

Court of Common Pleas of Beaver County
JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BEAVER COUNTY

(As of December 31, 2009)

Honorable John D. McBride	President Judge
Honorable C. Gus Kwidis	Judge
Honorable Richard Mancini	Judge
Honorable John P. Dohanich	Judge
Honorable Deborah A. Kunselman	Judge
Honorable Kim Tesla	Judge
Honorable Harry E. Knafelc	Judge
A.R. DeFilippi	District Court Administrator
Aileen Bowers	Deputy District Court Administrator
William Hare	Deputy District Court Administrator
John L. Walker, Jr.	Juvenile Master
J.Philip Colavincenzo	Juvenile Master / Solicitor

JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Robert R. Rose	Director
Gary D. Rosatelli	Assistant Director
Colleen Tittiger	Supervisor

INTAKE / CHILD CUSTODY

Marian Bunney – Intake Coordinator	
Joy Porto	Paul Morrison
Billie Cianfarano	Michael Miller

PROBATION OFFICERS

Daniel DelTurco	Sean Bunney
Marshall Clark	Deborah Landsbaugh
Andrea Kimbrough	Brandi Sabol
Meena Hill	Curtis Shroads
John T. Engel	John Sims
Kris Leonard-McCafferty	Charles Rossi
Vacancy	

CLERICAL SERVICES

Erin Sabol – Office Manager
Lori Petrovich
Tammy Bonchi
Lorie Fitzgerald

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Juvenile Services Division is an agency of the Court of Common Pleas of Beaver County. It operates pursuant to 42 PA. C.S. 6301 et. seq. (The Juvenile Act) and the Pennsylvania Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure. The primary focus of the agency is delinquency cases. However, it also serves as the point of entry for dependency cases and is responsible for child custody conciliation services as well.

All programs and services provided by the agency to delinquent youth are predicated on the balanced and restorative justice model as set forth in 42 PA C.S. 6301 (b) (2). Under this model agency services provide balanced attention to community protection, imposition of accountability and the development of competencies to enable youth to become productive and responsible members of the community.

INTAKE - Juvenile Services Intake is the entry point for the juvenile justice system in Beaver County. Intake is responsible for receiving and screening allegations of delinquency; deciding whether a youth charged with an offense is to be detained; conducting intake interviews; determining whether cases will be processed formally or informally and making recommendations for disposition to the court. Intake is staffed by some of our most experienced officers who also do child custody conciliation.

PROBATION SUPERVISION – The agency is responsible for the supervision of juvenile offenders who have been placed on probation by the court. Clients are seen between one and four times a month based on their risk to reoffend. Probation officers formulate and carry out a case plan for each offender that addresses balanced and restorative justice goals.

SCHOOL-BASED PROBATION – These officers are assigned to the three largest school districts in the county: Aliquippa, Ambridge Area and Big Beaver Falls. Their offices are located in the high school in the assigned district. School-based probation is partially funded by a Specialized Probation Services Grant from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. While working to achieve balanced and restorative justice goals, school-based officers work closely with and in support of school officials to encourage academic achievement and good attendance while reducing the incidence of disciplinary problems with assigned offenders.

INTENSIVE PROBATION – The most problematic juvenile offenders are assigned to the intensive probation officer who works closely with a small caseload. The intensive probation position is partially funded by a Specialized Probation Services Grant from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. The objective of intensive probation is to stabilize and maintain high risk youth in the community.

AFTERCARE – Aftercare is also partially funded by a Specialized Probation Services Grant from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Aftercare officers work with

juveniles who have been placed by the court. They begin work with these offenders and their families prior to placement, assist in treatment planning and formulate and carry out release plans designed to help the client succeed after placement.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING – In lieu of detention or shelter, some offenders are required to wear electronic monitoring devices. In 2009, 45 juveniles were placed on electronic monitoring for a total of 2,793 days or an average of 62 days each.

COMMUNITY SERVICE – The community service program has been in operation since 1985 and over the years, offenders have contributed well in excess of 100,000 hours of service to their communities. In 2009, 5,396 hours of community service were ordered in 305 cases. Juvenile offenders completed 5,388 hours.

REDEEM FUND – In 2007, the Redeem Fund was established by the court pursuant to the Juvenile Act. Money collected from fines referred for non payment by magisterial district judges and a fee charged to all offenders placed under court supervision are the sources of funds for Redeem. Indigent youth owing restitution and other costs are able to pay them via additional community service and their victims are paid from the fund at the rate of \$10.00 for each hour worked.

ADELPHOI AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM – This multi purpose program provides valuable services to the juvenile justice system in Beaver County by providing evening structure to clients in need of close supervision while providing community service opportunities, job skills, anger management and other competencies. In 2009, the program served 75 youth.

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

While the agency would not consider the closing of the Allencrest Detention Center and the Beaver County Emergency Shelter on July 31, 2009 a “highlight”, it was without a doubt the most significant event for the Juvenile Services Division in 2009. Allencrest had long served as a key component of the local juvenile justice system and its closing has necessitated numerous changes in court and agency operations. The most significant change is the housing of juvenile detainees at the Jefferson County Detention Center in Steubenville, Ohio. Various facilities are being utilized for shelter. The change required close cooperation between the court, police, Sheriff and the Juvenile Services Division. The new arrangement has gone better than initially anticipated.

In 2009, the agency became a pilot county for the implementation of the YLS/CMI risk and needs assessment. The instrument is administered at intake and at significant points during the life of a case to assist the agency in making decisions consistent with a juvenile’s risk to reoffend. A revised case plan format has been developed that focuses on risk as well as the needs identified by the instrument.

During the past year the court authorized the use of graduated sanctions for youth who are serious and persistent probation violators. These include an evening report program

through Adelphoi Village, a weekend sanction program and 30-day short term high impact residential program through Keystone in Greenville, PA. These sanctions are designed primarily as tools to prevent the need for long term juvenile placements in situations where juveniles violate probation but do not commit new offenses.

The agency continued its highly successful effort to keep placements and placement costs to a minimum while meeting the juvenile justice goals of public safety, accountability and competency development, and while providing for the safety, permanency and well being of youth coming before the Court. The Court made 58 delinquency placements in 2009 and 17 dependency placements at a cost \$2,149,999, the lowest total cost in many years.

The rules of Juvenile Court Procedure prohibit use of masters to hear felony cases. In many juvenile cases, police over-charge youth with felonies that are subsequently reduced to misdemeanors through plea agreements. In order to identify as many of those cases as possible and divert them from the Court's schedule, the use of pre-adjudication conferences was implemented. The purpose of the conference is to determine whether a plea to a lesser offense is possible and appropriate. If it is, the reduced charges are heard by the master and diverted from the judge's docket. In 2009, 147 felony cases were scheduled for conferences. In 72 cases, the charges were reduced and scheduled for the master, 20 cases were continued and the remaining 55 were scheduled for the judge.

In 2009, dependency referrals declined sharply while child custody cases and delinquency referrals increased slightly. Delinquency dispositions kept up with referrals and at year end there was no significant backlog in any area of agency operation. Detention admissions declined by 22% during 2009 and shelter admissions dropped sharply from 85 in 2008 to 40 last year. The reduction in shelter admissions parallels the drop in dependency referrals.

REFERRALS AND DISPOSITIONS

Referrals by type: 2005-2009

YEAR	DELINQUENCY	DEPENDENCY	CUSTODY	TOTAL
2009	696	109	628	1433
2008	681	147	610	1438
2007	800	163	581	1544
2006	755	214	564	1533
2005	980	241	547	1768

Delinquency referral demographics 2009

Sex	
Male	76%
Female	24%
Race	
White	61%
Black	36%
Other	3%
Age at referral	
Unknown	0%
10-12	4%
13-14	11%
15-16	35%
17 and over	50%

Episode	
First time referral	41%
Prior referral(s)	59%
Referral source	
Law Enforcement	50%
Juvenile Svcs	19%
MDJ's	28%
Other	4%

Law enforcement agencies with most referrals - 2009

Beaver Falls PD	44	New Brighton PD	20
Ambridge PD	34	Rochester PD	20
Aliquippa PD	29	PA State Police	16
Hopewell Twp. PD	25	Center Twp. PD	16
Beaver PD	21	Economy PD	16

Most serious charge on allegation

Unpaid fines and costs	197	Burglary	19
Simple assault	58	Criminal mischief	18
Theft	57	Firearms and other weapons	15
Drug offenses	55	Criminal trespass	13
Aggravated assault	24	Sex offenses	10

Delinquency dispositions 2007-2009

Year	Intake Adjustment	Consent Decree	Formal Processing	Total
2009	194	149	353	696
2008	219	170	388	777
2007	231	168	371	770

Formal (Court) dispositions 2009:

Transferred to criminal court	0
Dismissed	132
Probation	114
Commitment	103
Transfer to other county	4

Dependency referral demographics – 2009

Race	
<i>White</i>	51%
<i>Black</i>	38%
<i>Multi racial</i>	11%
Age at referral	
<i>Under 10</i>	42%
<i>10-12</i>	6%
<i>13-14</i>	13%
<i>15-16</i>	28%
<i>17 and over</i>	11%

Sex	
<i>Male</i>	39%
<i>Female</i>	61%
Referred by	
<i>CYS</i>	89%
<i>Other</i>	11%

Dependency dispositions 2007-2009

YEAR	INTAKE	FORMAL	TOTAL
2009	9	90	99
2008	24	132	156
2007	27	146	173

DETENTION

Secure detention 2005-2009

YEAR	ADMISSIONS	RELEASES	CHILD DAYS	AVERAGE STAY	AVG. POPULATION
2009	162	163	3454	21.2	9.5
2008	198	198	3628	18.3	9.9
2007	207	213	5098	23.9	13.9
2006	255	250	4981	19.9	13.7
2005	203	196	4072	20.8	11.2

Shelter 2005-2009

YEAR	ADMISSIONS	RELEASES	CHILD DAYS	AVERAGE STAY	AVG. POPULATION
2009	40	45	800	17.8	2.2
2008	85	83	1097	13.2	3.0
2007	79	77	1122	14.6	3.1
2006	92	93	1459	21	3.2
2005	88	88	1183	13.4	3.2

Temporary foster care 2005-2009

YEAR	ADMISSIONS	RELEASES	CHILD DAYS	AVERAGE STAY	AVG. POPULATION
2009	60	49	1396	28.5	3.8
2008	74	73	1898	26	5.2
2007	78	82	2174	26.5	5.9
2006	120	135	3667	27.2	10.1
2005	128	121	3217	26.6	8.8

CLIENT SUPERVISION

Cases Under Court Supervision as of 12/31/09

Function	Total Cases	Avg. Caseload	# of staff assigned
Formal and consent decree	180	45	4
Intensive probation	7	7	1
Aftercare	54	18	3
School-based probation	63	21	3
Informal adjustment cases	95	95	1
Total cases under supervision	399	33	12

CASE OUTCOMES

The following outcomes are based on data from 204 delinquency cases closed in 2009.

Community Protection

- 77.0% completed supervision without a new offense resulting in a consent decree, adjudication of delinquency, ARD, nolo contendere or finding of guilt in a criminal proceeding.
- 0% was direct filed and entered ARD, a nolo contendere plea or was found guilty in a criminal proceeding.
- 1.5% were, while under supervision, charged with a new offense and whose cases are pending in criminal court.
- 79.4% completed supervision with no judicial finding of technical violations of probation.
- Median length of supervision was 9.0 months.

Accountability / Community Service

- 91.7% were assigned community service as a condition of supervision.
- Of those, 96.3% completed their assigned community service obligation.
- Juveniles whose cases were closed completed 6,556 hours of community service while under supervision.

Accountability / Restitution

- 38.2% of closed cases had a restitution obligation.
- Of those, 89.7% made full restitution to their victims.
- Juveniles whose cases were closed paid a total of \$44,784.75 in restitution.

Accountability / Victim Awareness

- 36.3% of juveniles were directed to participate in a victim awareness curriculum while under supervision.
- 91.9% of those youth successfully completed that requirement.

Accountability / Other Financial Obligations

- 88.2% of youth whose cases were closed were ordered to pay Crime Victim's Compensation Fund costs.
- 95.6% of those youth paid the costs as ordered.

Competency Development

- 82.4% of juveniles whose cases were closed were directed to participate in a competency development activity while under supervision.
- 95.8% of those youth successfully completed the activity as ordered.
- 91.2% of juveniles whose cases closed were engaged in an educational or vocational activity at closing.

Placement Summary

- 14.7% of juveniles whose cases were closed had been committed to out - of - home placement for 28 or more consecutive days (excluding detention, shelter or diagnostic placement).
- Median length of stay in placement for those youth was 8.8 months.

PLACEMENTS

Placement Report / 2009

	Delinquent	Dependent	Total
<i>Placed as of 1/1/09</i>	32	24	56
<i>Placed during 2009</i>	58	17	75
<i>Released in 2009</i>	61	22	83
<i>Placed as of 12/31/09</i>	29	19	48

Most frequently utilized placements

Adelphoi Village *	28	YDC New Castle	3
Keystone	8	Mars Home for Youth	3
Summit Academy	4	Northwestern Human Services	3

*Includes placements at all residential Adelphoi programs including Adelphoi Diagnostic

Placements and costs 2003-2009

YEAR	DEL PLCMTS	DEP PLCMTS	TTL PLCMTS	COST
2009	58	17	75	2,149,999
2008	62	31	93	2,426,238
2007	63	23	86	2,516,297
2006	53	50	103	2,493,728
2005	47	26	73	2,523,669
2004	57	23	80	2,776,341
2003	76	34	110	4,100,965

COLLECTIONS

Collection Summary/2009

Restitution	\$44,151.86
ATJ	170.82
Crime Victims' Comp.	5,447.75
Judicial Computer Project	717.13
Juvenile Restitution Fund	6,396.88
Juvenile Supervision Fees	13,065.44
Total	\$69,949.88

Redeem Fund / 2009

Beginning balance	\$11,253.32
Deposits	6,207.48
Paid out	7,777.19
Ending balance	\$ 9,683.61
Clients participating	32
Clients completing	24

CHILD CUSTODY CASES

Child custody referrals and dispositions / 2007-2009

YEAR	REFERRALS	DISPOSITIONS
2009	628	621
2008	610	594
2007	581	1,166

Child custody dispositions / 2006-2008

	2009	2008	2007
AGREEMENT	150	200	183
PROPOSED ORDER	263	224	213
TEMP. ORDER / FINAL	0	0	2
FINAL ORDER (COURT)	187	95	82
OTHER	20	75	686
EXCEPTIONS FILED	79	67	61
RESOLVED AT JSD	85%	88%	87%*

* The 686 cases listed as other in 2007 represented backlogged cases closed administratively by the court many of which were very old. These cases were not counted in the computation of the percent

