

Lorain County Court of Common Pleas



Domestic Relations Division
Juvenile Branch

2007 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
Administrative Judge



David A. Basinski
Judge



David J. Berta
Judge

The Court is very pleased to present our *2007 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 that reads "David J. Berta". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

David J. Berta
Judge

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra L. Boros". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

Debra L. Boros
Administrative Judge

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Basinski". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

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 is now included in the array of cases that come before our Court. In 2009, with the election of the Judge to replace retiring Probate Judge Frank Horvath, the Court shall complete its metamorphosis to a Unified Family Court.

Case resolution in the courtrooms, however, is 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 continued evaluation, oversight, and innovation to assure that programming and services remain relevant, necessary, and operated in the most efficient and cost effective manner.

During 2007, the Court enjoyed another year of service to the community in the Justice Center. 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

Criminal Nonsupport Cases

Court Filings in 2007		
	New Filings	Terminations
Divorce with Children	354	402
Divorce w/o Children	304	316
Dissolution with Children	161	177
Dissolution w/o Children	242	238
Change of Custody	157	160
Visitation	31	32
Support	456	464
Domestic Violence	331	331
Uresa	0	1
All others	264	253
Total	2300	2374

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 – Two Attorney Intake Magistrates, with offices located in the Boys Detention Home, have 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 Magistrates conduct 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 a screening (using the MAYSI and OHIO SCALES), completion of the DIR and YoLSI, and reviewing 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 developed 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 seventh for I&R, with 404 cases processed. Progress was made in expanding our evidence based programming for youth subject to Court orders and improving the planning for all youth under supervision.

A forensic psychologist is contracted to provide evaluations for youth when mental health or developmental concerns are present. The psychologist also provides fire setter, competency, and parental evaluations when needed. The psychologist is available for consultation as well. This year, 209 evaluations were completed. The psychologist has provided staff consultation and training as well.

The department includes an Education and Prevention Specialist who coordinates the psycho-educational programming offered by the Court. Some of the evidence based programming offered during 2007 included Thinking for a Change, Aggression Replacement Training, Girl's Circle, and Strengthening Families. The Education and Prevention Specialist also provides or supervises direct services to youth who are sentenced to the Detention Home. When needed, community based services may 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, and ongoing in-home services.

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

During 2007, 23 youth were provided with a psychological evaluation through the Juvenile Offender Project, currently funded by the Integrated Services Partnership. 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 seven major areas:

1. Court-ordered Mediation
2. Pro-Se Mediation/MAND 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, 34 cases were submitted for mediation with 26 agreements approved by the Court for a 76.4% success rate. There were 19 mediations of clients returning for a second time, reaching 12 agreements for a 63% 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 2007, the Court received 408 referrals with 121 cases mediated. Agreements were reached in 77.6% of the cases mediated. There were 36 clients with prior mediation returning for a second time, reaching 18 agreements, for a success rate of 50%. 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. From September of 2007, when the program was initiated, to the end of the year, there were 57 referrals made for mediation. 38.5% of those referred actually participated in truancy mediation. Of those who participated, 91% resulted in a mediated agreement.

In 2003, Family Divorce Services instituted the Mediation of Abuse, Neglect and Dependent ((MAND) program, for cases referred by Lorain County Children Services. This *MAND* process enables parents and interested parties to participate in working out a viable case plan with the goal of reunifying families. In 2007, the MAND continued to be available.

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 2007, there were 59 cases referred for assessments with 55 reports completed and submitted to the Court. A total of 101 supervised visits took place in the department this past year, serving 238 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	13
Allocation of Parental Rights	23
Out of County	6
Total	42

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 883 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, 223 parents completed the seminar resulting in the following:

Visitation Conference Outcomes

Conferences Held	13
Standard Order of Visitation Reached	23
Cases Referred to FDS Visitation Unit	6
Cases Dismissed.....	42
Special Circumstance Conference	7
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.

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 2007. The juvenile clerking contract totaled \$226,007 and the magistrate services contract totaled \$456,852. 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 2007 calendar year, the Domestic Support Unit conducted 4,892 hearings involving issues of child support, providing 3,664 hours of magistrate hearing time to conduct IV-D child support activities. The staff in the Juvenile Clerk’s Office registered 19,968 journal entries for filing during the twelve-month period of 2007.

Hearings Conducted in 2007

Paternity.....	472
Contempt.....	2694
CNS	223

Arrears	303
Termination	499
Modification	429
All Others.....	272
Total	4892

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 2006 - 2007 school year, 91% of the 940 cases referred to the attendance officers responded to *interventions*. Of the 9% of cases which did not respond to interventions:

- Seventy-One (71) juveniles (7% of referrals) were referred to the Lorain County Prosecutor for Truancy charges.
- Seventeen (17) adults (2% of cases) were 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 2006-2007 school year, five Attendance Officers addressed 940 referrals from the following school districts (and alternative schools):

• Avon	70 referrals
• Avon Lake	24 referrals
• Clearview	132 referrals
• Columbia	22 referrals
• Elyria	310 referrals
• Firelands	12 referrals
• Keystone	18 referrals
• Midview	119 referrals
• North Ridgeville	42 referrals
• Oberlin	51 referrals
• Sheffield/Sheffield Lake	57 referrals
• Wellington	6 referrals
• Lorain County Academy	15 referrals
• Lorain County JVS	62 referrals

Seventy-seven percent (77%) of the students referred to the program during the 2006-2007 school year reduced the number of unexcused absences to school. The average percentage of decrease in unexcused absences, per child, was thirty-nine percent (39%).

The program’s rate of recidivism (violation of a Court order to attend school) during the 2006-2007 school year was two percent (2%).

A program social worker was contracted to address at-risk family issues, which interfere with the child’s attendance to school. During the 2006- 2007 school year, attendance officers referred eighty-three (83) “high risk” families to the program’s social worker. Following twelve weeks of case management by the social worker, seventy-five percent (75%) 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.

The Court has experienced an increased number of youth and families that are identified by the Court for supervision and other on-going services in CY 2007 for significant dysfunctional behaviors. 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 also is presented with an increasing number of youth that are cognitively challenged and/or developmentally delayed. We are attempting to find and fund 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, Anger Reduction Training, and Anger Control Therapy are examples of evidence-based programs that have been used in 2007. 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 administers the Youth Level of Service Indicators (Y-LoSI) at regular intervals during the youth’s probation period. Scores on these measures assist the Court in effectively targeting services and interventions that result in a higher rate of successful completion of probation by reducing risk factors. These types of 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.

Five 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 472 youth were served on general probation in 2007. These included youth that were placed on Temporary orders prior to final disposition of their case. 64% of the youth released from Community Control in 2007 had a decreased Level of Service Indicator (LOSI) score, while 7% 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 youth will not get direct services from a CCO, but will be required to report to the Community Control department on a predetermined basis. 97 youth and 4 adults were placed on this type of Community Control in 2007. 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 appear to 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 2007, 182 youth were provided In-Home Detention services. 81% of the program enrollees successfully completed the program requirements. 34 youth, 19%, were readmitted to the detention home.

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.

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.

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 2007, the program served 94 adjudicated youth.

Calendar Year 2007

65% placed with felony level charges.

35% placed with misdemeanor charges.

56 youth were released from the program.

34 (61%) were released successfully (completed all court 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 2007, three juveniles were classified.

Calendar Year 2007

- 49 Juveniles supervised and participated in treatment
- 12 Completed all Court orders and were released from Community Control
- 4 Juveniles committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services
- 2 Recidivists brought back to Court

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 2007

- 30 Juveniles placed in program
- 10 Successfully released from Community Control
- 1 Juvenile committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services

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.

A Court employee is designated to monitor and assist 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 2007

- 13 Juveniles served
- 3 Juveniles released from Community Control
- 0 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 2007

- 27 Juveniles served
- 5 Successfully released from Community Control
- 2 Juveniles 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 2007. 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 2007

	MALES	FEMALES
Participants	20	3
Terminations	9	3
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, working 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 2007

24	Women served
16	Children returned to mother's custody
17	Children placed with a parent or relative
26	Children placed in foster care
5	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 2007:

- 1,643 referrals were reviewed and processed
- 293 unofficial hearings conducted
- 342 hearings on official charges on non-detained juveniles
- 668 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 201 screened by this program in 2007.

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 346 referrals for diversion

services in 2007. Seventy-four 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. 85 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 2007, 110 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 2007

329 referrals to the program

197 completed

9 completed substituted programs

72 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 ferreted 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 2007, there were 199 referrals to our staff person.

During 2007, the Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services agency placed an assessment person on site to assist us in the screening of alcohol and other drug issues. During 2007, LCADA assessed juveniles at no cost to either the Court or the family.

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	5	6	11
Age 11	5	22	27
Age 12	21	41	62
Age 13	55	113	168
Age 14	79	225	304
Age 15	141	311	452
Age 16	168	376	544
Age 17	150	412	562
Age 18	18	54	72
Total	642	1560	2202

Where Youth Reside	Female	Male	Total
Amherst	16	47	63
Avon	5	22	27
Avon Lake	6	59	65
Columbia Station	9	23	32
Elyria	180	332	512
Grafton	14	51	65
Lagrange	4	20	24
Lorain	281	674	955
North Ridgeville	34	68	102
Oberlin	11	36	47
Sheffield Lake/Sheffield Village	26	50	76
South Amherst	1	11	12
Vermilion	19	55	74
Wellington	2	32	34
Other	34	80	114
Total	642	1560	2202

Reason for referral	Female	Male	Total
Aggravated Murder	0	1	1
Alcohol Consumption	46	116	162
Arson	0	25	25
Assault	83	155	238
Attempted Murder	0	3	3
Breaking & Entering	2	31	33
Burglary	8	59	67
Criminal Damaging	13	62	75
Criminal Mischief	2	19	21
Disorderly Conduct	116	211	327
Domestic Violence	70	107	177
Drug Offenses	18	135	153
Escape	0	1	1
Falsification	7	16	23
Kidnapping	0	2	2
Menacing	17	54	71
Obstructing Official Business	7	26	33
Other	5	9	14
Rape	0	17	17
Receiving Stolen Property	5	49	54
Resisting Arrest	4	3	7
Riot	23	19	42
Robbery	3	28	31
Runaway	1	1	2

Sex Offenses	2	29	31
Telephone Harassment	1	2	3
Theft	67	114	181
Trespassing	4	44	48
Truancy	53	58	111
U.U.M.V.	6	19	25
Ungovernable	75	101	176
Vandalism	0	15	15
Vehicular Homicide	0	0	0
Weapons Offense	4	29	33
Total	642	1560	2202

Dispositions	Female	Male	Total
Committed to Adult Correctional Facility	2	26	28
Committed to ODYS	6	56	62
Continued on Probation	33	99	132
Courtesy Supervision	2	2	4
Dismissed	79	126	205
Fines & Costs and / or Restitution	220	556	776
Fines & Costs and / or Restitution - Suspended	241	411	652
Judicial Review	1	1	2
Other	3	8	11
Placed on Monitored Time / Felony	9	20	29
Placed on Monitored Time / Misdemeanor	21	30	51
Parole Revocation	2	2	4
Placed on CIP / Felony	4	26	30
Placed on CIP / Misdemeanor	5	17	22
Placed on General Community Control / Felony	21	89	110
Placed on General Community Control / Misd	25	55	80
Placed on Community Control- Other / Felony	5	19	24
Placed on Community Control- Other / Misd	3	6	9
Placed on Community Control- Sex Off / Felony	0	11	11
Placed on Community Control- Sex Off / Misd	0	6	6
Placed on Community Control- Status	12	16	28
Residential Facility Placement / Felony	9	18	27
Residential Facility Placement / Misdemeanor	6	5	11
Sentenced to Detention Center / Felony	1	6	7
Sentenced to Detention Center / Misdemeanor	10	24	34
Serious Youth Offender	0	1	1
Suspended Commitment / Sentence	4	29	33
Transferred to Adult Court	0	17	17
Transferred to Another Court	12	38	50
Unavailability	75	200	275
Total	811	1920	2731

Traffic Dispositions	Female	Male	Total
Dismissed	16	31	47
Fines & Costs	433	632	1065
Fines & Costs Suspended	10	19	29
License Restricted	21	39	60
License Suspended	132	303	435
Other	1	0	1
Seatbelt Mail-in Waiver	26	50	76
Transfer to Another Court	120	202	322
Unavailability	20	43	63
Total	779	1319	2098

Traffic Violations	Female	Male	Total
Alcohol Offenses	8	27	35
Assured Clear Distance	101	103	204
Driving Under Suspension	9	49	58
Failure To Control	24	53	77
Failure To Yield	70	71	141
Improper Backing	8	6	14
Improper Lane Usage	16	36	52
Improper Turn	2	5	7
Jaywalking	3	4	7
Leaving the Scene	4	8	12
License Plates	9	12	21
Lights Violation	12	30	42
No Driver's License	32	97	129
No Muffler	0	2	2
Noise Violation	1	7	8
Other	0	12	12
Parking Offenses	5	4	9
Reckless Operation	11	40	51
Seat Belt	34	62	96
Speeding	285	455	740
Squealing Tires	0	2	2
Tinted Windows	0	0	0
Traffic Control Device	33	50	83
Unsafe Vehicle	5	4	9
Total	672	1139	1811

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. Delinquent youth may be confined to detention by an order of the Court up to a period of 90 days. Commencing in 2004, juveniles were sentenced to the Lorain County Detention Homes by a Judge for up to 90 days. In 2007, there were 28 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.

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 have regularly scheduled hours. Within seven days of admission, the detention home nurse or doctor physically examines every juvenile and administers a tuberculosis screening.

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

2007 Admissions

- 822 males
- 295 females
- 1117 juvenile admissions
- Average length of stay: 20 days
- Average daily population: male – 47; female 13
- Average daily population total: 60

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 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 three phases. Phase I and II last 90 days and phase III the remaining six months. In phase I, the juvenile resides on-site with some limited home visits. Phase II is a transitional period with the juvenile residing in the home during the week and at the facility during the weekend. In Aftercare, phase III, the juvenile resides in the home and is supervised by the CCO.

The Educational Service Center of Lorain County provides the educational services for residents in the facilities. There are two certified teachers and one part-time tutor.

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.

2007	Pathways	Stepping Stone
Participants	32	52
New Admissions	17	26
06 Carry-Over	15	26
Successful Completion	07	11
Committed to DYS	02	03
Detention Home	03	08
Lorain County Jail	00	02
Bind-Over	00	01

2007 (continued)	Pathways	Stepping Stone
Further Residential Placement	01	00
Specialized Services	01	00
Currently in Program	18	27

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 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 2007, Turning Point served a total of 202 youths – 107 males and 95 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 2007

- 817 cases referred for investigation of restitution
- 204 served
- 87 carried over from 2006
- 94 admissions
- 82 terminated
- 93% successfully terminated - restitution paid in full
- \$29,201.56 collected through payment schedules and dispersed to victims
- 1,017 hours of community service were performed, earning \$6,968.40
- \$36,169.96 in victim payments

MERIT

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

Anger Management:

In 2007, 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	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over Cases to 2008
91	47	37	56%	62

Aggression Replacement Training

Number Ordered	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over Cases to 2008
80	42	28	60%	46

Community Service:

Number Ordered	Success Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over Cases to 2008	Number of hours completed
1,079	807	194	81%	543	11,874.75

The MERIT Program Coordinator is creative in finding and creating sites for juveniles to fulfill community service obligations. This is the third year the program collected non-perishable goods. Most of the food collected went to the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Elyria, while the rest was given to families in need that are involved with the court. There was a total of \$5,693.50 collected in groceries, cleaning supplies, household good, clothing, and diapers. That accounted for 2,846.75 hours of community service completed.

Psycho-Educational Groups:

Psycho-Educational groups are interventions intended to reduce the risk factors associated with criminal behavior. During 2007, 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 group 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	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over Cases to 2008
31	5	6	45%	16

Strengthening Families 14-17

Number Ordered	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over Cases to 2008
110	33	30	52%	57

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 General Probation & Non-Probation cases only.

Number Ordered	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2008
88	40	18	69%	35

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	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over to 2008
55	25	16	61%	22

VOICES FOR CHILDREN - Lorain County CASA/GAL Program

Voices for Children (VFC) is affiliated with the nationally recognized Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). 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 (28 hrs) and courtroom observations (2hrs). All GALs are screened, interviewed and a criminal background check through the Web-Check System is completed. The Judges administer 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.

2007 Funding

Court:	\$ 119,011
County:	\$ 10,761
VOCA (Grant):	\$ 36,299
Fundraising:	\$ 4,400
Foundation SVAA	\$ 6,535
Total	\$177,006

Volunteers

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

- 174 active volunteers
- Ages - 21 to 60+
- 130 females and 44 males
- Education spans high school graduate to post college graduate
- Diverse racial mix – Caucasian (139), African American (24), Hispanic (7), Asian (1), Native American (1), Multi-Racial (1)
- Volunteer average - 1 Volunteer / 3.33 children

Children

- Total number served in 2007: 579 (267 Female 312 Male)*
- Racial makeup: African American (101), Caucasian (352), Hispanic (43), Multi-Racial (80), Native American (2), Asian (1)

Total Children whose cases were closed in 2007: 294.

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

Reasons for # of closed cases

Adoption:	22
Case Removed from the Docket:	2
Case Dismissed:	11
Child aged out of system:	2
Petition Granted:	1
Placed with Legal Guardians:	132
Returned to Family:	43
Protective Supervision Terminated:	81

Types of Petitions

Abuse	1
Abuse/Dependency	3
Abuse/Neglect/Dependency	27
Abuse/Neglect	0
Neglect	3
Dependency/Neglect	533
Divorce/Custody	7
Dependency	21
Total	595

Allegations

Abandonment	3
Dependency	19
Dependency/Neglect	492
Medical Neglect	2
Neglect	11
Physical Abuse	25
Physical Neglect	3
Sexual Abuse	6
Total	561

DEPARTMENT OF FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Deborah Tansey, Director

INTRODUCTION

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

Fiscal Department

The Fiscal Department has responsibility 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 more than \$14 million annually.

On a bi-weekly basis, over 200 time sheets were checked for accuracy and documented use of sick and vacation leave. Once completed, a payroll of approximately \$289,000 was generated and disbursed each pay cycle. In addition to processing payroll payments in excess of \$7 million in 2007, benefits of approximately \$1.8 million dollars in health premiums and life insurance were processed and monitored.

In 2007, the Fiscal Department processed more than \$395,000 of payments to Court appointed counsel.

In the calendar year 2007, the Fiscal Department processed 34 new hires through their initial payroll and benefit packages, explaining court policy regarding vacation and sick leave, as well as 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).

Fiscal also maintains the asset inventory records, including preparing 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 CY 2007, Grants obtained and monitored \$5.4 million dollars of revenue and expenditures.

Systems Management

The Systems Management Unit is responsible for the Court's computer hardware, software and related systems. The Court's key computer system is the Courtview system that maintains Juvenile Court's docketing, case, judicial, and management systems.

The Systems Department continues to maintain and enhance a Court website, designed to better serve the citizens of Lorain County.

In 2007, the Systems Department implemented a Court intranet system to improve communication throughout the Court. Our goals for 2008 include expanding our network to all of our facilities and enhancing our Courtview System to capture more information for reporting purposes.

For the calendar year 2007, the Domestic Relations Court's General Fund expenses were as follows:

Judicial/Administrative/Divorce Services	\$2,745,917
Juvenile Probation	2,215,940
Juvenile Detention Home	1,897,922
Domestic Support	671,899
Pathways Group Home	258,433
Turning Point Shelter	193,669
Multi-Purpose Building	<u>13,854</u>
Total County General Fund	<u>\$7,997,634</u>

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

Ohio Department of Youth Services	
Youth Services Grant	\$2,128,381
School-Liaison Mediation (Title II Fed pass thru)	12,442
School Liaison Case Management	25,229
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services	
Program supported: (Title IV-D) Domestic Support	394,482
Program supported: (Title IV-E) Various	2,753,965
Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Services	
Program supported: Drug Court	130,281
Ohio Department of Mental Health	
Program supported: Juvenile (Violent) Offender	39,818
Ohio Department of Education	
Program supported: Detention Home – Food Service	103,197
Ohio Attorney General's Office	
Program supported: Voices for Children	33,549
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>
Miscellaneous Non-General Fund Revenues	
Fines and Fees	138,793
Stepping Stone Reimbursements	71,304
Stocker Foundation: Success for Youth	15,000
Work Force Investment-Lorain County Commissioners	7,104
Scripps Howard Foundation: Success for Youth	<u>5,000</u>
Total local, state and federal resources (non-county)	<u>\$6,026,545</u>
Total 2007 General Fund and Grants Programs	<u>\$14,024,179</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.

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



Doug Messer
Court Administrator

225 Copies @ \$3.95 each