

# **Lorain County Court of Common Pleas**

**Domestic Relations Division  
Juvenile Branch**



## **2019 Annual Report**

## **The Court**

Lorain County Justice Center  
225 Court Street  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Floors  
Elyria, Ohio 44035



## **Juvenile Complex:**

Pathways, 1076 Infirmary Road  
Crossroads, 1064 Infirmary Road  
Turning Point, 1080 Infirmary Road



Assessment Center  
1070 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, Ohio 44035

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



## The Citizens of Lorain County:



Sherry L. Glass  
Administrative Judge

The Court is very pleased to present our 2019 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.



Frank J. Janik  
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 and informative and we welcome any questions or comments.



Lisa I. Swenski  
Judge

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry L. Glass  
Administrative Judge

Frank J. Janik  
Judge

Lisa I. Swenski  
Judge

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

# FORWARD

The Domestic Relations Division of the Lorain County Court of Common Pleas is a dual jurisdiction court; it has exclusive jurisdiction over both Domestic Relations Court and Juvenile Court matters. In the exercise of its Juvenile Court jurisdiction, the Court has the responsibility to hear and determine all cases and issues concerning children in Lorain County, Ohio. In addition, the Court administers juvenile justice programs and operates facilities that provide for the custody, care and rehabilitation of youth within its jurisdiction in order to balance public safety and juvenile accountability while working to prevent recidivism.

The Court enjoys a strong collaboration with its community justice partners including but not limited to the Mental Health Addiction Recovery Services Board of Lorain County, the Board of Developmental Disabilities, and Lorain County Children Services. These collaborative efforts have allowed the Court and the county agencies to maximize their resources while providing quality services and programming to the children and families they serve.

The Court operates three specialized dockets that have been certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio: Juvenile Drug Court, Family Drug Court and Juvenile Mental Health Court. This therapeutic, evidence-based approach to addressing substance abuse and mental health concerns is possible through the teamwork of court staff, agency providers and the families being served. Lorain County's drug courts and team members have received awards and accolades for their compassionate and effective delivery of this model.

The Court and its employees remain committed to ensuring the best interests of the children who come before it through its administration of the Court's Voices for Children CASA GAL program, mediation, supervised visitation, a dedicated child support unit, diversion, juvenile probation, the school attendance program, Turning Point shelter, the boys and girls group homes, and the Juvenile Detention Home.

Indigent litigants in criminal or juvenile delinquency/unruly proceedings have a Constitutional right to be represented by an attorney. In Lorain County, indigent parties who qualify are represented by court-appointed counsel. In order to ensure consistency in attorneys' qualifications to handle these matters, the Ohio Public Defender's Office implemented education and experience requirements that these attorneys must meet in order to qualify to be appointed to represent these litigants. The Court enacted a local rule and application process to ensure that the attorneys it appoints meet these qualifications.

The following pages provide a foundation to more fully explain the makeup, responsibilities and work of the Court.

Jody L. Barilla  
Court Administrator

# JUDGES

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

Marriage dissolutions

Divorces - contested and uncontested

Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order petitions

Juvenile Civil Protection Order petitions

Ex Parte Emergency Motions

Pre and Post-Decree Domestic Relations or Juvenile Court contempt motions

Juvenile delinquency hearings involving the following:

- Motions to Transfer Jurisdiction of a juvenile crime to adult court
- Commitments to the Department of Youth Services (DYS)
- Out-of-home placements
- Serious Youthful Offender matters
- Cases involving juvenile sex offender registration and notification

Objections to Magistrate's orders and decisions

Motions to vacate Magistrate's orders

Motions to vacate final judgments

Permanent surrenders for adoptions

Judicial bypass hearings

Judicial releases from DHS

Consent to marry requests made by minors

<b>Domestic Relations Court Filings in 2019</b>			
	<b>New Filings</b>	<b>Reactivated/Transferred/Redesignated</b>	<b>Terminations</b>
Divorce with Children	245	40	283
Divorce w/o Children	278	30	265
Dissolution with Children	180	1	190
Dissolution w/o Children	230	0	242
Change of Custody	0	97	108
Visitation	0	40	38
Support	59	364	433
Domestic Violence	631	137	772
Uresa	0	0	0
Parentage	0	1	1
All others	3	210	199
<b>Total</b>	<b>1626</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>2531</b>

## **MAGISTRATES**

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

### **PERSONAL COURT MAGISTRATES**

Each Judge has three Magistrates on his or her personal staff, having general responsibility for covering all Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court cases assigned to his or her Judge's docket. Types of cases, issues, and hearings heard by the Magistrates are determined at the discretion of their Judge. Matters referred to the Magistrates include but are not limited to DVCPO petitions, JCPO petitions, ex parte Emergency Motions, Abuse/Dependency/Neglect adjudications and dispositions, delinquency/unruly/juvenile traffic offender adjudications and dispositions, juvenile probation violations, parenting time requests, pre- and post-decree domestic relations or juvenile custody/visitation motions and contempt of court motions.

### **GENERAL COURT MAGISTRATES**

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

Intake Magistrate – An Intake Magistrate, with an office located in the Detention Home, has a multitude of duties. The Intake Magistrate reviews all detention requests from law enforcement. The Magistrate conducts initial detention and arraignment hearings for youth admitted to the Lorain County Detention Home. She also manages the truancy docket and conducts all formal hearings regarding school attendance.

IV-D/Domestic Support - Two full time magistrates, in a dedicated unit, conduct IV-D child support hearings including but not limited to establishment of paternity, establishment and modification of child support, objections to CSEA administrative decisions, and enforcement of child support orders including establishing arrears orders and hearing motions to show cause for failure to pay child support as ordered.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Jody Barilla, Court Administrator

Administration is responsible for the management and direction of all Court operations, with the exception of the Judges and their personal staffs. The team is made up of the Court Administrator, Deputy Court Administrator, Quality Assurance Manager, and Administrative Assistant.

Court operations include personnel management, fiscal and budgeting management, facilities management, information management, caseflow and workflow management, and program development, implementation, and evaluation. The Court consists of four departments with approximately 167 employees, including Judges and personal staff. These departments include: Probation and Youth Services, Juvenile Clerks Division, Fiscal Management, and Residential Services.

The Quality Assurance Manager monitors court programs and practices through regular audits and by collecting and analyzing data and statistics. Job duties also include providing trainings, ensuring adherence to program model standards, and communicating recommendations for continuous improvement.

The Deputy Court Administrator is responsible for recruiting, interviewing, performing background checks and selection of qualified applicants; developing and planning staff training; developing and managing special projects; and human resources/personnel management. This position also acts in the place of the Court Administrator when the Court Administrator is unavailable.

### **FAMILY COURT SERVICES**

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

Family Court Services covers seven major areas:

1. Court-Ordered Mediation
2. Pro-Se Mediation
3. Investigation
4. Supervised Visitation
5. Home Inspection
6. Seminar for Separating Parents
7. Seminar for Unmarried Parents

**Court-Ordered Mediation** is a process whereby the parents and a third-party mediator work together to gather information, isolate issues of disagreement, generate options to settle those issues, negotiate among those options, and reach a mutually satisfactory agreement to accommodate the needs of both parents and their children. This past year, 54 cases were submitted for court-ordered mediation with 19 cases reaching agreement. Agreements were approved by the Court for a 35% 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 2019, the Court received 120 referrals with 36 cases mediated. Agreements were reached in 52% of the cases mediated.

**The Investigation** unit assists the Court by interviewing parties gathering background information and obtaining documentation from outside agencies. This assistance may include an investigative report with recommendations to the Court regarding parenting time, implementing or monitoring visitation schedules, and supervising visitation in the Department. An investigation may be requested by either a client or his/her attorney but requires an accompanying Court order to access the service. In 2019, there were 57 cases referred for investigations with 59 reports completed and submitted to the Court.

**Supervised Visitation** provides a safe environment for families to interact. That interaction is documented by a court supervisor and provided in a report to the Court. A total of 237 supervised visits took place in the department this past year serving 674 clients.

**The Home Inspection** unit prepares an investigative report to the Court documenting the conditions of the home where children are going to be living or where they are currently living. Information is gathered through interviews with parties and outside resources. The home inspection assists the Court in determining the most appropriate placement for the children and must be accessed by Court Order. In 2019, 46 cases were referred for home inspections.

**The Seminar for Separating Parents** is a required program that seeks to better inform parents about the impact of divorce on their children and provide them with the information to help minimize conflicts. The two-hour presentation provides pertinent information and resources early in the divorce process and strives to enhance the likelihood of parental cooperation. Attendance is mandatory for parents with minor children, with the philosophy that a child's future welfare depends upon the parents' ability to help their children navigate the divorce without being subjected to unnecessary parental conflict. Retired Judge David A. Basinski and Family Court Services' staff present the seminar. A Court-produced video specifically addresses the needs of separating parents and is shown at times when the Judge is not available. The Court's publication, **From Crisis to Cooperation**, is a guide to assist families in coping with the divorce process and is given to all participants. This past year 743 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 Court Services' staff facilitates the seminar and a Court magistrate is present to

answer legal questions. The Court-produced video illustrates the importance of positive parental communication, the need for positive parent/child contact, and answers common legal questions. The seminar is provided at no cost to the participants. The seminar is followed by the offer of individual visitation conferences designed to develop a companionship schedule for the non-residential parent. This past year 218 parents completed the seminar.

### **VOICES FOR CHILDREN**

Voices for Children (**VFC**) is affiliated with and a member of the nationally recognized Court Appointed Special Advocate (**CASA**) Program. Voices for Children's purpose is to provide volunteer guardian ad litem (**GALs**) to the Court to advocate on behalf of the neglected and dependent children coming before it. The GAL volunteer undertakes an investigation into the circumstances and the family life of the child. They review records, interview parents, relatives and foster parents, talk to teachers, neighbors and most importantly, the child. Upon completion of the investigation, the GAL appears in Court, provides the information and makes recommendations to the Court as to what course of action is in the best interest of the child.

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

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

### **2019 Funding**

VOCA (Grant):	\$236,786
State (SVAA):	\$ 3,118
Local Court:	\$ 2,326
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$242,230</b>

### **Volunteers**

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

- 131 active volunteers
- Ages: 21 to 60+ (median age – 51.1)
- 113 Females and 18 Males

- Education spans high school graduate to post college graduate
- Diverse racial mix: Caucasian (117); African American (5); Hispanic (6); Asian (1); Multi-Racial (1); American Indian or Alaska Native (1)

### **Children Served**

- Total number of children served in 2019: 366
- Gender of children served: Female (177); Male (189)
- Ages of children served: Birth to 5 (196); 6 to 11 (123); 12 to 15 (33); 16 to 17 (13); 18 and above (1)
- Racial Makeup of children served: African American (77); Caucasian (248); Hispanic (24); Multi Racial (17)

### **Reasons for # of closed cases**

- Adoption: 4
- Case Removed from Docket: 9
- Case Transferred to another Jurisdiction: 3
- Remained with Parent throughout the Case: 49
- Placed with other relatives: 102
- Returned to Family: 15
- Family Moved: 3
- Child Aged out of System: 2

Total number of children whose cases were closed in 2019: **187**

## **JUVENILE CLERKS DEPARTMENT**

Kim Higgins, Chief Deputy Clerk

### **Juvenile Clerks**

In Lorain County, The Administrative Judge is the Ex Officio Clerk of the Juvenile Court. All cases filed are processed through the Clerk's Office at the Lorain County Justice Center on 225 Court Street in Elyria. The Clerk's Office consists of the Chief Deputy Clerk, Assistant Chief Deputy Clerk, four Team Leader Clerks and 14 Deputy Clerks. The Clerks provide customer service to the general public, attorneys, and various officers of the court. The positions require a broad knowledge of the court and its functions. The Clerk's Office staff screen, process and image new complaints and motions; send service to notify parties of court dates; prepare mandated and internal statistical reports; establish restitution accounts; and process financial transactions for restitution, fines, court costs, purges, bond, and other ordered fees.

# **DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION AND YOUTH SERVICES**

Patricia Wilson, Director

## **INTRODUCTION**

Lorain County Department of Probation and Youth Services provides services to youth and families referred to the Court in order to enhance youth, family and community safety. As youth are alleged to have committed status (unruly/ungovernable/truant), misdemeanor, or felony offenses, the Department of Probation and Youth Services staff work to identify youth and family needs, which, if unaddressed, increase a youth's risk to re-offend. As these needs are identified, Department staff link youth and families with services that are likely to help the youth and family successfully address the concerns that contributed to the youth's delinquent behavior.

The Department of Probation and Youth Services appreciates collaborative relationships with child and family serving agencies in Lorain County. As a result, Department staff are knowledgeable about evidence based/evidence supported programming available in the community to target specifically identified youth and family needs. Additionally, Department staff have worked collaboratively with Ohio Department of Youth Services to develop Department staff's capacity to directly provide evidence based services that address youth criminogenic needs/risk factors as identified through the use of the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) tools.

Department staff are also charged with determining the level of Court Supervision most appropriate to ensure community safety and enhance desired outcomes for youth, such as completion of recommended, case planned services while maintaining lawful behavior and accountability to parental and school authority figures.

In its pursuit to better serve Lorain County, the Domestic Relations Court and the Department of Probation and Youth Services are constantly researching best and promising practices and pursuing grants in juvenile justice. The Court has learned, through review of abundant research, that detention is correlated with increased negative outcomes for youth. This research also indicates that many jurisdictions across Ohio and the country are and have been decreasing the use of detention and increasing the use of alternatives to detention programming without compromising community safety.

The Court and the Department of Probation and Youth Services sought and were awarded the opportunity to partner with the Anna E Casey Foundation and the Ohio Department of Youth Services to receive mentorship and training to develop Court and Probation services even more commensurate with best practices in Juvenile Justice (Juvenile Alternatives to Detention Initiative (JDAI) and Ohio Probation Transformation. We look forward to further improving the services that we can offer to our community, families, and youth in 2020.

In the summer of 2019, the Court and Department of Probation and Youth Services engaged community partners in a meeting to orient them as to how probation services might change as a result of participation in these initiatives. As initial steps, the Court and Probation Department opened two facilities that have and will afford our youth with more alternatives to detention as well as additional diversion opportunities. We look forward to further improving the services that we can offer to our community, families, and youth in 2020.

In September 2019, the Assessment Center opened its doors. The Assessment Center is open and staffed from noon to midnight daily and affords youth, family, educators, and law enforcement officers the opportunity to bring or refer misbehaving youth to the Assessment Center with or without an appointment during a time of crisis. Once at the Assessment Center, youth receive an immediate psycho-social assessment as well as immediate referral to supportive community services. The Assessment Center functions as both an alternative to detention and a diversion opportunity, as youth are less likely to be detained during a crisis if Assessment Center Staff are able to work with the youth and family to develop a plan for the youth to safely remain in the home with supportive services. The Assessment Center serves as a diversion opportunity in that misbehaving youth who have not been charged with a crime, but evidence risk factors, are able to be assessed and linked with supportive services without being formally charged or prosecuted for an offense.

Crossroads opened its doors in July 2019. Crossroads is Department of Probation and Youth Services' evening reporting center for youth assessed as being at moderate to high risk to criminally reoffend, who have not been able to complete other levels of Court programming and supervision successfully. Crossroads staff are able to remove many of the barriers to successful program completion by providing transportation, meals, programming, incentives, sanctions, individual and family therapy, for reporting youth. This level of supervision and programming keeps youth engaged in prosocial activity until it is nearly time for sleep. With its dual focus on behavioral change and high level supervision, Crossroads is an alternative to detention for participating youth.

Our youth and families generally present with noticeable strengths and resiliency. However, they also often face challenges that would prevent their success if unaddressed. Our youth and families often struggle with poverty, which leads to insecurity about how and when basic needs, such as food, shelter, and working utilities would be met. Youth and families may also lack transportation and/or availability of a parent whose work schedule affords them flexibility to participate in or help the youth to participate in services. Additionally, some of our youth struggle with mental health symptoms and/or alcohol or other drug abuse/dependency. Still other youth present with cognitive challenges in addition to the abovementioned difficulties.

Lorain County Probation and Youth Services Staff show great commitment to community safety as well as great dedication and creativity in their efforts to

helping these youth and families overcome the difficulties they face. In order to meet the diverse needs of Lorain County youth, Department of Probation and Youth Services employs a variety of programming, services, and levels of supervision. These services are summarized below.

### **INVESTIGATION AND REFERRAL TEAM**

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

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

At disposition, these recommendations will be presented for the Court's consideration, reflecting a specific case plan for the youth, including community control expectations for all parties and therapeutic interventions. In 2019 there were 194 cases referred.

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

A forensic psychologist is contracted to provide evaluations for youth when mental health or developmental concerns are present. The psychologist also provides competency, bind over and parental evaluations when needed. The psychologist is available for staff consultation as well. In 2019, this psychologist provided 76 evaluations.

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

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

During 2019, 8 youth were provided with a psychological evaluation through the Juvenile Offender Project and Bellefaire JCB. Additional youth were evaluated by a private contractor. The recommendations provided through the evaluation process were instrumental in determining an appropriate level of supervision and direction for Court intervention and referral.

### **Court-Sponsored Psycho-Educational Programs**

Psycho-educational groups are interventions intended to reduce the risk factor associated with criminal behavior. During 2019, the Court utilized evidence-based programming to address criminogenic factors. Evidence-based programs are those whose outcomes have been researched and found to be effective. Training was provided to staff to assist in the facilitation and presentation of these groups.

#### **Anger Management**

In 2019, two anger management programs provided basic intermediate psycho-educational groups to aid juveniles and their parents in addressing anger issues. Aggression Replacement Training (ART), facilitated by Court staff, is an intensive ten-week, twenty-session program. Keeping Your Cool (KYC) is a skill building program that provides strategies to control anger and aggression and looks at changing your thinking in order to effect change. It is comprised of ten (10) consecutive sessions.

#### **Aggression Replacement Training (ART)**

12 Youth Ordered  
7 Completions  
5 Unsuccessful / Terminations  
0 Carry-overs

#### **Keeping Your Cool (KYC)**

20 Youth Ordered  
12 Completions  
3 Unsuccessful / Terminations  
5 Carry-overs

#### **Strengthening Families**

The Strengthening Families programs' goals are to prepare youth for their teen years, avoid problems with drugs and alcohol, and strengthen family communication. Parents discuss what youth in the age range of their groups are like, making rules and enforcing consequences, how to solve problems with youth and ways to show love and support. The youth learn how to handle frustration, resist peer pressure, appreciate parent/caregivers, and how to get along with others.

7 Youth Ordered  
7 Unsuccessful / Terminations\*

\*All 3 sessions of Strengthening Families were cancelled due to lack of attendance.

### **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.

25 Youth Ordered  
14 Completions  
11 Unsuccessful / Terminations

### **Girls' Circle**

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

21 Youth Ordered  
13 Completions  
6 Unsuccessful / Terminations  
2 Carry-overs to 2020

### **Boys' Council**

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

33 Youth ordered  
23 Completions  
7 Unsuccessful / Terminations  
3 Carry-overs

### **D.B.T. (Dialectical Behavior 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.



- 8 Youth ordered / participated
- 6 Youth completed
- 2 Carry-overs

### **Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)**

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

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

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

- 17 Youth ordered
- 13 Completions
- 4 Unsuccessful / Terminations

### **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 Probation Officer. The Officer monitors the juvenile's compliance with Court orders and case plans through contact with the juvenile, school officials, parents, service providers and other people significant in the juvenile's life.

The juvenile and family are responsible for completing case plan components and following all rules of Community Control. The Officer is responsible for submitting reports to the Court regarding the youth's progress or behavioral concerns. Rewards and sanctions are administered through continual oversight of the juvenile's conduct. The responsibilities of the Probation Officer include

notifying all parties of hearings, providing security services for the Court, participating in meetings with outside agencies, assisting families in working with those agencies and working with various school systems.

Four (4) Probation Officers (inclusive of the specialized Sex Offender Community Control Caseload) are assigned to the General Probation unit of the department. These officers serve youth and families from all the communities of Lorain County, as well as youth who are maintained on probation that live out of County. A total of 145 juveniles were served on **General Probation** in 2019. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of juveniles successfully released from Community Control upon completion of their individual case plans decreased their Risk score based on the OYAS standards. These included youth who were placed on Temporary Orders prior to final disposition of their case. General Probation Officers also provide supervision for those adults placed on supervision for Contributing to the Unruliness or Delinquency of a Minor.

The Court can place an adjudicated youth on **Monitored Time**. While on Monitored Time, the juvenile will be required to report to the Community Control department on a predetermined basis. A total of 22 juveniles were served on Monitored Time/Community Control in 2019. For the majority of the year, one Probation Officer was responsible for this caseload. Duties include making phone contact with the youth, parents, school and service providers and reporting the progress of the youth to the Court. The Probation Officer also closely monitors the Magistrates' dockets, tracks continued cases and does initial interviews of youth and families referred for additional Court services.

#### **IN-HOME DETENTION/PRE-DISPOSITIONAL SERVICES**

The In-Home Detention/Pre-Dispositional Services Program provides a service that offers an alternative to detaining a youth in the Detention Home. Juveniles designated for placement in the program are generally less serious offenders who do not appear to represent a danger to themselves or to the community.

The release of some youth from the Detention Home requires the use of electronic monitoring equipment, inclusive of landline, cell and GPS units, which is supervised by program staff. Use of this equipment permits 24-hour monitoring of a youth's adherence to "home detention". To ensure compliance, all youth accepted into the program are required to sign a contract. Parents, or legal guardians, are also required to pledge to ensure compliance and to report any non-compliance with program rules.

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

Throughout 2019, the In-Home Detention Program has also been utilized in providing monitoring services for those juveniles who are proceeding through the Competency Attainment Program (CAP).

### **Calendar Year 2019**

123 Juveniles were provided In-Home Detention Services

99 (80%) of juveniles successfully completed program requirements

24 (20%) of juveniles readmitted to the Detention Home

Daily logs are kept on youth in the In-Home Detention/Pre-Dispositional Services Program. They are monitored by Probation Officers and the Program Manager. Violations of the rules in these programs may result in being placed in the Detention Home.

The purpose of the Pre-Dispositional Services program is to monitor adjudicated youth in the community while awaiting their disposition.

The youth are required to check in with staff once a week by phone. Unannounced home visits, school visits, and phone calls will be made by staff. Random drug testing is also available for select youth. The Pre-Dispositional Services program also has use of both Cell and GPS electronic monitor units.

In calendar year 2019, 119 youth were provided Pre-Dispositional Services. 99 youth (83%) of the program enrollees successfully completed the program requirements. 20 youth (17%) were readmitted to the Detention Home.

### **COMMUNITY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (CIP)**

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

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

The youth may participate in groups that address anger management, social skill building, and employment skills. All programs have been restructured in an effort to incorporate a more cognitive behavioral approach, inclusive of the utilization of a Cost Benefit Analysis. Program participants in need of mental health and

substance abuse services receive assistance through partnerships with various community agencies and service providers. In addition to providing positive interventions, program participants are required to engage in community service opportunities in an effort to provide the participant with an alternative framework for thinking about their wrongdoings.

The Community Intervention Program ceased operation on July 1, 2019.

### **Calendar Year 2019**

- 32 Juveniles participated in CIP
- 21 Juveniles carried over from 2018

Of the juveniles released from the program:

- 12 Completed Successfully
- 10 Completed Unsuccessfully
- 16 Completed with Neutral Outcome

### **Crossroads Program**

The Crossroads Program was a new program in Lorain County beginning on July 1, 2019. It was created as a dispositional opportunity for the Court designed to prevent removal of the child from the home. This program targets male and female youth who are between ages 13 and 17 and present as moderate to high risk to reoffend (OYAS). These youth are on a trajectory for removal from the home based on delinquency history, previous programming, and dynamics of the home. Youth are referred to the program by the Court's Investigation and Referral Team staff with disposition placement ultimately being determined by the Judge.

The Crossroads Program consists of a 16-week Reporting Phase followed by a 4-6 week Aftercare Phase. The Reporting Phase includes 4 levels of reporting. As youth progress through the levels, the required number of reporting days per week will be reduced from 5 to 4 to 3 to 2 days per week. While reporting to the Crossroads Center, Juveniles receive the following services and activities: Thinking for Change (Primary Intervention), Individual and family counseling, Group counseling, AOD counseling, and Parent Management Training services provided by a licensed clinician. In addition, youth participate in career exploration, life skills, and team building exercises. Based on the hours of this program, the Court provides dinner and snacks to the youth on a daily basis. Upon completion of the 16-week reporting phase, the Case Managers provide aftercare for the youth for 4-6 weeks. Aftercare includes: home visits, school visits and discussions with service providers to gauge performance and compliance. A Surveillance Monitor will conduct home visits on the weekends to provide additional supervision and support.

These services and supervision allow juveniles to learn new cognitive and pro-social skills designed to modify behaviors and provide youth with tools to make

better decisions at home and in the community. As behavioral habits change, the youth and family will begin to notice improvements not only in the behavior of the child, but the environment at home as a whole.

The Crossroads Program operates Monday through Friday, between the hours of 4:00pm to 8:00pm during the school year and 10:00am to 2:00pm during the summer.

#### **Calendar Year 2019**

19	New Participants
0	Successful Completions
2	Neutral Completions
5	Unsatisfactory Completions
12	Still Pending
5	Sentenced to the Detention Home
2	Transferred to another program

This program was only recently launched on July 1, 2019. As a result, insufficient information regarding successful youth is not available as of December 31, 2019.

#### **Assessment and Resource Center**

The Assessment and Resource Center was developed to provide families with immediate assistance regarding their youth's unruly or delinquent behavior. The Assessment Center provides critical prevention and early intervention assessments as well as referrals to community agencies and/or the Court for youth and families who are exhibiting at-risk behaviors at home, school, and/or in the community. Each referral is examined for appropriate level of service for each situation based on risk, need and familial circumstances.

Referrals to the Assessment Center can be made through Law Enforcement, schools, and parent/guardians. There are four Court Assessment Specialists at the Assessment Center in addition to a full-time and part-time assessor through Wingspan.

The Assessment Center is open from 12pm (noon) to 12am (midnight) daily, excluding Holidays.

Screens and Assessments available at the Assessment Center are OYAS-Diversion Tool, Psychosocial Assessment, GAIN-SS, SOGIE, Public Health Screener, and a Human Trafficking Screening Tool.

In September of 2019, the Assessment Center opened its doors. From September through December 2019, the Assessment Center served 70 youth, 41 males and 29 females.

## **SPECIALIZED SERVICES**

### **SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM**

Juveniles adjudicated delinquent for a sexual offense are referred for a sex offender risk assessment. The assessment determines appropriate recommendations, with options including community treatment, out-of-home placement, or commitment to the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The Probation Officer will design safety plans for juveniles who remain in the community to provide adequate supervision of the offender and protection for the victim. One Probation Officer supervises this caseload by monitoring their participation in sex offender specific treatment, monitors the juveniles' behavior and actions at home, school, in the community, and supervises compliance with dispositional orders of the Court. The Probation Officer receives specific training to assist in identifying behavior that can lead to further offending.

Offenders participate in individual and/or group therapy with local agency treatment providers. The Probation Officer maintains frequent contact with the treatment providers to share information, observations, and interventions. Programming lasts between 12 and 24 months. Failure to complete all requirements of the program will result in further Court action, usually requiring out of home placement. Based on age and type of offense, the Court may classify an offender as a Sexually Oriented Offender Registrant (JSORN).

#### **Calendar Year 2019**

- 51 Juveniles supervised and participated in treatment
- 28 Completed all Court orders and were released from Community Control
  - 0 Juveniles committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services
  - 0 Juveniles sentenced to the Detention Home
  - 4 Juveniles in other residential placements / foster homes

### **MENTALLY ILL – DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED CASELOAD (MI-DD)**

Juveniles who are lower functioning (not necessarily with lower Full scale IQ scores) and/or have a severe mental health diagnosis are placed on this caseload. These youth typically have an Individual Educational Plan (IEP), psychiatric and psychological treatment services, and/or in-home counseling in place prior to Court involvement. They will often need additional assessments, hospitalizations, and other intensive services due to their presenting needs. Typical referents will have recent (within the past 6 months) episodes of self-harming behavior, psychiatric hospitalization, and/or suicidal ideations/attempts; experiencing crisis based upon their psychiatric symptoms. Youth will have a pervasive mental health diagnosis which results in their inability to regulate their behavior based upon their mental health symptoms.

The Probation Officer provides close supervision and facilitates communication between community service providers, the family, and the Court. This facilitation is vital in identifying and overcoming barriers, recognizing progress, and resolving problems of the child and family. Social Workers and other case

management service providers work closely with the Probation Officer who is providing intensive supervision.

#### **Calendar Year 2019**

- 6 Successfully released from Community Control
- 0 Juveniles committed to Ohio Department of Youth Services
- 6 Placed at Court operated Group Homes
- 1 Transferred to a different level of supervision (CIP, General, DH)
- 6 Juveniles involved with 4C

#### **BELLEFAIRE / JOP**

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

A Probation Officer is responsible for monitoring and assisting in the components of the case plans. Court staff monitors and documents all contacts with the juvenile and family, attends staff meetings, makes home visits, participates in JOP/4-C Children's Continuum of Care Committee reviews, and provides transportation services when necessary. The MI/DD Probation Officer work closely with the JOP participants, their families and service providers.

#### **Calendar Year 2019**

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

#### **SUCCESS FOR YOUTH**

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

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

The assigned Probation Officer is responsible for encouraging youth to utilize skill-building techniques, implement learned coping strategies and to encourage positive parent engagement. The Probation Officer and Case Manager plan social activities that provide an opportunity for youth to utilize their skills, while providing tools for redirecting conflicts and addressing any barriers to learning.

#### **Calendar Year 2019**

- 17 Juveniles served
- 9 Juveniles successfully released from the program
- 3 Juveniles unsuccessfully terminated
- 5 Juveniles carried over

#### **MENTAL HEALTH COURT**

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

The Juvenile Mental Health Court serves youth who have been adjudicated delinquent, who have severe and persistent mental illnesses that are contributing or mitigating factors in their law enforcement involvement and for whom Court-monitored treatment and other services would enhance their ability to lead a law-abiding life. In an agreement with the Lorain County Prosecutor's office, the youth's presenting charges will be dismissed if they successfully complete the program.

In 2017, the Juvenile Mental Health Court received ongoing certification and recognition as a Specialized Docket as outlined by the Rules of Superintendence and the Ohio Supreme Court. Recertification / renewal will take place in 2020.

#### **Calendar Year 2019**

- 18 Juveniles served in the program ..... (7 Males - 11 Females)
- 10 Juveniles terminated from the program..... (3 Males - 7 Females)



- 4 Juveniles successfully completed program..... (2 Males - 2 Females)
- 4 Carry-overs

### **JUVENILE DRUG COURT**

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

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

In 2017, the Juvenile Drug Court was awarded ongoing certification as a Specialized Docket as outlined by the Rules of Superintendence of the Ohio Supreme Court. Recertification took place in 2019.

### **Calendar Year 2019**

- 11 Participants in the program..... (8 Males – 3 Females)
- 7 Juveniles terminated from the program..... (7 Males – 0 Females)
- 1 Juvenile graduated..... (1 Male – 0 Females)
- 3 Carry-overs

### **FAMILY DRUG COURT**

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

The Family Drug Court team is comprised of the Honorable Judge Sherry L. Glass (who presides over Family Drug Court), Program Coordinator, Court Case Manager, Defense Counsel, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Treatment Counselor from The LCADA Way, a representative from Voices for Children (guardian ad litem program), Elyria YWCA, Faith House, the Nord Center, a Lorain County Children Services Supervisor and two designated caseworkers from Lorain County Children Services. Collaboration between agencies provides In-Kind services addressing drug/alcohol dependency, parenting skills, domestic violence awareness, life-skills preparation, employment guidance and assistance in obtaining housing. Mental health counseling is also an integral part of the program.

In 2017, the Family Drug Court received ongoing certification and recognition as a Specialized Docket as outlined by the Rules of Superintendence and the Ohio Supreme Court. Recertification will take place in 2020.

#### **Calendar Year 2019**

- 16 Clients served (1 Male and 15 Females)
  - 6 Clients terminated due to failure to comply with LCCS, treatment and/or mental health components
  - 4 Family Drug Court Graduates (All Female)
  - 6 Carry-overs
- 10 Children placed outside the home with a parent or relative
  - 4 Children placed in foster care
  - 2 Children with parent / reunified with parent at graduation

#### **JUVENILE INTAKE DEPARTMENT**

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

- Receipt and distribution of unofficial Complaints and police reports referred for diversion services through the Assessment Center and/or Diversion Program,
- Tobacco and Curfew violations,
- Initial detention and arraignment hearings for youth admitted to the Lorain County Detention Home, and
- All official Complaints involving school attendance concerns.

#### **Calendar Year 2019**

- 455 Referrals were Reviewed and Processed
- 195 Unofficial Hearings conducted
- 285 Hearings on official charges on non-detained juveniles
  - 53 Cases certified from outside of Lorain County
- 194 Truancy Preliminary Conferences conducted
- 91 Truancy Arraignments were held

**Detention Matters:** One primary Intake Magistrate, with the assistance of three Delinquency Magistrates, is available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days per week, to respond to law enforcement requests for admission of boys and girls to the Detention Home. Children who are admitted to the Detention Home for domestic violence are assessed by the Court's Social Worker, who then provides recommendations to the Court regarding risk factors and services to assist the family. The Intake Magistrate conducts initial detention and arraignment hearings for juveniles who have been admitted to the Detention Home. 329 detention hearings were held during 2019 (317 initial detention hearings and 12 carry-over hearings).

**School Attendance Cases:**

**Juvenile Cases.** There were 142 Habitual Truant Complaints filed in 2019. Each of those juveniles, pursuant to Ohio's attendance laws, were invited to participate in an Alternative to Adjudication process. The families who participated met with the Intake Magistrate in an effort to identify the barriers to the child's school attendance, develop a plan to eliminate those barriers, and, if successful, avoid formal action on the complaint. Sixteen of those 142 families are still working through the Alternative to Adjudication process. Of the 126 that have completed the process, 63 were successfully diverted from formal court action. Another 27 complaints were dismissed for neutral reasons (such as relocating out of the Court's jurisdiction, aging out of the compulsory education laws, or being supervised by other Court programs), and 36 had to be referred for formal court action and summoned to court for an arraignment hearing.

The following statistics report all formal court actions that occurred regarding habitual truancy cases during the 2019 calendar year. Please note that these statistics include actions taken on cases that may have been filed prior to 2019, but were still open or re-opened during the calendar year:

- 142 Official Complaints were filed
- 142 Youth were invited to participate in Alternative to Adjudication process
- 59 Successfully Completed Alternative to Adjudication process and were diverted from formal action on complaint
- 32 Diverted from formal action for neutral reasons (relocated outside jurisdiction, turned 18 years old, received other court supervision)
- 42 Youth Unsuccessful with Alternative to Adjudication process and were referred for formal action on complaint
- 25 Youth were adjudicated unruly for habitual truancy
- 3 Motions for Further Dispositional Orders were filed by the State of Ohio on previously closed chronic truancy cases. All 3 motions were granted with updated orders to address attendance concerns
- 11 Motions for Further Dispositional Orders were filed by the State of Ohio on previously closed habitual truancy cases. 4 motions were granted with updated orders, 2 motions were withdrawn, 1 motion was denied, 1 motions is still in process and 3 motions resulted in a warrant to locate the juveniles.

Adult Cases. There were 139 complaints filed against adults charged with Failure to Send a Child to School. Like the Alternative to Adjudication process for juveniles, each adult was provided the opportunity to participate in the Preliminary Conference process in which they would meet with the Intake Magistrate in an attempt to remedy the situation without formal action being taken on the complaint. Seventeen parents/guardians/ custodians are still working through that process. Of the 122 that completed the process, 48 were successfully diverted from formal action on the complaint and had their cases dismissed, another 42 were dismissed for neutral reasons (such as relocating out of the Court's jurisdiction, the student aging out of the compulsory education laws, or a change in the custody of the child), and 32 had to advance to the formal court process.

The following statistics report all formal court actions that occurred regarding charges of Failure to Send a Child to School during the 2019 calendar year. Please note that these statistics include actions taken on cases that may have been filed prior to 2019, but were still open or re-opened during the calendar year:

- 139 Official complaints were filed
- 139 were invited to participate in the Preliminary Conference process
- 34 were diverted from formal action on complaint for neutral reasons (custody of child changed, relocated outside jurisdiction, family was receiving other supportive services)
- 42 were unsuccessful with the Preliminary Conference process and were referred for formal action on complaint
- 29 adults were found guilty of failure to send a child to school
- 6 Motions to Show Cause/Hold Defendant in Contempt were filed by the State of Ohio against parents/guardians/custodians who were previously found guilty of failing to send a child to school. 4 motions were withdrawn, 1 motion is still in process, and 1 motion resulted in a warrant to locate the defendant

**Diversion Matters:** Reports that are referred to the Court for consideration of Diversion Services are reviewed by the Diversion Specialist. These reports are Unofficial Complaints filed by parents/guardians, school officials and the public, or designated police reports that are screened through the Prosecutor's Office. There were 302 referrals for Diversion Services in 2019. Each referral is reviewed and handled on an individual basis. Forty-eight (48) families availed themselves of actual Diversion services. These cases may require an initial contact with a parent or legal guardian, filing as a Record Purpose matter, unofficial conference with the Diversion Specialist (the Diversion Specialist held 195 conferences with juveniles and their parent/guardian), referral for community resources for assistance, follow-up contact, possible official legal charges, or Court supervision based on a Status offense (an act that would not be illegal if committed by an adult). Thirty-four (34) families were referred for services within the home through the Pro-Kids program for diversion cases.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS**

### **YES Program**

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

### **Calendar Year 2019**

55 Juveniles completed the program / analyzed evaluation:

62%	Low Risk to Re-Offend	National Average	58%
15%	Moderate Risk to Re-Offend	National Average	15%
23%	High Risk to Re-Offend	National Average	27%

### **EDUVENTION / Substance Abuse Education Program**

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

### **Calendar Year 2019**

116 Referrals to the program  
82 Completed the program  
11 Completed substitute/alternate programs  
17 Juveniles officially charged and arraigned  
14 Carry-overs

### **PAY-BACK PROGRAM**

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

- Ensure the offender's compliance with Court orders
- Provide a work experience that allows the offender to make restitution
- Provide victims with access to the Court for reasonable redress

- Facilitate communication between the Court, victims, prosecutors, insurance companies, etc...

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

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

#### **Calendar Year 2019**

255	Cases admitted to the program
127	Successful cases terminated
\$25,390.12	Collected through payment schedules and dispersed to Victims
\$35,456.04	Paid to Victims through the Treasurer's Office for Community Service hours completed through the Work for Pay program

#### **Community Service**

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

#### **Calendar Year 2019**

168	Juveniles ordered to complete Community Service
94	Successfully Completed

#### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROGRAM**

The Lorain County Juvenile Court's School Attendance Program addresses the attendance issues of students deemed to be truant from school. To address truancy, the program utilizes a formal process, which involves the collaborative efforts of the Lorain County Education Service Center, 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. In December 2016, the Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 410 to support and encourage a preventative approach to excessive absences and habitual truancy. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the new legislation mandated Ohio Schools to track

attendance by the hour a student is absent from school, rather than days. A student is considered habitually truant if the student is absent without a legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 hours in a calendar month, or 72 or more hours in a school year.

House Bill 410 further acknowledges that non-academic barriers often keep students from attending school daily and on time. Therefore, all students that reach the threshold for habitual truancy must be assigned an Absence Intervention Team and Plan. In order to fulfill the mandated requirements and address unique barriers, the Lorain County Juvenile Court's Attendance Program works in unison with partnering school districts to develop a specific Absence Intervention Plan based on the student's individual needs.

When a student has reached habitual truancy, he/she is formally referred to the Lorain County Attendance Officer by the school principal or assistant principal. Upon receiving the referral, an Absence Intervention Team is developed. It is then the responsibility of the Attendance Officer to address the issue of truancy with the parent/guardian(s), the school team, and the child. During this interaction, a number of interventions are identified and an Absence Intervention Plan is created. The Attendance Officer is responsible to conduct weekly school visits and discuss updates with the Absence Intervention Team. The Attendance Officer conducts a 30 day review with the parent/guardian(s) and evaluates the case at 60 days to determine progress.

If a student does not make satisfactory progress on their Absence Intervention Plan, the attendance officer will file an official complaint with the Court. The student will then be enrolled in the Court's Alternative to Adjudication Process, where another attempt to divert the case is made.

Lorain County Attendance Officers participate in the prosecution process through:

- Preparation of an Absence Intervention Plan, 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

In the 2018/2019 school year, four Attendance Officers addressed 1,448 referrals. Of the 1,448 referrals that were processed, 1,351 referrals were handled unofficially resulting in them being diverted prior to a Complaint being filed.

- Failure to comply: 51
- Habitual Truants: 46

<b>School District</b>	<b>Number of Referrals</b>
<b>Avon</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Avon Lake</b>	<b>228</b>
<b>Clearview</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>Columbia</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Firelands</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Keystone</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>LCJVS</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Midview</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>North Ridgeville</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Oberlin</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Sheffield/Sheffield Lake</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Wellington</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,448</b>



## JUVENILE STATISTICS

Reason for referral	Female	Male	Total
Aggravated Murder	0	0	0
Alcohol Consumption	8	6	14
Arson	0	4	4
Assault	46	86	132
Attempted Murder	0	1	1
Breaking & Entering	0	5	5
Burglary	5	20	25
Criminal Damaging	5	22	27
Criminal Mischief	1	11	12
Disorderly Conduct	37	44	81
Domestic Violence	54	75	129
Drug Offenses	13	35	48
Escape	0	0	0
Falsification	11	15	26
Induce Panic	3	13	16
Kidnapping	1	1	2
Making Terrorist Threats	0	2	2
Menacing	6	7	23
Obstructing Official Business	19	19	38
Other	4	6	10
Rape	0	10	10
Receiving Stolen Property	0	11	11
Resisting Arrest	1	1	2
Riot	0	13	13
Robbery	1	16	17
Sex Offenses	2	19	21
Telephone Harassment	0	6	6
Theft	22	41	63
Tobacco	0	0	0
Trespassing	7	12	19
Truancy	82	62	144
U.U.M.V.	3	5	8
Ungovernable	15	20	35
Vandalism	3	12	15
Violate Order of the Court	11	26	37
Weapons Offense	0	20	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>1016</b>

<b>Dispositions</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Committed to Adult Correctional Facility	0	0	<b>0</b>
Committed to ODYS/Northern Ohio	1	11	<b>12</b>
Continued on Probation	4	20	<b>24</b>
Courtesy Supervision	1	1	<b>2</b>
Crossroads/Felony	4	9	<b>13</b>
Crossroads/Misdemeanor	1	5	<b>6</b>
Dismissed	100	185	<b>285</b>
Fines & Costs and / or Restitution	45	105	<b>150</b>
Fines & Costs and / or Restitution- Suspended	48	96	<b>144</b>
Judicial Release/Revoke	0	0	<b>0</b>
Other	9	8	<b>17</b>
Placed on Monitored Time / Felony	0	5	<b>5</b>
Placed on Monitored Time / Misdemeanor	5	11	<b>16</b>
Parole	0	0	<b>0</b>
Parole Revocation	6	3	<b>9</b>
Placed on CIP / Felony	1	6	<b>7</b>
Placed on CIP / Misdemeanor	2	9	<b>11</b>
Placed on General Community Control / Felony	6	27	<b>33</b>
Placed on General Community Control / Misdemeanor	16	49	<b>65</b>
Placed on Community Control - Other / Felony	0	0	<b>0</b>
Placed on Community Control - Other / Misdemeanor	0	0	<b>0</b>
Placed on Community Control - Sex Offender / Felony	0	5	<b>5</b>
Placed on Community Control - Sex Offender / Misdemeanor	0	5	<b>5</b>
Placed on Community Control - Status	0	0	<b>0</b>
Residential Facility Placement / Felony	0	8	<b>8</b>
Residential Facility Placement / Misdemeanor	2	1	<b>3</b>
Sentenced to Detention Center / Felony	1	18	<b>19</b>
Sentenced to Detention Center / Misdemeanor	8	11	<b>19</b>
Serious Youth Offender	0	1	<b>1</b>
Sex Offender Classification Modified	0	0	<b>0</b>
Suspended Commitment / Sentence	0	7	<b>7</b>
Transferred to Adult Court	0	2	<b>2</b>
Transferred to Another Court	16	31	<b>47</b>
Unavailability	32	59	<b>91</b>
Suspended DH/Felony	0	16	<b>16</b>
Suspended DH/Misdemeanor	36	49	<b>85</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>1107</b>

<b>Age and Gender of Youth</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Age 9 and under	0	0	<b>0</b>
Age 10	2	8	<b>10</b>
Age 11	8	19	<b>27</b>
Age 12	23	31	<b>54</b>
Age 13	34	55	<b>89</b>
Age 14	49	110	<b>159</b>
Age 15	75	121	<b>196</b>
Age 16	81	152	<b>233</b>
Age 17	80	144	<b>224</b>
Age 18	8	15	<b>23</b>
Age 19	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>1016</b>

<b>Traffic Violations</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Alcohol Offenses	8	3	<b>11</b>
Assured Clear Distance	60	70	<b>130</b>
Driving Under Suspension	6	3	<b>9</b>
Failure To Control	22	29	<b>51</b>
Failure To Yield	36	30	<b>66</b>
Impeding Traffic Flow	0	0	<b>0</b>
Improper Backing	5	5	<b>10</b>
Improper Lane Usage	7	8	<b>15</b>
Improper Turn	4	7	<b>11</b>
Jaywalking	0	0	<b>0</b>
Leaving the Scene	4	4	<b>8</b>
License Plates	3	10	<b>13</b>
Lights Violation	7	10	<b>17</b>
No Driver's License	19	36	<b>55</b>
Noise Violation	0	1	<b>1</b>
Other	4	6	<b>10</b>
Parking Violations	0	0	<b>0</b>
Reckless Operation	1	5	<b>6</b>
School Bus Violation	6	8	<b>14</b>
Seat Belt	17	11	<b>28</b>
Speeding	170	266	<b>436</b>
Texting while Driving	1	0	<b>1</b>
Traffic Control Device	20	13	<b>33</b>
Unsafe Vehicle	4	16	<b>20</b>
Walking in Roadway	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>945</b>

<b>Traffic Dispositions</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Absentia	3	11	<b>14</b>
Detention Home Sentence	0	1	<b>1</b>
Dismissed	187	240	<b>427</b>
Fines & Costs	109	141	<b>250</b>
Fines & Costs Suspended	0	0	<b>0</b>
License Restricted	13	23	<b>36</b>
License Suspended	6	4	<b>10</b>
Other	1	0	<b>1</b>
Seatbelt Mail-in Waiver	9	10	<b>19</b>
Transfer to Another Court	43	76	<b>119</b>
Unavailability	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>878</b>

<b>Where Youth Reside</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Amherst	5	32	<b>37</b>
Avon	9	8	<b>17</b>
Avon Lake	14	17	<b>31</b>
Columbia Station	1	0	<b>1</b>
Elyria	113	186	<b>299</b>
Grafton	5	11	<b>16</b>
LaGrange	3	5	<b>8</b>
Lorain	149	240	<b>389</b>
North Ridgeville	11	27	<b>38</b>
Oberlin	14	24	<b>38</b>
Sheffield Lake/ Sheffield Village	11	9	<b>20</b>
South Amherst	2	1	<b>3</b>
Vermilion	5	17	<b>22</b>
Wellington	4	24	<b>28</b>
Other	14	58	<b>72</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>1016</b>

<b>Types of Cases</b>	<b>Total</b>
Traffic Violations	<b>939</b>
Delinquent Child	<b>832</b>
Paternity Actions	<b>144</b>
Unruly	<b>179</b>
Dependent Child	<b>254</b>
Complaint for Support	<b>567</b>
Child Custody	<b>335</b>
Contributing to Delinquency/Unruly	<b>146</b>
Judicial Bypass	<b>2</b>
Grandparent Affidavit	<b>39</b>
Juvenile Protection Order	<b>31</b>
Consent to Marry	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3470</b>

## **DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES**

David Lucey, Director

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

#### **Lorain County Juvenile Detention Home**

9967 South Murray Ridge Road, Elyria

The purpose of the detention home is to provide secure confinement of appropriate juveniles under age 18. Judges and magistrates determine if detention is appropriate as indicated by statute or the Ohio Supreme Court Rules. Unruly or ungovernable youth may not be placed in detention beyond twenty-four hours. However, delinquent youth may be confined to detention by an order of the Court for a period not to exceed 90 days. Commencing in 2004, the Court sentenced juveniles to the Lorain County Detention Home for up to 90 days. In 2019, there were 32 youthful offenders sentenced to the Detention Home.

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

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

During the admission process each youth is administered the Maysi II test which screens for mental health issues. Applewood Centers will conduct an assessment if issues are highlighted. Each youth also reviews a 30 minute video presentation on the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and is informed of our zero tolerance policy for sexual abuse/rape, harassment, and how to report it. The medical staff is available at any time for consultation and has regularly scheduled hours. Within seven days of admission, the detention home nurse or doctor physically examines every juvenile.

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

#### 2019 Admissions

- 463 total Juvenile Admissions:
  - 321 Males
  - 142 Females
- Average Length of Stay: 20.38 days
- Average Daily Population total: 25:
  - Average Male Daily Population: 19
  - Average Female Daily Population: 6

#### **Pathways Group Home / Stepping Stone Residential Center**

1076 / 1064 Infirmary Road, Elyria

Pathways Group Home and Stepping Stone Residential Center are non-secure court-operated programs for female and male offenders, ages 13-17. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services licenses and monitors these facilities, which are limited to 6 females and 9 males.

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

Referrals to Pathways and Stepping Stone are made through internal processes of the court. The Department of Probation & Youth Services, Investigation and Referral Team, Magistrates, Lorain County Children Services, and mental health workers provide input in this process. A Judge makes the final determination and places appropriate candidates into the programs.

The formats of Pathways and Stepping Stone parallel each other. Each is a one-year program divided into two phases. Phase one (1) is a minimum 21-week in-house stay. The child will participate in graduated off-grounds visits with the parent-guardian ranging from one (1) hour to seventy-two (72) hours during the first phase of the program. The child and parent-guardian will receive appropriate services on an individualized basis during this phase based on the resident's case plan. Parental cooperation and participation is vital to the child's success in the program. Some group programming for the child will also be included. The Educational Service Center of Lorain County provides educational services for the residents in the facilities. One certified teacher is present Monday - Friday to work with the residents of Pathways and Stepping Stone.

Phase two (2) is aftercare which typically lasts 3-6 months. The child will live at the home of the parent-guardian during this phase under the supervision of a Community Control Officer/Case Manager. Applicable services will be received during this phase on an individualized basis.

Case plans are developed for each juvenile. Areas addressed through service providers include daily family issues, independent living skills, individual and family counseling, and drug and alcohol treatment.

On July 1, 2019, Stepping Stone Residential Center merged with Pathways Group Home to form a co-ed Group Home with a maximum population of 10 youth – 5 males and 5 females.

<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>Pathways/Stepping Stone</u></b>
Participants	36
New Admissions	16
2018 Carry-Over	20
Successful Completions	12
Committed to ODYS	1
Sentenced to Detention Home	4
Lorain County Jail	0
Transferred to CIP	1
Moved out of County	0
Specialized Services	1
Crossroads	1
Maximum Benefit	3
Pending	5

### **Turning Point**

1080 Infirmary Road, Elyria

Turning Point is a non-secure residential facility providing short-term care (maximum 28 days) for 5 males and 5 females ages 12-17. The juveniles are involved in domestic dispute situations or selected status offenses. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services licenses Turning Point. Turning Point provides 24-hour supervision and guidance by trained childcare staff. In addition, a full-time social worker provides services to the juveniles and their families with appropriate referrals to service providers in the community. Youth who are involved with domestic disputes receive a domestic violence screening by the social worker. The information gathered is used to establish an appropriate reunification plan.

Admissions are approved by an Assessment Specialist, Facilities Shift Supervisor, Director of Residential Services, Administrative Supervisor or Detention Home Superintendent. Turning Point does not function as a sentencing or dispositional alternative. It is a program for youth in crisis or emergency situations.

The goal of Turning Point is to return the youth to their home after a brief respite without further intervention by the court. During 2019, Turning Point served a total of 140 youth – 62 males and 78 females.

## **DEPARTMENT OF FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

Kristen Richardson, Director

### **Introduction**

The Lorain County Domestic Relations Court receives funding from the Lorain County Board of Commissioners, state, federal and local grants. The County's General Fund provides the majority of the Court's annual budget. Funding is applied to youth and family services, operational costs, and support staff salaries and benefits for over 160 employees.

### **Fiscal**

The Fiscal Department prepares and monitors the Court's annual budget, records revenue and processes payments exceeding \$11 million dollars annually. The department is also responsible for the monitoring and reporting of all State and Federal grants, financial processing of all court expenditures, payroll, benefits, purchasing of supplies and equipment and court appointed counsel payments. In 2019, the department processed more than \$595,000.00 of State reimbursement requests for court-appointed counsel.



## **Grant Writing and Management**

The Grants Department is responsible for researching grant opportunities available through State, Federal and local agencies, writing grant proposals and monitoring grant and entitlement programs received. In calendar year 2019, the Grants Department applied for eight new grants, with a total potential award of \$461,832.50. Seven of these grants were awarded in the amount of \$532,427.85. The Ohio Department of Youth Services awarded the Court \$135,000 for the establishment of the New Assessment Center, \$50,000 to allow for enhancing Probation Services, as well as \$70,000 for Probation Transformation. \$217,948.93 was awarded to the Voices for Children Program/SVAA through the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The Supreme Court of Ohio awarded the Court \$35,748.86 to allow for video conferencing at the Lorain County Juvenile Detention Home, \$16,008.06 for security equipment to be installed in the Magistrate Hearing rooms, and \$7,722.00 to allow for technology system upgrades. One grant request is pending with a potential award of \$33,534.00.

## **Systems Management**

The Systems Department is responsible for the Court's computer hardware, software and other related systems. The Court's case management system, Courtview, is used to maintain the Court's docketing, imaging, and judicial and probation management systems. Systems also manages the high resolution digital security camera system located at the Lorain County Detention Home and Facilities Complex that allows for remote monitoring and archiving 160 days of security camera data. The video security system provides comprehensive monitoring capabilities and a heightened level of safety for the juveniles and staff.

In 2019, Domestic Relations Court finalized their selection of a new case management system. The Court received \$35,748.86 from the Supreme Court of Ohio's Technology Grant to conduct remote hearings from the Lorain County Detention Home. A grant in the amount of \$7,722.00 was also awarded by the Supreme Court of Ohio for system upgrades to implement electronic citations.

<b>2019 Expenditures</b>	<b>Salaries</b>	<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	<b>Operating Costs</b>	<b>Equipment and Leases</b>	<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>Total Grants</b>
Administration and Elected Officials	2,155,670.90	285,799.49	101,562.40	84,017.59	2,627,050.38	
Juvenile Services	1,803,312.85	245,104.89	243,395.85	34,892.34	2,326,705.93	
Domestic Support/IV-D	537,738.18	323,891.21	82,098.97	6,230.31	949,958.67	
Detention Services	1,509,372.44	208,851.96	373,719.65	9,992.13	2,101,936.18	
Facilities	388,807.58	48,941.43	37,321.40	655.53	475,725.94	
Drug Court	69,352.80	14,433.75	40,104.90			123,891.45
Truancy		6,951.53	6,622.93			13,574.46
Reclaim	858,990.09	468,381.74	303,725.87	2,720.94		1,633,818.64
Targeted Reclaim	6,983.60	1,246.40	142,401.91			150,631.91
IV-E	191,595.22	88,931.03	46,037.56	7,080.78		333,644.59
VOCA	137,028.74	81,022.52	5,110.96			223,162.22
Other Grants	13,348.80	8,177.37	34,917.09	27,193.05		83,636.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,672,201.20</b>	<b>1,781,733.32</b>	<b>1,417,019.49</b>	<b>172,782.67</b>	<b>8,481,377.10</b>	<b>2,562,359.58</b>

<b>2019 Revenue</b>	<b>Refunds, Reimburse- ments</b>	<b>Fines, Fees</b>	<b>Federal and State Reimburse- ments</b>	<b>Agency Contributions, Donations</b>	<b>Total General Fund Revenue</b>	<b>All Other Revenue</b>
Administration and Elected Officials	4,812.95				4,812.95	
Juvenile Services	244.60	108,783.24			109,027.84	
Domestic Support/ IV-D			943,741.76		943,741.76	
Detention Services			71,472.09		71,472.09	
Facilities				96,000.00	96,000.00	
Drug Court			102,769.00	33,879.00		136,648.00
Truancy				162,770.36		162,770.36
RECLAIM			1,881,781.84			1,881,781.84
Targeted RECLAIM/ Mental Health Court			20,000.00			20,000.00
IV-E			195,962.53			195,962.53
VOCA			231,688.00			231,688.00
Other Grants	140,358.13	83,950.10	976.34			225,284.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>145,415.68</b>	<b>192,733.34</b>	<b>3,448,391.56</b>	<b>292,649.36</b>	<b>1,225,054.64</b>	<b>2,854,135.30</b>

## **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 2019. The juvenile clerking contract totaled \$474,716.76 and the magistrate services contract totaled \$460,037.36. The contracts provide funding for the operation of the Domestic Support Unit and include full and partial reimbursement of salaries and benefits for 16 court employees, including two magistrates.

The purpose of the Domestic Support Unit is to provide judicial services to address all issues involving the support of children, including establishment, modification and enforcement. The juvenile clerking unit provides staff to prepare and file formal documents and journal entries pertaining to child support.

During the 2019 calendar year, the Domestic Support Unit conducted 7,348 hearings involving issues of child support. The Juvenile Clerk's Office registered 23,444 journal entries for filing during the twelve-month period of 2019.

### **Hearings Conducted in 2019**

Paternity .....	1,728
Contempt .....	4,218
Criminal non-support .....	60
Arrears .....	129
Terminations .....	177
Modifications .....	386
Impounds .....	479
All others .....	171
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>7,348</b>

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

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

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

### Domestic Relations Court Contact Information

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

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



Jody Barilla  
Court Administrator

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