

UNION COUNTY, OHIO

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISION

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



HON. CHARLOTTE COLEMAN EUFINGER, JUDGE

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Pursuant to R.C. 2151.18 and R.C. 2152.71(D), this annual report shall be filed with the Union County, Ohio Board of County Commissioners and the Supreme Court of Ohio. A digital copy will be posted on this Court's website. No additional printed copies will be generated or distributed by the Court.

FROM THE DESK OF THE JUDGE

Reflection

It has been my honor to serve as Judge of the Probate and Juvenile Court for seventeen years and I am proud of our progress through the years. As you know, the business of the Probate and Juvenile Court is the business of families. Sometimes we see the worst parts of life and the most difficult challenges that the families in our community face. We witness drug addiction, mental illness, child abuse, and death. But we also witness recovery, reunification, protection, and hope. It has been my aim to lead the Court toward the best possible outcomes for the families within our jurisdiction.

Accomplishments

I am so proud of the establishment of the **Specialized Dockets** in the Juvenile Division. Our Court offers Family Dependency Treatment Court to families that qualify, and we are dedicated to assisting these families in overcoming barriers to their recovery and encouraging positive relationships with their loved ones. The Juvenile Treatment Court guides Juveniles that qualify toward making the necessary changes in their choices, habits, and coping strategies that will enable them to move forward from their mistakes and live their best lives.

Our Juvenile Division has seen great success in the **Diversion** program which was reinstated in 2018. This program allows low-level, first-time offenders, the opportunity to learn positive decision-making strategies with minimal Court and law enforcement contact- a true second chance for those who work for it.

Our **Court Appointed Special Advocate** (CASA) program is a joint venture with Delaware County to provide advocates for minors in some of our most challenging cases. Too many times the children are unable to advocate for their needs. The CASA volunteers seek out and advocate for the best interests of those children.

Mediation has become an integral asset to both Custody and Truancy cases where the two sides are reluctant to work together. Utilizing mediation can help families navigate their disagreements or remove certain barriers to cooperation outside of the courtroom. The result may be less time in front of the Court and smoother resolutions.

Gratitude

I would like to express my gratitude to several groups and individuals that have supported the Court with their leadership and service to the community. First of all, the Union County Volunteer Guardians, Inc., dba **Union County Guardianship Services** (UCGS), is a not-for-profit corporation that serves adults in the community that need guardians, but do not have family or friends able to provide this for them. The UCGS is made up of staff guardians that serve the needs of this marginalized group of individuals by serving as Guardian of the Person and helping their Ward to make medical, financial, and many other life decisions.

The UCGS also hosts several training and educational opportunities available to all guardians within the county. These courses cover topics that are unique to our county and complement the trainings offered by the Supreme Court of Ohio. By hosting these live courses locally, the trainings are more accessible to guardians and offer live interactions and question/answer opportunities. Further, the UCGS is a great resource for new guardians to learn more about the supports and resources in the County.

Together, the UCGS board, its Executive Director, Linda Fisher, and I have been researching and advocating for a change of law that will facilitate the UCGS to serve the

community more effectively and without interruption when a change of guardian is needed. Throughout 2019, we have spent numerous hours on this project, and we will continue to work toward our goal until it is achieved. The contributions of Ms. Fisher and the Union County Guardianship Services program are invaluable.

Secondly, I would like to thank **Families Matter** for their continued support of the Specialized Dockets of the Juvenile Court: Family Dependency Treatment Court and Juvenile Treatment Court. Families Matter has funded the purchase of curriculums for participants; training courses for court staff and systems partners; and pro-social activities, books, and incentive gifts for participants. President Nan Streng, former President Avanelle Oberlin, and the Families Matter Board are dedicated to the recovery of individuals in our community who suffer from addiction and to supporting the families involved in the Specialized Dockets. We appreciate their contributions to this cause.

While I consider the addition of the CASA program as described above an accomplishment we have achieved, I want to thank **Judge David A. Hejmanowski** of the Delaware County Probate and Juvenile Court and **Tammy Matias**, Director of the Delaware and Union Counties CASA program, for sharing their well-established and outstanding program with our county.

The Union County Probate and Juvenile Court have always had a good relationship with our **fellow county offices and agencies**. It has been good to be able to call on my fellow office holders and agency directors when issues arise.

Dr. Robert Ahern, Ph.D., LISW-S, was instrumental in the development and growth of the Specialized Dockets in his role as Treatment Court Coordinator and Chief of Staff. His guidance of the participants in both of our treatment courts was thoughtful, insightful, and wise. Although he left his employment with the Court in the fall of 2019, we are grateful for his time with us.

Lastly, I would like to thank **Jenna Griffith, Court Administrator; Chief Magistrate Sharon Robinson-Walls; Magistrate Louis P. Endres, III; Magistrate (and Staff Attorney) Victoria Stone-Moledor; and my entire court staff team** for their daily commitment to the service of our clients. They have all shown great wisdom and kindness to the individuals we serve, and they have supported and respected each other while conducting the business of the Court.

Final Thought

Thank you, Union County, for supporting me and the Union County Probate and Juvenile Court in the efforts we have made over many years to provide justice, assistance, and support to the families who come into the jurisdiction of this Court. I am pleased to present the Court's Annual Report for 2019.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Coleman Eufinger, Judge
Union County Probate & Juvenile Court

HON. CHARLOTTE COLEMAN EUFINGER, JUDGE

On February 9, 2003, the Honorable Charlotte Coleman Eufinger became Judge of the Union County Probate and Juvenile Court. Judge Eufinger is the seventeenth Judge of the Union County Probate Court and the tenth to serve as Judge of both the Probate and Juvenile Courts. She is currently serving her third term.



Judge Eufinger is actively involved in a variety of professional boards, agencies, and activities. She is a member of the Ohio Supreme Court Commission on Specialized Dockets, and previously served on the Ohio Supreme Court Commission on the Rules of Superintendence, the Ohio Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Children, Families and the Courts, and the Subcommittees of Legal Representation, Family Law Reform Implementation and Adult Guardianships.

Judge Eufinger is a member of the Ohio Judicial Conference, and serves on the Probate Law and Procedure Committee, the Juvenile Law and Procedure Committee, and the Specialized Dockets Committee. She has previously served on the Board of Directors of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges and as a member and chair of the Ohio University Board of Trustees and of the Ohio University Foundation Board of Trustees.

Prior to taking office, Judge Eufinger was a partner in the Marysville, Ohio law firm of Coleman, Eufinger & Aslaner, and she practiced law with her father, William L. Coleman (1914-1981), her husband John M. Eufinger, her brother, Stephen G. Coleman, and Tim M. Aslaner.

Judge Eufinger is a life-long resident of Union County and graduated from Marysville High School. She graduated with an A.B. in history from Miami University in 1969, where she also obtained a teaching certificate in history for grades 7-12. Judge Eufinger attended The Ohio State University College of Law, where she received her J.D. in 1972. Judge Eufinger has been married for 48 years to John M. Eufinger, and has a daughter, Mary; a son, Tony, daughter-in-law, Megan, and a granddaughter, Kate.

PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISION STAFF

HON. CHARLOTTE COLEMAN EUFINGER, JUDGE

MAGISTRATES

Sharon Robinson-Walls
Chief Magistrate

Louis P. Endres, III
Magistrate

Victoria L. Stone-Moledor
Staff Attorney/Magistrate

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jennifer N. Griffith
*Court Administrator &
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer*

Nicole Gardner
Chief Financial Officer

Julie Harvey
Administrative Assistant to the Judge

Robert Ahern, Ph.D., LISW-S
Treatment Court Coordinator

Lauren Levingston, LSW
Treatment Court Coordinator

DEPUTY CLERKS OF COURT

Leigh Ann Moots
Chief Deputy Juvenile Clerk

Jackie Dillahunt
Meghan Howard
Sarah Johnson
Pamela O'Brien
Aaron Orr

Lorli Patterson
Jerika Risner
Christine Schalip
Pam Vance
Abby Wight

Jennifer La Fayette
Chief Deputy Probate Clerk

JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Joshua Levingston
*Senior Juvenile
Probation Officer*

Darby Hoseus
Lindsey Keller
David Larson

Kyle Poling
Abby Post

JUVENILE DIVISION MEDIATOR*

Nicole R. McDonald, Esq.

PROBATE COURT INVESTIGATOR*

Jon Kleiber
Kim Zacharias

PROBATE COURT ADOPTION ASSESSOR*

Marilyn Davis

JUVENILE DIVISION LEGAL ASSISTANT

Taylor Cutteridge

**Services provided pursuant to contract.*

HISTORY OF OHIO PROBATE & JUVENILE COURTS

Courtesy of **Stephen Badenhop**, *Union County Record Center & Archives Coordinator* & **The Ohio Historical Society**

PROBATE COURT

Probate courts existed in the Northwest Territory prior to Ohio's statehood, with authority in probate, testamentary and guardianship cases. In 1802, Ohio's first constitution abolished separate probate courts and transferred their authority to the common pleas courts. Separate probate courts reappeared in 1851, when Ohio drafted a new constitution, giving probate court jurisdiction to grant marriage licenses and control land sales by appointed executors, administrators, and guardians. As a result of a 1912 constitutional amendment, voters could decide by referendum to combine the probate court with the court of common pleas, which voters decided not to do in Union County.

The probate court has original jurisdiction in the settlement of estates. The court held limited jurisdiction in minor criminal offenses from 1851 to 1932. The probate judge maintained a permanent record of births and deaths from 1867 to 1908. Since the 1850s, the court has had jurisdiction over the appointment of guardians for minors and the mentally ill; the judge can also commit the mentally ill to institutional care. The probate court exercised jurisdiction in naturalization proceedings from 1860 until 1906, when the federal government assumed this power.

JUVENILE COURT

The origins of the juvenile court system trace back to the reform spirit of the Progressive Era. Prior to the establishment of the juvenile court system, juvenile offenders were tried with adults and imprisoned with them. On April 25, 1904, the Ohio General Assembly passed an act to "regulate the treatment and control of dependent, neglected and delinquent children" through the establishment of a juvenile court. The law focused on the reformation and rehabilitation of minors, rather than punishment. The law applied only to children under the age of sixteen. The law provided for juvenile probation officers and prohibited sending children under the age of twelve to jail, while allowing those children twelve to sixteen years of age to be sentenced to jail, industrial schools, other state institutions or into the homes of responsible individuals, but provided that those sentenced to jail could not be confined with adult prisoners. Jurisdiction was originally given to the court of common pleas or the probate court.

In 1906, the juvenile court act was extensively amended. The revised law extended the court's jurisdiction to punish any person or parent responsible for the delinquency or dependency of any child, while also raising the age of a minor to seventeen years. The law also provided that the probate court judge in all counties, except those otherwise provided for, serve as ex-officio judge of the juvenile court.

By the approval of voters, the juvenile court can be placed under the jurisdiction of an independent juvenile court, or as a division of the common pleas, probate or domestic relations courts. In Union County, the juvenile court has been under the jurisdiction of the probate court judge since the juvenile court's creation in 1906. Originally in Union County the cases were kept with the probate court but beginning in 1910 they were stored and filed separately.

JUDGES OF THE PROBATE & JUVENILE COURT

Union County was created by the Ohio General Assembly in 1820 by uniting portions of Delaware, Franklin, Madison and Logan counties.

The Union County Probate Court was established in 1852. Prior to 1852, probate matters in Union County were heard and decided by a judge of the Union County Common Pleas Court. The Union County Juvenile Court was established in 1906. They were two separate courts until the Juvenile Court was combined with the Probate Court pursuant to an act passed on April 29, 1937, which reorganized and recodified the existing juvenile laws. With the passage of the Modern Courts Amendment to the Ohio Constitution in May 1968, Ohio's Probate Courts became divisions of the Courts of Common Pleas.

JUDGES OF THE PROBATE COURT

HON. THOMAS BROWN (1852-1855 AND 1859-1861)

HON. JAMES TURNER (1855-1859)

HON. JAMES R. SMITH (1861-1870)

HON. JOHN B. COATS (1870-1888)

HON. LEONIDAS PIPER (1888-1894)

HON. JAMES McCAMPBELL (1894-1900)

HON. JOHN M. BRODRICK (1900-1906)

JUDGES OF BOTH THE PROBATE COURT AND THE JUVENILE COURT

HON. DUDLEY E. THORNTON (1906 – 1913)

HON. EDWARD W. PORTER (1913 – 1921)

HON. WILLIAM H. HUSTED (1921 – 1932)

HON. CARRIE HORNBECK (1932 – 1933)*

JUDGES OF THE COMBINED PROBATE & JUVENILE COURT

HON. L. W. HAZEN (1933 – 1941)

HON. JOHN W. DAILEY, SR. (1941 – 1955)

HON. LUTHER L. LIGGETT (1955 – 1960)

HON. ROBERT F. ALLEN (1960 – 1979)

HON. GARY F. MCKINLEY (1979 – 2003)

HON. CHARLOTTE COLEMAN EUFINGER (2003 – PRESENT)

* Ms. Hornbeck, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Probate Court, was appointed by Governor George White to serve the unexpired term of Judge Husted, who unexpectedly passed away.

PROBATE DIVISION

JURISDICTION OF THE PROBATE DIVISION

The Probate Division of the Court of Common Pleas assists the public through the legal necessities of life, including matters from Correction of Birth Records to Marriage Licenses to the filing of Estates. The staff of the Probate Court participate in annual Probate Court Clerks conferences, roundtables, and webinars to learn updates from the Ohio Supreme Court and maintain positive customer service policies.

Packets of forms for many of the matters under the jurisdiction of the Probate Court are available in the clerks' office.

The types of matters addressed in the Probate Court include, but are not limited to, the following:

Adoptions
 Adult Paternity
 Birth Certificate Correction
 Change of Name
 Civil Commitment of the Mentally Ill
 Conservatorships
 Delayed Registration of Birth
 Determination of Death
 Disinterment
 Guardianship
 Land Sales by Executors, Administrators and Guardians

Marriage Licenses
 Settlement of Claims for Minor
 Trusts
 Wills & Estates
 Accounts of Estates
 Deposit of Wills
 Determination of Heirship
 Distribution of Estates
 Release from Administration
 Will Construction & Contest
 Wrongful Death Settlement

Probate Division					
New Matters Filed, Concluded by Court (2014-2018)					
<i>New Matters</i>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Estates	186	158	172	165	168
Adoptions	18	22	33	19	31
Guardianships & Trusteeships	33	20	36	29	24
Civil Actions	9	5	1	1	5
Civil Commitment/ Mental Illness	2	2	2	0	0
Delayed Registrations & Corrections of Birth	2	6	8	7	7
Minor's Settlements	10	5	2	5	4
Wrongful Deaths	3	3	2	1	0
Changes of Name	22	29	25	22	47
Other	1	7	1	2	1
New Matters Filed	290	266	281	244	286
Matters Pending at Close of Year	409	356	367	385	426
Marriage Licenses	293	316	309	319	317

PROBATE DIVISION: GUARDIANSHIPS & ADOPTIONS

In 2015, Ohio law regarding **Guardianships** changed to require background checks and education requirements for guardians, which provide additional protections for the adult wards of the Court. In 2018, the Union County Probate Court continued to track and ensure the compliance of guardians with these requirements.

The Court is supported in its efforts by the Union County Guardianship Services (UCGS). The UCGS not only employs staff guardians to apply for appointment and to serve as guardians for adult wards, it also serves as a valuable resource of information and guidance to other guardians throughout the county. Further, UCGS offers guardianship education courses that comply with Ohio Rules of Superintendence guidelines in the form of both Supreme Court of Ohio video presentations and locally-held live courses.

The Probate Court is also assisted with guardianship cases by court-appointed investigators who aid in

personal service and investigation of prospective and current adult wards. Investigators participate in annual training conferences to fulfill their education requirements.

Families are often formed through **Adoptions**, which are processed through the Probate Court. However, not all adoptions look the same. The Probate Court may hear petitions for Placements, Private Adoptions, Step-Parent or Grandparent Adoptions, Re-finalization of Foreign Adoptions, and Adult Adoptions.

Adoption assessors are appointed by the Court to meet with prospective adoptive families and file a report. Assessors must meet the certification requirements relative to their field to be eligible for court-appointment.

As part of the celebration of granted adoptions, the Probate Court provides adopted children with a personalized certificate of adoption and a miniature gavel or a hand-made fabric animal. The animals are donated to the Court by the Ohio Reformatory for Women.

HISTORICAL RECORDS OF THE PROBATE COURT

More than 30,000 Union County Probate Court historical and closed records are available for review at the Union County Records Center and Archives (128 S. Main St., Marysville). Records may be viewed with the assistance of an archivist. Many historical records have been microfilmed and digitally indexed.

A computer terminal is available for public use at both the Records Center and the Union County Recorder's Office (233 W. Sixth St.). The computerized, searchable index references all Probate matters from 1820 to the present.

The following records are also available: Birth and Death Records from 1867 to 1909; Marriage records 1820 to present (May 28, 1996 and after on the computer); and Delayed Registration and Correction of Birth records from 1941 to the present. Mental illness and mental retardation cases are confidential. Adoption records are confidential; however, limited access may be granted according to the controlling provisions of the Ohio Revised Code.

Copies are available for a fee.

Open matters are held in the Probate Clerk's Office, located at the Union County Courthouse (215 W. Fifth St.), and may be viewed with the assistance of a deputy clerk.

JUVENILE DIVISION

JURISDICTION OF THE JUVENILE DIVISION

The Juvenile Division is one of the divisions of the Court of Common Pleas. The jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court includes the following matters:

Unruly Children – children who will not subject themselves to the reasonable control of their parents, guardians, teachers or custodians, by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient. Includes children who are truant from school or violate curfew.

Delinquent Children – children who violate any federal, state or local law or ordinance that would be an offense if committed by an adult; violate a lawful order of the court; and attempt or complete acts forbidden to those less than 18 years of age.

Dependent, Neglected and Abused Children – children who are dependent on the state for their care because of homelessness, lack of parental adequate care, or actual or imminent abuse or neglect.

Juvenile Traffic Offenders – children who violate a federal, state or local traffic law, or traffic ordinance or regulation, other than parking violations.

Juvenile Tobacco Offenders – children who have purchased, attempted to purchase, used, consumed or possessed cigarettes, tobacco products, or papers used to roll cigarettes.

Custody – matters in which the Court determines paternity and parental rights and responsibilities of children born to unwed parents.

Child Support – matters regarding the establishment, modification or enforcement of court or administrative orders for the financial support of children.

Adult (Criminal) – includes matters in which adults are charged with misdemeanor violations of nonsupport or contributing to nonsupport of dependents; parental educational neglect; and contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of a child.

Juvenile Division					
New Matters Filed, Concluded by Court (2015-2019)					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Delinquency	173	161	270	152	148
<i>Individual Youth Adjudicated of Felony*</i>	7	11	18	19	7
Committed to DYS	0	0	0	1	0
Committed to CCF	2	1	2	1	0
Unruly	48	47	50	48	45
Juvenile Traffic	286	325	260	191	235
Diversion	22	0	0	26	44
Abuse/Neglect/Dependency	59	61	41	47	75
Permanent Custody	4	7	5	2	0
Custody/Visitation	86	84	73	46	78
Parentage	0	7	5	4	1
Child Support Enforcement/Modification	574	349	266	455	424
UIFSA	7	16	5	2	0
Adult**	39	23	8	13	5
Other***	70	40	29	27	22
All New Matters Filed	1,346	1,113	1,008	1,047	1,033
Matters Terminated	1,318	1,182	1,003	1,086	1,017

* Per Union Co. DYS Fiscal Year reports.

** Including Failure to Send matters and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor.

*** Other: Applications to Seal and Expunge Records; Petitions for Juvenile Civil Protection Orders, Grandparent Powers of Attorney; Motions to Show Cause that reactivate matters (not including child support).

MEDIATION PROGRAM

The Juvenile Court's Mediation Program has served the families and local school districts of Union County for more than 20 years.

The mediator serves all schools in

Union County in responding to truancy-related issues. Mediation also assists parents whose cases are before the Court as the result of paternity, legal custody, decision-making and visitation issues. Meeting with the mediator provides a structure for the parents to discuss their concerns and disagreements and arrive at agreement regarding their child's care. Some parents require the assistance of the mediator when an Abuse, Neglect or Dependency matter has come before the Court.

The mediator will also assist with crafting agreements for custody and visitation. All agreements in such matters are subject to the approval of the Court.

Mediations					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Unruly – Truancy	171	180	150	18	37
Unruly – Disobedience	6	0	1	0	1
Custody – Private	32	2	1	4	10
Custody – A/N/D	8	0	0	0	0
Total Mediations	223	161	152	22	48

DIVERSION PROGRAM

Juvenile delinquency or unruly behavior cases originate by the filing of a complaint by the Union County Prosecuting Attorney. The Prosecuting Attorney may append to the complaint a notice that the Prosecuting Attorney endorses the juvenile's participation in diversion program together with a statement of the victim of the offense, if any.

Complaints are reviewed and selected if they appear appropriate for diversion based upon criteria established by the Court. Typically, youth who have no prior official or unofficial record (first-time

Youth in Diversion					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
All Delinquency & Unruly Complaints Filed	221	208	320	200	193
Entered Diversion	22	0	0	25	49
Successful Completion	**	0	0	20	34
Unsuccessful Completion	**	0	0	5	6
Diversion of Truancy Matters [R.C. 2151.18]					
All Unruly-Truancy Complaints Filed	6*	3	3	6	3
Entered Diversion	**	**	0	0	0
Successful Completions	**	**	0	0	0
Unsuccessful Completions	**	**	0	0	0

*Includes matters charged as Habitual Truancy per R.C. 2151.022(B) and Chronic Truancy per R.C. 2152.02(F)(5).

** Data unavailable.

offenders) who are alleged to have committed status (unruly, truancy, or curfew violations) or misdemeanor-level, non-violent offenses are eligible for diversion.

The Probation Department conducts an eligibility screening of the youth and parent/guardian. If the youth is determined eligible for diversion, the youth and family must acknowledge the youth committed the offense described in the complaint and a Diversion Program fee must be paid. Depending on individualized programming needs, additional fees may apply. All the terms, plus a deadline to complete them, will be included in the youth's Diversion Contract.

The Diversion Contract includes tasks and requirements designed to remediate the offense, to provide a learning opportunity for the youth and to serve as a consequence or deterrent for further illegal behavior. Possible terms could include: appropriate skills-building instruction; letters of apology to any

victims; restitution; community service hours; a written essay on a subject related to the offense or to the youth's future goals; mental health screenings and full participation in recommended services; drug screening; and other terms that the officer believes are appropriate that relate to the youth's needs and/or the offense.

If appropriate, parenting skills instruction will be required for the parent/guardian.

If the youth successfully completes diversion, the Court will order the sealing of the entire matter, and there shall be no official record of the matter. If the terms of the Diversion Contract are not fulfilled, diversion will cease, the original complaint will be filed and the matter will proceed formally.

DIVERSION OF TRUANCY MATTERS

The Union County Juvenile Court began aggressively targeting truancy more than 20 years ago with the implementation of its Mediation Program. Mediation successfully aids many families in correcting truancy issues that would otherwise have been filed in the court.

With the implementation of changes to Ohio truancy law in 2017, the Court's mediators are available to the school districts after their Absence Intervention Teams recognize that a Written Intervention Plan put in place by the school is likely to fail.

Mediation takes place before the matter is submitted to the Court for filing as a complaint. Like all Unruly and Delinquency matters, truancy complaints are considered for diversion

if diversion is in the best interests of the child.

In the last five years alone, the Court estimates that hundreds of children and their families have been diverted from Juvenile Court because of the Court's Mediation Program. During the more than 20 years the Court's Mediation Program has been in operation, thousands of children and families have been diverted from the court system.

The result: truancy matters filed with the Union County Juvenile Court are few in number, but are routinely so serious in their scope that post-filing diversion of the matter is not in the best interest of the child.

JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

The officers of the Juvenile Probation Department dedicate their time, effort, and resources to improve the lives of youth under the jurisdiction of the Court due to delinquent or unruly behavior.

Through the Probation Department, the Court utilizes a

proactive approach to support family enrichment, by invoking various resources to strengthen parent and child relationships to promote unity and family stability. Probation officers support a youth's academic growth by facilitating communication and interaction between schools and families.

Juvenile are also required to engage in tasks, such as community service, that hold them accountable for their past actions. Probation officers assist in and promote the development of family-managed responsibility through structured rewards and consequences to promote healthy future decision-making.

In 2019, the probation department supervised a total of 101 youth on probation: 52 were on probation from 2018, and 49 new youth were added to the caseload by the end of 2019. For every youth whose case proceeds to disposition, or sentencing, a probation officer will meet with that child and family to assess them and determine recommendations for the Court. The Court has wide discretion to make orders designed to accomplish the goals of holding the youth accountable and to rehabilitate the offender.

Juvenile Probation Department					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Youth on Probation					
Continuing from preceding year	61	60	94	104	52
New Youth	60	84	63	71	49
Total	121	144	157	175	101
Probation Completions					
Successful Completions		47	43	72	59
Unsuccessful Completions		3	10	11	7
Neutral Completions		0	0	2	2
Total	61	50	53	85	68
Specialized Assessments					
		13	14		14

*Specialized Assessments: i.e. psychological assessments; competency assessments; specialized offenses assessments.

THE PARENT PROJECT®

Specially trained staff members of the Juvenile Court facilitate The Parent Project®, a 40-hour clinical group and parenting course for the families of delinquent and unruly children under the jurisdiction of this Court.

In 2013, several staff members received training that was funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Youth Services. Although most parents feel skeptical that the program will benefit them and their families, the majority conclude the program with a deep appreciation for the positive impact their new, learned skills have benefitted their child.

Parent Project Participants	
	Parents
2013	23
2014	55
2015	49
2016	30
2017	14
2018	20
2019	6
Total	197

COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS®

In the summer of 2019, the Juvenile Probation Department instituted a new program - Cognitive Behavioral Intervention® (CBI), in which qualifying Juveniles participate in an 18-session program focusing on identifying high-risk situations, developing problem solving skills, forming support networks, and choosing positive pro-social activities and behaviors.

CBI Participants	
	Juveniles
2019	5

TREATMENT COURTS

The Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC)

was established in November 2007 and manages adult participants whose children have open abuse, neglect or dependency cases before the Court. The FDTC functions as a collaboration of multiple systems: the court, child welfare, substance use disorder and mental health treatment providers, and community partners. No single system has the authority, capacity, resources, or skills to respond to the array of challenges faced by families affected by substance use disorders. Collaboration is required if families are to succeed.

The **Juvenile Treatment Court (JTC)** is designed for legal-system involved youth whose drug and alcohol abuse issues continue without abatement on regular probation. A youth's family is asked to participate in parenting education and to assist the Court in monitoring and holding the youth accountable. Treatment

Family Dependency Treatment Court					
<i>Parent Participants 2015-2019</i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Parents Referred	*	27	14	15	29
Parents Admitted	1	11	6	3	11
Children of the Parents Admitted	1	16	8	20	25
Parents Graduated	5	2	4	4	3
Parents Terminated as Unsuccessful	2	2	3	3	0
Parents Terminated Neutrally	1	0	0	0	2

* Information not available.

is provided primarily by therapists from Maryhaven, Inc. and Ohio Guidestone. Case management is provided through the Court. The Court's juvenile probation officers provide supervision of the youth and support for the parents.

The program goals and objectives of both treatment courts are: to establish mental health and addiction treatment services; to create a framework for the participant to live his/her life in recovery from addiction or free from substance abuse; and to provide education and supports for effective and safe parenting. For parent addicts, the FDTC seeks to safely reunify the child with the participant within the time permitted by law; and to prevent future removal due to abuse,

neglect and dependency of that child or his/her siblings. For substance-abusing youth, the JTC seeks compliance with the terms of probation and to prevent recidivism.

To successfully complete or "graduate" from treatment court, a participant must: demonstrate sobriety

Juvenile Treatment Court					
<i>Juvenile Participants 2014-2019</i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Referred	*	*	24	19	12
Admitted	4	9	14	13	3
Graduated	3	4	9	6	0
Terminated: Unsuccessful	0	2	3	1	0
Terminated: Neutral	0	2	1	3	0

* Information not available.

(accumulate clean drug screens and make sober life choices); complete substance abuse treatment (at assessed levels of care); address mental health issues (current and long-term).

For parent participants in FDTC, they must also obtain stable living/housing for themselves and their children; obtain a

stable income; and accomplish all the Case Plan objectives as drafted by Children's Protective Services and approved by the Court.

For youth participants in the JTC, the juveniles must complete all terms of their probation successfully.

CASA PROGRAM OF DELAWARE & UNION COUNTIES

Tammy Matias, *Executive Director*
Jonathan Klemanski, *Assistant Coordinator, Delaware County*
Melanie Kempton, *Assistant Coordinator, Union County*
Elizabeth Neff, *Program Assistant*

The CASA Program of Delaware and Union Counties continued to grow and thrive in 2019. Total number of volunteers rose to 47 and twelve new CASA Volunteers were sworn in and began serving in both counties to advocate for children’s best interests in abuse, neglect and dependency cases. Following are some important statistics:

Volunteer/Case Statistics:

- 47 Volunteer CASA Advocates in Union And Delaware counties
- 5,240 Volunteer total case hours
- Over 39,000 Miles driven by volunteer for casework
- 217 children served
 - Of Children served:
 - 112 female
 - 103 male
 - 2 unknown
 - Child Age Ranges
 - 89 [0-5 years of age]
 - 65 [6-11 years of age]
 - 42 [12-15 years of age]
 - 16 [16-17 years of age]
 - 5 [18+ years of age]

Case outcomes:

In 2019, 85 children’s cases were closed with a CASA Volunteer involved. Of those 85 children, following are some important outcomes:

- 25 reunifications achieved
- 2 children adopted
- 25 kinship placements (long term relative care)
- 4 children turned 18/21

CASA Program of Delaware & Union Counties: 2019 Statistics	
Total Volunteer CASA Advocates	47
Total Volunteer Hours	5,240
Total Miles driven by Volunteers for casework	39,000
Total Children Served	217
Girls	112
Boys	103
Unknown	2
Final Outcomes for Cases Closed in 2019	
Reunification Achieved	25
Long-Term Relative/Kinship Care	25
Long-Term Foster Care or PPLA	
Adopted	2

- 29 other outcomes (case transferred, removed from docket, etc., legal custody to non-relative)

Some exciting CASA events took place in 2019. In September, The Ohio CASA Conference took place in Columbus, Ohio. Forty-four CASA Programs around the state congregate together to learn more about child advocacy through workshops and seminars. The CASA Program of Delaware and Union Counties was well represented with twenty-two volunteers and four staff members attending. The 2019 conference was especially exciting as Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Judge David Hejmanowski participated as a panelist in one of the general sessions; a judicial Q&A for CASA Volunteers. Judge Hejmanowski also led one of the breakout sessions on Permanent Custody for children on the Abuse, Neglect, Dependency Docket. Both of those sessions were very well attended.

In November of 2019, The CASA Program hosted its 4th Annual Judicial Panel. Every year, CASA volunteers submit their questions to the judicial officers about various topics which are answered by the judicial panel after enjoying a catered dinner together. This event gives the CASA Volunteers the chance to interact with the judges and magistrates outside of the courtroom. It also provides the volunteers the opportunity to assess their skills and to learn of their value as volunteer advocates in the juvenile court. In 2019, the event was held in Union County and each one of the judicial officers from both counties attended. Volunteer turnout was high for this event and a lot of helpful information was shared with the CASA Volunteers. The CASA Program is fully supported by the judicial bench in both Delaware and Union Counties.

As 2019 came to a close, the Union County Juvenile Court decided to transition their CASA Program into a CASA/GAL program. This new and exciting undertaking is the collaboration between Judge David Hejmanowski, Probate/Juvenile Judge Delaware County, and Judge Charlotte Coleman Eufinger, Probate/Juvenile Judge Union County. As this venture unfolds in 2020, more information and statistics will be sure to follow.

Every year, it is the goal of the CASA Program to serve every abused, neglected, or dependent child in both the Delaware and Union County Juvenile Courts. The dedication and efforts of the CASA Volunteers is what truly makes this program successful. The year 2019 was no exception in attaining this goal and the crucial advocacy for abused children by CASA Volunteers in both counties was most certainly accomplished.

CENTRAL OHIO YOUTH CENTER

Located at 18100 State Rt. 4, just north of Marysville, the Central Ohio Youth Center primarily serves detained youth from four counties: Union, Champaign, Madison and Logan. Youth from other counties are often housed in COYC as well. COYC offers programming for chronic juvenile offenders. When juvenile offenders under the jurisdiction of the Union County Juvenile Court are sentenced to detention, most youth will be placed in COYC.

The Community Residential Center (CRC) is a secure program for adjudicated juvenile offenders.

Within seven days of admission as a resident in the CRC program, the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI) residential

Juvenile Division Youth in COYC (2009-2019)			
Year	Youth	Days	CRC*
2009	209	1,413	
2010	179	1,270.5	
2011	181	1,059	
2012	206	1,470	
2013	187	945.5	0
2014	154	925.5	0
2015	220	1,227.5	5
2016	287	1,830	3
2017	302	1,789	3
2018	277	1,140	2
2019	200	1,267	4
2018 Total Percentage of Use: 11.2% 2019 Total Percentage of Use: 13.9%			

* The Community Residential Center (CRC) is a secure program for adjudicated juvenile offenders.

COYC ADMINISTRATION

Natalie Landon

Superintendent

Betsy Hauck

Deputy Operations Administrator

Emily Giametta, MSW, LISW-S

Clinical Administrator

Kathy House, MSED

Education Administrator

Tami Sowder

Business Administrator

Kristin Preston, RN

Health Care Coordinator

Steve Harmon

Intake Manager

interview is completed with each resident youth, as well as a comprehensive psycho-social interview. The information obtained from the interview is utilized to develop an Individual Treatment Plan (ITP) for each resident. The ITP lists objectives to be completed to achieve each goal.

Residents are assigned a therapist upon admission. The therapist develops a case management plan and provides individual and family therapy. The frequency and duration of individual and family therapy sessions are determined on a case-by-case basis, but each CRC resident receives individual therapy at least once per week.

Youth are required to satisfy their current school requirements while they reside in COYC. For those who have dropped out of school, the staff will provide instruction to assist the resident in obtaining his or her GED.

COYC has been recognized by the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress for providing the organizational leadership and support necessary for the implementation of Trauma and Grief Component Therapy for Adolescents (TGCTA).