

Court of Common Pleas of Beaver County
JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BEAVER COUNTY

(As of December 31, 2013)

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

Gary Rosatelli	Director
Colleen Tittiger	Assistant Director
Doug Clarke	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 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 focus of this agency is to process delinquency, dependency and child custody filings.

All delinquent programs and services are predicated on the use of evidenced based tools and 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 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. Also, The Juvenile Services Division operates a community service program, the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP), Underage Drinking Program, Victim Awareness and the Redeem Fund (Restitution Program).

2013 HIGHLIGHTS

One of the missions of Balanced and Restorative Justice is to provide evidenced based services through policy and practice. In 2013, the Beaver County Juvenile Services Division has embraced the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. The goal is to use assessment tools, cognitive behavioral interventions and performance measures to make improvements in addressing youth's and families' needs. There are four different stages to this system: Readiness, Initiation, Behavioral Change and Refinement. During the fall of 2013, this department administered an Organizational Readiness Survey. Following the results of the Readiness survey, meetings were held with groups throughout the department to discuss the results of the survey. The next step will be to implement Evidenced based Practice Training. Within each stage there are different components to enable the department to validate and provide appropriate services based on the need of the child.

At the close of 2013, Judge John P. Dohanich retired after 10 years of service to Beaver County. Judge Dohanich served as the Administrative Judge for all juveniles and was the dependency judge. Judge Dohanich was a part of Local Children's Round Table, the Statewide Children's Round Table and was very influential in addressing the issues surrounding truancy, permanency planning and the involvement of fathers in children's lives. Judge Dohanich was instrumental in the creation of the Truancy Intervention Program. He had several meetings with the local magistrates, the Juvenile Services Division, Beaver County Children and Youth Services and officials from all the school districts with the intent of addressing truancy issues by creating a workable program throughout Beaver County. He was a true innovator and leader in implementing services

for children and their families. Judge Dohanich's successes and commitment to children will be greatly missed.

The Truancy Intervention Program (T.I.P.) began in 2009. In 2013, in cooperation with a representative from each school district, magisterial districts, the Juvenile Services Division and Beaver County Children and Youth Services a county protocol was created that has helped unify all the stakeholders in establishing a universal truancy referral system along with intervention and prevention services. The agencies gained valuable insight from listening and sharing information. There are three truancy sub-committees that address definitions of truancy, legal aspects of truancy and finally, the medical implications upon truancy. The school district personnel were encouraged to hold monthly pre-emptive meetings in school prior to a citation being filed. Children and Youth staff and a probation officer still continue to attend truancy hearings through the magisterial district offices. Also, the TIP program has been modified in that staff, provide intervention in the elementary and secondary schools prior to a truancy citation being filed. Family Group Decision Making was a key resource utilized by TIP.

A Truancy Abatement Program was created in 2011 and implemented in 2012, by the Juvenile Services Division for the purpose of alleviating chronic truancy. The process begins with the school referring a child through a truancy citation to the Magistrate's Office. Once the juvenile completes the TIP Program and continues to be truant the Magistrate may then refer a child that is a chronic truant to the Juvenile Services Division through a dependency filing whereby a probation officer can then provide supervision under an Informal Adjustment Consent.

In 2013, 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 as well as 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 commitment to short term sanction programs and enhanced monitoring supervision by probation officers has reduced the length of placement periods significantly.

The agency has been operating an Underage Drinking Program since 2009. 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. Also, the Underage Drinking Program has been offered to the school districts within Beaver County and private citizens. Since January 2013, 171 Underage Drinking Citations were filed throughout all of the magisterial district justices. There were 98 youth referred to the program and 85 have successfully completed the class.

The Juvenile Services Division also operates a restitution program. The juveniles who owe restitution and supervision fees can complete community service to enable them to pay off their fees.

In conjunction with the restitution program, this department has now created a Victim Awareness Program. The program is designed to increase a juvenile's awareness of how crime affects individual victims and the community.

REFERRALS AND DISPOSITIONS

Referrals by type: 2009-2013

YEAR	DELINQUENCY	DEPENDENCY	CUSTODY	TOTAL
2013	562	64	927	1553
2012	608	70	912	1590
2011	618	74	775	1467
2010	691	56	834	1581
2009	696	109	628	1433

In 2013, delinquency referrals have decreased only 7.5% from the prior year. Over the past five years delinquency referrals dropped 19%. Dependency referrals decreased 8.6% from the prior year, but declined 41% since 2009. Custody referrals increased 1.6% for 2013; over the past five years there was an increase of 48%.

Delinquency referral demographics 2013

	BLACK	WHITE	MALE	FEMALE	FIRST OFFENDER	REPEAT OFFENDER
2013	40%	60%	70%	30%	38%	62%
2012	42%	58%	76%	24%	36%	64%
2011	36%	64%	70%	30%	41%	59%
2010	43%	57%	75%	25%	38%	62%

Youth 15 years of age and older accounted for 75% of all delinquency allegations filed in 2013. Youth ages 10-12 accounted for 4% and 13-14 year olds represented 21% of allegations filed in 2013.

<i>Referrals by source 2009-2013</i>			
	Total Delinquency Referrals	By Law Enforcement Agcy.	By MDJ
2013	562	414(74%)	148(26%)
2012	608	457(75%)	151(25%)
2011	618	449(73%)	169(27%)
2010	691	493(71%)	198(29%)
2009	696	499(72%)	197(28%)

Police departments with the most referrals were: Center Twp., 37; Midland Borough, 35; Monaca, 25; Rochester Borough, 23; Aliquippa, 20; New Brighton, 17; Beaver Falls, 16; Ambridge, 14; Chippewa Twp., 14; Hopewell Twp. 13; and New Sewickley, 12.

Referrals by most serious charge at referral

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	12	9	21	10	24
BURGLARY	11	39	14	34	19
DRUG RELATED	48	43	36	38	55

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	9	15	39	14	18
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	13	18	1	19	13
FIREARMS AND WEAPONS	6	11	4	10	15
SEX OFFENSES	4	13	6	24	10
UNPAID FINES	148	149	166	199	197
THEFT (ALL)	50	61	69	46	57
ROBBERY	0	5	7	8	2
SIMPLE ASSAULT	59	53	56	69	58
TERRORISTIC THREATS	5	6	5	3	5
ADMINISTRATIVE	109	123	115	109	129

Of the 1058 charges on the 562 allegations filed in 2013, 165 or 16% were graded as felonies.

Delinquency dispositions 2010-2013

YEAR	INTAKE ADJUSTMENT	CONSENT DECREE	FORMAL PROCESSING	TOTAL
2013	207	151	282	640
2012	187	174	322	683
2011	183	128	295	606
2010	255	130	285	670

Formal (Court) dispositions 2013:

TRANSFERRED TO CRIMINAL COURT	0
DISMISSED	122
PROBATION	75
COMMITMENT	75
TRANSFER TO OTHER COUNTY	7

DETENTION

Secure detention 2009-2013

YEAR	ADMISSIONS	RELEASES	CHILD DAYS	AVERAGE STAY	AVG. POPULATION
2013	44	44	1210	27.5	3.3
2012	53	50	922	18.4	2.5
2011	99	98	1530	15.6	4.1
2010	109	116	2069	17.8	5.7
2009	162	163	3454	21.2	9.5

Shelter 2009-2013

YEAR	ADMISSIONS	RELEASES	CHILD DAYS	AVERAGE STAY	AVG. POPULATION
2013	106	106	2577	24.3	7.1
2012	94	92	1375	14.9	3.8
2011	58	71	1039	14.6	2.8
2010	52	48	913	19	2.5
2009	40	45	800	17.8	2.2

Temporary foster care 2009-2013

YEAR	ADMISSIONS	RELEASES	CHILD DAYS	AVERAGE STAY	AVG. POPULATION
2013	41	41	1890	46.1	5.2
2012	43	44	1948	44.3	5.3
2011	57	56	1578	28.2	4.3
2010	36	46	1342	29.2	3.7
2009	60	49	1396	28.5	3.8

CLIENT SUPERVISION

Cases Under Court Supervision as of 12/31/13

Function	Total Cases	Avg. Caseload	# of staff assigned
Formal and consent decree	90	20	4.5
Intensive probation	8	8	1
Aftercare	34	17	2
School-based probation	37	12	3
Informal adjustment cases	69	69	.5
Total cases under supervision	242	22	11

CASE OUTCOMES

The following outcomes are based on data from 138 delinquency cases closed in 2013.

Community Protection

- 88.4 %, (122) of juveniles who successfully 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

Accountability / Community Service

- 97.1% (134) of juveniles assigned community service
- 99.3 % (133) of juveniles who completed assigned community service obligation
- Total community service hours completed: 4,112

Accountability / Restitution

- 37 % (51) of juveniles with a Restitution obligation
- 100 % (51) of juveniles who made full restitution to their victim(s)
- Total amount of restitution collected; \$19,739.43

Accountability / Victim Awareness

- 58.7% (81) of juveniles directed/ordered to participate in a victim awareness curriculum / program while under supervision
- 98.8 % (80) of juveniles who successfully completed a victim awareness curriculum program while under supervision

Accountability / Other Financial Obligations

- 97.8% (135) and 99.3% of juveniles ordered to pay Crime Victim's Compensation Fund Costs
- 99.3 % (134). of juveniles who paid Crime Victim's Compensation Fund Costs in full
- Total amount Crime Victim's Compensation Fund Costs collected: \$4,075.27

Competency Development

- 77.5% (107) of juveniles directed/ordered to participate in a competency development activity while under supervision
- 100 % (107) of juveniles who successfully completed a competency development activity while under supervision
- 94.9% (131) of juveniles employed or engaged in an educational or vocational activity at case closing

PLACEMENTS

Placement Report / 2013

	Delinquent	Dependent	Total
Placed as of 1/1/13	17	39	56
Placed during 2013	51	31	82
Released in 2013	44	23	67
Placed as of 12/31/13	23	31	54

In 2013, there were 51 juveniles committed to delinquent placements; 23 were funded by Value (Medicaid). And 28 were county funded. Dependency costs for the year, of 2013, were \$181,566.

Placements and costs 2007-2013

YEAR	DEL PLCMTS	DEP PLCMTS	TTL PLCMTS	DEL COSTS
2013	51	39	82	\$1,132,556
2012	38	14	52	1,217,505
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

DEPENDENCY CASES

There were 60 dependency cases filed in 2013. Filings have decreased over the last year and over the past five years. There were 64 dependency dispositions in 2013.

Dependency referral demographics – 2013

Race	
White	57%
Black	43%
Multi-racial	0%
Age at referral	
Under 10	50%
10-12	3%
13-14	12%
15-16	20%
17 and over	15%

Sex	
Male	65%
Female	35%
Referred by	
CYS	87%
Other	13%

YEAR	INTAKE	FORMAL	TOTAL
2013	12	52	64
2012	10	60	70
2011	4	54	58

CHILD CUSTODY CASES

Child custody referrals and dispositions / 2011-2013

YEAR	REFERRALS	DISPOSITIONS
2013	860	927
2012	866	912
2011	775	708

Child custody dispositions / 2011-2013

	2013	2012	2011
AGREEMENT	170	174	118
PROPOSED ORDER	297	268	287
TEMP. ORDER/ FINAL	6	3	0
FINAL ORDER (COURT)	350	383	235
OTHER	104	75	63
EXCEPTIONS FILED	108	88	110
RESOLVED AT JSD*	107%	105%	91%

*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 2013, reflects dispositions of previous pending cases from prior years.

COLLECTIONS

Collection Summary/2013

Restitution	\$ 37448.33
Crime Victims' Comp.	5669.57
DUI Fees	2451.13
Juvenile Restitution Fund	22495.32
Juvenile Supervision Fees	18300.48
Total	86364.83

Redeem Fund / 2013

Beginning balance	\$16982.50
Deposits	17241.69
Paid out	15208.62
Ending balance	19075.57
Clients participating	58
Clients completing	41

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 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 2013, there were several new sites created. This includes services for Monaca Borough, Penn State Agriculture, Car Washes for local police departments and the Sheriff Department, and a gardening project for St. Joe's Villa. There were 279 offenders that completed 6345 hours of community service during the year of 2013.

ADELPHOI AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM – Adelphoi Village has been operating an afternoon and evening program for high risk youth on probation since 2006. It is usually 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, and transportation to and from drug and alcohol counseling sessions. In 2013, the program served 61 youth. There were 52 new clients referred during 2013.

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 2013, the program served 38 families and averaged 13 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 on a walk-in basis for clients of the criminal and juvenile justice systems who have mental health issues. The psychosocial provides a background history of the family and possible services that could be implemented. A report with recommendations is provided to the agency in each case. In 2013, 29 juveniles received psychosocial assessments.

YLS/CMI - Beaver County was one of the 10 pilot counties in Pennsylvania to implement the Youth Level of Service / Case Management Inventory. There are 66 counties in Pennsylvania that use the 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. 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 2013, 233 YLS/CMI assessments were completed. Of those cases, 1% was to be considered very high; 10% of the youth were determined to be high risk, 39% were moderate risk and the remaining 50%, 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 programs are operated out of the Adelphoi Village Afterschool 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 2013, 11 youth were ordered to participate in that program. Juveniles 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. Seven 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.

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 2013, there were 45 clients that were referred to the program.

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 probation officers trained by the Pennsylvania DUI Association which also developed the curriculum. In 2013, 171 underage drinking citations were filed at the various magisterial district offices. The magistrates referred 98 youth to the program and 85 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. It is evidenced based. The program was expanded to all magistrates and school districts in Beaver County during the school year of 2012-2013 and is operated jointly between the Juvenile Services Division and Beaver County Children and Youth Services. A team consisting of a two CYS caseworkers and a juvenile probation officer goes 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. In 2012 -2013, there were 636 truancy citations filed throughout Beaver County. From these citations, 195 youth from all school districts including Aliquippa, Ambridge, Beaver, Beaver Falls, Blackhawk, Central

Valley, Freedom, Hopewell, Midland, New Brighton, Riverside, Rochester, Southside and Western Beaver were referred to the program. Out of this number of referrals 125 (100%) clients completed the class. Magisterial District Justices that participated were; District Justice Edward Howe, District Justice Joseph Schafer and District Justice Dale Nicholson, District Justice Janet Swihart, District Justice Dibenedetto, District Justice William Livingston, District Justice Douglas Loughner, District Justice Andy Hladio and District Justice Tim Finn.

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. During 2013, 8 clients were referred to the program and 8 successfully completed. The goal is to find the cause of the truancy and provides services to the family to reduce the chronic absenteeism.

VICTIM AWARENESS – The Juvenile Services Division previously relied on staff from our Adelphoi Program to provide a victim awareness curriculum for clients involved with the judicial system and specifically those clients in the restitution program. As part of a research project for graduate school, a staff member from 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. There were 61 clients that were referred to the program and 59 (97%) clients completed the program.

REALITY TOUR -- The reality tour is sponsored by Beaver County Behavioral Health and is a re-enactment of events that can occur when a family member or juvenile uses drugs and alcohol. It was held in different locations throughout Beaver County. A child must attend with a parent. In 2013, there were approximately 3 clients that attended the tour.

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 2013, there were 41 clients that were referred for services. Four of those clients participated in obtaining there GED; 37 clients successfully completed their resumes online with Careerlink; 10 clients completed applications online through Careelink; 2 clients participated in re-entry workforce program.