

2016
Annual Report



William R. Zimmerman, Judge
Shelby County Juvenile Court
Sidney, Ohio

2016 Shelby County Juvenile Court Report by Judge William R. Zimmerman

In 2016 the Shelby County Juvenile Court was a very busy court, handling over 1,300 cases involving our youth in Shelby County.



Juvenile Court handles a variety of child related cases, including delinquencies, traffic violations, unruly children, paternity cases, truancy charges and Children Services matters (abuse and neglect cases). Juvenile Court also handles custody cases involving children of unwed parents. Magistrate Jeff Beigel continues to handle the bulk of these custody cases as well as the grandparent visitation and child support enforcement matters.

McKenzie Lotz remains the chief probation officer for the Juvenile Court along with probation officer, Aja Dugan; intake officer, Lorie Hurey; and new probation officer, Kory Yohey. My team remains active in youth programs, which include partnerships with the Family Resource Center (counseling), the Shelby County Animal Shelter (community service work), the Alpha Center (victory garden), the Salvation Army (Bridging the Gap) and the Shelby County Sheriff's Department (home checks).

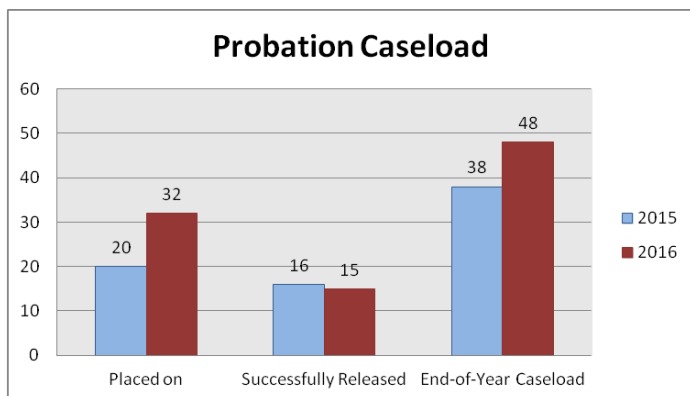
With funding from the Shelby County United Way, the Juvenile Court will start a sixth year with its IMPACT (Imagine Making Positive Accountable Changes Together) program. This prevention program excels in assisting at risk youth and reduces their future involvement in the juvenile justice system. Amy Simindinger, the Juvenile Court liaison officer, remains the director of this excellent program.

Our 2016 successes include:

- Juvenile Court records went on-line;
- The IMPACT Program implemented a social skills class in three Shelby County elementary schools called "Good Neighbor" designed to enhance social skills of children;
- Implemented CARTEENS Program for traffic offenders to give greater driver safety awareness for new drivers;
- Expanded our tutoring program for at-risk kids to include youth in detention or jail and to youth placed at Clear Creek Farms..

I will be leaving office as Juvenile Judge on February 8, 2017, to start my new job as Judge on the Third District Court of Appeals. It has been a pleasure to serve as Judge and to work with such a talented and hardworking team!

Probation Services



This year the probation department served 14 youth in the Resource Room. Students who are assigned to work in the Resource Room complete school work while serving an out-of-school suspension or they meet with a tutor to recover needed credits. The tutoring program was expanded in 2016, and we were able to match tutors with youth who were serving time in the Shelby County Jail and to youth who were in residing at Clear Creek Farms. By expanding the program it allowed us to double the number of youth served and increase the number of

completed hours. Nine youth received tutoring services and completed a total of 124 hours.

Our continued partnership with the Shelby County Sheriff's Department enabled the Probation Department to conduct 552 home checks or approximately 10 visits per shift worked.

In collaboration with Sidney/Shelby County Opportunity School Program, the court applied for and received a special projects grant through the United Way in December, 2016. The Opportunity School and the court were finding that youth were not able to gain employment, obtain state identification cards, or driver's licenses due to the inability to obtain the documents required such as birth certificates or social security cards. These grant funds will be utilized to aid youth in paying the fees required to obtain these documents so that they are able to find gainful employment and become productive citizens in our community. Additionally, we found that many youth were unable to receive a diploma due to owing past due school fees or required graduation fees. These grant funds will be used to aid these students.



In 2016, for the first time, a probationer participated in 4-H. He was a member of the Scissors to Sheep 4-H Club and completed a food/nutrition project. The Juvenile Court assisted him in purchasing the items needed to complete his project, which earned him an "A" rating at the Shelby County Fair.

The annual probation outing was held at Rolling Hills Skate. Probationers were treated to lunch and spent the afternoon skating and interacting with probation staff and Judge Zimmerman.



Rehabilitative Programs – Incarceration - Placements

Rehabilitative Programs

Juvenile Justice Work Program – Youth perform community service at various work sites throughout the county. The program teaches youth responsibility for negative actions and a basic work ethic. 182 days completed in 2016

Community Service – Youth perform community service for charitable organizations, school and churches. 404 hours completed in 2016

West Central Juvenile Day Treatment – This program provides alternative schooling, GED preparation and living skills to adjudicated youth. 1 youth placed in 2016

Bridging the Gap – This program is facilitated by The Salvation Army. The youth participate in various life skill lessons that enable them to better handle issues that young people face today. 13 youth completed in 2016

STAR (Start Today Accepting Responsibility) – This program, which is run by the West Central Juvenile Detention Center, shows youth what it is like to be placed in a secure facility for a few hours. 26 youth completed in 2016

Parent Project – This nationwide effective program presented twice a year by the Shelby County Educational Service Center educates parents while reducing juvenile crime and improving school attendance and academic performance. While parents are in one class room, teens between the ages of 11 and 17 are in a separate class, which helps teens explore positive alternatives to destructive behavior. 12 youth and 16 parents completed in 2016

Mental Health Counseling/Alcohol & Drug Services – The services of the Shelby County Counseling Center, Catholic Social Services, Victim Services, The Family Resource Center and other counselors are utilized to address youth with mental health, behavioral and/or alcohol and drug problems. 40 youth completed alcohol & drug counseling and 33 youth completed mental health counseling in 2016

Diversion – Youth in this program admit to the offense without a formal hearing, and the youth must comply with the contract established with the diversion officer and parent(s). If the youth completes the program successfully, he/she will not have a juvenile record. 10 youth completed in 2016

Court/School Liaison – The Liaison monitors a caseload of students assigned by the Juvenile Court Judge. These youth have come into court on various charges but through a records review, it is also determined they have difficulties in the areas of school attendance, academic achievement, school behavior, or in many cases, a combination of all three. In 2016, the Liaison directly served 45 youth from the Fairlawn, Jackson Center, Sidney City, Botkins, Anna and Houston School Districts, as well as youth in alternative placements in Opportunity School, the Mac-a-Cheek Learning Center and on-line programming.

IMPACT Program – Families currently participating in the program are receiving individual and family counseling, case management, drug and alcohol counseling, anger management, psychiatric services and in some cases, in-home coaching is provided to the family. In 2016, 83 youth were referred to the program, and 58 of those agreed to participate in the program.

IMPACT Program/Social Skills Class – There was a continued need for support of our youngest students in Shelby County. Elementary classroom teachers and guidance counselors continue to identify students who would benefit from in school instruction and support in developing social skills, problem solving, and cooperation and classroom behavioral skills. Elementary buildings hosting the program select 8-9 students per quarter. These students participate in a small group weekly class to develop skills needed to be socially successful in the classroom, school environment and community. In 2016, IMPACT program provided support to 4 Shelby County elementary schools with the Good Neighbor program, serving a total of 50 students through this program.

Placements

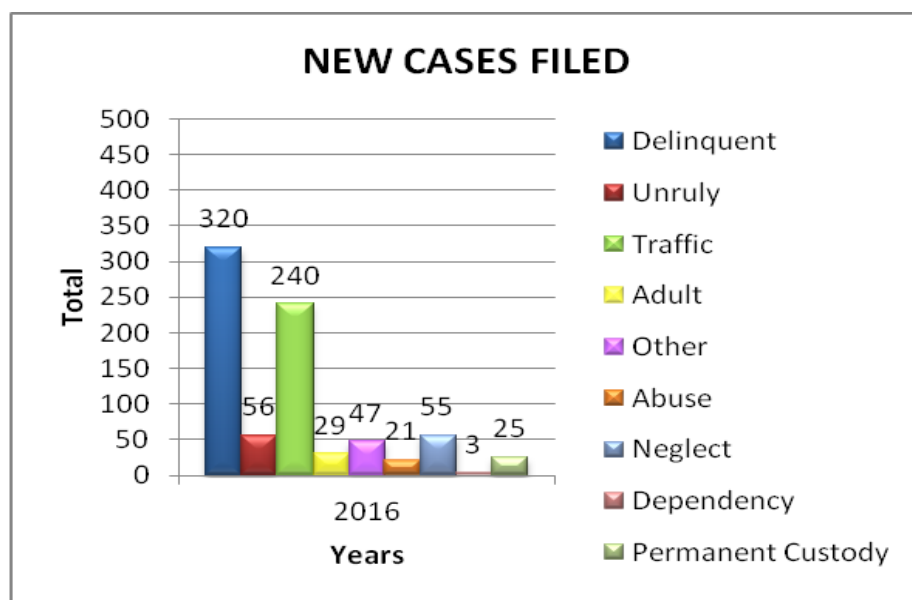
Clear Creek Farm – Children placed with this agency live in family-styled units, residence for 8 to 10 kids cared for by house parents 24 hours a day. Children are expected to participate in the family unit by doing chores and sharing responsibilities, helping with meals, doing their own laundry, and grocery shopping. They enjoy spiritual as well as recreational activities together as a family and learn to support one another. 1 youth was placed into Clear Creek in 2016

Incarceration

DYS – The Department of Youth Services is the juvenile corrections system for the State of Ohio operating three juvenile facilities with five regional parole offices. 2 youth were placed in 2016

Rehabilitation – There are twelve Community Corrections Facilities (CCFs) established throughout the State of Ohio to provide a dispositional alternative to Juvenile Judges when committing youth adjudicated of a felony offense to the Department of Youth Services. Youth receive cognitive behavioral therapy with the focus on thinking errors. 3 youth were placed in 2016

Detention – The Shelby County Commissioners have contracted with the West Central Juvenile Detention Center for 6 beds per day. The facility is a locked facility serving male and female youth between the ages of 12 and 18. 84 youth were placed and 2,350 bed days were used in 2016



Juvenile Traffic Cases

The Court's traffic violations bureau allows juveniles to admit to certain violations and pay their Court costs and fines without having to appear in Court. In 2016, of the 240 traffic violations filed with the Court, the bureau processed 11 cases.

The Court partnered with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the OSU Extension Office in the implementation of the CARTEENS Program. CARTEENS is a traffic safety program for juvenile traffic offenders. The goals of the program are to reduce the number of repeat juvenile traffic offenders, decrease the number of teen traffic offenders, and increase teen awareness of traffic/vehicular safety. The program topics include excessive speed, driving under the influence, seat belt safety use, consequences of unsafe decisions, dealing with peer pressure, understanding traffic laws, and recognizing and reacting to traffic signs and signals. In 2016, 143 juvenile traffic offenders attended the program with 10 of those youth reappearing in court for a second violation.

Domestic Relations Division

The jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court, Domestic Relations Division, is limited to resolving disputes concerning children of unmarried parents, deceased parents, or children that are not "a ward of another Court." The Court issues decisions regarding paternity, custody, child support, and visitation. The Domestic Relations Division also enforces orders previously issued through the contempt of Court process. Juvenile Court Magistrate Jeffrey J. Beigel handles the majority of the cases filed.



Jeffrey J. Beigel
Magistrate

Custody and visitation issues are resolved by applying the legal standard of "best interests of the child." Child support issues are resolved by applying the Ohio Child Support Guideline Calculation Statute. Modification of custody, child support, and visitation are routinely heard by the Court with the objective of protecting the best interests of the minor children. In 2016, of the 292 total cases filed in the Domestic Relations Division, 204 cases were reactivated and 88 were new cases. These cases consisted of 140 custody and/or visitation; 2 UIFSA; 11 paternity; and 139 involving support enforcement or modification.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

| Funding Source | Amount Received | Amount Used | Purpose |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Shelby County General Fund | 679,934 | 655,248 | Court operations, detention, placements |
| Computer Fees | 6,854 | 5,207 | Computer hardware, maintenance & supplies |
| Special Project Funds | 24,279 | 17,457 | Travel expenses, computer maintenance agreement, wireless cards, security camera, window blinds, fairground donation |
| Probation Services Fee | 310 | 199 | Probation department travel expenses, probationer activities |
| Shelby County United Way | 55,000 | 46,389 | Impact Program |
| State of Ohio Funds | | | |
| 510 Grant & Reclaim Funds | 203,542 | 203,733* | Probation services, residential treatment, GPS monitoring, tutoring, juvenile work program |
| Juvenile Accountability Block Grant | 6,005 | 6,005 | Group & individual therapy for female offenders |
| Federal Funds | | | |
| IV-D Funds | 52,619 | 52,619 | Costs related to Magistrate & Clerks' Office for hearing & processing child support cases |

***When receipts are less than expenditures, accumulated/carry-over funds from previous years are used.**

Revenue collected by Juvenile Court and paid into the General Fund - \$60,026

This report was produced by the Shelby County Juvenile Court a cost of \$2.10 per copy.