

Court of Common Pleas of Beaver County

JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION

2023 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. (retired)	District Court Administrator
Garrett Harper (New Court Admin)	District Court Administrator
Aileen Bowers	Deputy Court Administrator
Kate Weidner	Deputy 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 (retired February 2023)
John Davis	Supervisor
Erin Sabol	Clerical and Fiscal Manager

INTAKE / CHILD CUSTODY

Michael Miller – Intake Coordinator	
Joy Porto	J.T. Engel
Frank Jupin, Jr.	Michael Braddock

PROBATION OFFICERS

Daniel DelTurco (retired Aug.)	Sean Bunney
Marshall Clark	Debra Landsbaugh
Brandi Sabol	Meena Hill
Curtis Shroads	Kris McCafferty
Nelly Peralta	Ryan Nohe
Amber Mineard	Nicole Miller
Marissa Bufalini	

CLERICAL SERVICES

Tammy Bonchi
Marie Saunders (retired October 2023)
Deborah Goedeker
Alicia Zarrillo
Nanette Bruce

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.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

In March of 2023, Karen Florence passed away. Karen was influential in the Juvenile Justice System. She previously ran the 801 Bypass Afterschool Program. Karen was also the Director of TRAILS Ministry and the D.O.V.E Program. She will be missed.

In 2023, we had an 8% percent increase in delinquent filings since 2022 and a 70% increase since 2020. Now that the Pandemic is over, police departments are filing more allegations.

In October of 2023, this department provided Defensive Tactic and Pepper Spray Training for Probation Officers. The training was provided by staff from Dauphin County Probation. The training went very well. The goal is to train a few staff to be trainers so this training can be provided on a yearly basis.

The Juvenile Services Division still continues to have difficulty with processing juveniles in Court. There are various reasons, but cases are continued on a regular basis.

The state of Pennsylvania continues to have a bed-shortage crisis for detention, shelter and placements. Because of this, we have used the Electronic Monitoring System more often. It does help to deter some delinquent behavior. Many facilities closed during the pandemic and never re-opened.

In 2023, this department continued to partner 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. TRAILS also provide parental virtual and in-person visitation as well as transportation.

This department introduced the use of virtual equipment during the pandemic. We still use the virtual equipment on a regular basis for some Court Hearings, meetings, custodies conferences, trainings and meetings with clients if they do not have transportation. This enables this department to run more efficiently.

Every year a liaison from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission conducts an in-person interview with our department. In 2022, JCJC required their liaisons to visit each county four times. Bill Rumbaugh is Beaver County's current JCJC consultant. We had an overview of Grant In Aid and he also observed Court on two different occasions. During our visit, we discussed the implementation plan, Grant In Aid and our YLS policy and procedures.

Ever since we had a comprehensive time study completed in 2022, by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, relating to the amount of time our intake officers, Assistant Director and other probation officers are involved in child custody conferences, writing the recommendation to the Court, reviewing the recommendations, teaching the Positive Transition Educational Class, Act 53 cases and dependency cases we have continued to evaluate this on a yearly basis. Since our Grant In Aid is on a Fiscal Year basis, the study reflects these numbers. The average amount of time that intake officers spent conducting child custody classes in the Fiscal Year of 2022 - 2023 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. The percentages of time have remained static from the previous FY 2022. These requirements were overwhelming met.

In 2023, we nominated a juvenile for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Awards. We had one client win an award.

In 2023, the Beaver County Juvenile Services continued using the Ready Yourselfes 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 2023, the departments in conjunction with the ranch conducted the Seventh annual Ten-week camp during the summer.

The camp was titled "Vision/Goal Setting." 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 Yourselves 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. There was a total of eighteen clients that were referred to the program. Twelve probation clients successfully completed the program and five 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 Yourselves 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 2023, 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 5 Act 53 cases in FY2022/2023, which totaled \$3746.25 in legal fees. In 2022/2023, there were 6 Act 53 cases.

This department had several continued goals for FY22-23 which included, continued use of the Child Trauma Tool, EPICS, SPEP (Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol), 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: 2019-2023

YEAR	DELINQUENCY	DEPENDENCY	CUSTODY	TOTAL
2023	423	67	607	1097
2022	393	69	699	1161
2021	282	56	786	1124
2020	249	38	764	1052
2019	457	48	752	1257

In 2023, delinquency referrals increased by 8% from 2022 and increased significantly by (70%), 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 average filing of delinquency over the last five years is 361 allegations. In 2023, dependency referrals decreased by 3% from the prior year, with an average filing of 56 allegations since 2019. Custody referrals decreased by 13% in 2023, since the previous year; over the past five years there was an average filing of 722 cases.

Delinquency referral demographics 2023

	BLACK	WHITE	BI-RACIAL	MALE	FEMALE	FIRST OFFENDER	REPEAT OFFENDER
2023	41%	51.5%	7.5%	72%	28%	52%	48%
2022	43%	59%	6%	71%	29%	50%	50%
2021	48%	58%		71%	29%	57%	43%
2020	43%	57%		68%	32%	43%	57%
2019	51%	49%		70%	32%	41%	58%

Youth 15 years of age and older accounted for 63% of all delinquency allegations filed in 2023. Youth ages 10-12 accounted for 8% and youth ages 13-14 year represented 29% of allegations filed in 2023.

Referrals by source 2019-2023

	Total Delinquency Referrals	By Law Enforcement Agcy.	By MDJ
2023	423	337(80%)	86(20%)
2022	393	312(79%)	81(21%)
2021	282	230(82%)	52(18%)
2020	449	192(70%)	57(30%)
2019	457	342(75%)	115(25%)

Police departments with the most referrals were: Ambridge, 41; Aliquippa, 33; New Brighton, 30; Beaver Falls, 23; Hopewell Twp., 19; Beaver Valley Regional Police, 18; PA State Police, 15; Big Beaver Falls School District, 13; and Chippewa, 13. All other police departments had ten and under filings. The number of filings has dramatically increased since the Pandemic is over.

Referrals by most serious charge

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	33	47	19	13	39
BURGLARY	16	10	8	4	14
DRUG RELATED/DUI	116	66	64	34	67
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	38	57	23	17	24
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	25	20	20	16	16
FIREARMS & WEAPONS/MANSLAUGHTER	46	27	25	16	17
SEX OFFENSES	34	30	6	38	67
UNPAID FINES	86	81	53	63	115
THEFT (ALL)	202	74	48	86	224
ROBBERY	11	7	3	1	9
SIMPLE ASSAULT	106	73	66	47	94
TERRORISTIC THREATS	33	14	16	15	32
ADMINISTRATIVE	38	36	29	40	49

There were no counts of Arson related offenses in 2023; 1 count of Strangulation; 23 counts of Endangering the Welfare of Another; 23 counts of Institutional Vandalism; 115 counts of Disorderly Conduct and Harassment and numerous other misdemeanor and summary offenses. Of the 1111 charges on the 423 allegations filed in 2023, 348 or 31% were graded as felonies; 578, 52% were graded as misdemeanors; 147 or 13% were graded as summaries; 38 or 4% were administrative. There was a 10% increase in felony filings from 2022.

Delinquency dispositions 2019-2023

YEAR	INTAKE ADJUSTMENT	CONSENT DECREE	FORMAL PROCESSING	TOTAL
2023	94	93	122	309
2022	87	117	136	340
2021	83	68	102	253
2020	70	71	126	267
2019	98	142	182	422

Formal (Court) dispositions 2023:

TRANSFERRED TO CRIMINAL COURT	0
DISMISSED/WITDRAWN	54
PROBATION	55
COMMITMENT	8
TRANSFER TO OTHER COUNTY	5

DETENTION

Secure detention 2019-2023

YEAR	ADMISSIONS	RELEASES	CHILD DAYS	AVERAGE STAY	AVG. POPULATION
2023	16	16	603	37.7	1.7
2022	12	13	293	22.5	.8
2021	10	9	324	36	.9
2020	14	16	513	36.6	1.4
2019	25	27	564	22.5	1.5

Shelter 2019-2023

YEAR	ADMISSIONS	RELEASES	CHILD DAYS	AVERAGE STAY	AVG. POPULATION
2023	18	17	350	20.6	.96
2022	14	14	221	15.7	.61
2021	19	19	350	18.4	.95
2020	15	15	268	17.9	.73
2019	37	40	1130	30.5	3.1

Temporary foster care 2019-2023

YEAR	ADMISSIONS	RELEASES	CHILD DAYS	AVERAGE STAY	AVG. POPULATION
2023	36	35	868	24.8	2.4
2022	23	24	324	13.5	.9
2021	30	28	496	17.7	1.4
2020	17	16	395	23.2	1.1
2019	25	28	854	34.2	2.3

CLIENT SUPERVISION

Cases Under Court Supervision as of 12/31/23

Function	Total Cases	Avg. Caseload	# of staff assigned
Intensive/line probation	55	11	5
Aftercare	15	5	3
School-based probation	48	16	3
Informal adjustment cases	35	35	1
Total cases under supervision	153	9	12

Probation officers also supervised truancy cases throughout 2023. There was a total of 2 cases that were supervised. There are 3 line-staff that provide truancy supervision with an average caseload of 2 clients per caseload.

CASE OUTCOMES

Total juveniles closed that involved probation supervision or other service: 141

CHANGE IN YLS RISK SCORES/LEVELS

- 1. 131 or 92.9%** of juveniles required to complete a YLS per county policy
- 2. Of those 131 juveniles, 124 or 94.7%** of juveniles that had an initial and case closing assessment (among those required to complete a YLS per county policy)
- 3. 77 or 62.1%** of juveniles scored low risk at initial assessment (among those who had an initial and case closing YLS)
- 4. 33 or 26.6%** of juveniles scored moderate risk at initial assessment (among those who had an initial and case closing YLS)
- 5. 14 or 11.3%** 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 (77) that had:**
 - a lower *YLS score* at case closing than at initial assessment - **28 or 36.4%**
 - a higher *YLS score* at case closing than at initial assessment - **10 or 13.0%**
 - YLS scores* that stayed the same - **39 or 50.6%**

Among juveniles who completed both assessments, the number and percentage of juveniles scoring **moderate risk** on their initial assessment (33) that had:

- a lower *YLS score* at case closing than at initial assessment - **21 or 63.6%**
- a higher *YLS score* at case closing than at initial assessment - **9 or 27.3%**
- YLS scores* that stayed the same - **3 or 9.1%**

Among juveniles who completed both assessments, the number and percentage of juveniles scoring **high or very high risk** on their initial assessment (14) that had:

- a lower *YLS score* at case closing than at initial assessment - **11 or 78.6%**
- a higher *YLS score* at case closing than at initial assessment - **1 or 7.1%**
- YLS scores* that stayed the same - **2 or 14.3%**

7. Among juveniles who completed both assessments, the number and percentage of juveniles scoring **low risk** on their initial assessment (77) that had:

- a. a higher *YLS level* at case closing than at initial assessment - **3 or 3.9%**
- b. *YLS levels* that stayed the same - **74 or 96.1%**

Among juveniles who completed both assessments, the number and percentage of juveniles scoring **moderate risk** on their initial assessment (33) that had:

- a. a lower *YLS level* at case closing than at initial assessment - **9 or 27.3%**
- b. a higher *YLS level* at case closing than at initial assessment - **3 or 9.1%**
- c. *YLS levels* that stayed the same - **21 or 63.6%**

Among juveniles who completed both assessments, the number and percentage of juveniles scoring **high or very high risk** on their initial assessment (14) that had:

- a. a lower *YLS level* at case closing than at initial assessment - **9 or 64.3%**
- b. *YLS levels* that stayed the same - **5 or 35.7%**

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

1. Fingerprints, Photographs, and DNA Collection

16 or 11.3% of juveniles closed (141) were **required** to be **fingerprinted and photographed** for an adjudicated offense

Of those **16** juveniles that were **required** to be **fingerprinted and photographed** for an adjudicated offense,

- 12 or 75.0% were** Fingerprinted, **4 or 25.0% were not** Fingerprinted
- 12 or 75.0% were** Photographed, **4 or 25.0% were not** Photographed
- 12 or 75.0% were indicated** as being Fingerprinted and Photographed
- 4 or 25.0% were indicated** as being not Fingerprinted and Photographed
- 0 or 0 % were indicated** as either Fingerprinted or Photographed

6 or 4.3% of juveniles closed (141) were **required** to **submit a DNA sample** for an applicable offense

Of those **6** juveniles that were **required** to **submit a DNA sample** for an applicable offense, **6 or 100.0% had** DNA sample collected

2. Juvenile Offenses while under supervision

137 or 97.2% of juveniles **successfully completed supervision without a new juvenile offense** resulting in a Consent Decree or Adjudication of Delinquency

4 or 2.8% of juveniles, while under supervision, **were charged with a new juvenile offense** that resulted in a Consent Decree or Adjudication of Delinquency

3 or 2.1% of juveniles, while under supervision, **were petitioned to court for a violation of probation**

3 or 2.1% 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

2 or 1.4% of juveniles, while under supervision, **were charged with a new criminal offense** and are **pending** in criminal court

0 or 0.0% 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

0 or 0.0% 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

4 or 2.8% 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): **13.9 months**

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

1. Restitution

36 or 25.5% of juveniles closed (141) **had** a restitution **obligation**

Total amount of restitution **ordered was \$24,331.57**

35 or 97.2% of juveniles obligated **made full** restitution to their victim(s)

Total amount of restitution **collection was \$23,867.03**

1 or 2.8% 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**

1 or 100.0% 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

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

3,165 total community service hours were **assigned**

130 or 92.2% of juveniles were **assigned** community service

3,165 total community service hours were **completed**

3. Other Financial Obligations

122 or 86.5% of juveniles were **ordered** to pay Crime Victim's Compensation Fund Costs

122 or 100.0% of juveniles paid Crime Victim's Compensation Fund Costs in full

Total amount Crime Victim's Compensation Fund costs collected: **\$4,135.75**

128 or 90.8% of juveniles were **ordered** to pay other fines, fees, or court costs

Total amount of fines, fees, or court costs collected: **\$16,861.00**

127 or 99.2% of juveniles obligated paid fines, fees, or court costs **in full**

1 or 0.8% of juveniles obligated **did not** pay fines, fees, or court costs in full

1 or 100.0% 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**

0 or 0.0% 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

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

88 or 62.4% of juveniles were **ordered** to participate in 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

52 or 36.9% of juveniles required to complete a Case Plan per county policy

50 or 96.2% 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.

50 or 96.2% of case plans were successfully completed during supervision

50 or 96.2% case plans were updated throughout the supervision period

Activities Utilized During Supervision for All Cases Closed

106 or 75.2% of plans included **Skill Building & Tools activities**

82 or 58.2% of plans included **Cognitive Behavioral Group Interventions**

43 or 30.5% of plans included **Referral to Treatment Services**

1 or 0.7% of plans included **other activities**

Education and Employment

138 or 97.9% of juveniles were employed or actively engaged in an educational or vocational activity at case closing

0 or 0.0% of juveniles were **attending G.E.D. preparation classes** while under supervision

11 or 8.0% of juveniles **graduated high school** while under supervision

11 or 8.0% of juveniles were **attending school and not passing** while under supervision

108 or 78.3% of juveniles were **attending school and passing** while under supervision

6 or 4.3% of juveniles were **employed full time** while under supervision

5 or 3.6% of juveniles were **actively seeking employment** while under supervision

3 or 2.2% of juveniles were **participating in vocational training** while under supervision

0 or 0.0% of juveniles **obtained G.E.D** while under supervision

29 or 21.0% of juveniles were **employed part time** while under supervision

2 or 1.4% of juveniles were **enrolled or participating in higher education** while under supervision

PLACEMENTS

Placement Report / 2023

	Delinquent	Dependent	Total
<i>Placed as of 1/1/23</i>	3	2	5
<i>Placed during 2023</i>	9	22	31
<i>Released in 2023</i>	5	10	15
<i>Placed as of 12/31/23</i>	7	18	25

In 2023, there were 9 juvenile commitments to delinquent placements. One commitment was a 30-day sanction. Four were funded by Value (Medicaid).

DEPENDENCY CASES

There were 67 dependency cases filed in 2023. Filings decreased 3% over the last year. There were 66 dependency dispositions in 2023. There was a carryover from 2022.

Dependency referral demographics – 2023

Race	
<i>White</i>	66%
<i>Black</i>	24%
<i>Multi-racial</i>	10%
Age at referral	
<i>Under 10</i>	43%
<i>10-12</i>	17%
<i>13-14</i>	10.5%
<i>15-16</i>	19%
<i>17 and over</i>	10.5%

Sex	
<i>Male</i>	57%
<i>Female</i>	43%
Referred by	
<i>CYS</i>	67%
<i>Other</i>	33%

YEAR	INFORMAL	FORMAL	TOTAL
2023	23	43	66
2022	26	38	64
2021	19	31	50

CHILD CUSTODY CASES

Child custody referrals and dispositions / 2021-2023

YEAR	REFERRALS	DISPOSITIONS
2023	607	624
2022	699	644
2021	786	841

The Juvenile Services Division conducted approximately eight homes studies for child custody cases during 2023.

Child custody dispositions / 2021 -2023

	2023	2022	2021
AGREEMENT	52	57	18
PROPOSED ORDER	183	179	272
TEMP. ORDER/ FINAL	0	0	0
FINAL ORDER (COURT)	336	377	430
OTHER	39	60	102
EXCEPTIONS FILED	92	67	78
RESOLVED AT JSD*	85%	91%	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 2023, reflects dispositions of previous pending cases from prior years. The total dispositions in 2022 was 624 – 92 = 532 or 85%.

COLLECTIONS

<i>Collection Summary/2023</i>	<i>Assessed</i>	<i>Collected</i>
Restitution	\$42,380.90	\$27,738.62
Crime Victims Comp.	\$4,740.00	\$4,642.15
DUI Fees	\$500.00	\$500.00
Juvenile Restitution Fund	\$19,962.46	\$18,305.31
Juvenile Supervision Fees	\$6,950.00	\$6,802.73
Total	\$74,533.36	\$57,988.81

Redeem Fund / 2023

Beginning balance	\$34,421.89
Deposits	\$10,972.67
Paid out	\$22,069.23
Ending balance	\$23,325.23
Clients participating	105
Client's referred in 2023	74
Clients completed	60

There was a carryover of clients from 2022

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 183 clients that completed 3567 hours of community service during the year of 2023. 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 2023, there were 74 clients referred and 60 clients that successfully completed the program. There was \$17,667.06, earned in community service hours. This money was subsequently paid to victims of crimes and for clients’ 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 2023, 311 YLS/CMI assessments were completed. Of those cases, 1% (4) were to be considered very high; 12% (41) of the youth were determined to be high risk, 31% (109) were moderate risk and the remaining 56% (195), 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 2023, there were 55 clients that were referred to the program. This is a 65% increase in the use of the bracelet from 2022. Out of these 55 clients in 2023, 1(one) was a zero tolerance case and 20 were non-zero tolerance.

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 2023 to December 2023:

JSD/CYS Statistics

	2021 – 2022	2022-2023
Truancy Hearings-	1034	1324

TIP Class Referrals	432	249
Students Completing Class	194	114
Total Number Classes	10	9
Total Number Families Served	1890	2639
Resources Referred	12	19
School Intervention Meetings	1998	1552

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 6 clients carried over from 2022, 5 new clients were referred in 2023 and 11 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 2023, there were 88 clients that were referred to the program and 88 (100%) successfully 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 20 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. During 2023, there were 37 families provided these services in the Beaver – Lawrence County areas.

POSITIVE TRANSITIONS – In 2023, 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:

- 454 individuals**
- 366 successful completions**
- 81% successful completion rate**
- Average pre-test score: 81%**
- Average post-test score: 89 %**
- Average evaluation score (out of possible 5): 4.59**

TRAILS MINISTRIES – The end of 2022-2023 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.
Fiscal Year: **2022-2023**

Total Number of Referrals	Total Number of Families who Received Services	Total Number of Children in these Families	Total Number of Parents (If different than Number of Families)	Number of Referrals that were MA eligible (If Applicable)
10 New Referrals		-23 Participants (1 not started)	- 14 Caregivers of Participants	
13 Continuing Involvement from past year(s)		-9 Children of Participants	-5 Siblings of Participants	
51 Participants/Family Members Served this year.				

- If the service is Child-Specific (i.e. mentoring, afterschool programming, etc.), the number of children will be determined by the number of children serviced
- If the service is geared toward the family and household or the parents (Parenting/ Life Skills Education, etc.), the number of children served will be determined by the total number of children in the household.

Demographics:

Include a breakdown of demographics collected on the families who received services. This can include Age, Gender, Race, and Presenting Problems, as relevant to the type of programming offered.

Gender:

16 (70%) Male 7 (30%) Female

Race:

13 (56.5%) White 2 (8.7%) Black 8 (34.8%) Bi-racial

Age at time of Referral:

2- 13 yrs. 4-14 yrs. 5-15 yrs. 1-16 yrs. 8- 17 yrs. 3- 18 yrs.

Years involved with TRAILS to-date:

9-Less than a year (1 in-active) 6- 1-2 yrs. 2- 2-3 yrs. 6- 3 yrs.+ (5 over 4 yrs.)

6 Young Parents (26%)

Description of Assessments or Scales Utilized:

Provide a description of any assessments or tools which are utilized, and the results of these assessments. These will often include pre & post test results.

Upon receipt of a CYS Service Authorization, the Team also attempts to have the appropriate Juvenile Probation Officer complete an additional form which asks for the already-gathered/known information regarding:

- **Mental Health Concerns**
- **Drug/Alcohol Concerns**
- **IEP Information/Educational Concerns**
- **Medical Conditions**
- **Risk Assessment (YLS Score)**
- **Listing of other services involved**
- **A summary of presenting needs/concerns that the referral source would like TRAILS to focus on**

This additional referral gives TRAILS' Team pertinent information from workers who have most-often been involved for some time prior to making the referral for Aftercare Mentoring.

The TRAILS Team is equipped to also complete a general strengths-based assessment from which an Individual Service Plan can be developed. Typically, the Team does not begin working on this plan until a participant returns to their community. Five (5) participants worked from ISPs this year; a few more participants began work on them, but never implemented fully. It is being determined how and when to best utilize the ISP tool.

This coming year, this team will look at also utilizing the Hope Scale which is being implemented in DOVE.

This year, the program also sought to capture some recidivism data, as well as other markers like high school graduation, employment at some point during the reporting period and living independently. This is a first attempt at measuring some of these markers program-wide and will be recorded in a more timely/accurate way in the coming year.