

HOLMES COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

JUDGE THOMAS C. LEE

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Glennis R. Menezes
Court Administrator

The Court of Common Pleas

PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISIONS

HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO
THOMAS C. LEE, Judge

June 25, 2001

To the Citizens of Holmes County:

On behalf of Holmes County Juvenile Court and its staff, I am pleased to present the 2000 Annual Report. This Report contains information on the Court's cases, as well as the services and programs offered by the Court to Holmes County families and children.

It is my sincere desire that the Court provide quality assistance to Holmes County families and children. If you have questions or suggestions as you read this Report, please feel free to contact me. I value your input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas C. Lee".

Thomas C. Lee
Juvenile Court Judge

This Annual Report of the Holmes County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, for the calendar year 2000 is prepared pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.18.

COURT PERSONNEL

Judge	Hon. Thomas C. Lee
Court Administrator Grant Administrator	Glennis R. Menez
Bailiff Mentor Program Coordinator	Bradley S. Conn
Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk	Christine Jenkins Virginia Sandison*
Chief Probation Officer Probation Officer Probation/Truancy Officer Probation Office Secretary	Janice Shroyer, L.S.W. David Beazel Robert Porter Peggy Didinger
Project STAY Office Clerk	Annette Lanham

*Hired February, 2001

PURPOSE OF THE COURT

Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.01 sets forth the purpose of the Juvenile Court as follows:

- (A) To provide for the care, protection, and mental and physical development of children subject to Chapter 2151 of the Revised Code;
- (B) To protect the public interest in removing the consequences of criminal behavior and the taint of criminality from children committing delinquent acts and to substitute therefor a program of supervision, care, and rehabilitation;
- (C) To achieve the foregoing purposes, whenever possible, in a family environment, separating the child from its parents only when necessary for his welfare or in the interests of public safety;
- (D) To provide judicial procedures through which Chapter 2151 of the Revised Code is executed and enforced, and in which the parties are assured of a fair hearing, and their constitutional and other legal rights are recognized and enforced.

MISSION STATEMENT

Holmes County Juvenile Court exists to foster the development of a healthy community for children and families through the timely administration of justice and the delivery of quality services in a cost-effective, courteous and professional manner.

JURISDICTION

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction under Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.23 to hear the following types of matters:

Delinquent Child – Those who commit an offense, prior to their 18th birthday, that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

Unruly Child – Those who commit an offense that only applies to someone under the age of 18.

Juvenile Traffic Offender – Those who commit a traffic offense prior to attaining the age of 18.

Abused Children – Children who have been physically or sexually abused by parents, guardians, or another adult.

Neglected Children – Those children who are not properly cared for or are abandoned by their parents or guardians.

Dependent Children – Those children who are without proper care or support through no fault of their parents or guardians.

Adults – Criminal charges against adults who have contributed to the delinquency or unruliness of a child.

Paternity – Actions to determine the father of a child born out of wedlock.

Custody – Actions to determine the custody of any child not a ward of another Court of this State.

JUVENILE COURT DOCKET

The following cases were filed in Juvenile Court in 2000:

Delinquency	85
Traffic	262
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	5
Unruly	36
Adult Cases	0
Permanent Custody	1
Custody/Visitation	27
Child Support	32
Paternity	11
U.I.F.S.A.	0
Others	2
TOTAL:	461

NOTE: Sixty (60) juveniles who were first-time offenders were referred to the Diversion Program, thus reducing the number of cases brought formally before the Court.

TYPES OF DELINQUENT CHARGES FILED

Assault	4
Breaking & Entering	4
Burglary	5
Carrying a Concealed Weapon	1
Contempt of Court	1
Criminal Damaging	9
Criminal Mischief	6
Criminal Trespassing	6
Disorderly Conduct	2
Domestic Violence	2
Drug Abuse	2
Falsification	1
Gross Sexual Imposition	2
Menacing	1
Petty Theft	15
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	5
Possession of Marijuana	5
Probation Violation	20
Prohibitions (Under-Age Consumption)	31
Rape	1
Receiving Stolen Property	2
Tampering w/Coin Machine	4
Theft	4
Theft of Motor Vehicle	4
Trafficking	2
Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle	2
Unlawful Possession of Dangerous Ordnance	1

Additional Information on Delinquent/Unruly Youth

Average Age:	15.2 yrs.
Male/Female Breakdown:	104 Males 48 Females

TYPES OF CASES HANDLED THROUGH DIVERSION (First-Time Offenders) IN 2000:

Assault	2
Criminal Damaging	1
Criminal Mischief	2
Criminal Trespassing	2
Domestic Violence	1
Menacing	1
Petty Theft	4
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia & Marijuana	1
Prohibitions	16
Receiving Stolen Property	1
Tampering with Coin Machine	2
Unlawful Possession of Dangerous Ordnance	1
Unruly	6
Unruly/Truant	11

DISPOSITIONS

The following dispositions were made in the year 2000:

Delinquencies

Community Service	1663 hrs. ordered 1120 hrs. completed
Shoplifter Diversion	3
Apologies	16
Insight (Drug & Alcohol Assessment)	34
Passing Grades Provision	7
Psychological/Psychiatric Evaluations	4
House Arrest	14
No Association Provision	27
Court Costs	50
Fines	13
Operators License Suspensions	10
Counseling/Assessments	24
Detention	26
Suspended Detention	22

Restitution	22
Suspended Placement	5
Must Obtain Employment	12
Probation/Continued Probation	84
Ohio Dept. of Youth Services	
Suspended Commitments	12
Victim Offender Reconciliation Program	8
Project STAY	4
Other*	26

*Other dispositions include: Essays, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Respite Care, Job Corps, Custody Changes, "Baby Think-It-Over" (through Health Dept.), Supervision Only, and Must Attend or Enroll in School.

OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS

As stated in Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.01(C), the Court strives to achieve its purposes while keeping a child in a family environment, separating the child from his or her parents only when necessary for his or her welfare or in the interests of public safety. The following out-of-home placements were made in 2000:

Placements with extended family	0
Placements in foster homes	1
Placements in group homes	4
Placements in Treatment Centers	8
Total:	13

Additional Information Regarding Placements

Multi-County Juvenile Attention System

Holmes County participates in the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System, funded jointly by Stark, Columbiana, Wayne, Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Carroll Counties. The System provides treatment and detention options to the participating Juvenile Courts, including group homes, a residential treatment center, and attention/detention centers.

The year 2000 at the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System saw the beginning of construction of a new 30-bed Detention Center and a 24-bed Community Correction Facility in Canton, Stark County, Ohio. Those facilities are projected to open in the year 2001.

Holmes County represents 4.03% of the total population of the participating counties. In the year 2000, Holmes County used 629 "bed days" (number of juveniles placed x number of days in facilities) at System Detention Centers, for a total of 1.40% of the total bed days used by all participating counties. Of those 629 total bed days, 4 bed days were at the Stark Attention Center, or 0.03% of the total bed days used, and 625 bed days were at the Wayne-Holmes Attention Center, or 5.93% of the total bed days used by all counties at that facility.

Holmes County also placed 8 juveniles in the System's Treatment Centers, representing 3.19% of the total usage of those facilities. One juvenile was placed in the New Philadelphia Group Home (4.55%), three juveniles were placed in the Canton Group Home (11.11%), one juvenile was placed in the New Philadelphia Group Home (4.55%), and four juveniles were placed in the Residential Treatment Center in Canton, Ohio (2.68%).

Ohio Department of Youth Services Facilities

No juveniles were committed to ODYS facilities during the year 2000; however, one juvenile who had been previously committed to ODYS was released from the system in the year 2000.

PROGRAMS

Probation Department

Janice Shroyer, LSW, became a part of our Probation Department Staff in 1999 and was promoted to Chief Probation Officer in the year 2000. She is a graduate of Malone College and has extensive experience with social service agencies.

Robert Porter, former Dean of Students at West Holmes High School, joined our staff in 1999 and serves as a part-time probation officer and truancy officer.

Joining our Probation Department staff in 2000 was David Beazel. David is a graduate of Kent State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and had over seven years of experience as an Assistant Supervisor and Detention Officer at the Portage Geauga

Juvenile Detention Center. David is a Holmes County native and is pleased to be able to "return to his roots" and serve the Holmes County community.

During calendar year 2000, the Probation Department supervised 77 youth on probation (61 males, 16 females). During this period, 48 youth were placed on probation and 36 were successfully removed from probation.

The Probation Department also continued its duty of organizing and supervising Community Service performed by juveniles as part of their sentence. Community service requires a child to perform work beneficial to the community without pay. The program provides youth with an opportunity to "repay" the community for the problems caused by the child's behavior, as well as provide the youth with valuable work experience. In 2000 a total of 1120 hours were provided by juveniles for their community service commitment. At a minimum wage rate of \$5.15/hour, those 1120 hours represent services valued at \$5,768.00 to the Holmes County community.

Youth Services Grant

The Youth Services Grant is a State subsidized program designed to assist Juvenile Courts in the development of local service options for youthful offenders. The grant is administered on a fiscal year, beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30. In Fiscal Year 2001 (covering the period of July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2001) the grant provided the Juvenile Court with \$155,304.08 with which to plan and provide programs which meet the requirements and standards set by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The allocation from the State is based upon the number of juvenile felony convictions in the County during prior years, and the variable portion of the grant is debited a fixed amount per diem for the care of Holmes County children in Department of Youth Services facilities during the year. Funds not expended during the fiscal year may be carried-over for funding of additional programs in coming years.

The following seven (7) programs were totally or partially funded by the Youth Services Subsidy Grant in 2000:

1. Program Administration

This program provides part of the salary and a proportionate amount of benefits for the Grant Administrator. The Grant Administrator administers and manages the fiscal and programmatic areas of the Youth Services Grant and related subsidy programs. The program also provides funds for the Grant Administrator to travel to and attend training sessions and meetings conducted by the Department of Youth Services.

2. Intensive Probation

The function of the Probation Department has been described elsewhere in this Report. This grant program provides the entire salary and benefits for one Probation Officer. The maintenance portion of the program provides the Probation Officers with cellular phones in order to remain in contact with the Court and the Probation Office. It also provides funds to attend training programs.

3. Educational Services

The Educational Services Program provides funds for the salary of the STAY (Services To At Risk Youth) Office clerk, and additional funds which are paid directly to Tri-County Educational Service Center for a portion of the expenses related to Project STAY. Project STAY provides services to youth who cannot be placed in a regular school setting. Adjudicated delinquent or unruly youth and at-risk youth are placed in the STAY Program when they fit the criteria of STAY pupils. This would include severe behavioral problems and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) students. The social workers and teachers make referrals for assessments to determine what needs will be met for each youth in the project. The Alternative Learning Center is an integral part of the Project STAY Program. Behavioral and family issues are addressed in an effort to help the student attain a positive self-image and problem solve in a mature manner. Academic classes are also provided with strong emphasis placed on proficiency in the core subject areas.

4. Out of Home Placement

Out of home placements have been described elsewhere in this Report. This Grant Program provides funds for placement of juveniles outside the home when every effort has been exhausted to keep the child in the home.

5. Clinical Assessments

This program provides funds for psychiatric, psychological, or drug and alcohol assessments for delinquent and/or unruly youth to assist the court in developing individual treatment plans.

6. Mentors

Under the direction of the Court and Mentor Coordinator Bradley S. Conn, the Court developed a mentoring program called "One to One." Volunteer mentors were recruited, screened and trained by Juvenile Court Staff with assistance from other local agencies. The mentor's role is multi-faceted and includes a commitment to spend time with the child at least four hours a month for a minimum of one year. A recreational and friendship focus allows the mentor to enter the realm of the child's life (school, home, church and peers) to provide advocacy, assessment, linkage, values and citizenship role modeling. In FY2001 this grant program provided funds for the Mentor Coordinator's salary and benefits and funds for training materials and program-related supplies. Due to Big Brothers Big Sisters re-involvement in the Holmes County community, the Court is phasing out this program in order to support the services offered by BBBS. The Court has worked with BBBS in making this transition and to ensure continued services to those juveniles who had been involved in the "One to One" Program.

7. Diversion

The Court's Diversion Program has been described previously in this report. Since the Diversion Program is operated through the Court's Probation Department, the total salary and benefits for one Probation Officer were paid through the Department of Youth Services Grant in 2000.

8. Monitoring/Surveillance

Electronic home supervision is an available option when a juvenile fails to respond to the guidance and supervision of the custodian. Juveniles are electronically restricted to the home unless services and education appointments are arranged. It offers constant monitoring of the juvenile's whereabouts and associations. This grant program provides funds for juveniles who are unable to pay for electronic home supervision in situations where it is the Court's order that they be placed on electronic home supervision.