

Court of Common Pleas of Beaver County
JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF
BEAVER COUNTY**

(As of December 31, 2011)

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

JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Robert Rose	Director
Gary Rosatelli	Assistant Director
Colleen Tittiger	Supervisor
Erin Sabol	Clerical and Fiscal Manager

INTAKE / CHILD CUSTODY

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

PROBATION OFFICERS

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

CLERICAL SERVICES

Lori Petrovich
Tammy Bonchi
Amy Buchanan
Kristen Kalcevic

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 primary focus of the agency is delinquency cases. However, it also serves as the point of entry for dependency cases and is responsible for child custody conciliation services as well.

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

In addition to intake and probation supervision services, the agency provides several specialized programs partially funded by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. These include: aftercare, intensive probation, school based probation and community based services. In addition, the Juvenile Services Division operates a community service program, the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP), Underage Drinking Program and the Redeem Fund (Restitution Program).

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

The Juvenile Services Division has benefited tremendously since relocating to the Beaver County Courthouse. There is increased access and availability to the Judges, Court Administrator and other Court offices. This has helped solidify and streamline the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Equally important, has been the emphasis on systemizing and strengthening court management through weekly, monthly and quarterly meetings.

In 2011, the agency has taken advantage of video conferencing for juvenile detention and shelter hearings and relied heavily on the Sheriff's Department for transportation, warrant apprehension and security. These functions have helped our agency improve the quality of services for clients, families, communities and other county agencies.

The Truancy Intervention Program was initiated as a pilot program in two magisterial districts in cooperation with Beaver County Children and Youth Services. The program expanded to a third magisterial district in 2011. There are plans to expand the program to all magisterial districts and have a truancy summit in 2012. The summit will be held at the Community College of Beaver County in cooperation with all the school districts, magisterial districts, the Educational Law Center, the Bar Association, the Juvenile

Services Division and Beaver County Children and Youth Services. The goal is to create a county protocol to address the ongoing issues that surround truancy.

The agency currently operates an Underage Drinking Program. The program allows magisterial district judges to offer an alternative to fines and license suspension to youth charged with underage drinking through participation in a 12-hour class developed by the Pennsylvania DUI Association. Since January 2011, 322 Underage Drinking Citations were filed throughout all of the magisterial district justices. There were 132 youth referred to the program and 117 have successfully completed the class.

In 2011, the Juvenile Services Division continued with its placement philosophy of placing only those delinquents that represents a high risk to recidivate for the most serious offenses as well as offenders whose needs cannot be met in the community. Our efforts to maximize the use of intervention and diversion community based programs have yielded positive outcomes with respect to removing juveniles from their homes. The commitment to short term sanction programs and enhanced monitoring supervision by aftercare officers has reduced the length of placement periods significantly.

REFERRALS AND DISPOSITIONS

Referrals by type: 2007-2011

YEAR	DELINQUENCY	DEPENDENCY	CUSTODY	TOTAL
2011	618	74	775	1467
2010	691	56	834	1581
2009	696	109	628	1433
2008	681	147	610	1438
2007	800	163	581	1544

In 2011, delinquency referrals have declined 10% from the prior year. Over the past five years delinquency referrals dropped 25%. Dependency referrals increased 32% from the prior year, but declined 25% since 2007. On a similar trend, custody referrals declined 7% for 2011, however over the past five years there was an increase in 25%.

Delinquency referral demographics 2011

	BLACK	WHITE	MALE	FEMALE	FIRST OFFENDER	REPEAT OFFENDER
2011	36%	63%	70%	30%	41%	59%
2010	41%	55%	75%	25%	38%	62%
2009	36%	61%	76%	24%	41%	59%
2008	34%	61%	74%	26%	41%	59%

Youth 15 years of age and older accounted for 79% of all delinquency allegations filed in 2011. Youth ages 10-12 accounted for 4% and 13-14 year olds represented 16% of allegations filed in 2011.

<i>Referrals by source 2007-2011</i>			
	Total Delinquency Referrals	By Law Enforcement Agcy.	By MDJ
2011	618	319 (51%)	166(27%)
2010	691	346 (50%)	201(29%)
2009	696	348 (50%)	197(28%)
2008	681	401 (59%)	109(16%)
2007	800	472 (59%)	128(16%)

Police departments with the most referrals were: Beaver Falls,42; New Brighton, 24; Ambridge, 40; Chippewa, 13; Aliquippa, 23; Rochester, 15; Monaca, 24; North Sewickley Twp., 12; PA State Police, 17; Center Township, 14 and Beaver, 18.

Referrals by most serious charge at referral

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	21	10	24	27	28
BURGLARY	14	34	19	22	42
DRUG RELATED	36	38	55	46	45
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	39	14	18	43	32
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	1	19	13	13	19
FIREARMS AND WEAPONS	4	10	15	7	10
SEX OFFENSES	6	24	10	16	30
UNPAID FINES	166	199	197	132	129
THEFT (ALL)	69	46	57	31	120
ROBBERY	7	8	2	12	2
SIMPLE ASSAULT	56	69	58	69	61
TERRORISTIC THREATS	5	3	5	8	8
ADMINISTRATIVE	115	109	129	81	109

Of the 1,031 charges on the 618 allegations filed in 2011, 151 or 25% were graded as felonies.

Delinquency dispositions 2008-2011

YEAR	INTAKE ADJUSTMENT	CONSENT DECREE	FORMAL PROCESSING	TOTAL
2011	183	128	295	606
2010	255	130	285	670
2009	194	149	353	696
2008	219	170	388	777

Formal (Court) dispositions 2011:

TRANSFERRED TO CRIMINAL COURT	0
DISMISSED	104
PROBATION	86
COMMITMENT	98
TRANSFER TO OTHER COUNTY	7

DETENTION

Secure detention 2007-2011

YEAR	ADMISSIONS	RELEASES	CHILD DAYS	AVERAGE STAY	AVG. POPULATION
2011	99	98	1530	15.6	4.1
2010	109	116	2069	17.8	5.7
2009	162	163	3454	21.2	9.5
2008	198	198	3628	18.3	9.9
2007	207	213	5098	23.9	13.9

Shelter 2007-2011

YEAR	ADMISSIONS	RELEASES	CHILD DAYS	AVERAGE STAY	AVG. POPULATION
2011	58	71	1039	14.6	2.8
2010	52	48	913	19	2.5
2009	40	45	800	17.8	2.2
2008	85	83	1097	13.2	3.0
2007	79	77	1122	14.6	3.1

Temporary foster care 2007-2011

YEAR	ADMISSIONS	RELEASES	CHILD DAYS	AVERAGE STAY	AVG. POPULATION
2011	57	56	1578	28.1	4.3
2010	36	46	1342	29.2	3.7
2009	60	49	1396	28.5	3.8
2008	74	73	1898	26	5.2
2007	78	82	2174	26.5	5.9

CLIENT SUPERVISION

Cases Under Court Supervision as of 12/31/11

Function	Total Cases	Avg. Caseload	# of staff assigned
Formal and consent decree	84	19	4.5
Intensive probation	7	7	1
Aftercare	34	17	2
School-based probation	47	15	3
Informal adjustment cases	69	69	.5
Total cases under supervision	245	22	11

CASE OUTCOMES

The following outcomes are based on data from 142 delinquency cases closed in 2011.

Community Protection

- 83.1% completed supervision without a new offense resulting in a consent decree, adjudication of delinquency, ARD, nolo contendere or finding of guilt in a criminal proceeding.
- 2.1% was direct filed and entered ARD, a nolo contendere plea or was found guilty in a criminal proceeding.

- 6.3% were, while under supervision, charged with a new offense and whose cases are pending in criminal court.
- 84.5% completed supervision with no judicial finding of technical violations of probation.
- Median length of supervision was 8.0 months.

Accountability / Community Service

- 98.6% were assigned community service as a condition of supervision.
- Of those, 97.9% completed their assigned community service obligation.
- Juveniles whose cases were closed completed 4976 hours of community service while under supervision.

Accountability / Restitution

- 33.8% of closed cases had a restitution obligation.
- Of those, 91.7% made full restitution to their victims.
- Juveniles whose cases were closed paid a total of \$17964.43 in restitution.

Accountability / Victim Awareness

- 40.8% of juveniles were directed to participate in a victim awareness curriculum while under supervision.
- 100% of those youth successfully completed that requirement.

Accountability / Other Financial Obligations

- 93% of youth whose cases were closed were ordered to pay Crime Victim’s Compensation Fund costs.
- 97.7% of those youth paid the costs as ordered.

Competency Development

- 73.9% of juveniles whose cases were closed were directed to participate in a competency development activity while under supervision.
- 99% of those youth successfully completed the activity as ordered.
- 94.4% of juveniles whose cases closed were engaged in an educational or vocational activity at the time of closing.

PLACEMENTS

Placement Report / 2011

	Delinquent	Dependent	Total
<i>Placed as of 1/1/11</i>	24	8	32
<i>Placed during 2011</i>	51	8	59
<i>Released in 2011</i>	50	8	58
<i>Placed as of 12/31/11</i>	24	8	32

In 2011, there were 51 juveniles committed to delinquent placements; 20 are funded by Value (Medicaid). And 31 are county funded. Dependency costs for the year, of 2011, were \$194, 121.44.

Placements and costs 2005-2011

YEAR	DEL PLCMTS	DEP PLCMTS	TTL PLCMTS	DEL COSTS
2011	51	8	59	1,376,876
2010	30	12	42	1,110,683
2009	58	17	75	2,149,999
2008	62	31	93	2,426,238
2007	63	23	86	2,516,297
2006	53	50	103	2,493,728
2005	47	26	73	2,523,669

DEPENDENCY CASES

There were 74 dependency cases filed in 2011. Filings have increased slightly over the last year, but have substantially decreased over the past five years. There were 74 dependency dispositions in 2011.

Dependency referral demographics – 2011

Race	
White	59%
Black	28%
Multi racial	13%
Age at referral	
Under 10	57%
10-12	3%
13-14	7%
15-16	19%
17 and over	14%

Sex	
Male	45%
Female	55%
Referred by	
CYS	94%
Other	6%

Dependency dispositions 2009-2011

YEAR	INTAKE	FORMAL	TOTAL
2011	4	54	58
2010	3	55	58
2009	9	90	99

CHILD CUSTODY CASES

Child custody referrals and dispositions / 2009-2011

YEAR	REFERRALS	DISPOSITIONS
2011	775	708
2010	834	739
2009	628	620

Child custody dispositions / 2009-2011

	2011	2010	2009
AGREEMENT	118	159	150
PROPOSED ORDER	287	287	263
TEMP. ORDER / FINAL	0	1	0
FINAL ORDER (COURT)	235	254	187
OTHER	63	38	20
EXCEPTIONS FILED	110	99	79
RESOLVED AT JSD*	91%	87%	85%

*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.

COLLECTIONS

Collection Summary/2011

Restitution	32,115.97
Crime Victims' Comp.	4,918.89
DUI Fees	1,700.34
Juvenile Restitution Fund	5,712.49
Juvenile Supervision Fees	10,177.58
Total	54,625.27

Redeem Fund / 2011

Beginning balance	11,655.41
Deposits	10,947.07
Paid out	11,807.02
Ending balance	10,795.19
Clients participating	44
Clients completing	35

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Juvenile Services Division operates several 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 several 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 Nationality Days, the Recycling Center, Maple Syrup Festival, The San Rocco Festival, Good Samaritan, several Car Cruises, the Ohio River Cleanup and various other sites throughout Beaver County. In 2011, offenders completed 6916 hours of community service.

ADELPHOI AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM – Adelphoi Village has been operating an afternoon and evening program for high risk youth on probation since 2006. It is a four month program that supplements probation supervision and serves to keep offenders off the street during the high risk times for criminal activity. It provides community service opportunities, job acquisition assistance, tutor assistance and life skills services. In 2011, the program served 74 youth. There were 62 new clients referred during 2011.

MULTI SYSTEMIC THERAPY (MST) – MST is an evidence based service shown to be effective with youth and families in the juvenile justice system. It is provided in Beaver County by a team of therapists from Mars Home for Youth. In 2011, the program served 38 families and averaged 8.9 families per month. This program has been very successful throughout Beaver County.

PSYCHOSOCIAL ASSESSMENTS - Northwestern Human Services employs a staff member housed in the Adult Probation Department who conducts psychosocial assessments for clients of the criminal and juvenile justice systems who have mental health issues on a walk-in basis. A report with recommendations is provided to the agency in each case. In addition, in October 2010, through a grant to Beaver County Behavioral Health, NHS initiated the TIPS program to offer a variety of services to high risk youth who are eligible for the program based on results from their psychosocial assessments. In 2011, 30 juveniles received psychosocial assessments and 13 of those were eligible to participate in TIPS.

YLS/CMI - Beaver County is one of 10 pilot counties in Pennsylvania to implement the Youth Level of Service / Case Management Inventory. The YLS/CMI is an instrument that is administered as a part of the intake process to assess a youth's level of risk to reoffend. That information is used to help intake staff determine appropriate case processing and disposition recommendations. 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 2011, 178 YLS/CMI assessments were completed. In 1% of those cases, the youth was determined to be high risk, 30% were moderate risk and the remaining 87%, 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.

SANCTION PROGRAMS – Probation officers have numerous methods of bringing clients into compliance with probation rules and conditions. These range from less severe sanctions that can be imposed by the probation officer to more severe sanctions that require due process. The objective is to use the least severe sanction that is likely to bring about compliance. The first level sanction program is operated out of the Adelphoi Village Afterschool Program. This sanction is thirty day short-term impact program for juveniles that are not adjusting informal probation services. In 2011, 13 youth participated in the program.

The second level sanction is the Weekend Sanction Program through Keystone in Greenville, PA. Youth in that program are ordered to spend up to four consecutive weekends in residence at Keystone Adolescent Center. In 2011, 4 youth were ordered to participate in that program. Juvenile in the weekend sanction program are expected to complete community service and are being held accountable for their technical violations. The most severe sanction is the 30 Day Sanction program also at Keystone wherein youth are sent to Keystone for an intensive one month program. Sixteen youth were ordered to complete the 30 Day program. All sanctions are accountability based programs designed to bring youth back into compliance with conditions of probation. These sanctions have helped the agency limit the use of long term placements for youth who violate probation.

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 hour educational program on consecutive Saturdays taught by juvenile and adult probation officers trained by the Pennsylvania DUI Association which also developed the curriculum. In 2011, 322 underage drinking citations were filed at the various magisterial district offices. The magistrates referred 132 youth to the program and 117 completed it by year end. The program is self supporting via fees paid by program participants.

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 and although still in its infancy, it has shown evidence of doing the same thing in Beaver County. The program is operated jointly between the Juvenile Services Division and Beaver County Children and Youth Services. A team consisting of a CYS caseworker and a juvenile probation officer 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 Caseworker / PO team in lieu of a fine or for a reduced fine. In 2011, 96 youth from the Freedom Area, Rochester, New Brighton, Riverside, Southside and Central Valley were referred to the program. Out of this number of referrals 59 clients completed the class. Magisterial District Justices that participated were District Justice Edward Howe, District Justice Joseph Schafer and District Justice Dale Nicholson.

REALITY TOUR -- The reality tour is sponsored by Beaver County Behavioral Health and is a dramatization of what are some of the consequences that occur when a family member or juvenile uses drugs and alcohol. It is currently being held at least five times a year at Mt. Gallitzin Academy in Baden, PA. A child must attend with a parent. In 2011, there were approximately 30 clients that voluntarily participated in 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 2011, there were 19 juveniles and 5 parents that participated in the program.

