department prepares and monitors the Court's annual budget, records revenue and processes payments of more than \$11 million dollars annually.

In 2015 the Fiscal Department processed more than \$444,000 of payments to Court appointed counsel.

The Domestic Relations Court's 2015 General Fund expenditures were as follows:

Judicial Salaries	\$ 42,000.00
Administrative Services	\$1,975,790.91
Probation Services; Clerk's Office	\$2,236,149.84
Juvenile Detention Home	\$2,292,936.19
IV-D/Domestic Support	\$ 832,990.30
Facilities Complex	\$ 470,947.86
Total County General Fund	\$7,850,815.10

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.

In addition to General Fund support, the Court receives a substantial amount of funding from various state and federal pass-through grant and reimbursement programs per year. In calendar year 2015, the Grants Department applied for six grants, with a total potential award of \$569,743.00. Three grants were awarded, totaling \$238,015.00. Two grants were denied in the amount of \$190,476.00. One grant is pending in the amount of \$141,252.00.

In 2015, the Court received financial support from the following:

Ohio Department of Youth Services

Program supported: Various \$2,121,725.01

Ohio Department of Job & Family Services

Program supported: (Title IV-D) Domestic Support..... \$517,496.99

Program supported: (Title IV-E) Various \$346,833.90

Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Services

Program supported: Drug Court..... \$82,616.00

Program supported: Specialized Family Drug Court..... \$50,700.00

Program supported: Specialized Juvenile Drug Court \$50,700.00

Ohio Department of Mental Health

Program supported: Specialized Mental Health Court \$42,026.00

Ohio Department of Education

Program supported: Detention Home – Food Service \$117,900.28

Ohio Attorney General's Office

Program supported: Voices for Children \$45,914.32

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant

Program supported: Payback/MERIT \$21,812.50

Local School Districts (Fees for Services)

Program supported: Truancy Intervention..... \$198,464.00

Miscellaneous Non-General Fund Revenues

Fines and Fees \$99,956.68

Stepping Stone Support Reimbursements..... \$55,125.20

Children's Services support of Turning Point Shelter..... \$72,000.00

Systems Management

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

Systems also manages the high resolution digital security camera system located in the Detention Home and Facilities Complex that 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 staff.

In 2015, the department managed a large-scale server upgrade, added a new off-site backup and a new web filter.

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

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Fax</u>
Judge Debra Boros	440-328-2201	440-328-2211
Judge Frank Janik	440-329-5365	440-328-2258
Judge Lisa Swenski	440-329-5357	440-329-5438
Administration	440-329-5360	440-329-5232
Juvenile Clerk	440-329-5187	440-329-5271
Family Divorce Services	440-326-4846	440-326-4844
Juvenile Probation	440-326-4880	440-326-4896
Domestic Support	440-326-4835	440-326-4844
Assignment Commissioners:		
Domestic Relations	440-329-5368	
Domestic Relations	440-329-5362	
Domestic Relations	440-329-5369	
Juvenile	440-328-2200	
Fax	440-329-5436	

Lorain County Court of Common Pleas
Domestic Relations Division and Juvenile Branch
Lorain County Justice Center
225 Court Street
Elyria, Ohio 44035



Jody Barilla
Court Administrator

10 Copies @ \$11.70 each