

Lorain County Court of Common Pleas

**Domestic Relations Division
Juvenile Branch**



2009 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

Boys Detention Home, 9967 S. Murray Ridge Road
Girls Detention Home, 9911 S. Murray Ridge Road
Elyria, Ohio 44035



The Citizens of Lorain County:



Debra L. Boros
Judge

The Court is very pleased to present our *2009 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.



David A. Basinski
Judge

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.



David J. Berta
Administrative Judge

Respectfully Submitted,

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Berta".

David J. Berta
Administrative Judge

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra L. Boros".

Debra L. Boros
Judge

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Basinski".

David A. Basinski
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. However, with the re-designation of the Court as a Unified Family Court, probate jurisdiction was included in the array of cases that come before our Court. In July of 2009, the Ohio Legislature acted to return the Probate Court to a separate jurisdiction. Therefore, the Family Court concept was in place from February through September of this year.

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 is 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 2009, the Court enjoyed another year of service to the community in the Justice Center.

Despite cuts in funding, the Court strived to maintain the services to the public that the citizens of Lorain County have come to expect.

The staff 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 inclusive of, 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 2009		
	New Filings	Terminations
Divorce with Children	382	496
Divorce w/o Children	292	339
Dissolution with Children	176	177
Dissolution w/o Children	217	210
Change of Custody	167*	181
Visitation	25*	29
Support	476*	498
Domestic Violence	345	334
Uresa	10	2
All others	14	300
Total	2104	2566

*All Custody, Visitation and Support treated as Reinstatements, not New Filings. For this purpose, reinstatements are listed.

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 Magistrates – 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.

The Court is made up of five departments with over 200 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.

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 was the ninth for I&R, with 345 cases processed. Progress continues in reviewing and augmenting our evidence based programming. 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, identifying community resources to address the concerns revealed in the I & R process.

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.

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.

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 2009, thirteen youth were provided with a psychological evaluation through the Juvenile Offender Project and Bellefaire JCB. An additional ten 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 Court-to-School Liaison program addresses juvenile truancy.

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 six 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 mediation with 62 agreements approved by the Court for an 86.1% success rate. There were 13 mediations of clients returning for a second time, reaching 12 agreements for a 92.3% 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 2009, the Court received 413 referrals with 137 cases mediated. Agreements were reached in 74.4% of the cases mediated. There were 33 clients with prior mediation returning for a second time, reaching 21 agreements, for a success rate of 63.6%. Hearings were held for all mediated agreements.

Juvenile Truancy Mediation was introduced 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 2009, there were 103 referrals made for mediation. 51.4% of those referred actually participated in truancy mediation. Of those who participated, 88.6% 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. 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 2009, there were 82 cases referred for assessments with 102 reports completed and submitted to the Court. A total of 199 supervised visits took place in the department this past year, serving 503 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.....	7
Allocation of Parental Rights.....	17
Out of County	5
Total	29

The *Seminar for Separating Parents* is an effort to better inform parents about the impact of divorce on their children. 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; resulting from the Court philosophy that a child’s future welfare is impacted by parents’ ability to minimize the conflict exposed to their children.

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 834 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 95 parents completed the seminar resulting in the following:

Visitation Conference Outcomes

Conferences Held.....	36
Standard Order of Visitation Reached.....	10
Cases Referred to FDS Visitation Unit.....	12
Defendant (no appearance) Conference.....	11
Special Circumstance Conference	7
Cases Dismissed.....	92
Received Certificate Only.....	117

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.

A long standing leader of this unit, Fred Armstrong, retired at the end of 2009. His career spanned many years and changes in child support.

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 2009. The juvenile clerking contract totaled \$251,020 and the magistrate services contract totaled \$501,750. 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 2009 calendar year, the Domestic Support Unit conducted 5,146 hearings involving issues of child support. The staff in the Juvenile Clerk's Office registered 23,488 journal entries for filing during the twelve-month period of 2009.

Hearings Conducted in 2009

Paternity	560
Contempt.....	3065
CNS.....	234
Arrears.....	206
Termination.....	243
Modification.....	642
All Others.....	196
Total	5,146

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 Lorain County Education Service Center, the 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 2008 - 2009 school year, 93% of the 824 cases referred to the attendance officers responded to *interventions*. Of the 7% of cases which did not respond to interventions:

- Fifty-Six (56) juveniles (6% of referrals) were referred to the Lorain County Prosecutor for Truancy charges.
- One (1) adult (0.12% of cases) was referred to the Lorain County Prosecutor for 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, case materials, and investigative reports to support the prosecution of a case.
- Participation in all adult/juvenile legal proceedings, in which the Attendance Officer initiated formal charges.
- 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 2008-2009 school year, five Attendance Officers addressed 824 referrals from the following school districts (and alternative schools):

• Avon	73 referrals
• Avon Lake	40 referrals
• Clearview	94 referrals
• Columbia	10 referrals
• Elyria	317 referrals
• Firelands	11 referrals
• Keystone	15 referrals
• Midview	65 referrals
• North Ridgeville	56 referrals
• Oberlin	65 referrals
• Sheffield/Sheffield Lake	35 referrals
• Wellington	15 referrals
• Lorain County Academy	12 referrals
• Lorain County JVS	11 referrals
• Education Alternatives	4 referrals
• PEP (Positive Education Program)	1 referral

Eighty percent (80%) of the students referred to the program during the 2008-2009 school year reduced the number of unexcused absences to school. The average percentage of decrease in unexcused absences, per child, was forty-three percent (43%).

The program's rate of recidivism (violation of a Court order to attend school) during the 2008-2009 school year was Nineteen percent (19%).

A program social worker was contracted to address at-risk family issues, which interfere with the child's attendance to school. During the 2008-2009 school year, attendance officers referred ninety-two (92) "high risk" families to the program's social worker. Following twelve weeks of case management by the social worker, seventy-six percent (76%) of the students referred to the social worker increased attendance to school.

DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION AND YOUTH SERVICES

Bill County, Director

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Probation and Youth Services provides direct and indirect services for youth that have been referred to the Court for delinquent (misdemeanor and felony level) and status (ungovernable, curfew, etc) offenses. The department operates and/or facilitates nine direct service programs and three diversion programs. The department includes the Intake function that controls admissions to the Detention Home and conducts initial detention hearings. Department personnel make recommendations to the Magistrates and Judges on all cases.

Long time Chief Probation Officer and Director of the Department of Probation and Youth Services, Bill County, retired in 2009 after a successful career with the Court. Bill will be remembered for his strong advocacy for children and the many lives he has touched.

The Court has continued to serve the youth and families that are identified by the Court for supervision and other on-going services in CY 2009. 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/or needs. The Court continues to seek funding for the specialized services that this population requires.

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 used in 2009. 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 transitioned from Youth Level of Service Indicators (Y-LoSI), done at regular intervals during the youth’s probation period, to the new Ohio Youth Assessment Survey (the new Risk/Needs assessment developed by the University of Cincinnati specifically for the State of Ohio. Scores on both of these instruments assist the Court in effectively targeting services and interventions that result in a higher rate of successful completion of probation by reducing risk factors. Assessing the youth and providing strength based approaches, geared at reducing risk factors, continue to be the foundation of our programs.

The Probation staff provides different levels of supervision to court-involved juveniles that remain in the community. The diverse strengths and needs of the juveniles and their families require unique interventions and levels of supervision. The programs and services follow:

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 plan through contact with the juvenile, school officials, parents 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. 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, and assisting families in working with those agencies.

Four 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 that are maintained on probation that live out of County. A total of 448 youth were served on general probation in 2009. These included youth that were placed on Temporary orders prior to final disposition of their case. 62% of the youth released from Community Control in 2009 had a decreased Level of Service Indicator (LOSI) score, while 3% 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 defendant will be required to report to the Community Control department on a predetermined basis. 71 youth were placed on this type of Community Control in 2009. Two Inside CCOs are responsible for this caseload. They make phone contact with the youth, parents, and others and report to the Court the progress of the youth. These CCOs also track continued cases and do initial interviews of youth and families referred for additional Court services.

IN-HOME DETENTION

The In-Home Detention Program provides a service that offers an alternative to detaining a youth in the Detention Home. Youth designated for placement in the program are, generally, less serious offenders that do not represent a danger to themselves or to the community.

The release of some youth 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 guardians, are also required to pledge to ensure compliance and report any non-compliance.

Court personnel monitor the adjustment of the youth while they are in the program. Random home visits and phone calls are conducted. 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.

In calendar year 2009, 193 youth were provided In-Home Detention services. 78.3% of the program enrollees successfully completed the program requirements. 42 youth, 22%, were readmitted to Detention.

COMMUNITY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Community Intervention Program (CIP) provides intensive supervision and services to delinquent youth throughout Lorain County. A Judge or Magistrate, as a disposition when adjudicated delinquent for a criminal offense, places juveniles into the program. The target population is adjudicated youth ranging in age from 12 to 18 years with significant criminogenic factors, as identified by the Investigation and Referral Team.

The program is based on a traditional intensive supervision model, characterized by low caseloads, averaging 10-15 youth per probation officer. Each caseload is comprised of a team that includes a community control officer and an evening/weekend monitor. The juveniles placed in the program have a prescribed case plan based on identified risks and needs. The program operates on a four phase "level system". As the youth progresses through the levels, by demonstrating appropriate behavior and meeting case plan goals, the supervision is reduced. A family team meeting is held at a 45 day mid-point in order to assess and discuss the youth's progress.

The program participant may participate in various groups such as anger management, character development, employment skills, and art therapy. In 2006, all programs were restructured in an effort to incorporate a more cognitive behavioral approach. Cost Benefit Analysis and Functional Analysis are two cognitive behavioral approaches utilized within the art therapy services, as well as other program provided services. Parenting skills programs are also available and are sometimes mandated. Program participants in need of mental health and substance abuse services receive assistance through partnerships with various community agencies and service providers. Youth ordered into CIP are required to participate in community service and recreational activities to assist in building appropriate social skills.

In 2009, the program served 93 adjudicated youth.

Calendar Year 2009

37% placed with felony level charges.

63% placed with misdemeanor charges.

61 youth were released from the program.

44 (72%) were released successfully (completed all requirements and were satisfactorily released from court supervision).

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. The CCOs supervise juveniles by monitoring their participation in sex offender specific treatment, monitor the juveniles' behavior and actions at home, school and in the community, and supervise compliance with dispositional orders of the Court. The CCOs receive specific training to assist in identifying behaviors 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 18 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 2009, twelve juveniles were classified or re-classified upon completion of disposition.

Calendar Year 2009

50 Juveniles supervised and participated in treatment

14 Completed all Court orders and were released from Community Control

These numbers only reflect youth that were initially placed on Community Control after adjudication and assessment. One youth was committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services for sex offenses in 2009. Seven youth received treatment at the Northern Ohio Juvenile Correctional Center (operated in conjunction with ODYS).

MENTALLY ILL - MR/DD CASELOAD

Juveniles who are lower functioning and/or have a significant mental health diagnosis are placed on this specialized caseload. These juveniles usually 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.

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 in the community, providing case management services, work closely with the CCO that is providing intensive supervision.

Calendar Year 2009

- 43 Juveniles placed in program
- 12 Successfully released from Community Control
- 3 Juveniles 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 done by Bellefaire staff is comprised of multiple testing tools, an assessment of the family, and charts and reports from previous service providers and school systems. 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. The Court staff monitors and documents all contacts with the juvenile and family, attends staff meetings, makes home visits, participates in JOP / 4-C Cluster reviews, and provides transportation services. The MI / MRDD Community Control Officer works closely with the JOP participants.

Calendar Year 2009

- 6 Juveniles served
- 0 Juveniles released from Community Control
- 1 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 that is designed to meet educational and employment needs, as well as personal development.

Calendar Year 2009

35	Juveniles served
13	Successfully released from Community Control
1	Juvenile committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services

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 a significant drug and alcohol and/or substance abuse history linked to their offenses. 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 2009. The team consists of the Program Manager, Community Control Officer/Case Manager, a Community Resource Manager, 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 four levels of the program. Parents and/or guardians are also participants in this process. They must attend Court hearings with their child and Family Night sessions with the treatment providers. The Court makes every effort to assist families in overcoming barriers that may inhibit success. Upon successful completion of all components, the presenting charges are dismissed. Failure to comply with components results in termination from the program and the case being set for disposition.

Calendar Year 2009

	MALES	FEMALES
Participants	15	1
Terminations	5	1
Graduations	3	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, work towards completion of the case plan components, and maintaining sobriety. Failure of compliance 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 Magistrate Joe Tackett (who preside over the Family Drug Court), Program Coordinator, Treatment Counselor, a representative from Voices for Children (guardian ad litem), Genesis House, 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 assistance and assistance in obtaining housing. Participants are also referred to mental health agencies for individual counseling, parenting skills and domestic violence sessions.

Calendar Year 2009

- 19 Women served
- 2 Men served
- 17 Children returned to mother's custody
- 10 Children placed with a parent or relative
- 12 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 and domestic violence charges
- Unofficial hearings for intervention and diversion purposes

The Intake magistrates are available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to respond to law enforcement's requests for admissions to the boys and girls' detention homes. The following was heard in 2009:

- 1,670 referrals were reviewed and processed
- 312 unofficial hearings conducted
- 361 hearings on official charges on non-detained juveniles
- 512 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 DH or Turning Point, a social worker will screen, assess, and then provide group sessions to juveniles and families. There were 167 screened by this program in 2009.

The Lorain County Juvenile Intake Department's responsibilities include oversight of *Diversion Services* programming and supervision of juveniles placed on community control for status offenses, an act that would not be illegal if committed by an adult. There were 189 referrals for diversion services in 2009. Seventy-five families availed themselves of these services and another 36 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. 79 youth were placed on status offender probation. These youth were provided supervision and an opportunity for additional Court services.

SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS

Yes Program

The Youth Education Shoplifting Program (YES Program) is an educational, rehabilitative program offered to juveniles referred to the Court for first time petty theft/shoplifting offenses. Participants are ordered into the program from both official and unofficial cases heard by the intake magistrates. In 2009, 133 juveniles completed the program with a consistent recidivism rate between 1-3%.

Eduvention/Substance Abuse Education Program

The Court's Eduvention Program is designed to provide drug and alcohol education and information to juveniles, and parents, referred to the Court for misdemeanor alcohol 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 ordered to attend the sessions. A record of their attendance is docketed into the record.

The Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Abuse (LCADA) Services provide, at no cost to the participants, Eduvention, 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.

Calendar Year 2009

- 241 referrals to the program
- 186 completed
- 39 completed substituted programs
- 25 were officially charged and arraigned

Internal Interventions

Assessment and counseling were provided In-House in one of three ways.

A psychologist, as noted in the Investigation and Referral Team section, assessed juveniles, upon the request of the Probation Department or the Investigation and Referral Team. This report aided in the dispositional recommendations made by staff and often proved to be an invaluable resource.

Alcohol and other Drug Issues were often sorted out by a licensed alcohol and drug counselor, who serves our Court as a Screener for our Juvenile Drug Court, as a grant writer, and as a counselor on substance abuse or dependency cases. During 2009, there were 179 referrals to our staff person.

The third professional staff person is the Education and Program Specialist. Overseeing the psycho-educational groups, providing clinical supervision to staff (as needed), providing mental health interventions (including screening and ongoing counseling) to a select group of children, and facilitating groups are just a few of the many tasks of this position.

JUVENILE STATISTICS

Age and Gender of Youth	Female	Male	Total
Age 8	0	0	0
Age 9	0	0	0
Age 10	0	3	3
Age 11	3	20	23
Age 12	12	39	51
Age 13	36	89	125
Age 14	81	137	218
Age 15	132	242	374
Age 16	159	346	505
Age 17	135	353	488
Age 18	12	51	63
19	0	0	0
Totals	570	1280	1850

Where Youth Reside	Female	Male	Total
Amherst	14	67	81
Avon	10	30	40
Avon Lake	10	36	46
Columbia Station	5	4	9
Elyria	199	374	573
Grafton	7	16	23
LaGrange	5	16	21
Lorain	196	443	639
North Ridgeville	41	65	106
Oberlin	7	35	42
Sheffield Lake/ Sheffield Village	13	46	59
South Amherst	2	5	7
Vermilion	20	65	85
Wellington	4	19	23
Other	37	59	96
Totals	570	1280	1850

Reason for Referral	Female	Male	Total
Aggravated Murder	0	0	0
Alcohol Consumption	40	62	102
Arson	1	9	10
Assault	76	164	240
Attempted Murder	0	0	0
Breaking & Entering	1	28	29
Burglary	10	73	83
Criminal Damaging	5	32	37
Criminal Mischief	1	15	16
Disorderly Conduct	91	107	198
Domestic Violence	52	96	148
Drug Offenses	10	96	106
Escape	0	1	1
Falsification	6	7	13
Induce Panic	3	10	13
Kidnapping	0	4	4
Menacing	10	29	39
Obstructing Official Business	9	20	29
Other	5	11	16
Rape	1	12	13
Receiving Stolen Property	8	46	54
Resisting Arrest	1	6	7
Riot	8	0	8
Robbery	3	26	29
Runaway	1	0	1
Sex Offenses	8	27	35
Telephone Harassment	4	1	5
Theft	74	89	163
Tobacco	17	66	83
Trespassing	8	42	50
Truancy	58	60	118
U.U.M.V.	4	12	16
Ungovernable	52	104	156
Vandalism	0	5	5
Vehicular Homicide	0	1	1
Weapons Offense	3	19	22
Total	570	1280	1850

Dispositions	Female	Male	Total
Committed to Adult Correctional Facility	3	32	35
Committed to ODYS/Northern Ohio	4	51	55
Continued on Probation	23	76	99
Courtesy Supervision	3	5	8
Dismissed	104	177	281
Fines & Costs and/ or Restitution	138	280	418
Fines & Costs and/ or Restitution- Suspended	116	258	374
Judicial Release/Revoke	0	1	1
Other	91	169	260
Placed on Monitored Time/ Felony	3	17	20
Placed on Monitored Time/ Misdemeanor	17	39	56
Parole	0	4	4
Parole Revocation	2	14	16
Placed on CIP/ Felony	2	16	18
Placed on CIP/ Misdemeanor	13	18	31
Placed on General Community Control/ Felony	8	48	56
Placed on General Community Control/Misdemeanor	33	45	78
Placed on Community Control- Other/ Felony	2	14	16
Placed on Community Control- Other/ Misdemeanor	5	10	15
Placed on Community Control- Sex Offender/ Felony	0	21	21
Placed on Community Control- Sex Offender/ Misdemeanor	0	6	6
Placed on Community Control- Status	17	16	33
Residential Facility Placement/ Felony	1	17	18
Residential Facility Placement/ Misdemeanor	10	13	23
Sentenced to Detention Center/ Felony	0	1	1
Sentenced to Detention Center/ Misdemeanor	11	21	32
Serious Youth Offender	0	2	2
Sex Offender Classification Modified			0
Suspended Commitment/ Sentence	3	31	34
Transferred to Adult Court	0	10	10
Transferred to Another Court	15	27	42
Unavailability	70	144	214
Suspended DH/Felony	2	7	9
Suspended DH/Misdemeanor	36	93	129
Total	732	1683	2415

Traffic Violations	Female	Male	Total
Alcohol Offenses	11	22	33
Assured Clear Distance	46	84	130
Driving Under Suspension	6	16	22
Failure To Control	33	38	71
Failure To Yield	43	47	90
Impeding Traffic Flow	0	2	2
Improper Backing	5	8	13
Improper Lane Usage	12	21	33
Improper Turn	5	7	12
Jaywalking	5	13	18
Leaving the Scene	1	10	11
License Plates	6	12	18
Lights Violation	15	32	47
No Driver's License	22	68	90
Noise Violation	1	4	5
Other	6	11	17
Parking Violations	2	1	3
Reckless Operation	5	23	28
Seat Belt	15	48	63
Speeding	176	345	521
Squealing Tires	0	6	6
Tinted Windows	0	0	0
Traffic Control Device	25	29	54
Unsafe Vehicle	13	24	37
Walking in Roadway	4	24	28
Total	457	895	1352

Traffic Dispositions	Female	Male	Total
Dismissed	28	69	97
Fines & Costs	311	479	790
Fines & Costs Suspended	11	29	40
License Restricted	56	125	181
License Suspended	27	101	128
Other	23	33	56
Seatbelt Mail-in Waiver	3	10	13
Transfer to Another Court	70	112	182
Unavailability	4	27	31
Total	533	985	1518

DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Dale M. Kaminski, Director

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 juvenile program facilities 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, juveniles were sentenced to the Lorain County Detention Homes by a Judge for up to 90 days. In 2009, there were 83 youthful offenders sentenced to the 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.

2009 was a difficult year for admissions and population. As a cost cutting measure, in response to the budget crisis in Lorain County, 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 were housed in separate wings of the Boys Detention Home during 2009. The Court has, therefore, attempted to maintain reduced numbers of youth in the Detention Home by capping the number of youth detained at 32 males and 10 females. This has placed a strain on the processing and disposition of cases.

During the admission process each youth is administered the Maysi II test which screens for mental health issues. Applewood will conduct an assessment if issues are highlighted. 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 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.

2009 Admissions

- 670 males
- 259 females
- 929 juvenile admissions
- Average length of stay: 17 days
- Average daily population: male – 35; female - 9
- Average daily population total: 44

Pathways Group Home / Stepping Stone Residential Center

1076 / 1064 Infirmery 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 the facilities, limited to 10 female and 20 males at any one time.

Pathways and Stepping Stone prepare residents for successful reintegration into the community. The program assists juveniles in learning how to better manage personal problems and family issues, as well as develop an increased ability to access community resources, identify career opportunities and develop pre-vocational skills.

Referrals to Pathways and Stepping Stone are made through the Investigation and Referral Team, Magistrates, Lorain County Children Services, school counselors and mental health workers. The Judge places appropriate juveniles into the program at the dispositional hearing.

The formats at Pathways and Stepping Stone parallel each other. Each are one-year programs divided into two phases. Phase I is a minimum 21 week in-house stay. In Phase I, the juvenile participates in graduated off grounds visits with the parent or guardian ranging from one hour to seventy-two hours. The juvenile and the parent or guardian will receive appropriate service on an individualized basis during this Phase, based on the specifics of the Case Plan, which can include both individual and group programming. Parental involvement and participation is vital to the juvenile's success. The juvenile will receive a physical exam within the first sixty days of placement, with any follow up as needed. If the juvenile remains in placement beyond 21 weeks, a dental exam will be secured by the 180th day of placement.

Case plans are developed for each juvenile using a drug/alcohol and mental health assessment along with a psychological evaluation. Areas addressed through service providers include anger management, parenting, health, living skills, individual counseling, family counseling and appropriate drug and alcohol services. Boy and Girl Scout troops provide opportunities through training, projects and camping trips.

The Educational Service Center of Lorain County provides the educational services for residents in the facilities. There are two certified teachers during normal school hours to provide instruction.

2009	Pathways	Stepping Stone
Participants	24	55
New Admissions	11	30
08 Carry-Over	13	25
Successful Completion	10	9
Committed to DYS	0	8
Sentenced to Detention Home	3	3
Sentenced to Lorain County Jail	0	1
Bind-Over	0	0
Transferred to CIP	1	2
Further Residential Placement	0	0
Transferred to Specialized Services	0	1
Currently in Program	10	31

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 typically arrive at Turning Point after being involved in domestic dispute situations in the community 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 community service referrals.

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

The goal of Turning Point is to return the youth to their home without further intervention by the court. During 2009, Turning Point served a total of 250 youths – 117 males and 133 females.

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Marilyn Parker-Jeffries, Director

INTRODUCTION

This department provides services and support to the community and court staff. The department is comprised of the following: The Pay-Back Program, Merit Program, Voices for Children, and Juvenile Clerk's Office.

THE PAY-BACK PROGRAM

Restitution is an essential component in the rehabilitation process. It is also the means whereby victims find recourse through the justice system. Through this program, the 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 and all involved parties: i.e. victims, prosecutors, insurance companies, etc.

The process is initiated by a Court order for restitution. The program contacts the victims and they are required to supply the Court documentation for their loss. Once the restitution amount is determined, the juvenile is given two payment options:

1. Execution of a monitored, monthly payment schedule
2. Placement in a court developed jobsite

At the job site, juveniles are credited with minimum wage compensation and payment to the victim is made through the Lorain County Treasurer's Office. The program partners with numerous jobsites throughout the county. The job sites provide a work experience for the offenders and on site supervisors evaluate the offender's work performance.

Statistics for 2009

- 544 cases referred for investigation of restitution
- 149 served
- 84 carried over from 2008
- 65 admissions
- 94 terminated
- 89.7% successfully terminated - restitution paid in full
- \$33,013.32 collected through payment schedules
- 1,556 hours of community service were performed, earning \$6,968.40
- \$43,670.84 in victim payments

MERIT

The MERIT Program has the responsibility and oversight for tracking the following programs:

Anger Management:

In 2009, the Court's Education and Program Coordinator oversaw two anger management programs. The Programs provide basic and 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:

Number Ordered 2009	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2010
34	10	1	91%	23

Carried over 2008	Total Served	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Completions	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2010
28	62	11	12	48%	27

Aggression Replacement Training:

Number Ordered 2009	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2010
78	32	7	82%	39

Carried over 2008	Total Served	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Completions	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2010
29	107	14	14	50%	40

Community Service:

Number Ordered 2009	Success Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2010	Number of hours completed
666	402	24	94%	229	10,926.50

Carried over 2008	Total Served	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Completions	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2010
330	996	209	95	69%	259

This is the fifth year the MERIT Program has collected non-perishable good, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items for the needy. Once again the court donated most of the items collected to the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Elyria while the rest was donated to families in need that are involved in the court. This year \$4,177.00 worth of items were donated to the program. That accounted for 2,089 of community service hours completed.

Psycho-Educational groups are interventions intended to reduce the risk factor associated with criminal behavior. During 2009, 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.

Strengthening Families 10-13 and 14-17

The Strengthening Families Program is a joint effort between Catholic Charities and the Lorain County Domestic Relations Court. The program's 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.

Strengthening Families 10-13:

Number Ordered 2009	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2010
48	17	16	52%	11

Carried over 2008	Total Served	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Completions	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2010
8	56	19	23	45%	14

Strengthening Families 14-17:

Number Ordered 2009	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2010
57	18	21	46%	18

Carried over 2008	Total Served	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Completions	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2010
21	78	29	29	50%	20

Strengthening Families 14-17 (LCADA)

Number Ordered 2009	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2010
22	10	5	67%	14

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.

These numbers represent only general and non-probation cases.

Number Ordered 2009	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over Cases to 2010
63	27	8	77%	28

Carried over 2008	Total Served	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Completions	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2010
40	103	47	23	67%	33

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.

Number Ordered 2009	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2010
59	27	9	75%	22

Carried over 2008	Total Served	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Completions	Success Rate	Carried Over to 2010
23	82	38	20	66%	23

Boys Council:

Boys Council is a strengths-based group approach to promote boys’ and young men’s healthy, safe development. The group encourages boys and young men to act safely, show respect in their relationships, develop a healthy perspective, see other’s points of view, use good judgment, and identity goals and dreams. The topics that may be addressed include:

- Competition
- Bullying
- Valuing diversity
- Safe expression of emotions
- Making safe and healthy decision
- Rejecting violence

Number Ordered 2009	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over Cases to 2010
75	42	12	78%	21

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.

Number Ordered 2009	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2010
14	6	0	100%	8

VOICES FOR CHILDREN - Lorain County CASA/GAL Program

Voices for Children (VFC) is affiliated with the nationally recognized Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program. The purpose of Voices for Children is to provide guardian ad litem (GALs) to the Court to advocate on behalf of the abused, neglected, and dependent children coming before it. The GAL volunteer undertakes an investigation into the circumstances and 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 a recommendation to the Court as to what course of action is in the best interest of the child.

GAL volunteers complete 30 hours of pre-service training, which includes four classroom sessions (30 hrs) and additional hours for courtroom observations. All GALs are screened, interviewed and a criminal background check through the Web-Check System is completed. A Judge administers an oath and the volunteers are then recognized as Officers of the Court. In addition, there is a continuing 12 hours of education required annually.

The success of the Voices for Children Program is due to the commitment of the volunteers recruited from the community, 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.

2009 Funding

Court:	\$ 112,612
County\$	15,117
VOCA (Grant):	32,918
State SVAA	<u>3,119</u>
Total	\$163,766

Volunteers

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

- 108 active volunteers
- Ages - 21 to 60+ (median age 51.1)
- 78 females and 30 males
- Education spans high school graduate to post college graduate
- Diverse racial mix – Caucasian (70), African American (27), Hispanic (8), Asian (2), Native American (1), Multi-Racial (1)

Children

- Total number served in 2009: 532 (263 Female 269 Male)*
- Racial makeup: African American (113), Caucasian (354), Hispanic (25), Multi-Racial (37), Other (3)

Total Children whose cases were closed in 2009: **272**

*Note: Count of Petitions/Allegations may exceed number of children if multiple allegations per child.

Reasons for # of Closed Cases:

Adoption:	21
Case Removed from the Docket:	3
Case Transferred to Another Jurisdiction:	11
Child aged out of system:	2
Family Moved:	1
Placed with Legal Guardians:	105
Returned to Family:	119
Protective Supervision Terminated:	16

Types of Cases:

Abandonment.....	3
Custody Dispute.....	2
Dependency.....	4
Dependency/Neglect.....	458
Medical Neglect.....	3
Neglect.....	8
Physical Abuse.....	12
Sexual Abuse	3
Total	493

DEPARTMENT OF FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Deborah Tansey, Director

INTRODUCTION

2009’s economic downturn has proven to be deeper than the parameters of the normal economic cycle. The realities of 2009’s challenging economy had a significant impact on the Court’s budget resulting in General Fund salary and PERS line items being cut by 20%.

Long term planning has enabled the Court to 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 enable the Court to provide the services mandated by law.

Department Overview

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, including accounting, 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 \$12 million in 2009.

On a bi-weekly basis, over 200 time sheets were checked for accuracy and documented for use of sick and vacation leave. Once completed, a payroll of approximately \$300,000 was generated and disbursed each pay cycle. In addition to processing payroll payments in excess of \$7.8 million in 2009, benefits of approximately \$2.4 million dollars in

healthcare premiums and life insurance were processed and monitored.

In 2009 the Fiscal Department processed more than \$360,000 in payments to Court appointed counsel.

In the calendar year 2009, the Fiscal Department processed 15 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.

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 2009 Grants was responsible for obtaining and monitoring \$4.5 million 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 it designed and populated to better serve the citizens of Lorain County.

In 2009 the Court's Systems Department implemented a document imaging program and a new email system in a continuing effort to increase the courts efficiency and reduce paper consumption. Systems also oversaw the security camera system upgrade in the Boys and Girls Detention Facilities to a high resolution digital system that allows for remote monitoring and archiving 90 days of security camera data. The new video security system provides comprehensive monitoring capabilities and a heightened level of safety for the juveniles and the workers.

Our goals for 2010 include a CourtView upgrade and a new automated certified mailer system that is expected to save the court significant mailing costs.

For the calendar year 2009, the Domestic Relations Court's General Fund Expenditures were as follows:

Judicial/Administrative/Divorce Services	\$2,568,323
Juvenile Probation	1,649,976
Juvenile Detention Home	1,924,274
Domestic Support	743,214
Pathways Group Home.....	270,674
Turning Point Shelter	199,495
Multi-Purpose Building.....	<u>15,968</u>
Total County General Fund	\$7,371,924

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

Ohio Department of Youth Services	
Program supported: Various	\$1,843,955
School-Liaison Mediation (Title II Fed pass thru).....	22,613
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services	
Program supported: (Title IV-D) Domestic Support	450,002
Program supported: (Title IV-E) Various	1,317,947
Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Services	
Program supported: Drug Court.....	138,191
Ohio Department of Mental Health	
Program supported: Juvenile (Violent) Offender	39,120
Ohio Department of Education	
Program supported: Detention Home – Food Service	112,314
Ohio Attorney General's Office	
Program supported: Voices for Children.....	36,379
Local School Districts (Fees for Service)	
Educational Service Center	67,200
Elyria City School District	67,200
Lorain County Joint Vocational School.....	<u>33,600</u>
Program supported: Truancy Intervention.....	<u>168,000</u>
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act	
Program supported: (Title IV-E) Various II	35,936
Miscellaneous Non-General Fund Revenues	
Fines and Fees.....	114,822
Stepping Stone Reimbursements	154,055
Children's Services Support of Turning Point Shelter.....	72,000
WorkForce Investment-Lorain County Commissioners	<u>13,923</u>
Total local, state and federal resources (non-county).....	\$4,519,257
Total 2009 General Fund and Grants Programs	<u>\$11,891,181</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

Judge David Basinski – 440-329-5365 Fax – 440-328-2258

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

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

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

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

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

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

Domestic Support – 440-326-4836 Fax – 440-326-4844

Assignment Commissioners:

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Domestic Relations..... 440-328-2200

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Lorain County Court of Common Pleas
Domestic Relations Division and Juvenile Branch
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Doug Messer
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