

**Court of Common Pleas of Beaver County**

**JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION**

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

# **COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BEAVER COUNTY**

Honorable Richard Mancini	President Judge
Honorable Kim Tesla	Judge
Honorable James J. Ross	Judge
Honorable Dale M. Fouse	Judge
Honorable Mitchell P. Shahen	Judge
Honorable Deborah Lancos DeCostro	Judge
Honorable Laura J. Tocci	Judge

William R. Hare, Esq.	District Court Administrator
Aileen Bowers	Deputy District Court Administrator
Garrett Harper	Deputy District Court Administrator

Tiffany York	Juvenile Hearing Officer
J. Philip Colavincenzo	Juvenile Hearing Officer

## **JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION STAFF**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Colleen Tittiger	Director
Charles Rossi, Jr.	Assistant Director
Doug Clarke	Supervisor
Erin Sabol	Clerical and Fiscal Manager

### **INTAKE / CHILD CUSTODY**

Michael Miller – Intake Coordinator	
Joy Porto	J.T. Engel
John Davis	Michael Braddock

### **PROBATION OFFICERS**

Daniel DelTurco	Sean Bunney
Marshall Clark	Debra Landsbaugh
Brandi Sabol	Meena Hill
Curtis Shroads	Kris McCafferty
Nelly Peralta	Frank Jupin, Jr.
Ryan Nohe	Amber Mineard

## **CLERICAL SERVICES**

Tammy Bonchi  
Marie Saunders  
Deborah Goedeker  
Alicia Zarrillo

## **THE AGENCY**

The Juvenile Services Division is an agency of the Court of Common Pleas of Beaver County. It operates pursuant to 42 PA. C.S. 6301 et. seq. (The Juvenile Act) and the Pennsylvania Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure. The focus of this agency is to process delinquency, dependency and child custody filings.

All delinquent programs and services are predicated on the use of employing evidenced based practices through the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategies. This is completed with fidelity at every stage of the juvenile process along with the Balanced and Restorative Justice Model as set forth in 42 PA C.S. 6301 (b) (2). Under this model, the agency mandate is to provide balanced attention to community protection, imposition of accountability and the development of competencies to enable youth to become productive and responsible members of the community.

In addition to our intake department, probation supervision services are provided to clients in the schools, placement, and on an intensive level. Best practice is to continue to provide specialized probation services through the risk and need of the clients and families within the community. The Juvenile Court Judges Commission provides funding for services through this department. Also, the Juvenile Services Division operates a community service program, the Truancy Intervention with the Abatement Program, Victim Awareness, the Redeem Fund (Restitution Program), and Positive Transitions (a parenting class) created in 2019, for child custody litigants.

## **2022 HIGHLIGHTS**

This past year of 2022, we had significant changes. There had been difficulty in scheduling Juvenile Court for various reasons since the beginning of the pandemic. We had an extensive back log of cases. Therefore, we used two of our largest offices and with the approval of the Commissioners and the Court, a small Courtroom was created with the appropriate equipment to hold virtual hearings as well as in person. This has made a significant impact on this department. We are able to have Court twice a week and all day if necessary. There is no longer a backlog of cases, staff are not encumbered to take a cart with files to the second floor, we are within close walking distance of the Courtroom, staff can reach out to other officers quickly, when they need to be present in the Courtroom, and children do not need to be on the second floor at the same time adults have hearings. The Courtroom is also available for other types of hearings if necessary and has been used for Arbitrations.

In 2022, this department partnered with TRAILS Ministries in using their D.O.V.E. (Diversity, Occupation, Vocation and Education) program which is PACTT affiliated. The agency addresses the academic needs of clients as well as providing technical training.

Since the pandemic, this department has taken advantage of using virtual equipment as well as meeting clients in-person. This enables this department to run efficiently. Staff have been able to complete trainings, and placement visits virtually as well.

Every year our liaison, Angela Work, from the Juvenile Court Judge's Commission, goes to each of her assigned counties for a Court Service Visit. In 2022, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission conducted an in-person comprehensive visit. The Commission was also evaluated by the Juvenile Justice Task Force. Some changes that are required are the funds that are provided by the commission must be directly related to probation services. Also, the commission required that a YLS be completed for most informal cases within 30 days from the intake appointment. If the juvenile was adjudicated the YLS would be completed prior to disposition.

A comprehensive time study was completed as to amount of time our intake officers, Assistant Director and other probation officers were involved in child custody conferences, writing the recommendation to the Court, reviewing the recommendations, teaching the Positive Transition Educational Class and being involved with Act 53 cases and dependency cases. The average amount of time that intake officers spent conducting child custody classes was 14.6%. The Assistant Director spent approximately 27% of his time processing child custody and Act 53 cases. We also had other Probation Officers that attended truancy hearings. The average for two of the Probation Officers was 4.5%. An additional Probation Officer handles the majority of the truancy cases and teaches Positive Transitions which accounted for 33% of her time. Staff must maintain 50% of their time in Juvenile Probation Services to be eligible for Grant In Aid. These requirements were overwhelming met.

Other activities that were discussed during our visit, included in the previous 2020/2021 JJSES Implementation Plan. This addressed, the impact of the COVID-19 health crisis in achieving the plan in full. The 2021/2022 JJSES Implementation Plan goals reflected the department's interest to advance all stages of the JJSES through detailed descriptions of activity updates and activity goals. The department is engaged in all stages of the JJSES. The department recently held their annual stakeholder meeting in an effort to continue to share information and educate stakeholders and members of the community. Various items related to the ongoing implementation of the PaDRAI, MAYSI, CTS, TIDP, EPICS, and graduated responses were discussed in detail.

In 2022, we were still able to nominate juveniles for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Awards. We had two clients win awards.

In 2022, the Beaver County Juvenile Services continued using the Ready Yourself Youth Ranch as a community service site. The ranch is a non-profit faith-based organization that was established to help mentor youth who face everyday conflicts and challenges by giving them an equestrian experience through the rescue and care of horses. The impact has been extraordinary. Services were expanded in partnership with the Ranch, Beaver County Juvenile Services Division and Beaver County Children and Youth Services. In 2022, the departments in conjunction with the ranch conducted the Sixth annual Ten-week camp during the summer. The camp was titled "Bringing It Back to Basics." The camp was held three days per week; there

were twelve probation youth and four Children and Youth referred to the program. The class was from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. During the first part of the camp, Ready Yourself Youth Ranch staff provided the mentoring piece and during the second half of the day, staff from Juvenile Services worked on various cognitive behaviors through the use of motivational interviewing and the use of the BITS and Carey Guides. Staff engaged in role playing with clients, provided skills in problem solving, anger management, life skills, patience, and the clients learned how to positively interact with those around them. Clients also created various art projects. Eight of the probation clients successfully completed the program and six of the children referred by Children and Youth completed the program. At the end of the program, a dinner was held in honor of the children that participated in the camp. They received a catered meal and awards and then displayed their horseback riding skills to their families and mentors.

Also, the ranch received donations from the community, so a garden was planted and implemented into the camp. At the end of each day the kids were able to take fresh vegetables home to their families.

It should be noted, that the staff at Ready Yourself Youth Ranch not only mentors our youth, but help their families as well. It gives parents the opportunity to work alongside their child and engage in effective communication in a calming serene area. This program is offered to our youth and families throughout the year so even when a client's case is closed they can continue to attend.

The RYYR has also partnered with local churches in the community to help provide transportation and meals for kids. All children that have previously attended the camp since 2017 can continue to attend the ranch once a month through the fall and winter of each year. They can groom and ride the horses and a meal is provided to these children. The ranch averages approximately ten kids that return to the ranch.

The Juvenile Services Division continued with its placement philosophy of placing only those delinquents that represent a high risk to recidivate for the most serious offenses, community protection and offenders whose needs cannot be met in the community. Our efforts to maximize the use of intervention and diversion programs have yielded positive outcomes with respect to removing juveniles from their homes.

The use of Evidenced Based Practices has substantially affected this department on a daily basis. The use of the YLS/CMI enables our staff to identify the risk and needs of clients. Over the last year, the probation officers have participated in training of Effective Practices In Community Settings (EPICS). EPICS is a set of supervision techniques used by probation officers to help build relationships, increase motivation to change, provide intentional interventions aimed at changing a youth's behavior and identify and address skill deficits. Based on the score of the YLS, the criminogenic needs, probation officers are able to develop proper case plans.

Staff also use the Carey Guides and BITS for certain situations that arise with clients. The PADRAI (Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument) is a tool that enables intake officers to validate their decisions when placing a juvenile in detention. Clients are offered the MAYSI (Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument) at the intake level as well as now a trauma tool. These tools are used to ensure a child is not at immediate risk to harm himself/herself or

someone else. Depending on the result of these tools, crisis intervention can be provided on an emergency basis.

This department has continued to implement the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. The four stages are: Readiness, Initiation, Behavioral Change and Refinement.

The Juvenile Services has continued to utilize the Virtual Visitation operated by Trails Ministry. Virtual Visitation is electronic communication through the internet that allows families to come together in a way that assists them in reconciliation and at a time of crisis. Throughout the past year, the program continued to expand its services and now collaborates with all out of home residential programs. The program has been extremely beneficial to the families we serve, especially since the closed of our afterschool program, as it gives family members an opportunity to visit with their children through teleconferencing while they are in shelter, detention or a placement facility. Staff from Trails attend court hearings, assist families with transportation, provide role modeling and mentoring programs. They also provide community service projects for the juvenile. In addition, staff will provide support to the client and family in meeting treatment goals.

In 2022, this department continued to pay legal fees for juveniles for Act 53 commitments. An Act 53 commitment is an involuntary placement to a drug and alcohol facility based on a drug and alcohol evaluation recommendation. There were 6 Act 53 cases in 2022, which totaled \$2275.50 in legal fees. In 2021 there were 5 Act 53 cases.

This department had several goals for FY21-22 which included, continue implementing the Child Trauma Tool, EPICS, Graduated Responses, reviewing and revising policies and procedures, continue with evidenced based practices with stakeholders, continued use of the YLS/CMI and other evidenced based practice tools.

## **REFERRALS AND DISPOSITIONS**

### *Referrals by type: 2018-2022*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DELINQUENCY</b>	<b>DEPENDENCY</b>	<b>CUSTODY</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2022</b>	393	69	699	1161
<b>2021</b>	282	56	786	1124
<b>2020</b>	249	38	764	1052
<b>2019</b>	457	48	752	1257
<b>2018</b>	447	59	648	1154

In 2022, delinquency referrals increased by 39.3% from 2021 and increased significantly by (58%), since 2020. This was due to the department being under an emergency order as a result of the pandemic. Filings were less during this time period. The prior two years 2018-2019, delinquency referrals remained fairly the same with an average filing of 452 allegations per year. In 2022, dependency referrals increased by 23% from the prior year, with an average filing of 54 allegations since 2018. Custody referrals decreased by 12.5% in 2022, since the previous year; over the past five years there was an average filing of 730 cases.

***Delinquency referral demographics 2022***

	<b>BLACK</b>	<b>WHITE</b>	<b>BI-RACIAL</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>FIRST OFFENDER</b>	<b>REPEAT OFFENDER</b>
<b>2022</b>	43%	51%	6%	71%	29%	50%	50%
<b>2021</b>	48%	58%		71%	29%	57%	43%
<b>2020</b>	43%	57%		68%	32%	43%	57%
<b>2019</b>	51%	49%		68%	32%	41%	58%
<b>2018</b>	44%	56%		70%	30%	42%	58%

Youth 15 years of age and older accounted for 65% of all delinquency allegations filed in 2022. Youth ages 10-12 accounted for 8% and youth ages 13-14 year represented 27% of allegations filed in 2022. A column for Bi-Racial youth was added in 2022 rather than adding the number in the Black or White column.

***Referrals by source 2018-2022***

	<b>Total Delinquency Referrals</b>	<b>By Law Enforcement Agcy.</b>	<b>By MDJ</b>
<b>2021</b>	393	312(79%)	81(21%)
<b>2021</b>	282	230(82%)	52(18%)
<b>2020</b>	449	192(70%)	57(30%)
<b>2019</b>	457	342(75%)	115(25%)
<b>2018</b>	447	333(74%)	114(26%)

Police departments with the most referrals were: Ambridge, 49; Baden, 33; New Brighton, 30; Hopewell Twp., 22; Beaver Falls, 18; Aliquippa, 16; Big Beaver Falls SRO, 15. All other departments had ten and under filings. The number of filings has dramatically increased since the Pandemic is over.

***Referrals by most serious charge***

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	47	19	13	39	27
BURGLARY	10	8	4	14	19
DRUG RELATED/DUI	66	60	34	67	61
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	57	25	17	24	28
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	20	20	16	16	22
FIREARMS & WEAPONS/MANSLAUGHTER	27	25	16	17	27
SEX OFFENSES	30	6	38	67	19
UNPAID FINES	81	53	63	115	117
THEFT (ALL)	74	48	86	224	132
ROBBERY	7	3	1	9	4
SIMPLE ASSAULT	73	66	47	94	95
TERRORISTIC THREATS	14	16	15	32	31
ADMINISTRATIVE	36	29	40	49	59

There were 5 counts of Arson related offenses; 1 count of Strangulation; 1 count of Endangering the Welfare of Children; 23 counts of Institutional Vandalism; 114 counts of Disorderly Conduct and Harassment and numerous other misdemeanor and summary offenses. The above charges were mentioned because some have never been filed before. Of the 857 charges on the 393 allegations filed in 2022, 179 or 21% were graded as felonies

***Delinquency dispositions 2018-2022***

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>INTAKE ADJUSTMENT</b>	<b>CONSENT DECREE</b>	<b>FORMAL PROCESSING</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2022</b>	87	117	136	340
<b>2021</b>	83	68	102	253
<b>2020</b>	70	71	126	267
<b>2019</b>	98	142	182	422
<b>2018</b>	105	106	277	488

*Formal (Court) dispositions 2022:*

<b>TRANSFERRED TO CRIMINAL COURT</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>DISMISSED/WITDRAWN</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>PROBATION</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>COMMITMENT</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>TRANSFER TO OTHER COUNTY</b>	<b>4</b>

## **DETENTION**

*Secure detention 2018-2022*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>ADMISSIONS</b>	<b>RELEASES</b>	<b>CHILD DAYS</b>	<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	<b>AVG. POPULATION</b>
<b>2022</b>	12	13	293	22.5	.8
<b>2021</b>	10	9	324	36	.9
<b>2020</b>	14	16	513	36.6	1.4
<b>2019</b>	25	27	564	22.5	1.5
<b>2018</b>	23	22	461	21.0	1.3

*Shelter 2018-2022*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>ADMISSIONS</b>	<b>RELEASES</b>	<b>CHILD DAYS</b>	<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	<b>AVG. POPULATION</b>
<b>2022</b>	14	14	221	15.7	.61
<b>2021</b>	19	19	350	18.4	.95
<b>2020</b>	15	15	268	17.9	.73
<b>2019</b>	37	40	1130	30.5	3.1
<b>2018</b>	74	72	1312	18.2	3.6

*Temporary foster care 2018-2022*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>ADMISSIONS</b>	<b>RELEASES</b>	<b>CHILD DAYS</b>	<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	<b>AVG. POPULATION</b>
<b>2022</b>	23	24	324	13.5	.9
<b>2021</b>	30	28	496	17.7	1.4
<b>2020</b>	17	16	395	23.2	1.1
<b>2019</b>	25	28	854	34.2	2.3
<b>2018</b>	24	21	1190	56.7	3.3

## **CLIENT SUPERVISION**

*Cases Under Court Supervision as of 12/31/22*

<b>Function</b>	<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>Avg. Caseload</b>	<b># of staff assigned</b>
Intensive/line probation	45	9	5
Aftercare	21	7	3
School-based probation	46	15	3
Informal adjustment cases	23	23	1
Total cases under supervision	135	9	12



Probation officers also supervised truancy cases throughout 2022. There was a total of 6 cases that were supervised. There are 3 line staff that provide supervision with an average caseload of 2 clients per caseload.

## CASE OUTCOMES

### CHANGE IN YLS RISK SCORES/LEVELS

1. **101 or 80.2%** of juveniles required to complete a YLS per county policy
2. Of those **101** juveniles, **95 or 94.1%** of juveniles that had an initial and case closing assessment (among those required to complete a YLS per county policy)
3. **61 or 64.2%** of juveniles scored low risk at initial assessment (among those who had an initial and case closing YLS)
4. **29 or 30.5%** of juveniles scored moderate risk at initial assessment (among those who had an initial and case closing YLS)
5. **5 or 5.3%** of juveniles scored high or very high risk at initial assessment (among those who had an initial and case closing (YLS)
6. Among juveniles who completed both assessments, the number and percentage of juveniles scoring **low risk** on their initial assessment (61) that had:
  - a. a lower *YLS score* at case closing than at initial assessment - **38 or 62.3%**
  - b. a higher *YLS score* at case closing than at initial assessment - **10 or 16.4%**
  - c. *YLS scores* that stayed the same - **13 or 21.3%**

Among juveniles who completed both assessments, the number and percentage of juveniles scoring **moderate risk** on their initial assessment (29) that had:

- a. a lower *YLS score* at case closing than at initial assessment - **21 or 72.4%**
- b. a higher *YLS score* at case closing than at initial assessment - **7 or 24.1%**
- c. *YLS scores* that stayed the same - **1 or 3.4%**

Among juveniles who completed both assessments, the number and percentage of juveniles scoring **high or very high risk** on their initial assessment (5) that had:

- a. a lower *YLS score* at case closing than at initial assessment - **5 or 100.0%**
- b. a higher *YLS score* at case closing than at initial assessment - **0 or 0.0%**
- c. *YLS scores* that stayed the same - **0 or 0.0%**

7. Among juveniles who completed both assessments, the number and percentage of juveniles scoring **low risk** on their initial assessment (61) that had:
  - a. a higher *YLS level* at case closing than at initial assessment - **4 or 6.6%**
  - b. *YLS levels* that stayed the same - **57 or 93.4%**

Among juveniles who completed both assessments, the number and percentage of juveniles scoring **moderate risk** on their initial assessment (29) that had:

- a. a lower *YLS level* at case closing than at initial assessment - **10 or 34.5%**
- b. a higher *YLS level* at case closing than at initial assessment - **0 or 0.0%**
- c. *YLS levels* that stayed the same - **19 or 65.5%**

Among juveniles who completed both assessments, the number and percentage of juveniles scoring **high or very high risk** on their initial assessment (5) that had:

- a. a lower *YLS level* at case closing than at initial assessment - **4 or 80.0%**
- b. *YLS levels* that stayed the same - **1 or 20.0%**

## **COMMUNITY PROTECTION: The citizens of Pennsylvania have a right to safe and secure communities.**

### **1. Fingerprints, Photographs, and DNA Collection**

**24 or 19.0%** of juveniles closed (126) were **required** to be **fingerprinted and photographed** for an adjudicated offense

Of those **24** juveniles that were **required** to be **fingerprinted and photographed** for an adjudicated offense,

**19 or 79.2%** were Fingerprinted, **5 or 20.8%** were not Fingerprinted  
**19 or 79.2%** were Photographed, **5 or 20.8%** were not Photographed  
**19 or 79.2%** were indicated as being Fingerprinted and Photographed  
**5 or 20.8%** were indicated as being not Fingerprinted and Photographed  
**0 or 0 %** were indicated as either Fingerprinted or Photographed

**10 or 7.9%** of juveniles closed (126) were **required** to **submit a DNA sample** for an applicable offense  
Of those **10** juveniles that were **required** to **submit a DNA sample** for an applicable offense, **9 or 90.0%** had DNA sample Collected

### **2. Juvenile Offenses while under supervision**

**125 or 99.2%** of juveniles **successfully completed supervision without a new juvenile offense** resulting in a Consent Decree or Adjudication of Delinquency

**1 or 0.8%** of juveniles, while under supervision, **were charged with a new juvenile offense** that resulted in a Consent Decree or Adjudication of Delinquency

**7 or 5.6%** of juveniles, while under supervision, **were petitioned to court for a violation of probation**

**3 or 2.4%** of juveniles, while under supervision, **were petitioned to court for a violation of probation** that resulted in a change of disposition

### **3. Adult Offenses and Direct File while under supervision**

**5 or 4.0%** of juveniles, while under supervision, **were charged with a new criminal offense** and are **pending** in criminal court

**2 or 1.6%** of juveniles, while under supervision, **were charged with a new criminal offense** and **subsequently entered** ARD, a plea of Nolo Contendere, **or were found guilty** in criminal court

**0 or 0.0%** of juveniles, while under supervision, **were charged with a "direct file" offense** that is **pending** in criminal court

**1 or 0.8%** of juveniles, while under supervision, **were charged with a "direct file" offense** and **subsequently entered** ARD, a plea of Nolo Contendere, **or were found guilty** in a criminal proceeding

### **4. Median length of supervision: 6.0 months**

### **5. Placement**

**6 or 4.8%** of juveniles were committed to out-of-home placement for 28 or more consecutive days (excluding detention, shelter care, and diagnostic placement)  
Median length of stay in out-of-home placement for 28 or more consecutive days (excluding detention, shelter care, and diagnostic placement): **23.5 months**

**ACCOUNTABILITY: In Pennsylvania, when a crime is committed by a juvenile, an obligation to the victim and community is incurred.**

### **1. Restitution**

**26 or 20.6%** of juveniles closed (126) **had** a restitution **obligation**

Total amount of restitution **ordered** was **\$14,675.76**

**26 or 100.0%** of juveniles obligated **made full** restitution to their victim(s)

Total amount of restitution **collection** was **\$14,675.76**

**0 or 0.0%** of juveniles obligated that **did not make full** restitution to their victim(s)

**0 or 0.0%** of juveniles that **did not make full** restitution were **aged out and judgment was entered**

**0 or 0.0%** of juveniles that **did not make full** restitution were **aged out and no judgment entered**

**0 or 0.0%** of juveniles that **did not make full** restitution had their **case closed and judgment was entered prior to aging out**

**0 or 0.0%** of juveniles that **did not make full** restitution had their **case closed with no judgment entered**

**0 or 0.0%** of juveniles that **did not make full** restitution were **Deceased**

### **2. Community Service**

**119 or 100.0%** of juveniles **completed** assigned community service obligation

**2,881** total community service hours were **assigned**

**119 or 94.4%** of juveniles were **assigned** community service

**2,881** total community service hours were **completed**

### **3. Other Financial Obligations**

**107 or 84.9%** of juveniles were **ordered** to pay Crime Victim's Compensation Fund Costs

**105 or 98.1%** of juveniles paid Crime Victim's Compensation Fund Costs in full

Total amount Crime Victim's Compensation Fund costs collected: **\$3,335.75**

**114 or 90.5%** of juveniles were **ordered** to pay other fines, fees, or court costs

Total amount of fines, fees, or court costs collected: **\$15,713.25**

**111 or 97.4%** of juveniles obligated paid fines, fees, or court costs **in full**

**3 or 2.6%** of juveniles obligated **did not** pay fines, fees, or court costs in full

**1 or 33.3%** of juveniles that did not pay full fines, fees, or court costs, were **aged out and judgment was entered**

**0 or 0.0%** of juveniles that did not pay full fines, fees, or court costs, were **aged out and no judgment was entered**

**2 or 66.7%** of juveniles that did not pay full fines, fees, or court costs, had their **case closed and no judgment was entered**

**0 or 0.0%** of juveniles that did not pay full fines, fees, or court costs, had their **case closed and judgment was entered** prior to aging out

**0 or 0.0%** of juveniles that did not pay full fines, fees, or court costs were **Deceased**

#### **4. Victim Awareness**

**87 or 69.0%** of juveniles were **ordered** to participate in a victim awareness curriculum/program while under supervision

**87 or 100.0%** of juveniles **successfully completed** a victim awareness curriculum/program while under supervision

**COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT:** *Juveniles who come within the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System should leave the system more capable of being responsible and productive members of the communities.*

#### **Case Plan Activities**

**39 or 31.0%** of juveniles required to complete a Case Plan per county policy

**38 or 97.4%** of juveniles had a case plan completed that included goals and risk reduction activities to address the top 2-3 criminogenic needs identified by the YLS.

**38 or 97.4%** of case plans were successfully completed during supervision

**37 or 94.9%** case plans were updated throughout the supervision period

#### **Activities Utilized During Supervision for All Cases Closed**

**110 or 87.3%** of plans included **Skill Building & Tools activities**

**86 or 68.3%** of plans included **Cognitive Behavioral Group Interventions**

**55 or 43.7%** of plans included **Referral to Treatment Services**

**12 or 9.5%** of plans included **other activities**

#### **Education and Employment**

**123 or 97.6%** of juveniles were employed or actively engaged in an educational or vocational activity at case closing

**1 or 0.8%** of juveniles were **attending G.E.D. preparation classes** while under supervision

**12 or 9.8%** of juveniles **graduated high school** while under supervision

**3 or 2.4%** of juveniles were **attending school and not passing** while under supervision

**95 or 77.2%** of juveniles were **attending school and passing** while under supervision

**13 or 10.6%** of juveniles were **employed full time** while under supervision

**8 or 6.5%** of juveniles were **actively seeking employment** while under supervision

**2 or 1.6%** of juveniles were **participating in vocational training** while under supervision

**1 or 0.8%** of juveniles **obtained G.E.D** while under supervision

**27 or 22.0%** of juveniles were **employed part time** while under supervision

**9 or 7.3%** of juveniles were **enrolled or participating in higher education** while under supervision

## **DEPENDENCY CASES**

There were 69 dependency cases filed in 2022. Filings increased almost 23% over the last year. There were 64 dependency dispositions in 2022. There was a carryover from 2021.

### *Dependency referral demographics – 2022*

<b>Race</b>	
<i>White</i>	52%
<i>Black</i>	33%
<i>Multi-racial</i>	15%
<b>Age at referral</b>	
<i>Under 10</i>	19%
<i>10-12</i>	8%
<i>13-14</i>	29%
<i>15-16</i>	32%
<i>17 and over</i>	12%

<b>Sex</b>	
<i>Male</i>	48%
<i>Female</i>	52%
<b>Referred by</b>	
<i>CYS</i>	49%
<i>Other</i>	51%

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>INFORMAL</b>	<b>FORMAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>31</b>

## **CHILD CUSTODY CASES**

### *Child custody referrals and dispositions / 2020-2022*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>REFERRALS</b>	<b>DISPOSITIONS</b>
<b>2022</b>	699	644
<b>2021</b>	786	841
<b>2020</b>	764	737

The Juvenile Services Division conducted several homes studies for child custody cases during 2022.

### *Child custody dispositions / 2019-2022*

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>AGREEMENT</b>	57	18	38
<b>PROPOSED ORDER</b>	179	272	211
<b>TEMP. ORDER/ FINAL</b>	0	0	0
<b>FINAL ORDER (COURT)</b>	377	430	384
<b>OTHER</b>	60	102	102
<b>EXCEPTIONS FILED</b>	67	78	81
<b>RESOLVED AT JSD*</b>	91%	90%	90%

\*Cases resolved at JSD is the percentage of cases filed that did not result in the filing of exceptions. It does not take into consideration that some exceptions may have been filed during the year on cases filed the prior year. The percentage of dispositions resolved at JSD for the year of 2022, reflects dispositions of previous pending cases from prior years. The total dispositions in 2022 was 644 – 60 = 584 or 91%.

## COLLECTIONS

<i>Collection Summary/2022</i>	<i>Assessed</i>	<i>Collected</i>
Restitution	\$27,887.96	\$18,607.80
Crime Victims Comp.	\$2,952.24	\$2,746.41
DUI Fees	\$0	\$0
Juvenile Restitution Fund	\$20,592.93	\$19,629.68
Juvenile Supervision Fees	\$6,750.00	\$6448.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$58,183.13</b>	<b>\$47,432.53</b>

### ***Redeem Fund / 2022***

Beginning balance	\$33,884.47
Deposits	\$12,652.38
Paid out	\$12,114.96
Ending balance	\$34,421.89
Clients participating	70
Client's referred in 2019/2021	14
Clients completed	36

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Juvenile Services Division operates programs for youth involved in the justice system and utilizes several other community-based privately, operated programs on behalf of our clients and community. A brief summary of these programs follows:

**COMMUNITY SERVICE** – Since 1985 the agency has operated a community service program. Nearly every delinquency disposition order has a requirement for community service. Most orders are for 25 to 50 hours. To make amends for their offenses, juvenile offenders provide thousands of hours of free service in their communities each year by participating in projects such as the RYYR Youth Ranch, the Recycling Center, Maple Syrup Festival, The San Rocco Festival, Good Samaritan, several Car Cruises, the Ohio River Cleanup, Monaca Borough, Penn State Agriculture, Meals at Faith Community United Methodist Church, Rochester, PA, and various other sites throughout Beaver County. There were 145 clients that completed 2952 hours of community service during the year of 2022. This includes clients that were on probation for their Court Ordered community service.

**REDEEM FUND** – In 2007 the Beaver County Court of Common Pleas created and has continued to operate a restitution program. Funds come to the program from collected unpaid fines for summary offenses that were referred by the Magisterial District Offices and any juvenile that is placed on consent decree or formal probation pays the cost of \$50.00 to the program. Once a juvenile enters the program, he or she may complete community service at now \$15.00/hour which goes directly towards the cost owed to the victim and the client's supervision fees if money is available. In 2022, there were 56 clients referred and 35 clients that successfully completed the program. There was \$12,114.96, earned in community service hours. This money was subsequently paid to victims of crimes and for supervision fees.

**YLS/CMI** - The YLS/CMI is an instrument that is administered as a part of the probation process to assess a youth's level of risk to re-offend. That information is used to help intake staff determine appropriate case processing and disposition recommendations. There are 67 counties in Pennsylvania that use the YLS/CMI. Risk level information allows the agency to allocate a greater amount of resources to high and moderate risk clients. The instrument also helps identify issues that are problematic for a given youth so that an appropriate case plan can be developed to address them. In 2022, 311 YLS/CMI assessments were completed. Of those cases, 0% (0) were to be considered very high; 11% (33) of the youth were determined to be high risk, 31% (96) were moderate risk and the remaining 38% (181), were low risk. Periodically during the life of a case, probation officers reassess clients so that services may be adjusted upward or downward to reflect any changes in risk level.

**MCS/ELECTRONIC MONITORING** – Another tool that is used by the Court is the Electronic Monitoring System. This enables high risk clients to remain in their home in lieu of detention. Probation Officers can track a client's whereabouts through the computer via satellite. The bracelet is designed to be used for a two-month period. During 2022, there were 19 clients that were referred to the program. This is a 47% increase in the use of the bracelet from 2021. Out of these 19 clients in 2022, 1 was zero tolerance cases and 18 were non-zero tolerance.

**UNDERAGE DRINKING PROGRAM** – The program is designed as an alternative disposition resource primarily for use by magisterial district judges. Under the terms of the program, youth who are charged with alcohol and minor drug related offenses are given the opportunity to attend the program in lieu of a fine and drivers license suspension. Youth are required to attend a 12.5 hours educational program on consecutive Saturdays taught by juvenile probation officers trained by the Pennsylvania DUI Association which also developed the curriculum. In 2022, there were no referrals made to the program.

**TRUANCY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (TIP)** – This program was initiated in 2009. It was designed by two juvenile probation officers from Butler County as a research project for graduate school. In Butler County the program has helped to greatly reduce truancy. It is evidenced based. The program is used by all the magistrates and school districts in Beaver County during the school year of 2021-2022 and is operated jointly between the Juvenile Services Division and Beaver County Children and Youth Services. These citations were from Aliquippa, Ambridge, Beaver, Beaver Falls, Blackhawk, Central Valley, Freedom, Hopewell, Midland, New Brighton, Riverside, Rochester, Southside and Western Beaver were referred to the program. A team consisting of a three CYS caseworkers and a juvenile probation officer go to all schools and attend truancy hearings held by local magisterial district judges. Their presence emphasizes the seriousness of truancy and the need to attend school regularly. Parents and youth cited for truancy are also required to attend a class run by the Caseworkers / PO team in lieu of a fine or for a reduced fine. The statistics below are from January 2022 to December 2022:

Truancy Hearings-	1034
TIP Class Referrals	432
Students Completing Class	194
Total Number Classes	10
Total Number Families Served	1890
Resources Referred	12
School Intervention Meetings	1998

**ABATEMENT PROGRAM** – The Abatement Program was created in addition to the truancy program. Once a family is cited for truancy, referred to a Magistrate’s, completes Truancy Intervention Program, has had services provided by agencies in the community and continues to be truant, the Magistrate can then file a dependency application. The client will meet with an intake officer and then assigned to a probation officer through and Informal Adjustment Consent. There were 4 clients carried over from 2021, 10 new clients were referred in 2022 and 8 clients successfully completed the program.

**VICTIM AWARENESS** – The Juvenile Services Division adopted the evidenced based program created by Valerie Bender a Consultant for the Juvenile Court Judges Commission. Classes are conducted on a quarterly basis. Clients that are eligible for probation supervision in the community are referred to the program through Juvenile Services. In 2022, there were 149 clients that were referred to the program and 102 (68%) successfully completed the program. In 2021, there were 41 clients that successfully completed the program. In 2022, there was 41% increase in clients that completed the Program.

**CAREER LINKS** – The Juvenile Services Division in partnership with Beaver County Adult Probation and Beaver County Domestic Relations have worked with Career Links which is located in the Beaver Valley Mall, Monaca PA. Clients worked on various issues such as learning how to obtain their GED, complete a resume, complete job applications, and apply for OVR Services and job training. Career Links helped both parents and juveniles in contacting local community- based programs to assist with paying their rent, gas, electric, and buying food. In 2022, there were 10 clients that took advantage of the service.

**PRESSLEY RIDGE CRISIS PROGRAM** - Crisis Stabilization and Family Preservation services in Beaver County are designed to serve the needs of youth and their families who are involved with Juvenile Services Division of Beaver County and who are either returning from a juvenile detention facility or other placement or are at risk of being placed in a facility. Services are designed to do a thorough assessment of the youth and family to identify areas of volatility that risk re-entry into the juvenile justice system, and to offer crisis stabilization, brief treatment, and linkage to support services. Crisis Stabilization and Family Preservation services are provided to youth ages 12-18 years of age and their family members, including parents, siblings, and any other persons identified by the family as needing to be included. Services are provided to every family identified for a minimum of 30 days, and with four to twelve weeks of service for the majority of families. The intensity of service is dependent upon the unique needs of each identified family; however, due to the nature of the population served, contact is expected at a minimum of three visits per week. The service is provided by a team of two professionals, both a master’s level and bachelor’s level family worker. Visits are conducted both as a team and as individuals depending on the purpose of each session. Services are offered in the home and community, including meeting the youth and family in whatever location is convenient to the family. From July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, there were 17 families provided this services in the Beaver – Lawrence County areas.

**POSITIVE TRANSITIONS** – In 2022, the Court continued to use the Child Custody Communication Class. This class was created for several important reasons. The Courts of Beaver County needed a better tool to ensure custody and divorce litigants are better able to



communicate throughout their civil Court proceedings. By having litigants complete the program; the goal is to have clients learn to communicate in an appropriate manner with the consideration of children's feelings throughout the process.

The Court also needed a system whereby the program is offered at different times throughout the month, attendance is monitored accurately, clients are provided a Court contact person and data is collected at each class to ensure each instructor is following the curriculum with fidelity.

The program is self-sustaining and is funded by litigants paying an initial fee for the class. Below are the class statistics.

**Year-to-date:**

**464 individuals**

**371 successful completions**

**79.8% successful completion rate**

**Average pre-test score: 82.54**

**Average post-test score: 89.20**

**Average evaluation score (out of possible 5): 4.49**

**TRAILS MINISTRIES** – The end of 2021-2022 marks nine years that TRAILS has been afforded the opportunity to provide support to the juvenile justice-involved youth and their families. This includes visits to placement, shelter and treatment facilities and emergency transportation to facilities in bereavement situations. They provide job skills, job training, computer use, mentoring, homework assistance, gift cards, food and many other services.

TRAILS provided limited services to the family beginning after July 1, 2022. All stats are for the last six months of 2022

There was a total of 1901 hours of Contacts from July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

There were 80 active participants in the programs from July 2022 to December 2022. There were 804 contacts with young adults in this quarter and a total number of 753 hours. TRAILS staff will continue to provide services to youth and their families.