
THE 2007 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SUMMIT COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
JUVENILE DIVISION
LINDA TUCCI TEODOSIO, JUDGE



A Message from Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio



It is with pride that the Summit County Juvenile Court provides its 2007 Annual Report.

We have stayed true to our mission by providing creative programming and alternate dispositions to rehabilitate youth while holding them accountable for their behavior. We have also worked hard to assure that the best interests are met for those children that we supervise and monitor.

This Annual Report outlines our efforts and achievements of 2007.

2007 Annual Report of the Summit County Juvenile Court



Turning lives around one child at a time.

***Linda Tucci Teodosio, Judge
Robert Bickett, Court Administrator
David Horner, Asst. Court Administrator
Steve Stahl, Asst. Court Administrator***

Summit County Juvenile Court Vision Statement

"The Summit County Juvenile Court strives to serve the best interests of our children through outreach, early intervention, community education and innovative programming, while fairly administering justice to all whose lives are impacted by the juvenile justice system."

Magistrates and Judicial Attorneys



Tavia Baxter: Magistrate Baxter is responsible for hearing the unruly, truancy and adult failure to send cases. She is also the judicial officer that participates in Summit County's Truancy Task Force.



Katherine Bertsch: Magistrate Bertsch hears abuse and dependency and neglect cases as well as legal custody cases. She has developed an expertise in the area of child support and reviews this difficult issue for the Court. Magistrate Bertsch works on a part-time basis.



Bradford Christman: Magistrate Christman joined the Court following an extensive career in child welfare, including service in the Juvenile Division of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office and in the Legal Department of the Children Services Board. He hears abuse, neglect and dependency cases as well as private legal custody cases.



Thomas Freeman: Magistrate Freeman is responsible for a delinquency docket. He is also working with the Court's Developmental Disabilities Committee in preparation to oversee that docket when it is instituted.



Maria Kostoff: Magistrate Kostoff oversees the Crossroads Program docket of the Court. She holds evening sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays to allow youth and their families to participate in Crossroads with minimal disruption to their school and work schedules. She also hears a variety of delinquency matters, including sex offender cases.



Kristin Maxwell: Magistrate Maxwell has a dependency, neglect and abuse docket. She also hears cases where families have involvement with dependency and neglect cases and delinquency matters to provide consistent support and direction to those families. Magistrate Maxwell also oversees those cases involving minor parents and probation cases for pregnant girls and teenmothers. She also presides over Teen Court and coordinates the training for its participants.



Robert McCarty: As a Judicial Attorney, Magistrate McCarty is overseeing the accreditation process for the Court. He convenes and presides over the meetings of the Accreditation Committee and writes policies for the Court and detention. Additionally, Magistrate McCarty deals with all of the records requests that come to Court. He hears all types of cases as requested by the Court.



Denise McGuckin: Magistrate McGuckin hears all types of delinquency cases. She reviews all parole cases and makes decisions relating to revocation of parole. Magistrate McGuckin's responsibilities will include observing the Court's Re-entry Program which is scheduled to begin in 2008.



Mary Ann Mendlik: Magistrate Mendlik oversees the objections to Magistrate's decisions that come before the Court. She monitors their timeliness on the objections and responses and provides extensive legal research for all aspects of Court operations. Magistrate Mendlik monitors the Court's cases pending before the Ninth District Court of Appeals and updates all judicial officers as to new case law. She also supervises any legal interns assigned to the Court. Magistrate Mendlik hears all types of cases as needed upon the request of the Court.



Christine Rees: Magistrate Rees is responsible for the traffic cases filed with the Court. Magistrate Rees holds sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings for the convenience of the public. She also provides legal research for various Court departments, as requested.



Tammy Richardson: Magistrate Richardson hears a full docket of dependency, neglect and abuse cases as well as private legal custody cases.



Rita Rochford: Magistrate Rochford works as a part-time Magistrate reviewing cases of youth that are in Planned Permanent Living Arrangement with the Children Services Board. As the director of the Citizens Review Board, she works with the volunteers who monitor children in Summit County Children Services' permanent custody.



John Vuillemin: Magistrate Vuillemin is the Chief Magistrate for the Court. He presides over dependency, neglect and abuse cases and private legal custody cases. He also fulfills the administrative functions needed for the assignment and scheduling of Magistrate cases.



James Whited: Magistrate Whited hears a full docket of dependency, neglect and abuse cases as well as private legal custody cases. Magistrate Whited also oversees the Court's Mediation Program.

COURT FINANCE

Prepared by Robert Bickett, Court Administrator

The 2007 Summit County Juvenile court budget, consisting of both county and state/federal funding, totaled \$13,425,890.53.

Total County funding: \$9,395,024.52

Total State/Federal Grant funding: \$4,030,866.01

COUNTY FUNDING

DETENTION CENTER	30%
GENERAL OFFICE/JUDICIAL	33%
PROBATION/ADMIN	37%

STATE/FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING

RECLAIM OHIO GRANT	80%
JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY	1%
TITLE IV-E	19%

STATE/FEDERAL FUNDED SERVICE PROVIDER CONTRACTS TO COURT

<u>SERVICE PROVIDER</u>	<u>CONTRACT AMOUNT</u>
Day Treatment	
East Akron Community House	250,000.00
Akron UMADAOP	80,000.00
Electronic Monitoring	
Satellite Tracking	15,000.00
Oriana House, Inc.	50,000.00
Educational Services	
Akron YMCA Phoenix School	80,000.00
Out of Home Placement	
Shelter Care Youth Assessment Shelter	137,750.00
Juvenile Court share of Summit County Family And Children First Council/Summit County Cluster for Youth Funding Agreement	100,000.00
Short Term out of home placement	
Shelter Care Youth Assessment	98,550.00
Crossroads Program	
Child Guidance & Family Solutions	70,000.00
Drug/Alcohol Assessments Services	
Community Health Center	32,000.00
Akron Health Department	55,346.00
Mentoring	
CYO and Community Services	25,000.00
Mental Health Counseling	
Child Guidance & Family Solutions	25,000.00
Competency Evaluations	
Summit Psychological Associates	10,000.00
Youth Risk & Needs Assessment	
Ohio State University	51,000.00
Community Service/Restitution Program	
Funds to victims	60,000.00
Citizen's Review Board Coordinator	
	49,803.00
Long Term out of Home Placement	
Various Placement Agencies	475,000.00
Diversion Programming	
Distributed in varying amounts to fourteen Police Departments and Sheriff's Office	204,571.00

Additional 2007 Funding

Prepared by Grants Administrator Woody Tyrrell

In addition to the county's general fund and additional formula funding from state/federal sources that sustain its operation, the Court actively pursues additional revenue through local, state and federal agency grant funding. These funds are typically used to create or expand programs at the Court aimed at meeting our goal of assuring that each child entering the Court leaves with increased opportunity for success in school, work and the community. **In 2007, grant funding committed to the court for special programming totaled \$1,021,497. A total of 26 full- and part-time positions are supported by these funding streams.** The programs assisted by this funding are:

Intensive Probation Supervision, \$39,429: The Court's Probation Officers offer intense services and case management to high risk offenders. Most Intensive Probation cases are placed on a suspended commitment through the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS). All participants are engaged in a minimum of 32 hours per week in structured activities. ***The funding is provided by the Department of Justice through its Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program and administered by the Ohio Department of Youth Services.***

AmeriCorps Juvenile Justice Work Connection, \$11,542 salary and 4,725 In Educations awards:

Two part-time positions were funded in 2007 to assist at-risk youth obtain jobs, job training, GED and/or necessary support to gain high school diplomas or apply for college. Nearly 80 youth were served in 2007. ***A Federal AmeriCorps grant administered through the Ohio Department of Youth Services funds this program.***

Juvenile Court Health Advocacy Program—HIV Prevention \$5,955: Highly trained nurses delivered HIV/STD Awareness classes in Detention on Saturday mornings in 2007. Tests of basic knowledge were administered immediately before and again after each session to measure gains in understanding of prevention. Over 400 boys and girls took part. ***Funding is provided by the Ohio Department of Health and administered through the Akron Health Department.***

The Child Advocate Team and Permanency Planning & Adoption Program, \$490,000: Provides intensive case management services to children both in temporary and permanent Children Services custody to help ensure that the best interests of dependant, neglected or abused children are protected and presented at hearings to the court. The ultimate goal is to aid in finding safe, nurturing homes for all of these children. In 2007 more than 400 children were served. ***Funding is provided by federal TitleXX/TANF funds administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services.***

The Family Resource Center, \$459,846: Intensive case management is delivered to at-risk youth and their families who are involved in domestic violence disputes, are pregnant or parenting teens, are teens at risk of dropping out of school or are returning from long-term stays in DHS, detention or other placement. The FRC is also a resource for other court-involved youth and the community as a whole. It serves as a central point of referral for all services available throughout Summit County for youth and their families. More than 550 families were served in 2007. ***Funding is provided by Federal TANF/PRC funds administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services.***



SUMMIT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

...building stronger families for a better community

Detention Services

Bruce Alexander, Superintendant

The Summit County Juvenile Detention Facility consists of seven main housing units plus two annex units, making the total capacity for juveniles 100. In 2007, the Detention Facility utilized four main housing units, and occasionally had to open an additional unit due to the high number of juveniles being held.

The Detention Facility staff is responsible for providing a safe and secure environment for juveniles, staff and other persons, along with assisting in the security of the facility. Detention Officers (staff) are responsible for transporting juveniles to court hearings, medical appointments, counseling appointments, diagnostic evaluations and other appointments deemed necessary. Through a cooperative agreement and a collaborate effort with Akron Public Schools, all juveniles held in detention attend school within the facility, and are taught by state certified teachers in math, science/health, language arts, history and reading. Additional tutorial services are provided by Akron Public Schools through the Title I Program. In addition, detention staff provides daily programming in areas such as anger management, completing job applications, money management, character education, coping skills and other areas. Physical recreation, non-denominational religious services are offered as well as community programs offered through outside agencies.

In 2007:

2,816 juveniles were brought to Summit County Juvenile Detention Facility.

1,652 juveniles were held in the detention facility; 64% were males and 36% were females.

1,164 juveniles were released through the admissions process:

748 through actual admissions process

279 felony releases

137 released to Department of Youth Services

The average daily population of the facility was 57.3.

The average bed days in detention were 10.63 (the average bed days represent the number of days a juvenile held in detention spends in the Detention Facility from the time of arrival until departure/release.). There were 17 juveniles who were bound over. These 17 youth served a total of 1,121 days in detention for an average of 71.2 be days per juvenile. The Detention Facility continues to utilize the Global Risk Assessment Device (G.R.A.D.) adopted by the Court in 2004. All juveniles brought to detention have the internet-based risk assessment performed. The results of the G.R.A.D. assessment provide information to make better decisions on which juvenile is to be held in detention and which can safely be released. The G.R.A.D. also provides information to Court personnel on the programming needs of the juvenile.

Clerk's Office

Cathy Richardson Thomas, Chief Deputy Clerk

The Clerk's Office is responsible for processing and maintaining all documents filed with the Court. The Clerk's Office is also responsible for collecting filing fees and all fines and costs that are assessed in delinquency, traffic, unruly and adult cases.

In 2007, the Clerk's Office began enjoying the benefits of automated journal entries. It began using automated entries in June 2006 on delinquency cases. The Traffic Department began using the automated entries in 2007. Using the automated entries has greatly improved turnaround time and made it possible for attorneys using the Court's Attorney Access Gateway to view new case information sooner. The newly installed evidence module being utilized by the Clerk's Office will allow for more efficient logging and tracking of evidence. It also allows staff to view the status of evidence without having to contact the Clerk's Office, as was done in the past. The changes made in 2007 have allowed the office to run more efficiently.

In 2008, the Clerk's Office is looking forward to upgrading its technology by updating mediums of maintaining and processing records for which the Clerk's Office is responsible.

In 2007, the Clerk's office collected a total of **\$330,729.62**. Of this amount, **\$18,254.25** was received for the payment of fines and costs in delinquency, unruly or adult cases; **\$108,118.00** was collected for traffic fines and costs; **\$19,729.27** was collected for restitution; **\$170,638.10** was collected for computer and legal research, special fees, public defender, reparations rotary fund, county and clerk fees and indigent application fees; **\$22,690.00** was collected for the Alcohol Cessation Training (Project ACT), a Prohibition Diversion program and for the Staying Accident Free Through Education (SAFTE) Program, a Driver Intervention program.

Intake Department

Joe Petrucelli, Supervisor

The Intake Department is usually the first and, sometimes, the only contact that alleged delinquent and unruly juveniles and their families have with the Court. Intake Officers explain the legal process to the juveniles and their parents/guardians, gather information about the juvenile's background and make appropriate recommendations to the Court based on that information.

The **Victim Impact Panel** continues to educate juveniles and their parents/guardians about the negative effects of substance abuse. Last year, almost 200 juveniles and their parents/guardians viewed the program. The Victim Impact Panel is coordinated by the Court with the assistance of the Catholic Commission, law enforcement officers, representatives from Mothers Against Drunk Driving and parents who relate their experiences after losing a child because of a drunk driver. **Victim Offender Mediation**, through the Center for Restorative Justice provided the Court with a mediation program that involves the offender, the offender's legal guardian and the victim. The desired outcome of such mediation is for all parties to come to a mutual agreement beneficial to everyone involved and providing a direct accountability to the victim by the offender.

The **Truancy Task Force** continued its collaboration with local school districts, police departments and social service agencies to attack the truancy problem in our community. The **Alcohol Cessation Training (ACT)** program provided the opportunity for adolescents who come to Court charged with a first alcohol possession charge to enter an educational program directed by the Akron Health Department. Upon completion of the diversionary program, the charge against the offender is dismissed.

The **Victim Services Office** was established in 2000 and serves a valuable function for the Court by opening up the lines of communication between the Court and those who have been victimized by crime. Victim Services notifies victims of Court hearings pertinent to the case involving the delinquent youth. The office also assists the victim in structuring Victim Impact Statements and gathering loss information for restitution purposes. The officer can also connect victims with community resources. Such community resources offer professional and emotional support for the victim during the Court process providing peace of mind and reassurance for people whose lives have been impacted by criminal behavior.

Court Selected to Participate in National Initiative, "Models for Change"

In late 2007, the State of Ohio learned it was one of four states selected as a model state for the *Models for Change* Program coordinated by the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice (NCMHJJ) and funded by a \$100,000 grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in the first year. Additional funding will be provided in additional years to support local, statewide and national initiatives.

The goal of the initiative is to develop innovative solutions and strategies to better address the mental health needs of youth in contact with the juvenile justice system. *Models for Change* seeks to accelerate progress toward a more rational, fair, effective and developmentally appropriate juvenile justice process.

The state was required to choose a county with which to collaborate and the state chose Summit County because of its wealth of social service agencies which network so well in enhancing, expanding and creating programs

In its grant application, the State specifically noted the Summit County Juvenile Court as an agent of progressive programming. It stated, "Under the leadership of Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio, the court is more than a mechanism of punishment for youthful offenders who enter the juvenile justice system. The court's philosophy is to hold youth responsible for their actions, but also provide the proper programming and guidance for youth to turn their lives around and become productive members of society."

The state also cited a specific program at the court that embraces the mission and goals of *Model for Change*: the Family Resource Center (FRC). Working with the county's Department of Job and Family Services, the FRC offers youth and family strengthening services in the areas of teen pregnancy, school-to-work, re-entry into the community following commitment to a detention center and domestic violence.

Additionally, Judge Teodosio and ADM Board Executive Director Don Davies were named to be part of the State of Ohio Core Team that will work with the NCMHJJ and the seven other state teams to track progress and exchange methods and ideas. The other states that are part of Models for Change Action Network are Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington.

The selection of the State of Ohio for this grant is a testament to the state's commitment to address issues involving our at-risk youth. The selection of Summit County as the state's model community only re-affirms that what the Court and the community are doing to assist those facing difficult challenges is working.

In Memoriam

The following article appeared in the Akron Beacon Journal in late 2006. It was written by reporter Mary Beth Breckenridge and it captures the qualities that endeared Sherri Hankton to her colleagues and the youth with which she worked. Excerpts of the article are reprinted by permission of the Beacon Journal:



Sherri Hankton

'Angel' Helps At-Risk Teens

Sherri Hankton's most treasured possessions fit in a couple of boxes.

They're letters and trinkets from dozens of teens she has mentored over the years, kids with troubled pasts in whom she sees not problems, but potential. The mementos are so important to her, she said, that she wants them buried with her.

She pulls out a letter at random and opens an envelope adorned with hearts drawn in orange and green marker. "I miss you so much" the letter said. "You've always been there for me... You'll always be a stepmom to me and I will always love you."

Another came from a girl who's struggled with an addiction to crack. "Mrs. H, to a lot of us girls you are a blessing," she wrote. "You are like an angel from God."

Hankton, 44, of Fairlawn, considers shepherding at-risk teens to be her purpose. She lavishes attention on young people as a detention officer with the Summit County Juvenile Court, a job she calls "my destiny." She ran a mentoring organization for girls for seven years until health problems and lack of funding forced her to quit. She and her husband, Otis, have taken several young people into their home over the years.

She figures she did something right in raising her own children, who were never in trouble growing up. "So I had to give back," she said.

Young people have long been important to Hankton and her husband, who were always known as Aunt Sherri and Uncle Butch in the neighborhood, her daughter Nikki Mann said. "Our house was kind of the neighborhood house," Mann said. "...They made you feel welcome." What sets her mother apart, Nikki Mann said, is her faith in the potential of the young people she mentors. "She doesn't look at people for what she sees. She looks at what they can become, where they can go."

She joined the juvenile court center, where she considers herself a role model rather than a guard. She doesn't focus on the crimes her young charges have committed, she said, but rather on trying to instill conscience in them.

She's as comfortable joking or playing games with them as she is standing up to their back talk or challenging their behavior. She lets them know they can confide in her, but she makes it clear she won't keep damaging secrets. "I'm not your friend," she tells them. "I'm a leader. I'm a mentor and I'm an adult."

Obviously, they respond. Teens call her at all hours, including when she's at work. Her cell phone's voice mailbox is filled with their messages. Letters from those she'd touched arrived nearly every day.

Giving so much is demanding, but Hankton draws perseverance from her faith. She became a Christian, she said, after fleeing an abusive marriage and meeting her current husband, an associate pastor at their church.

That faith makes her certain she achieve her latest dream, opening a home to house young girls from troubled families.

"I'm blessed," she said, throwing her arms wide and beaming. "It's gonna happen. I already know it."

On October 17, 2007, Detention Officer Brandon Crandall collapsed while playing basketball with some youth he worked with on a daily basis. Attempts to resuscitate him at the scene and at the hospital were unsuccessful. He was 26 years old.



Brandon Crandall

His loss resonated throughout the Court, but perhaps it was felt deepest among the youth with which he engaged day after day on the job.

The letter below was written by one of the youth in the wing where Brandon worked and it was signed by 21 others. It clearly demonstrates the impact Brandon Crandall had on their lives. The letter was written to Brandon's mother, who graciously permitted the Court to re-print it:

Dear Ms. Crandall:

We are very sorry and truly hurt about the passing of your son. He was known only for his character and generosity in our hearts. Not only was Mr. Crandall the best friend in the building, but he was also the best staff. I remember my first time meeting Mr. Crandall. Me and a kid had a conflict and he pulled him away and helped me up. Me and him have always had a high level of respect for each other.

I remember my last conversation with him. He was telling me about getting my life together, how to do what I needed to do. His words will never be forgotten and will inspire me in my future choices.

Mr. Crandall gave us a gift of knowledge. Rest assured that Mr. Crandall greatly influenced, changed and inspired greatness in all our lives. After having been here awhile you learn to respect, care, love and live with each other.

Mr. Crandall always took good care of us and we have a lot of love for him here. The staff uniforms say "Turning lives around one child at a time." Mr. Crandall used to say, "If I can get through to just one kid, if someone listens, I've done my job." Well, he has done a very good job because his words have inspired us all.

I did not know Mr. Crandall outside of this building but I did know that he was a great guy and did not deserve what happened to him. I believe that God had a higher calling for Mr. Crandall. I believe that he is in a way better place watching over his kids.

We will never forget Crann Mann or the things he taught us here. His spirit will remain in this building and in our hearts forever.

Probation Department

Curtis Howard, Chief Probation Officer

The Probation Department was responsible for the supervision and investigation of 1,167 cases in 2007, as compared to 1,263 in 2006. This included 675 new assignments and 492 cases that were carried over from 2006. The monthly average for new assignments was about 56 cases per month.

Probation cases are assigned based on geographic districts, allowing Probation Officers to establish and maintain rapport with clients, families, schools and agencies within a district. The average caseload for Probation Officers in 2007 was approximately 33 cases for each Probation Officer. The Probation staff consists of 15 Probation Officers, two Probation Community Workers, a Probation Supervisor, an Administrative Assistant, and the Chief Probation Officer.

In 2007, the Probation Department assisted victims in recovering over \$50,000 in restitution paid directly to victims. Probationers also worked over 5,000 hours in Community Service.

Of the 128 youth who committed or revoked to the Ohio Department of Youth Services, 49 were committed from the Probation Department, which is approximately 38% of the commitments and revocations. In 2007, 17 juveniles were bound over to the General Division of The Common Pleas Court to be tried as adults. Of those 17, four were on probation at the time they were bound over to the adult system. Also, 435 cases were successfully terminated from probation supervision in 2007.

In 2007, the Probation Department implemented and presented The Character Counts principles to two high risk groups of youths. Twice a month, Supervisors and Community Workers from the department, presented lessons on the Six Pillars of Character Counts. Presentations were made at the Youth Outreach Center at East Akron Community House and T.R.U.C.E. (Teens Resisting Unhealthy Choices Everyday) at Akron-UMADAOP.

Summit County Juvenile Court and the Probation Department continue to maintain working relationships with community agencies and committees. These efforts seek to enhance the development and security of the Summit County.

Sex Offender Management Unit

Terry Walton, Felony Disposition Supervisor

The Sex Offender Management Unit is comprised of three full time probation officers and the Felony Disposition Supervisor. This specialized probation unit supervises an average of 80 cases a month. These youth have been charged with or adjudicated for a sexually aggressive offense as described in the Ohio Revised Code. In 2007, **77 incidents were referred to this department, reflecting a 24% decrease in referrals from 2006.** The average term of probation for a sexual offender is 22 months.

Unique to this unit, probation officers supervise their clients from Intake through termination of probation including any placements that may occur. Client contact is made at home, in school, in the office, and/or in treatment sessions. Acting as co-facilitators, the probation officers collaborate with Child Guidance and Family Solutions in providing three counseling groups a week at the Juvenile Court, including a group for developmentally delayed offenders. In addition, one probation officer runs a group called "Wise Guys, Male Responsibility Curriculum" for less serious offenders. Referrals may also be made to private providers to facilitate sexual offender treatment programs. These programs provide group, individual and/or family counseling to help eliminate sexually aggressive behaviors.

In 2007, the unit began to implement Senate Bill 10, Ohio's version of the Federal Adam Walsh Act for sexual offender registration. Also in 2007 a group for parents of offenders began. This group meets once a month for a total of three sessions. This group is being offered three times a year.

In 2007, this unit continued to sponsor quarterly multi-county probation officer meetings. This collaboration between sex offender probation officers from various counties helps to establish best practices in supervising this population. This unit's probation officers also sit on several important committees within the county as well as the state. They are members of the Ohio Supreme Court Roundtable, Summit County Sex Offender Management Committee, Department of Youth Services committee to develop standards for supervision and certification of treatment providers and the Summit-Portage Regional Advisory Group. These committees provide the probation officers with an opportunity to keep informed of new strategies in managing sex offenders successfully in the community.

Family Resource Center

Esther Thomas, Coordinator

The Family Resource Center (FRC), which opened its doors in October of 2006, is a collaborative initiative built on the premise that a little assistance goes a long way to help youth and families address the challenges that brought them to the Court. The FRC is made possible by a grant from the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services.

The areas being addressed with families include pregnant or parenting teens, truancy, domestic violence, school-to-work and community re-entry for youth returning from Department of Youth Services (DYS) and other long-term, out-of-home placements.

From October 2006 to June 2007, the FRC served over 400 youth and families. Since July of 2007, the FRC has served nearly 300 families. Some of the services offered include the following:

The Teen Parent Program is designed for parenting teens to receive individual case management and referrals to area agencies to address their specific needs. It is supported by a 6-week educational Teen Parenting class at the Juvenile Court which was collaboratively developed by the FRC and community partner, Family Ties of Child Guidance and Family Solutions. Fifty-seven families have been enrolled in the program since spring of 2007.

The developing Re-Entry Program seeks to provide individual case management to address the specific concerns of youth returning from a DYS facility or residential care. The FRC works closely with DYS to maximize positive outcomes for youth.

The "Real Talk" program, launched in October of 2007, focuses on the issues facing young men involved with Juvenile Court. Among the topics addressed are hygiene, safety and self control.

With a generous grant obtained by the Women's Board from the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation, the FRC is able to offer self-improvement tools for families, including computer work stations where youth and families can use self-exploration and goal-setting software to develop an array of self-improvement and coping skills that will serve them well now and in the future.

The School-to-Work program has been instrumental in preparing youth for work and encouraging school attendance. Working with Jobs for Ohio Graduates (JOG) and the One-Stop Job Center, each youth who completes the program receives one-on-one job readiness assessment and counseling. More than 60 youth have been enrolled in this program. Additionally, DYS- funded Americorps members at the Court complement the School-to-Work efforts by offering similar or supplemental services to an additional 90 youth.

The FRC also partners with Catholic Social Services and Greenleaf Family Center to host "Such is Life," a life skill building program. To date, 24 youth have graduated from this program.

The Crossroads Program

Lisa DiSabato-Moore, Supervisor

Summit County Juvenile Court's Crossroads Program is intended for juveniles who are court involved and suffering from co-occurring disorders of mental health and/or substance abuse/dependency. Crossroads continues to receive national and state recognition for its innovative practices. The number of mental health juvenile court programs in the country has grown to fourteen, with nine of those 14 located in the State of Ohio. Crossroads combined the former drug court program that was established in 1999 with a mental health court component in 2003 under the leadership and vision of Judge Linda Teodosio. Crossroads was one of the first dual diagnosis courts for juveniles in nation. Today, research indicates that as many as 80% of all kids with substance abuse diagnosis have a pre-existing co-occurring mental health diagnosis. Crossroads continues to serve the community as a response to the growing need for justice services for children with a dual-diagnosis.

Crossroads experienced many changes in 2007. The department added a part-time Community Probation Worker, who assists the probation officer's with field visits and maintaining compliance with Federal VI-E standards. In addition, four new staff people have joined the department to fill positions vacated by others leaving the department to pursue further opportunities at the court and in the community. All new officers bring with them a vast knowledge of community based interventions, as well as mental health, substance abuse and cognitive behavioral theory.

Crossroads uses rewards and incentives to reinforce positive change and healthy habits in the participants. During the holiday season, Crossroads opened its first Kris's Kloset. Crossroads youth were able to earn tickets that they could exchange for holiday presents for their families. A reward's closet will be maintained throughout the remainder of the calendar year so the incentives will remain available to program participants.

During calendar year 2007, Crossroads had **fifty-two new families join the program. Fifty-one juveniles were released from the program during the year. Crossroads had fifty-four active families as of December 31, 2007.**

Psychology Services

Dr. Thomas Webb, Staff Psychologist

P psychological services are provided for the Detention Center as well as the Court. For the former, the court psychologist is on-call 24/7 to meet the emergencies as they arise with detainees (e.g., behavioral issues placing a youth or others at risk of harm) and require crisis-management. The service also supports development of assessment programming and policy formulation for the Detention Center.

For court proceedings related to delinquency, the court psychologist provides forensic evaluations where psychiatric and educational issues are at issue. The most weighty of these involves Amenability Evaluations for cases where Transfer of Jurisdiction to the General Division of Common Pleas Court is being considered. Hearings covering psychiatric, educational and developmental aspects are analyzed and presented. Nineteen such evaluations were performed during 2007. In some cases the Court may need psycho-educational information in addition to that routinely provided by the youth's school. In such cases, a licensed school psychologist acting as a consultant to the psychology service provides these evaluations.

From August through October of 2007, the Psychology Service was responsible for teaching the Forensic Didactic Section of the Fellowship Program in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Children's Hospital. The Service also supervised their on-site rotation at the Court. The Service also is involved with development of a new continuing education program for legal and mental health professionals in the community. This conference series, "Best Interests of the Child", will be a joint effort by the University of Akron and the Akron Bar Association to raise community awareness of the specialized personal needs of children and families coming before the courts.

Working with community agencies, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the University of Akron, the Psychology Service has worked to refine a model for home-based treatment of youth with co-occurring disorders (e.g., chemical dependency and major psychiatric affective disorders). This involves a long-term outcome study of families participating in the Court's Crossroads Program.

CASA/GAL Department

Beth Cardina, Program Coordinator

The mission of the Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) Program is to recruit, train and support volunteers who speak up for abused and neglected children in court. As a party in the proceedings, it is the role of the CASA/GAL child advocate to provide investigation, assessment, recommendations, monitoring and advocacy in order to assist the court in making decisions in the best interest of children.

The program is funded by the Summit County Juvenile Court and with grants from the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, local foundations, businesses, organizations and the CASA Board of Trustees, a 501(c)3 organization which exists to promote the program and to support volunteers in partnership with the court.

In 2007, the CASA/GAL Department added four new staff members. They joined **264** child advocates to provide a voice for **1,724** abused or neglected children in Juvenile Court proceedings. The number of the program's active volunteers and the number of children it serves ranks as the highest of any CASA/GAL program in the State of Ohio.

Additionally, the CASA/GAL Toy Shop and the Court's Toy Project coordinated their efforts into one event, providing holiday gifts to over **393** children in care.

Teen Court

The Summit County Teen Court is a diversionary program designed to provide the community's youth exposure to the juvenile justice system. Teen volunteers hear actual cases in Juvenile Court and they actually participate in the proceedings.

The Court makes referrals to Teen Court on cases involving first-time offenders who have admitted to committing a low-level misdemeanor. The youth and his or her parents or guardians must agree to have the case referred to Teen Court for a dispositional hearing literally before a jury of their peers. High school students from across Summit County received training on Court procedure and how to apply the principles of restorative justice to their dispositions.

With the help of volunteers from actual trial attorneys and assistant prosecutors, teens take on the roles of defense attorney and prosecutor and argue their cases to a jury consisting of teen volunteers. Once testimony has been delivered the juror begins their deliberations and returns with a disposition. Should the youth abide by the conditions of their disposition to the satisfaction of the Court, the charge against them will be dismissed.

In 2007, there were 53 active volunteers from 16 high schools participated in 22 Teen Court hearings. There were 23 volunteers who received training in 2007 and the interest in the program will necessitate a second training session in the upcoming year.

Citizen's Review Board

Magistrate Rita M. Rochford, Director

The Citizen's Review Board (CRB) consists of community volunteers who assure the best interests of the children in Dependency, Neglect and Abuse cases are being met. The Board consists of representatives with social work, criminal justice, education and/or medical backgrounds or other significant community involvement. The CRB consists of four separate boards, each of which meet at least twice a month and more often, if necessary, to review the status of children in the permanent custody of the Children Services Board. The CRB ensures that the needs of the children are being met and that Children Services is using reasonable efforts to facilitate the child's permanency plan which is typically adoption.

CRB members review each case at least once every six months and more frequently, if necessary. The Board, in concert with the Magistrate, has the authority to issue orders during the review hearings, to maintain the child's welfare or permanency plan.

The Citizen's Review Board operates pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code and is supervised by a Magistrate/Director under the direct authority of Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio.

In 2007 there were 285 children on the Citizen Review Board's caseload with approximately 293* review hearings on its docket.

**sibling groups are heard during the same hearing for Court efficiency.*

Information Technology

Todd Schauffler, Director

Significant progress was made in 2007 within the area of information technology. Enhancements were made to the core business application or case management system. An evidence module was added to the system which allows for the entry, tracking and return/destruction of evidence admitted during the course of case proceedings. An automated billing module was refined and tested. Billing notices for cases with monies owed were to be mailed out at the beginning of 2008 using this new system. A successful pilot of the Juvenile Court's Attorney Access Gateway was completed and the system was released to attorneys who are appointed or retained on cases at the Juvenile Court. This improved record search site allows registered attorneys to access case information via the Internet. The system has been well received by attorneys who report they are using it on a regular basis to track up-to-date case information for their clients. The IT department was consolidated into one space and the creation of a computer training lab within the new area will allow better access to computer training for employees working at the Juvenile Court.

Diversion Unit

Phil Lucco, Program Director

The Diversion Unit's primary function is to communicate with all law enforcement departments in Summit County and to assist them with their needs and those of the children involved in the juvenile justice system. The Intake Department forwards police reports for children who may be eligible for diversion services to the Diversion Unit. In turn, the Diversion Unit forwards the name to the appropriate police department for a determination as to whether the child meets its criteria for services. Participation in diversion services allows a lower-level offender to receive services in their community and avoid the Court process and an official juvenile record. **In 2007, 1,113 cases went through the Police Departments Diversion Units. Also, 260 cases were sent to diversion by the court.**

The Child Responsibility Project is part of the Diversion Unit. It is the Child Responsibility Project's function to locate job sites where youth will work in order to pay restitution to the victim of their offense. The money that the youth earns is provided through the Reclaim Ohio grant and is paid directly to the victim by the Court. The juvenile was paid an hourly wage as dictated by state law. The wages, up to \$600 per victim, were then turned over to the victim. It is also the responsibility of this unit to compute the hours and track them. **There were 110 males and 18 females that took part in the Child Responsibility Project, completing 6,378 hours worked and earning \$41,455.12, which was paid to victims of crime. The juvenile received \$6.50 an hour.**

Community service hours ordered by the Court are also monitored by the Diversion Unit. The unit works closely with the Intake and Probation Departments to assure that youth are meeting the requirements of their community service sanction. **In 2007, 1,346 juveniles were ordered to complete community service. Those juveniles completed 29,865 hours of community service.**

In 2003, the Court initiated its Special Projects program. This program allows a juvenile to earn credit for eight hours of ordered community service by earning \$40.00 which, depending on the time of year, will be used to purchase toys, food or school supplies. These items are donated to the needy in Summit County. It is the responsibility of the Diversion Unit to track the paperwork for the projects, take custody of the items and assure the delivery of the items to those in need. **In 2007, 63 juveniles participated in one of the three projects throughout the year. 16 juveniles participated in the Food Project, 10 juveniles participated in the School Project, and 37 juveniles participated in the Toy Project.**

The Court deeply appreciates the cooperation and the invaluable services provided by the Diversion Units of the community's Police Departments and the Summit County Sheriff's Office.

Mediation Program

Dependency and neglect cases are lengthy, sometimes lasting two years. In order to address that issue, the Court developed and implemented its successful Mediation Program in early 2006. The Mediation Program is designed to expedite the process to bring the parties together to reach a quicker resolution of their cases.

In 2007, a total of **108 cases** were submitted to the mediation process. Of those cases, **66** were successfully resolved, **33** were unresolved and there were nine instances in which a required third party failed to appear. The mediation program currently involves **15 trained attorney mediators.**

Jeffries, Tolley Named Employees of the Year

Probation Officer Martha Jeffries and Judicial Secretary Jody Tolley were named the recipients of the Juvenile Court's 2007 High Point Awards, acknowledging them as the Court's Employees of the Year. They received their awards at a ceremony May 30th in Summit County Council Chambers as part of county government's 19th annual observance of Employee Recognition Week.

In her introduction, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio noted that Martha was a model Probation Officer, bringing to the job all the qualities necessary to be effective in the field and in the courtroom. Martha retired with 30 years of service in September 2007.

Jody worked in the Summit County Domestic Relations Court before joining Judge Teodosio's staff as her secretary in January 2003. Judge Teodosio cited Jody's ability to work well with the public and her willingness to work with her, even if it means staying until well past the normal end of the work day.

"When you work with someone as closely as I work with Jody, you get to see the best and the worst of a person," said Judge Teodosio. "I have yet to see the worst of Jody Tolley. It takes a special person to do her job and she is a special person. She is a gift."

Martha and Jody join Patty Blasio, Todd Schaffler (2005), Bryan Bryce, Ursula Gould and Esther Thomas (2006) as past Juvenile Court High Point Award winners.



Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio (center) poses with the Court's 2007 Employees of the Year, Jody Tolley (left) and Martha Jeffries.

2007 Accomplishments

Models for Change: The State of Ohio was one of four new states in the nation selected to take part in this project which was funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The state needed to select a county with which to collaborate and the state chose Summit County. The state cited the county's outstanding network of social service agencies and, in its grant application, specifically took note of the programs implemented under Judge Teodosio's administration of the Court. The Models for Change program aims to accelerate progress toward a more rational, fair, effective and developmentally appropriate juvenile justice process. Judge Teodosio was also selected to be part of both the local and statewide leadership team.

Disproportionate Minority Contact Initiative: In August, 2007 Summit County Juvenile Court was one of fourteen Ohio counties to receive a grant from the Department of Youth Services for \$53,530 to participate in the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Initiative. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Act of 2002 requires that states examine possible disparate representation of minority youth at all decision points along the juvenile justice continuum. The purpose of this initiative is to reduce overrepresentation of minority youth through the development and implementation of a model for community capacity building and system changes to address issues effecting DMC. Judge Teodosio established a DMC Review Committee of twenty community leaders to assist the court in identifying and assessing those decision points that exhibit disparate minority representation. This Committee is a sub-committee of Summit County's Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Enhanced Legal Services: In order to better assist families whose children have been removed from their care, the Court enlisted the help of local attorneys to provide guidance at Shelter Care hearings. These hearings are conducted on the first business day following the child's removal. In addition to protecting the legal rights of parents, the availability of counsel at this stage of the proceedings assures that families immediately begin working toward reunification with their children.

Attorney Access Gateway: This new addition to the Court's web site is designed to allow attorneys secure access to case information. After registering, attorneys can gain access to the data provided, which includes case schedules, docketing and contact information for the case(s) on which they are appointed or retained. This will make case record information available 24 hours a day and allow attorneys to access records from their home, office or anywhere they have access to the Internet.

Award from the Multiple Sclerosis Society: On December 1, 2007 in Columbus, the Court received the Employer of the Year Award from the Buckeye Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The Society cited the "understanding and outstanding treatment and understanding shown to people with disabilities, specifically [court employee] Katie Herman. We commend the efforts of the Summit County Juvenile Court," said Janet Kramer, President of the Ohio Buckeye Chapter of the National MS Society. "They have made accommodations to keep a person with a disability employed by providing support and understanding over the years."

Staff Development Training: During 2007, Court staff completed 6,420 hours of staff development. Each month the Court conducted mandatory training for staff in the areas of improving communications with clients and Court personnel, reviewing Court policies, legal update for all staff and protecting the records of clients from identity theft. There were also nine specialized training programs offered, including such issues as substance abuse, gang activity, suicide prevention and improving communication with families. The Court also sponsored 24 Brown Bag presentations during the year. These Brown Bags gave Court staff the opportunity to learn about programs, services or organizations to assist their work with clients and were conducted during their lunch break.

The Employees of the Summit County Juvenile Court*

Robert Aaron
Bruce Alexander
Akaree Anderson
Cheryl Anderson
Charli Armstead
Rebecca Armstrong
Lori Augustus

Tammy Barnes
Tavia Baxter
Terry Bando
Linda Bennett
Kathy Bertsch
Doug Bettis
Bob Bickett
Carly Bittner
Patty Blasio
Will Boddie
Jennifer Bond
Mary Bonetti
Jon Booher
Stephanie Borak
Anita Boyer
Ellery Bradford
Juan Branch
Lucretia Brenner
Kimberly Brooks
Christine Brown
Richard Brown
Sandra Brown
Bryan Bryce
Mary Burney

Lorrie Campbell
Lisa Zano Carano
Beth Cardina
Brittany Cerne
Tom Cerne
Brad Christman
Vonda Coffman
Sonya Cole
Delmar Coleman
Renee Conlon
Bob Cox
Kurt Cox
Brandon Crandall
Kelli Crawford
Arlene Culler

Sarah DeLeo
Jennifer Dinkins
Lisa DiSabato-Moore

Lisa Eagle
Debra Ellis
Cheryl Evans
Julianna Evans

Ruby Fair
Chanin Falth
Chris Falconer
Jackie Farrance
Chris Fergus
Tremain Fields
Kevin Floyd

Brian Fogle
Darin Ford
Lauren Fortnoff
Tom Freeman
Julianne Fuller
Alan Futo

Tom Gaffney
Susan Gatts
Ursula Gould
Michelle Gowens
Davine Green
Norma Green
Don Guthrie

Karen Haddad
Sherrl Hankton
Almee Harris
Charece Harris
Lisa Hawes
Will Hawkins
Katie Herman
Michael Herman
Jessica Heropulos
LaTonya Hill
Kandy Hixson
David Holmgren
Erin Hookey
David Horner
Curtis Howard

Andre Jackson
Jerry James
Tina Jarosch
Genesis Jeffries
Martha Jeffries
Nate Johnson
Tammy Johnson-Sparks
Brandon Jones
Dawn Jones
Kenneth Jones
Lavel Jones

Kristen Kaludy
Lisa Karas
Sabrina Kearns
Allen Kelly
Joseph Kernan
Judl Keyes
Maria Kostoff
Irene Kuckovic
Rocky Kurchak

Shawn Lazarus
Greg Lewis
Richard Lilly
Barbara List
Donald Lomax
Leslie Lorenz
Phil Lucco
Keith Luhring

Melissa Madden
Dawne Marlowe
Chris Martin

Jim Martin
Lavar Martin
Stacey Mathieu
Kristin Maxwell
Tracy Mays
Rob McCarty
Ollvia McClellan
Nick McCoy
Robert McFarren
Denise McGuckin
Mary Ann Mendlik
David Molls
Kandy Monroe
Robert Moore
Andrea Morton
Lynda Mullins
Patrick Munford
Lora Mycoskie
Keysha Myers-Murphy

Shanda Nagle
Michelle Neely
Steven Nettle
Mary Nicholls

Juwana Owens

Juston Palmer
Laura Palmer
Linda Palmer
Jeanne Papol
Karen Parnell
Kim Pay
Stephanie Peterson
Joe Petrucelli
Keith Phillipot
Jonathan Pooler
Jeff Pope
Raylene Pruszkowski

Hema Ramachandran
Christine Rees
Leslie Rice
Tammy Richardson
Grace Robinson
Rita Rochford
Ralph Roebuck
Susan Rollings
Tarah Ross
Sarah Roupe
Aaron Rulewicz
Amy Russell

Jennifer Samardak
Jeri Sampson
Rebecca Scalise
Robert Scalise
Todd Schaffner
Cory Schwelgert
Scott Scisio
Reginald Scott
Kathryn Sellers
Lola Simmons
Cheryl Simpson

Justin Sims
Robert Singletary
Corrine Six
Latana Slayton
Eric Small
Carle Smith
Christopher Smith
Thomas Smith
Mike Soyars
Steve Stahl
Sara Stenger
David Stevens
Tammy Stiles
Maureen Sullivan

Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio
Cathy Richardson Thomas
Esther Thomas
Jody Tolley
Michael Tramonte
Denise Truxell
Mary Beth Tschantz
Tazmin Turpin
Triston Tyrrell
Woody Tyrrell

Don Ursetti

Ed VandenBulke
Katie Van Horn
Joanne Vetter
John Vuillemin

Rashara Walker
Lakumba Wallace
Brandy Walters
Terry Walton
Michael Ward
Dr. Thomas Webb
James Whited
Tim Wilkes
Kevin Williams
Michelle Williams
Jane Wilson
John Wilson
Eddie Winstead
Tiffany Worthy
Quin Wychanko

Kimberly York

Joan Zito

* List includes part-time employees and those employees who worked a portion of 2007.



Copies printed 250
Cost per copy: \$3.2775 each