

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

**Cuyahoga County
Court of Common
Pleas General Division**

1200 Ontario St.
Cleveland, OH 44113



Mission

⁰¹ The mission of the
⁰² Court is to provide a
forum for the fair,
impartial and timely
resolution of civil
and criminal cases.





Top row: Administrative & Presiding Judge Brendan Sheehan, Judge Dick Ambrose, Judge Richard Bell, Judge Deena Calabrese

Middle row: Judge Kenneth Callahan*, Judge Maureen Clancy, Judge Cassandra Collier-Williams, Judge Brian Corrigan

Bottom row: Judge Peter Corrigan, Judge Nancy Fuerst, Judge Steve Gall, Judge Hollie Gallagher



Top row: Judge Kelly A. Gallagher, Judge Shannon Gallagher, Judge Daniel Gaul, Judge Emily Hagan
Middle row: Judge Wanda Jones*, Judge Ashley Kilbane, Judge David Matia, Judge Timothy McCormick
Bottom row: Judge William McGinty, Judge Sherrie Miday, Judge John O'Donnell, Judge John J. Russo



Top row: Judge Michael Russo, Judge Nancy Margaret Russo, Judge Shirley Strickland Saffold, Judge Andrew Santoli
Middle row: Judge Michael Shaughnessy, Judge John Sutula, Judge Kathleen Ann Sutula, Judge Joan Synenberg
Bottom row: Judge Deborah Turner, Judge William F.B. Vodrey

(*Judge Callahan assumed office on December 15, 2021, succeeding the late Judge Nancy McDonnell. Judge Jones took office on Dec. 20, 2021, taking the seat formerly held by the late Judge Joseph D. Russo.)



2021 remained a challenge as we continued to negotiate the COVID-19 pandemic, but we were able to reestablish a bit of normalcy. Once vaccines became available, it allowed us to resume more in-person operations and hearings. Additionally, we required our staffs to be vaccinated against COVID-19, unless they were able to provide a medical or religious exemption for our administration to review for approval.

2021 was my second year as Administrative and Presiding Judge. Efforts to deal with the ongoing pandemic are chronicled throughout this Annual Report. I can tell you that we resumed trials and continued to have our jurors and grand jurors meet at the Global Center for Health and Innovation, a building across the street from our Justice Center.

As in 2020, we never closed our court in 2021. Our Judges and staff worked hard to keep the justice system moving in any ways we could. I cannot thank our team enough for the hard work they put in. By the end of 2021, we were all back in our offices, but taking medical safety precautions whenever they were deemed necessary.

At the end of 2021, my colleagues on the Bench elected me to a second two-year term as Administrative and Presiding Judge. It is my sincere hope that this second term presents fewer COVID-level challenges. However, I have learned that our Judges and Court Administration team are ready to tackle whatever the future brings. I am grateful to them every single day.

Our Court also dealt with loss in 2021. Judge Nancy R. McDonnell died on September 28 and Judge Joseph Russo died four days later on October 2. We all miss them both dearly.

Brendan J. Sheehan



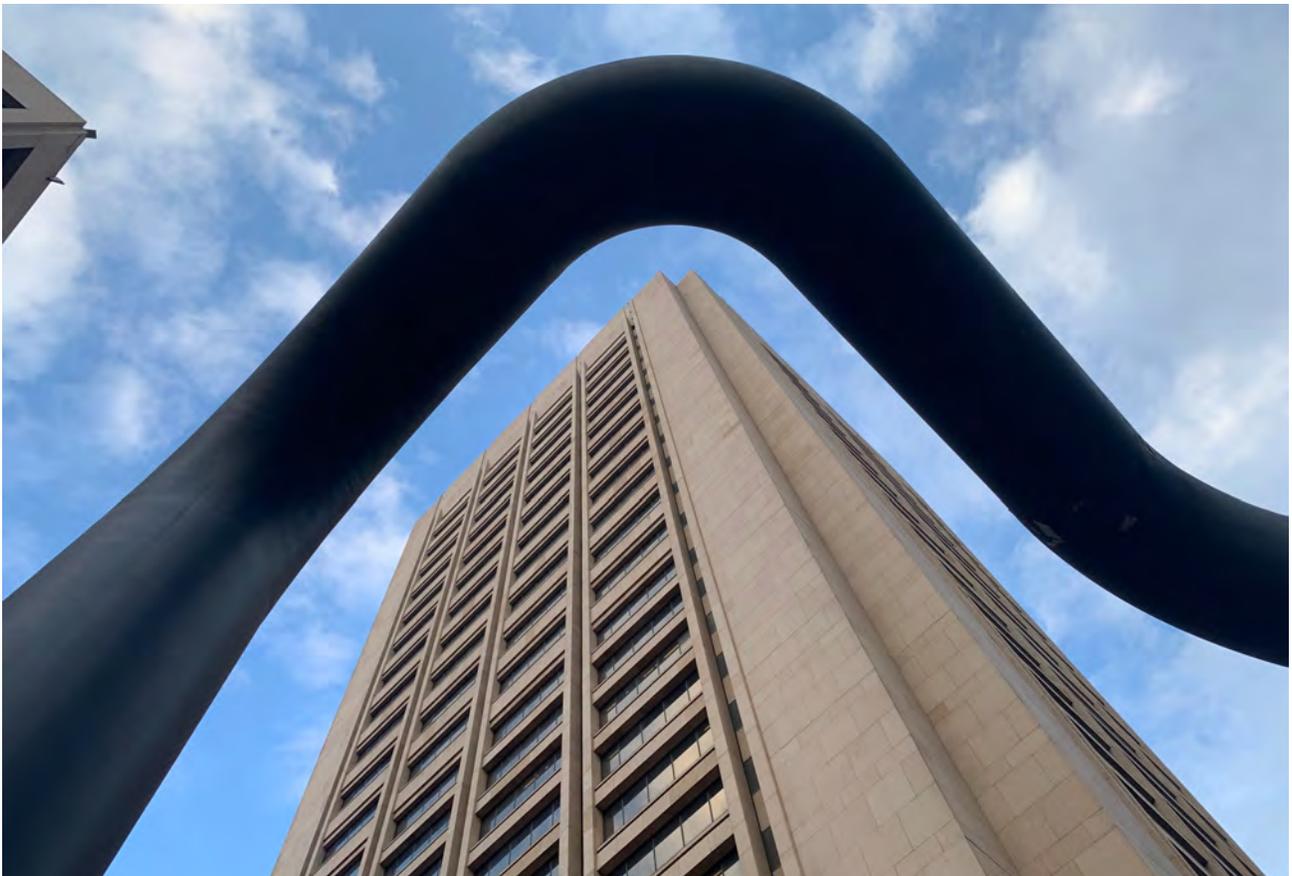


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*GREGORY M. POPOVICH,
COURT ADMINISTRATOR*

COURT ADMINISTRATION



ANDREA R. KINAST
Deputy Court Administrator
Director of Court Operations

CHRISTOPHER J. RUSS
Deputy Court Administrator
Director of Human Resources

Administration Staff

Court Administrator

**Deputy Court Administrator/Court
Operations**

**Deputy Court Administrator/Director
of Human Resources**

Director of Fiscal Operations

**Community Outreach
Coordinator/Public Information Officer**

Director of Training & Development

**Administrative Assistant/Payroll
Officer**

Administrative Assistant

Administrative Aide

The thirty-four (34) Judges and almost 450 staff of the Common Pleas Court are dedicated to providing fair, accessible and efficient justice for all persons. 2021 again presented unprecedented challenges as the world continued to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Court, we are used to thousands of people coming through our doors weekly. Through the efforts of the dedicated Judges and staff, in order to maintain safe and efficient operations and to meet its constitutional obligations, the Court made additional changes in 2021 that will impact us and the citizens of Cuyahoga County for years to come.

THANK YOU JUDGES AND STAFF

Our Court is proud of the fact that, although jury trials were suspended or curtailed for the greater part of 2021, our doors never closed. We always had staff on hand to answer phones, or questions from people who came to the Justice Center. While a number of people worked remotely, or in a combination of in-person and remote, we never stopped serving the citizens of Cuyahoga County.

This could not have been accomplished without the leadership of Administrative and Presiding Judge Brendan J. Sheehan, our 33 additional Judges, our team in Court Administration, and a staff that worked tirelessly under unique and challenging circumstances.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC & SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS IN 2021

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, swift action was taken by the Court to protect the public and staff. The Court worked with County Administration, the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, defense attorneys, and Sheriff's department/Jail Management corrections staff to quickly reduce the population of the Cuyahoga County jail so that medical teams could be prepared to treat and minimize COVID-19 outbreaks and to make every effort to protect people working and housed in the County Jail. Unfortunately, the pandemic was still a serious concern in 2021. The Court, through the leadership of Administrative Judge Brendan J. Sheehan, and the efforts of the Judges of the Common Pleas Court and other Justice System stakeholders, continued efforts to maintain a jail population substantially below historical levels.

The Court continued to work with Cuyahoga County Public Works to make the Justice Center a healthier place for people to work in and visit. The Court maintained the strict mask and social distancing protocols in place in 2021 when necessary. Masks were regularly supplied to staff and the public if they did not have one.

Thanks to the hard work of staff and the Trades in the County's Public Works Department, all 34 courtrooms were outfitted with Plexiglas barriers to protect jurors and any parties involved in in-person proceedings in 2020. Later in 2021, with the Court starting to discuss a regular return to jury trials, the jury boxes were returned to pre-pandemic configurations. Thanks to discussions between Court Administration and Public Works, a plan was created to remove the Plexiglas dividers and store them on custom hangers in each of the courtrooms so that they could be installed quickly in the future without incurring additional cost for new Plexiglas. The Court extends its appreciation to the staff and Trades in Public Works for their assistance during these challenging times.

These are just a sampling of some of numerous changes that were made to combat COVID-19 in the courthouse.

Significant time and resources continued to be expended on a number of other projects in 2021 and in response to the pandemic. Below is a sampling of some of these projects.

The Court continued to move towards handling court proceedings remotely when possible. This prevented the transport of some people from the County Jail to the courtroom and limited the number of visitors in the courthouse. After installing the 86-inch Mondopad monitors in each of our courtrooms and purchasing ZOOM licenses for all courtrooms and appropriate departments in 2020, the Court needed to update its audio capabilities in each of the rooms in 2021 so that Judges, the parties and the public could better hear people by video during court proceedings.

The monitors also provided a vehicle to present digital evidence and online video testimony during court hearings. The project was funded without the expenditure of additional taxpayer monies and the cost of the project will not negatively impact the General Fund. To facilitate the remote hearings, after testing several different internet-based video platforms, the Court purchased ZOOM licenses for each courtroom and our various departments. This investment in technology provided the Court the ability to conduct hearings remotely with defendants in the County Jail and with parties and attorneys in both civil and criminal matters unless a Judge felt it was necessary to be with the parties in person. In those instances, social-distancing was observed and the courtrooms were sanitized after the hearings. The new technology is also used by the Court's Mediators and Magistrates to hold mediations and foreclosure proceedings remotely. Remote video also became the norm for holding meetings and to offer trainings as well. The use of this new remote technology dramatically changed the Court's culture and will most definitely continue to be used by Judges and Court staff into the future.

New headsets for language interpretations during hearings were deployed to interpreters in courtrooms. The headsets allow the interpreter to social-distance between parties during a courtroom proceeding. The new headsets also improve communication, allowing for efficient hand-offs changes between interpreters when multiple translators are needed. The project was funded without the expenditure of additional taxpayer monies and funding of the project will not negatively impact the General Fund.

New portable audio enhancement and sound reinforcement systems supported ZOOM calls and hybrid court hearings during the pandemic in 2020 and beyond. Additional audio reinforcement equipment supported the voir dire of the jury and other court hearings. These technologies supported safe distancing and the CDC guidelines for in-person interactions in the courtrooms. The project was funded without the expenditure of additional taxpayer monies and funding of the project will not negatively impact the General Fund.

Due to promising results, the Court continued to move forward in 2021 with its Returning Home Pilot Project that started in 2020. The pilot project assists people who are homeless and have a mental illness to find permanent housing. The project provides a team of professionals who try to meet the mental health needs of this population and to find and maintain permanent housing in the community. In addition to funding community professionals to assist this population, the Court also created and funds a Probation Officer position that specializes in working with the homeless population. The project also offers incentives to landlords to provide housing for this population. It is hoped that the project, over time, will reduce the cycle of visits to the emergency room, decrease multiple arrests and incarcerations in the County Jail and minimize probation violations. The project was funded without the expenditure of additional taxpayer monies and funding of the project will not negatively impact the General Fund.

The Court also continued its Jail Shelter Diversion Pilot Program in 2021. For this pilot program, the Court partnered with the Cleveland Mediation Center to incorporate shelter diversion and mediation techniques prior to release for individuals rather than waiting until they are in the community. One goal is to prevent people on pre-trial or probation who are incarcerated (either homeless or in unstable housing) from entering into the shelter system after release. Another goal is to reduce future arrests and incarcerations in the County Jail or the prison system. The project was funded without the expenditure of additional taxpayer monies and funding of the project will not negatively impact the General Fund.

The Court began implementation of its texting project in 2019 and continued to expand in 2021. The project gave the Court the ability to contact individuals with pending criminal cases by text to notify them of court hearing dates in criminal matters. The new system sends texts to a person in three separate instances; when the hearing or event is scheduled, seven days before the day of the event and the day before. The project expanded in 2020 beyond the pilot stage for all criminal matters. The project now includes people on Probation/Community Control after a successful pilot in 2020. The project is funded without the expenditure of additional taxpayer monies and funding of the project will not negatively impact the General Fund.

The opiate epidemic continues to substantially impact the residents of Cuyahoga County, the Judges and the operations of the Court. Courts throughout the State continue to experience an alarming number of deaths caused by opiate overdoses. Ohio continues to be one of the hardest hit states nationally in the number of per capita deaths caused by opiate overdoses and Cuyahoga County specifically has some of the highest overdose numbers in the State attributed to opiate and/or fentanyl overdoses. In response the Court, in 2021, continued to commit significant resources to treat the growing number of people addicted to opiates in our community. To meet this need, the Court continued to receive and successfully obtained State and Federal grants, started new treatment programs and drug testing procedures. The Court and the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADAMHS) once again collaborated on a number of different projects to provide services and treatment options. The Court thanks the ADAMHS and the County for its financial assistance with expanding treatment options for people addicted to drugs or alcohol and/or with a mental health developmental disability. It should be noted that the Court continued to experience a decline in the number of drug abuse cases in 2021.

CASE MANAGEMENT

A Court, in part, measures productivity by comparing the total number of cases filed and/or reactivated with the number of cases disposed of during the calendar year. This case management tool is referred to as the clearance rate. In 2021, the Court's Criminal Case Clearance rate was 89% primarily because of a substantial increase of over 3,592 cases filed during the year and the backlog of cases from the previous year. This increase, coupled with the inability to return to 100% capacity to conduct jury trials, contributed to a negative clearance rate. In 2021, a total of 16,597 civil cases were filed / reactivated, a decrease of 252 cases from 2020. A total of 10,486 new criminal arraignments, 3,446 more than 2020 (and 1,912 reactivations), were held. A total of 29,995 new cases/reactivations were filed in 2021. This was an increase of about 3,340 cases in comparison to 2020. Calendar year 2021 concluded with 17,344 cases pending.

Of the civil docket 4,021 (new filings) cases were foreclosures, a decrease of nearly 4% from 2020 due mostly to the federal moratorium on foreclosure filings in response to the pandemic. In all, foreclosure cases comprised 26% of all new civil case filings. Civil case filings increased in 2021 by 0.5%.

Additionally, legislation (Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison or T-CAP became mandatory in 2018 and limits on probation violations were imposed) requires courts throughout the State to devote more time and resources to Community Control/Probation cases in order to divert more defendants from prison. Courts must also handle more expungements and other miscellaneous matters than in the past. Also, specialized dockets, needed to address drug addiction, mental health issues, human trafficking, the re-entry of defendants into the community from prison and the handling of commercial matters, places additional responsibilities on Judges and staff and stress on limited resources.

Productivity and efficiency are only two means for measuring performance of the Court. While gauging productivity and efficiency through empirical measurement is significant, more importantly, the Court must strive for justice in the resolution of each case that affects the rights and obligations of each individual or entity.

THE TRIAL COURT

In 2021, the Court's 34 Judges conducted jury trials in 140 instances, including 108 criminal cases and 32 civil jury trials. The Judges conducted 118 bench trials in 2021. Overall, jury and bench trials were up in 2021 (258) in comparison to 2020 (143) primarily because towards the end of 2021, the Court started to return to pre-pandemic capacity.



*COLLEEN BROWN,
DIRECTOR OF FISCAL
OPERATIONS*

FISCAL REPORT



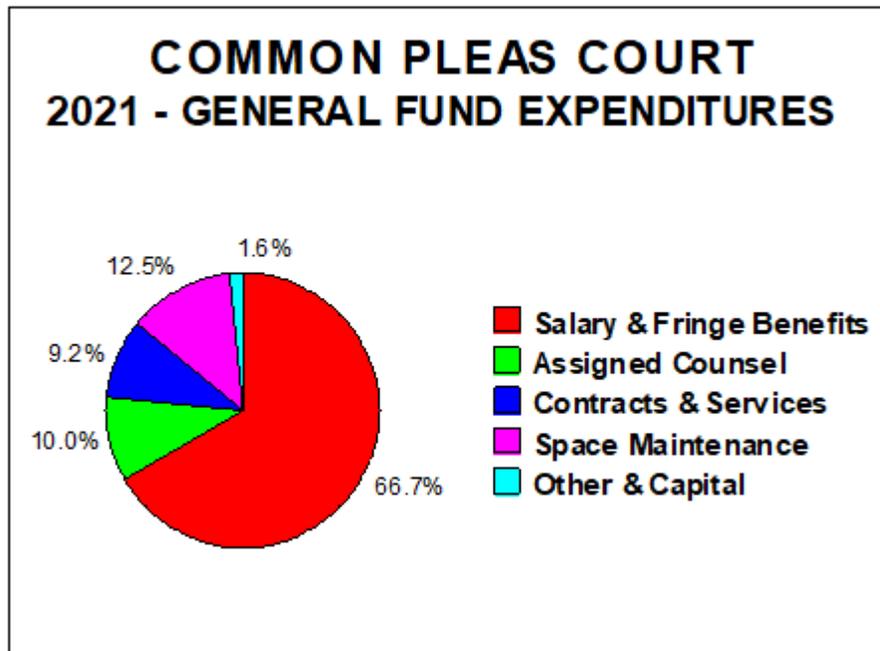
The 2021 actual General Fund expenditures of \$47,645,203 represent funding for the Judicial Administration, Magistrates, Court Services, and Probation/Psychiatric Clinic budgets. The General Fund for Cuyahoga County supports the majority of the Court's operations. The Court is constitutionally entitled to reasonable allocation for its operations. The 2021 General Fund expenditures listed by individual budget are as follows:

Judicial Administration Budget \$23,779,777 - This included funding for the following departments: Judicial, Administration, Bailiffs, Jury Bailiffs, Jury Commission, Judicial Staff Attorneys, and Judges' Secretaries.

Magistrates Budget \$1,982,609 - This included funding for the following departments: Dispute Resolution and Magistrates.

Court Services Budget \$7,767,081 - This included funding for the following departments: Central Scheduling, Court Systems, Data Entry, Court Reporters, Criminal Records, and Information Systems.

Probation/Psychiatric Budget \$14,115,736 - This included funding for the following departments: Probation and the Court Psychiatric Clinic.



Salary & Fringe Benefits	31,759,498	66.7%
Assigned Counsel	4,768,374	10.0%
Contracts & Services	4,376,778	9.2%
Space Maintenance	5,978,271	12.5%
Other & Capital	762,282	1.6%
TOTAL	\$47,645,203	100%

The Pie Chart above summarizes the Court's General Fund Expenditures for 2021. This analysis is comprised of actual expenses from the Judicial Administration, Magistrates, Court Services, and Probation / Psychiatric Clinic budgets. Salary and Fringe Benefits is the largest expense category representing compensation to approximately 487 full and part-time staff, inclusive of 34 elected judges.

The second largest category, Space Maintenance, has decreased by 31.5% compared to 2020. This category includes charge-backs from the Department of Public Works that are based on factors such as square footage, security personnel, and a prior year actual cost reconciliation, which is outside the Court's control.

In 2021, the total number of arraigned indigent defendants was 7,844; of that total, 2,901 were then assigned to the Public Defender's Office at the time of arraignment. The Assigned Counsel expense listed above is not adjusted for reimbursement by the State of Ohio to the General Fund for these costs, estimated at 80% for the first four months of 2021. The rate increased from 80% to 100% during 2021.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

*THOMAS ARNAUT,
DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION
SYSTEMS*



Staff

Assistant Director
Systems Analyst
Network Manager
Network Engineer
Network Administrator
Network Technicians (2)

Court Technology Specialist
Probation Information Systems Specialist
Office Manager
Office Assistants (2)
Project Manager
Programmers (2)

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Information Systems Department is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining all of the network systems and software applications used throughout the Court. There are approximately 650 workstations, laptops and tablets, 48 network servers, 12 local area networks, all connected through the county's wide area network. Applications range from the Court's primary case management system, web applications, web sites, as well as file and print services. The Information Systems Department also supports the interaction of the Court with other County and Municipal agencies where information sharing is required.

The Information Systems Department continues to work diligently enhancing technology systems used by the Court, the legal community, and the public so that they may have reliable, accurate access to the information that they require.

NETWORK & COMPUTER SERVICES

The Court's server infrastructure consists of two physical servers and 38 virtual servers. The data capacity of the storage array for the virtual environment remains at 61 terabytes. We currently are allocating 8.7 terabytes, which is utilizing 14.3% of that capacity.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT AND TRAINING

The Court's Computer Help Desk staff cleared thousands of computer and printer related support requests in 2021.

Application troubleshooting and technology training continued in support of court operations and procedures, whether staff is working onsite or from home. Support and training of new judges, bailiffs, staff attorneys and staff is ongoing (Court's case management system, Windows, Office applications, Zoom, Teams video and audio connections, wherever court staff are working).

The court continues to develop a continuous learning culture within the organization that supports modern flexible work environments:

- Technology training resources offered in-person and online
- Online instructional content, courses and videos are available on the Court's Learning Center

COURT SYSTEMS

The primary function of the Court Systems department is to create criminal journal entries, review them for accuracy, and prepare them for signature by the Judges. Court Systems also provides training and assistance to Judges and staff who choose to enter journal entries themselves.

The Court Systems area created 6,447 journal entries out of the 29,645 total for the Common Pleas Court in 2021.

INNOVATION & SOLUTIONS

Court's Reminder Texting Service: The integrated texting service for the Court provides timely updates, Court dates, trial reminders, and notifications to those affiliated with each case. Information is texted to parties' cellphones who have agreed and approved of the optional service.

Common Pleas Court Website and Intranet: Information Systems continues to support the public and staff with current and relevant information. Working alongside Community Relations, we continue to provide support updates and new website features that enable timely public and staff communications.

Court Staff Learning Center: Technical training and documents provide support to Court staff. The Court's Learning Center internal website helps keep staff on track with new technology, software applications, continuing legal education, and compliance courses. The system provides remote access to training materials, and the learning experience.

Document Scanning and Archiving: Information Systems continues to work with Court departments to improve their document accessibility and archival procedures. We analyze and assist departments in improving their archival processes. We assist in planning digital document scanning, proper network storage, and microfilming records.

Courtroom Visual Displays: Whether Court proceedings are online, in the courtroom or both, large 86" portable displays provide easier viewing of digital evidence and online video testimony. Additional audio systems provide improved audio and sound during video calls assist and support proper distancing protocols when needed.

Language interpretation: Headsets provided for language interpretations during hearings deployed to interpreters in courtrooms. Headsets allow the interpreter to have some distance between parties during a courtroom hearing. This improves communication and allows for efficient hand-offs between interpreters when multiple translators are needed.

Auxiliary Sound Systems: When needed, additional portable audio speakers are setup to reinforce and enhance existing courtroom audio. A variety of flexible technology solutions continue to support the varied requirements of each courtroom and trial. These audio systems support safe distancing and the CDC guidelines for in-person interactions at the Court.



*MARIA NEMEC,
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER*

ADULT PROBATION



STEPHANIA PRYOR
Deputy Chief
Probation Officer

TAMMY SHERMAN
Deputy Chief
Probation Officer

THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION. TO ENCOURAGE POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE LIVES OF OFFENDERS, THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICES TO THE COURT, COMMUNITY, VICTIMS, PROBATIONERS AND DEFENDANTS.

STAFF

Supervisors (17)
Probation Officers
(136)
Training Specialist
Executive Secretary
Clerical Supervisor
Clerical and Support
Staff (12)
Admin Assistants (4)
Fiscal Supervisor
Administrative Asst.
Lab Manager
Sr. Lab Technologist
Lab Technologist
Lab Assistants (5)
Lab Admin Aide
Cashiers (3)

The Cuyahoga County Probation Department, in providing community corrections services, assists the Court of Common Pleas in the protection of the community and the administration of justice. Toward this end, we:

- Complete thorough and accurate investigations
- Provide individualized direction, client centered goal coordination, the effective use of community-based resources, and the swift and consistent administration of prescribed incentives and sanctions
- Provide assistance to victims, including collection of restitution
- Manage offender risk by enforcing Court orders and affording opportunities for change
- Maintain a trained staff that is knowledgeable regarding evidence based practices
- Communicate with law enforcement, correctional, and other community agencies in Cuyahoga County

Core Values of the Probation Department

- Promote Public Safety
- Implement Evidence Based Practices
- Belief that people in our charge can make positive changes in behavior, and that we can be instrumental in providing opportunities and resources to direct that change
- Belief that everyone is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect

INVESTIGATIONS

Pre-Sentence Reports

2,344 completed

- Thorough investigation of current offense
- Criminal history check
- Risk assessment using the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)
- Victim comments and restitution information
- Summary of defendant's pertinent history (e.g., social, educational, employment, health, etc.)
- Supervision placement recommendations based on risk and special population considerations
- 28 days to complete a Bail PSI, 21 days to complete a Jail PSI

Post-Sentence Reports

1,054 completed

- Thorough investigation of current offense
- Risk assessments using the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)
- Victim comments and restitution information
- Summary of defendant's pertinent history (e.g., social, educational)

Expungements

1,571 completed

- Criminal history check
- Current residency information
- Compliance with original conditions including financial obligations
- Termination dates of any supervision or confinement provided when available
- Summary report of eligibility information for sealing of criminal records is provided

Certificate of Qualification for Employment

29 completed

- ORC 2953.25: for persons subject to collateral sanctions. The CQE will allow persons living in the community who have a previous felony or misdemeanor conviction to apply to the Court to lift the collateral sanction that bars consideration for employment in a particular field.
- Automatically upon conviction for a felony, misdemeanor, or other offense, even if not included in the sentence
- Probation staff person researches and delivers thorough investigation report to the court
- Summary of Petitioner's rationale for CQE request

PRETRIAL SERVICES

COURT SUPERVISED RELEASE (CSR) PROGRAM

Court Supervised Release involves supervision of defendants charged with felonies, who, prior to disposition, are released into the community under supervision with a personal or financial bond.

Defendants released under Court Supervised Release, and defendants receiving additional or specialized pretrial supervision services, include: The Domestic Violence Program, Early Intervention Program, Greater Cleveland Drug Court candidates, as well as Mental Health / Developmental Disability offenders.

Court Supervised Release	
Individuals released from jail under CSR as a condition of bond	2,028
Individuals under CSR as of December 31, 2021	822

DIVERSION PROGRAMS

PRETRIAL DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office implemented the Pretrial Diversion Program in conjunction with the Court of Common Pleas in March 1993. The program, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 2935.36, accepts persons charged with non-violent and non-drug related crimes who have no previous felony convictions or patterns of adult or juvenile criminal behavior. Successful applicants must enter into a plea agreement, which is held in abeyance pending successful completion of the Program, and the maximum allowable restitution amount is \$7,500. The Pretrial Unit provides services to the County Prosecutor's Pretrial Diversion Program. Services currently consist of:

1) Extensive criminal record checks on both welfare and non-welfare felony diversion candidates. 2) Conducting investigations including interviews, determining restitution amounts, and evaluations of eligibility. 3) Supervision of all diversion cases (supervision activities include urinalysis, community work service, restitution, court costs, supervision fees, etc.)

In 2021, 424 defendants were placed into Diversion; 378 individuals were in Diversion as of December 31, 2021.

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (EIP)

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) targets first time offenders with a pending felony drug charge and provides them with appropriate drug treatment services within 45 days of arrest. The goal is early intervention and treatment for those offenders who are in need of substance abuse, and/or mental health services. Offenders are placed on Court Supervised Release (CSR) as a condition of bond and are screened for substance abuse issues. At arraignment, CSR makes a recommendation to the Court for continued CSR/EIP participation for offenders in compliance with program conditions and requests that the judge allow the offender to participate in the program. Offenders must enter a guilty/no contest plea with the Court in order to participate.

Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) provides substance use assessments for all defendants participating in EIP. Participants may also be referred for drug and alcohol treatment and case management services. To complete the program successfully, offenders must complete at least six months of project supervision, be drug free for at least 90 days, and satisfy other court ordered requirements.

In 2021, 13 offenders were placed into EIP; 10 individuals were in EIP as of December 31, 2021.

INTERVENTION IN LIEU OF CONVICTION

This specialized program is designed to meet the unique needs of probationers with minimal prior criminal histories who have significant substance abuse and/or mental health problems that contributed to the underlying offense for which they are charged. Probationers who file a motion for Intervention in Lieu of Conviction, prior to entering guilty pleas, are required to complete a thorough substance abuse and/or mental health evaluation at an accredited community based treatment facility and receive a recommendation for the program by their assessing counselor. The Court will refer potential offenders to the Court Psychiatric Clinic or accredited drug/ alcohol treatment agency for eligibility assessment. The Clinic advises the Court of their recommendations and the Court makes final determination for program participation.

Upon successful completion of the Intervention in Lieu of Conviction program, which requires a minimum of one (1) year of supervision, the indictment is dismissed and all records of the offense can be later sealed, if deemed appropriate by the Court.

The offender's defense attorney may request that the Court consider the offender for referral to the Intervention in Lieu of Conviction program (O.R.C. 2951.041). This is possible if an offender alleges that, at the time of committing the criminal offense with which the offender is charged, the offender had a mental illness, was a person with an intellectual disability, and that the mental illness status as a person with an intellectual disability was a factor leading to that offense.

Eligibility is based on the criteria outlined in ORC 2951.04.1. Acceptance into this program requires that the offender enter a guilty plea to the pending charge. However, further criminal proceedings are stayed pending successful completion of the program.

In 2021, there were 224 referrals to the ILC program.

MISDEMEANOR ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING/JAIL REDUCTION (MASP)

MASP provides a community-based alternative to incarceration. The program began as an informal agreement with Garfield Heights Municipal Court in 1997 to identify, recommend, and provide limited community-based sanctions (e.g. electronic monitoring), supervision, and substance abuse and mental health treatment to eligible misdemeanor offenders sentenced by a suburban municipal court to the County Jail for more than 30 days. In 2000, the program became eligible to all 12 suburban municipal courts in Cuyahoga County with the assistance of Ohio Community Corrections Act (CCA) funding.

The MASP Investigation Officer receives referrals from the municipal courts for possible entrance into this program. Investigation includes a comprehensive criminal history check, offender interview, social situation verification, assessment and supervision needs, pretrial risk assessment, and any collateral information that is made available by the referring court. The MASP Investigation Officer coordinates with local service providers for assessment and treatment referral for substance abuse and mental health needs. Upon release from jail, the MASP Supervision Officer in the Common Pleas Court's Pretrial Services Unit provides supervision and urinalysis testing in the community.

In 2021 there were 34 clients placed into the MASP program.

SUPERVISION

Probation supervision is risk based. Offenders receive a supervision response that is appropriate for their risk level, targeting higher risk offenders for programming. Evidence based practices are utilized to change offender behavior. Officers utilize a Behavioral Response System (BRP) matrix to respond to both pro-social and non-compliant behavior.

OHIO RISK ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (ORAS)

The Probation Department utilizes the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS). The University of Cincinnati developed the ORAS as a statewide system to assess the risk and needs of Ohio offenders that was predictive of recidivism at multiple points in the criminal justice system. All cases referred for Pre-Sentence Investigation have an ORAS assessment completed.

Seventy percent (70%) of the 5,144 defendants on probation as of December 31, 2021, had an ORAS Risk Score.

Extreme High	High	Moderate	Low Moderate	Low	Total
76	1,140	1,876	294	1,267	4,653
1.48%	22.16%	36.47%	5.27%	24.63%	100%

END OF YEAR 2021 STATISTICS

Defendants on probation as of December 31, 2021: 5,144

Defendants on probation as of December 31, 2020: 5,282

Defendants on probation as of December 31, 2019: 6,549

Highest-level conviction is a felony: 4,007 (78%)

Highest-level conviction is a misdemeanor: 1,137 (22%)

DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO PROBATION/COMMUNITY CONTROL BY SUPERVISION GROUP

Bottle	Total	Percent
Regular Supervision	683	13.28%
Group C	638	12.40%
Group D	535	10.40%
Domestic Violence Unit	436	8.48%
Group A	400	7.78%
Traditional Probation - Westside	329	6.40%
Mental Health Unit	321	6.24%
Group B	243	4.72%
Intervention in Lieu of Conviction	224	4.35%
CBCF	202	3.93%
Sex Offender Unit	197	3.83%
Electronic Monitoring GPS	184	3.58%
Developmental Disabilities Unit	159	3.09%
Criminal Non Support	141	2.74%
Moderate Risk - Intensive Supervision	92	1.79%
Interstate Compact – Courtesy Supervision	48	< 1%
Veterans Court	43	< 1%
Intensive Supervision for Misdemeanor	41	< 1%
Employment	35	< 1%
DRUG COURT MAT TRK 1 DIV	34	< 1%
Gun Violence Intervention	27	< 1%
Drug Court Track 1 (Diversion)	23	< 1%
RECOVERY COURT TRK 1 DIV	21	< 1%
Extreme High Risk	18	< 1%
Re-Entry Court	16	< 1%
DRUG COURT MAT TRK 2 NON-DIV	14	< 1%
Drug Court Track 2 (Non Diversion)	13	< 1%
Other	22	< 1%
RECOVERY COURT TRK 2 NON-DIV	5	< 1%
GRAND TOTAL	5,144	100.00%

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF SUPERVISION CASES

Defendant Age	Total	Percent
Between 18 and 22	501	9.74%
Between 23 and 27	913	17.75%
Between 28 and 32	1,079	20.98%
Between 33 and 37	780	15.16%
Between 38 and 42	630	12.25%
Between 43 and 46	369	7.17%
Between 47 and 51	321	6.24%
Between 52 and 56	219	4.26%
Between 57 and older	332	6.45%
Under 18	0	0.00%
Total:	5,144	100.00%

Race	Female	Male	NO Sex	Total
Asian	5	8		13
Black	614	2,952		3,566
Hispanic	18	101		119
Other	24	84		108
No Race	8	13	4	25
White	325	988		1,313
	994	4,146	4	5,144

MILITARY HISTORY

At year-end 2021, there were 149 active defendants with military experience.

Military Branch	Total
Air Force	8
Army	58
Coast Guard	2
Marines	33
National Guard	14
Navy	34
TOTAL	149

LOW RISK SUPERVISION

Low Risk (Group A) has one officer supervising approximately 350 offenders. Defendants in this group report every six months for one year. Research on the Risk Principle dictates that it is best to provide minimal, if any supervision for the Offenders who assessed as Low Risk to recidivate. The research has found that intensive treatment and intervention for Low Risk Offenders can actually increase their risk of recidivism.

LOW MODERATE RISK SUPERVISION

Low-Moderate Risk (Group B) has two officers supervising approximately 300 offenders. Defendants in this group report every three months for one year. Individuals in the Low-Moderate Risk category are supervised at a non-intensive level.

MODERATE RISK SUPERVISION

Moderate Risk (Group C) is comprised of 12 officers and two supervisors. Offenders in this group report once a month or as specified via Court order for eighteen months. Officers are expected to be competent in utilizing and administering an ORAS assessment and must be familiar with offender criminogenic needs and corresponding Evidence Based programming. In addition, officers are trained in Case Planning, Motivational Interviewing, and the Stages of Change.

In 2013, the Department implemented a Moderate Risk ISP Unit, currently comprised of three officers. This position allows for an intensive supervision response for Moderate Risk Offenders who, because of their risk level, are not appropriate for intensive supervision of a High Risk Unit. This officer meets with offenders more frequently and creates a Case Plan with the offender that includes more programming dosage to attend to the Offender's increased level of needs.

HIGH RISK SUPERVISION PROBATION

The High Risk Probation (Group D) program's purpose is to divert eligible felony offenders from incarceration in Ohio prisons by providing a more intense or heightened degree of supervision within the community. High Risk is designed as a two-year program with frequent offender contact, intense case planning, close attention to offender criminogenic needs and appropriate program referrals, and varying urinalysis schedules, designed for the most effective rehabilitation of the offender.

EXTREMELY HIGH RISK SUPERVISION

Extremely High Risk (Group E) Offenders in this group report for up to five years. The goal of supervising the Extremely High Risk Offender is to promote public safety. Intensive supervision, surveillance, drug and alcohol testing are a necessity while programming is contraindicated. Supervision consists of: ·Weekly Office Contacts; Weekly Urinalysis Testing; Weekly Field Visits with Instant Drug and/or Alcohol Testing; Twice Weekly Collateral Contacts.

The officer in this position works with the County Sheriff's Department and county provider agencies in the close monitoring of these offenders. This officer employs non-traditional surveillance hours, including working evenings and weekends, for the most effective supervision.

TRADITIONAL SUPERVISION

Offenders sentenced to a higher level of supervision than their risk score warrants are supervised by the Traditional Supervision caseload. The low to low-moderate risk level offenders are supervised according to the frequency that the journal entry dictates.

OTHER SUPERVISION OPTIONS

MENTAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (MHDD) PROGRAM

The MHDD Unit assists persons clinically diagnosed with severe mental illnesses with a psychotic component, or those with developmental disabilities whose conditions may be aided by medications, case management, and supervision in the community. The program provides Judges with an alternative to prison commitment. The MHDD Unit assists severely mentally ill and/or developmentally disabled offenders to receive behavioral health services for their disability, address criminogenic risks, reintegrate into the community, and successfully complete probation. Probation staff are trained in assisting MHDD offenders to face their most common barriers in the community, provide supervision and enforcement of the conditions of community control sanctions, while supporting compliance with psychiatric treatment recommendations. The incorporation of judicial and clinical staffing has also aided in facilitating cooperation among the offenders within the MHDD Unit. The MHDD Unit is currently staffed by 12 specially trained officers and two supervisors. The MHDD Unit allocates seven officers to supervise clients with severe mental illness and four officers to supervise clients with developmental disabilities. The average caseload of the twelve post-conviction officers is 41 offenders with a recommended duration of two years of community control sanctions.

The MHDD Unit continued its collaboration of clinical staffing with officers and community behavioral health agencies to ensure therapeutic approaches to the offenders' community control experience. Officers work closely with several community agency providers through bi-weekly or monthly clinical staff meetings with forensic case managers, licensed social workers, and licensed counselors from Recovery Resources, Murtis H. Taylor, FrontLine Service, Signature Health, Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD), and Matt Talbot Inn residential treatment center.

The pandemic and consequent social distancing measures continued to affect the program's ability to conduct in-person Court and clinical staffings in 2021. The program implemented a blended approach utilizing both live and virtual meetings to maximize connectedness while ensuring safety.

Contracted service providers include the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (approximately 32% of offenders supervised in the MHDD program are assessed with developmental disabilities) and Recovery Resources, selected in cooperation with the ADAMHS Board, which co-funds the program, to provide mental health counseling, psychiatric services, medication management, and support services.

Officers continued to have working relationship with St. Vincent Charity Hospital, Community Assessment Treatment Services, Cleveland Clinic-Lutheran Hospital, The MetroHealth System, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Cleveland Police CIT officers, Mobile Crisis, Oriana House, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Empowering Integrated Care Solutions and other treatment providers and community support networks.

At the close of 2021, there were approximately 497 offenders under active post-conviction supervision by the MHDD Unit. This includes those whose highest level of conviction was a felony (70%) as well as those who plead down from a felony charge at indictment to a misdemeanor conviction.

SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM

The Adult Sex Offender Program is designed to provide assessment, intensive probation supervision, and treatment to sex offenders who have been convicted of a sex offense or an offense whose elements include a sex offending behavior. The program is comprised of three specially trained probation officers and a treatment component. An average sex offender caseload size is 65 offenders per officer. Psych & Psych provides group and individual counseling for sex offenders, including the developmentally disabled population. Court general funds and CCA grant dollars provided for 76 sex offender assessments and for 77 offenders to receive treatment services in 2020. An integral part of the program is polygraph testing used for verification of client progress and compliance.

Due to COVID-19 related issues, 12 offenders submitted to a polygraph examination in calendar year 2021.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

The Domestic Violence Unit is comprised of 10 specially trained officers and a supervisor. The unit provides intensive supervision for offenders convicted of a domestic violence offense or an offense whose elements included domestic violence behavior. Length of supervision is generally two years. The two-year supervision term allows time for DV officers to establish and maintain contact with the victim, enforce any no contact orders, and refer and follow-up on the defendant's DV programming.

Officers engage in comprehensive case planning and refer defendants to programs and treatment as indicated in their ORAS assessments, based on their criminogenic needs. The majority of the defendants in the DV Unit attend the Domestic Intervention and Education Treatment (DIET) program offered by Cleveland Municipal Court. The DV officers and DIET staff regularly communicate and collaborate on defendant treatment progress and needs. Several officers in the DV Unit also participate on various DV committees to maintain a presence in the community.

The DV Unit is a partner in the Cuyahoga County Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Team. Two officers from the DV Unit attend team meetings twice a month to staff high risk cases. Team members come from various agencies throughout the county, and cases focus on Districts 1 and 5 from the Cleveland Police.

In 2021, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court completed its first year of the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court (HRDVC) after receiving a \$1 million, three-year grant in 2020 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The High Risk Domestic Violence Docket accepts dangerous, felony-level cases of intimate partner violence as indicated by the presence of high risk lethality factors such as the use of strangulation or a firearm in the offense. Justice System partners such as the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, Public Defender and Witness/Victim Services work collaboratively with the Court to reduce risk of further injury to victims. A docket coordinator assists the High Risk Docket Judge, Sherrie Miday, in the operations of the High-Risk DV Court. From the Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Department, a specially trained pre-trial officer and post sentence probation officer utilize the Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment (DVRNA), as well as the ORAS to supervise the defendants utilizing evidence-based practices. Defendants will complete a cognitive-behavioral program specifically for domestic violence offenders. Regular team staffing and compliance hearings are held to gather input from the DV Court Team of probation officers, an assistant prosecutor, defense counsel, an advocate, and domestic violence program facilitators to assist the Judge in closely monitoring cases. The HRDVC reached its capacity of fifty (50) defendants in 2021.

NON-SUPPORT SPECIALIZED CASELOAD

The Non-Support Specialized Caseload provides an additional option in the continuum of sanctions for offenders under supervision for Felony Non-Support. The Non-Support Specialized Caseload is intended to reduce the need for incarceration in state prisons or local jail by providing an effective sentencing alternative. It recognizes the importance of expanding the continuum of sanctions for individuals with non-support offenses to decrease prison commitments for technical violations and avoid interruption in offender employment and subsequent ability to pay child support.

Cuyahoga County clients represent 16% of Ohio's child support business. The Non-Support Specialized Program seeks to empower parents so they can successfully remove barriers to the payment of child support and promote ways to rehabilitate non-support offenders without the cost of incarceration. The program works to provide the appropriate external controls, along with the Non-Support Education programming, supervision approaches, and interventions. These are necessary to instill the internal motivation and skills necessary for offenders to become productive, law-abiding citizens, thereby reducing recidivism and decreasing the incidence of incarceration.

The program collaborates with various community social support agencies that focus on barriers to success, and ensure offenders pay child support and receive services to encourage responsible parenthood, while promoting public safety.

The offender population served includes individuals with criminal non-support charges under the supervision of the Adult Probation Department. A portion of this offender population may also include individuals required to pay child support whose cases have not been referred for prosecution, but who may benefit from the education component to strengthen their understanding of their responsibilities and increase the likelihood of compliance with child support orders. Risk level will generally be between moderate to high risk. For offenders who do not generally require intensive supervision and programming, there is also a Basic Non-Support caseload. However, moderate or high risk offenders supervised on the Basic Non-Support Unit may be referred for NS programming if needed.

In 2021, there were 15 offenders sentenced to the Specialized Non Support caseload and 12 offenders to the regular Non Support caseload. In 2021, fewer than 40 cases were sent to the County Prosecutor's Office from Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) for prosecution/collection. Records from CSEA indicate, that in 2021, the Probation Officers in the units collected \$1,011,304.76 in child support payments.

GPS MONITORING

The GPS Monitoring Program is designed to allow offenders in the community while restricting their movements to approved locations or keeping distance from the victim's residences. In 2014, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, in conjunction with Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department, implemented active GPS monitoring in an effort to more closely monitor and respond to offenders' non-compliance in the community and to increase the Courts' use of GPS Monitoring as an alternative to incarceration.

The Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas determines who is eligible for Electronic Monitoring. The Courts place offenders on GPS Monitoring either as a function of pre-trial services or post sentence as a condition of community control sanctions.

In 2021, approximately 1,483 new offenders were placed on GPS Monitoring. Including the new 1,483 offenders, 2,030 total offenders were monitored on GPS during 2021. Of all the offenders monitored in 2021, 27% (538) were unsuccessful due to an arrest or absconson from GPS monitoring; 27% (547) offenders remained on for the upcoming 2022 year; therefore, 46% (945) of offenders successfully completed GPS monitoring. Termination from GPS does not always coincide with termination of the entire pretrial /probation supervision period.

The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department provides the GPS monitoring equipment and monitoring surveillance in collaboration with Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Department. To defray the cost for indigent offenders, along with other program costs, offenders were charged \$8.00 per day for GPS Monitoring. In 2021, there was a total of \$97,879.60 collected in GPS fees.

During 2021, the average number of offenders on Electronic Monitoring was 513 with the capacity to monitor 625 offenders at once. The first quarter average was 454 offenders, with the last three quarters averaging 535 offenders. With the growing number of offenders being monitored, the Sheriff's Department reinstated the Electronic Monitoring Unit as a stand-alone unit with a primary focus on GPS monitoring and response. The unit consists of 12 deputies and 2 sergeants; divided into four shifts with continuous operation. The Adult Probation Department continues to operate as a specialized unit and consists of one supervisor, four pretrial officers, three supervision officers, two case management officers and one jail installer.

ALCOHOL MONITORING

The Alcohol Monitoring Program is designed to prohibit offenders from consuming alcohol. The Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas determines who is eligible for Alcohol Monitoring. The Courts place offenders on Alcohol Monitoring either as a function of pre-trial services or post sentence as community control sanctions.

In 2021, approximately 217 offenders were monitored on Alcohol Monitoring. Of the 217 offenders monitored, approximately 19% (42) were on Court Supervised Release and approximately 81% (175) were a condition of Community Control Sanctions.

The Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Department provides the alcohol monitoring equipment, as well as monitoring services. To defray the cost for indigent offenders and for other program costs, offenders are charged \$10 per day for Alcohol Monitoring. In 2021, there was a total of \$13,636.00 collected in Alcohol Monitoring fees. The Alcohol Monitoring unit continues to operate as a specialized unit and consists of the same staff that make up the GPS unit.

WORK RELEASE

Individuals in the Work Release Program are granted release from a facility only for verified purposes (e.g., work, education, vocational training, and substance abuse treatment). Individuals can be placed in the Work Release Program at the time of sentencing or at the time of a Probation Violation/Community Control Violation Hearing. CCA funding provides the WR/EM Unit with a supervisor, three full-time supervision officers including a lead officer who assists with administrative oversight of the program. Offenders sentenced to Work Release are placed in state-funded beds at the Salvation Army.

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Violence Intervention Program (VIP) is a pilot initiative implemented in August 2018, utilizing the Drug Court Model, and presided over by Judge Brendan Sheehan. The program aims to reduce incidences of violence and the potential of death by firearm by targeting felony offenders arrested in possession of a gun. It will do so by increasing the vocational and employment opportunities for VIP clients through customized interventions that utilize neighborhood outreach experts coupled with wraparound services including substance, mental health, education, and work. The strategy is to engage VIP clients in alternative types of intervention programming and expose them to opportunities and the potential for a lifestyle they did not think was possible.

Violence Intervention Program is a voluntary, court-supervised, comprehensive collaborative effort that targets felony offenders who are arrested in possession of a firearm and are in need of intervention-based wraparound services that include regular court appearances in front of a judge, a specialized VIP Probation Officer, mentors, and vocational and employment opportunities. A panel of the partners screens applicants for eligibility.

Clients are required to participate in the VIP for a minimum of 12 months, and submit to individualized, frequent, random, and observed drug testing protocols as directed by the VIP Court Judge. A VIP Treatment Team, which includes service providers, attorneys, and the Probation Department, provide ongoing, timely, and accurate information, and feedback addressing a VIP client's overall performance. The VIP Judge, in consultation with the VIP Treatment Team, ultimately determines a VIP client's advancement and graduation from the VIP.

Mentors from Peacemakers of Cleveland work with VIP clients as "violence interrupters" and outreach specialists to provide crisis intervention, interrupt violence, and diffuse incidents of possible retaliation. They provide alternative lifestyles and programming designed to expose them to pro-social activities, job and vocational skill building, life skills, and relationship building. OhioMeansJobs/Cleveland-Cuyahoga County provide resources and information that assist VIP clients in moving toward financial independence through employment. Its programs and services include education, job training, and job search assistance.

Metro Hospital provides ongoing screening and trauma services for the project as well as behavioral health counseling and ancillary services such as bus passes and cell phones.

At the end of 2021, 29 clients were supervised in the VIP.

COGNITIVE SKILLS PROGRAMMING

COGNITIVE SKILLS PROGRAMMING (SCOPE) is a development program utilizing the "Thinking for a Change" (T4C) curriculum. The program integrates cognitive restructuring, social skills, and problem solving. It teaches offenders an introspective process for examining their ways of thinking and their feelings, beliefs, and attitudes. Social skills training is provided as an alternative to antisocial behaviors. Problem solving becomes the central approach. Offenders learn how to work through difficult situations without engaging in criminal behavior.

The program has gender specific programming, to address the unique needs, issues, and learning styles of women.

In 2021, 548 clients were referred to the program, 375 offenders received SCOPE programming.

DOMESTIC INTERVENTION, EDUCATION, and TRAINING (DIET)

The Cleveland Municipal Court provides domestic violence education for offenders charged with misdemeanor and/or felony domestic violence offenses in Cleveland Municipal Court, Common Pleas Court, and/or the suburban municipal courts. The Community Corrections Act grant from ODRC funds the DIET program through an annual contract with the Cuyahoga County Corrections Planning Board.

The DIET Program offers a Support Group comprised of successful graduates that meet on the third Monday of each month. A facilitator monitors the group, but primary direction of the meeting comes from the graduates. Issues discussed include successful implementation of safety plans and establishing healthy relationships. Group members receive incentives such as note pads and coffee mugs to encourage participation.

In 2021, the DIET program transitioned from the Duluth Model to the Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions for Interpersonal Violence (CBI). Cleveland Municipal Court facilitators, along with select staff from the County Probation Department DV Unit were trained by the University of Cincinnati in the curriculum. Low risk offenders are required to complete eight (2 hour) sessions, moderate risk 26 (2 hour) sessions and high risk 30 (2 hour) sessions. In all groups, participants are required to role-play what they have learned and model the behavior. The DIET program was delivered via Zoom in 2021 due to the COVID.

In 2021, Common Pleas Court Adult Probation referred 399 offenders to the program. DIET reported 118 successful completions, 180 unsuccessful completions and 13 administrative discharges.

COMMUNITY-BASED CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

The primary unit utilized by contract is The McDonnell Center, a community-based correctional facility. The McDonnell Center provides comprehensive programming to address offender criminogenic needs such as chemical dependency, education, employment, cognitive behavior therapy, and family relationships. The program progressively integrates higher-risk offenders back into the community while, at the same time, reducing prison overcrowding and recidivism. Eligibility requirements were revised in 2015 to allow moderate risk offenders.

Most offenders sentenced to the CBCF are concurrently supervised by CBCF supervision officers, or officers from specialized units. The CBCF Supervision Officers have work stations at The McDonnell Center and an office at the Justice Center. Officers work closely with the CBCF case workers to assist offenders in reaching their programming goals. This partnership is pivotal in making sure offenders remain compliant with discharge plans and Community Control expectations once they are released back into the community. The assigned supervision officer engages the offender during the final stage of the CBCF Program in an effort to assist in the transition to community control supervision.

Upon successful completion of the CBCF program, supervision is either maintained by the CBCF officers or officers in specialized units to address offense-specific (e.g. domestic violence) or behavioral health needs (e.g., mental health). In addition to these designated positions, the Probation Department and CBCF staff engage in many collaborative efforts, including cross-trainings and joint Probation and Judicial Orientations for newly admitted residents.

In 2021, Common Pleas Court referred 478 offenders to the McDonnell Center CBCF. 317 male offenders were admitted to the McDonnell Center CBCF and 42 female offenders were admitted to the Cliff Skeen CBCF in Summit County.

The court does place offenders in other State funded CBCF facilities, dependent on various factors including, but not limited to, offense types, failure at the local CBCF, and female specific CBCF programming.

CBCF placements were made at the following out of Cuyahoga County CBCFs:

Summit County CBCF-Oriana for females, 42 admissions,

Northwest (Bowling Green-Males), 8 admissions

Lorain/Medina CBCF-Males, 11 admissions

APPREHENSION UNIT

The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department Warrant Unit arrests individuals with outstanding warrants in Cuyahoga County. Personnel assigned to the Warrant Unit execute and service felony and civil arrest warrants, bench warrants, temporary protection orders, out of state prisoner extraditions, and the apprehension of wanted fugitives throughout the jurisdiction of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office. In addition, the Warrant Unit assists the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Department in the service of warrants issued for individuals under jurisdiction of programs within the Probation Department.

In 2021, the Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Department submitted the names of 165 offenders for apprehension (up from 126 in 2020). Programs funded by the Community Corrections Act (CCA) submitted 143 requests for arrest and regular supervision programs submitted 22 requests.

Warrant Unit Deputies are routinely dispatched to treatment facilities to apprehend non-compliant probationers. Of the 143 names submitted by Cuyahoga County Probation Staff to the Sheriff's Department Warrant Unit for apprehension, 63 were for apprehension at The McDonnell Center Community Based Correctional Facility and 26 were for apprehension at Community Assessment Treatment Services (CATS).

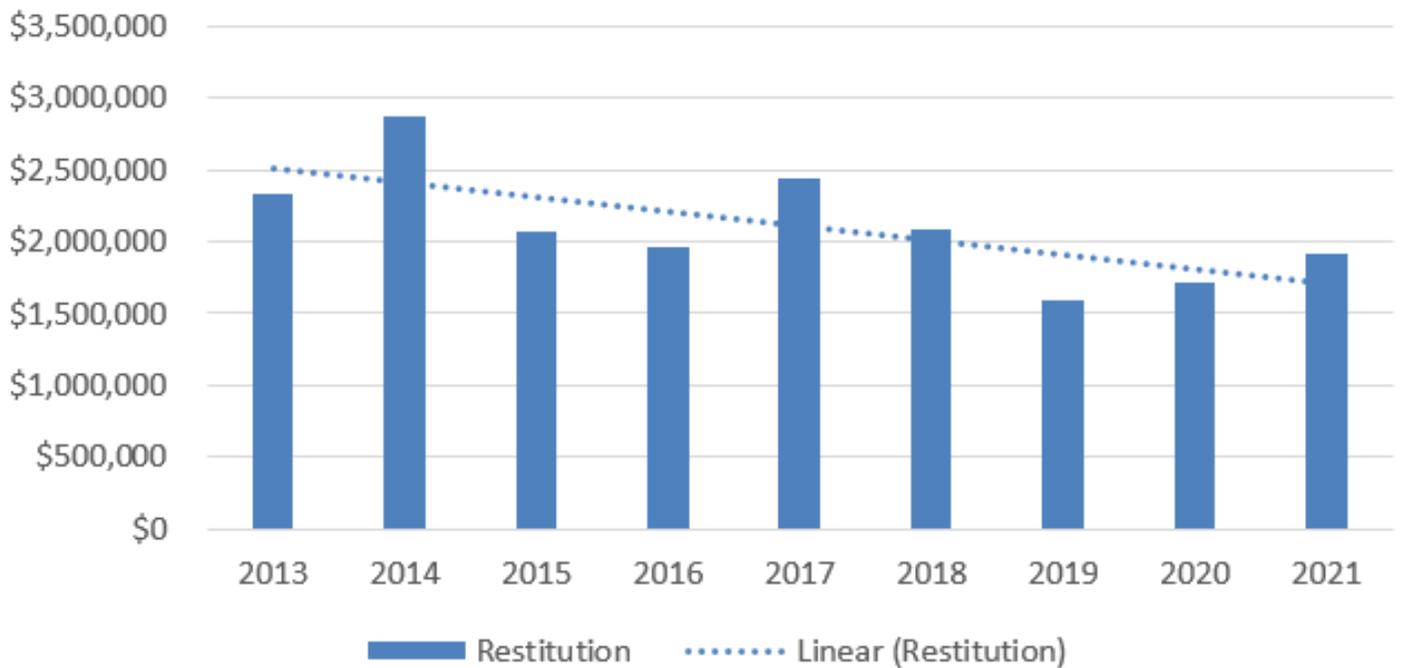
RESTITUTION

The Restitution Unit of the Adult Probation Department had a very successful year in 2021. Some of the accomplishments were posting the Unclaimed Funds Report in early January 2021 for crime victims to review for potential payments; the passing of the 2020 State Financial Audit with no audit findings or items discussed in an Audit Management letter, and continuity of services being provided in spite of the Court's COVID-19 pandemic shutdown.

TOTAL 2021 FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	\$ Increase or Decrease	% Increase or Decrease
Restitution Payments	\$1,715,929.86	\$1,923,115.33	\$207,185.47	12.1%
Home Detention Fees	67,858.65	97,879.62	\$30,020.97	44.2%
Alcohol Monitoring Fees	15,748.80	13,636.00	(\$2,112.80)	-13.4%
Probation Supervision Fees	442,323.96	420,095.69	(\$22,228.27)	-5.0%
Clerk Fees (Court Cost)	1,357.50	677.23	(\$680.27)	-50.1%
Total	\$2,243,218.77	\$2,455,403.87	\$212,185.10	

The spike in restitution in FY 2014 and FY 2017 can be attributed to large payments made for several cases. The increase in FY 2021 restitution is primarily due to the Court's re-opening from its previous shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, Home Detention, Alcohol Monitoring and Probation Supervision Fees total payments will oscillate every year due to the timing of payments by probationers, especially those who are Pre-Trial clients.

Total Restitution Collected



In 2021, the Restitution Unit received payments by credit cards for \$1,244,382.44, an increase of 4.9% over the 2020 credit card payments of \$1,186,808.94. This increase is primarily due to the continued growth in the use of the Court's online payment system related to COVID- 19 pandemic.



STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Community Corrections Act (CCA) funding reimburses salary and a portion of fringe benefit costs for the Probation Department's Training Specialist. The Staff Development and Training Program's most important objective is to provide training and enhance professional standards for probation staff in Ohio CCA-funded programs, striving to meet all CCA program standards regarding training. Additionally, it provides this service for non-CCA funded staff to insure compliance with the mandated training requirements of H.B. 86. Staff consistently meets grant and legislative requirements for training hours with innovative training events, utilizing in-house facilities, and offering a variety of pertinent topics.

The Training Specialist has created an EBP curriculum for staff skill development, a comprehensive Safety Training Program that began in 2014, and a Technology Training curriculum. A total of 60 line staff and supervisors volunteer to implement many of the components of the Training Program.

In 2021, the Probation Department continued to utilize web-based learning due to the unprecedented circumstances brought by COVID-19.

The Line Staff and Supervisors provided approximately 64.50% of the training hours in 2021. This percentage is a decrease of 2.75% from 2019 due to the web-based learning transition. This is still an increase of 13.25% provided in 2014. All Probation Officers and Supervisors met the State HB 86 training standard of 20 hours per year. All CCA Probation Officers and Supervisors met the State CCA training standard of 24 hours per year related to evidence-based practices and service delivery.

During 2021, the total number of training hours provided was 8,570.03. The cost for training in 2021 was \$5,156.44.



Evidence-Based Practices	2021 Training Hours
Risk Assessment	206.50
Needs Assessment	730.55
Case Planning	628.25
Criminal Thinking Scales	287.25
Motivational Interviewing	89
Responsivity Issues	136.25
Supervision Strategies & Programming	12
Stages of Change	113.25
Principles	31.50
Ethics	0
General EBP	768
Subtotal	3,002.55
Correctional Practices	2021 Training Hours
CCH Training	107.00
Cross Training	4.0
Diversity	516.50
Laboratory Training	11.50
Special Docket: Drug Court	40.50
Management/Supervisor	89.50
Meetings	853.75
New Hire Orientation	1451
Outside Conferences	179
Policy & Procedure	0
Recordkeeping/Documentation	23
Safety	14
Webinar Training/Learning Center online courses	2277.73
Subtotal	5,567.48
TOTAL	8,570.03

COMMON PLEAS COURT - PROBATION DEPARTMENT LABORATORY 2021

The Probation Department Laboratory performs drug of abuse testing on urine specimens using enzyme immunoassay (EIA) and cloned enzyme donor immunoassay (CEDIA) manufactured by Microgenics Inc. The Laboratory has a contract with Thermo-Fisher Scientific to provide reagents, instrumentation, a water system, and the computer interface system. LabDaq software is used to produce test reports, bar code labels, statistical reports, and export results into the justice system database.

A combination of funding from the Community Corrections Act grants, the Court of Common Pleas, and user fees paid by other agencies using the laboratory sustain the Adult Probation Laboratory. Outside agencies contracting for laboratory services include CATS (Community Assessment Treatment Services), Cleveland Municipal Court, Euclid Municipal Court, Garfield Heights, Cleveland Heights Municipal Court Probation Departments, Early Intervention Program, Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) and the Domestic Relations Division of the Court of Common Pleas.

The laboratory has 10 employees and is open from 8:00am – 5:45pm. The laboratory is closed on Friday.

NUMBER OF URINE SPECIMENS AND TESTS PERFORMED 2009 – 2021

Year	Total Specimens	Change	Drug Tests	Change
2021	66,217	31.7%	664,838	37.7%
2020	50,263	(-45.37%)	482,592	(-41.16)
2019	92,000	(-9.6%)	820,202	(-2.8%)
2018	101,805	(3.4%)	844,012	2.4%
2017	105,471	8.7%	820,351	7.4%
2016	92,813	1.5%	610,993	4.4%
2015	89,237	1.5%	570,113 ³	(10.3%)
2014	87,898	(2.2%)	635,346 ²	38.2%
2013 ¹	89,947	(3.0%)	459,530 ²	17.2%
2012	92,730	2.3%	392,139	(7.1%)
2011	90,612	(9.3%)	422,219	(1.3%)
2010	99,877	5.9%	427,943	21.9%**
2009	94,289	(8.6%)	351,168	(10.0%)

1. Does not include creatinine test for 2019 = 92,000

2. Does not include creatinine test for 2020=50,263

3. Does Not include creatinine test for 2021 =66,217

The Probation Department Laboratory subscribed to proficiency testing from the American Association of Bioanalysts and scored 100% in testing accuracy in 2021. The Laboratory is not eligible to participate in any other inspection or certification programs because confirmation testing by gas chromatography/mass spectroscopy (GC/MS) is not performed in-house. Since the Laboratory only performs testing for forensic purposes, it is exempt from CLIA regulations.

Urine Drug Screens	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Subjects	17,514	16,893	15,980	15,236	14,858	10,578	10,646
Total Specimens **	89,237	92,813	105,471	101,805	92,000	50,263	66,217
Specimens Positive for One or More Drugs	16,847	18,262	21,828	19,320	20,768	11,195	17,050
% Specimens Positive for One or More Drugs	18.9%	19%	20.6%	18.9% ³	22.5%	22.2%	23.0%

Percent Positive by Drug	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Cocaine	3.1%	3.0%	3.9%	3.2%	3.75%	2.6%	2.6%
Marijuana	10.6%	1.0%	11.6%	10.6%	14.0%	13.3%	17.0%
Opiates	3.5%	2.0%	1.6%	0.9%	1%	.5%	0.3%
Phencyclidine (PCP)	0.8%	2.5%	1.1%	0.8%	0.95%	1.3%	1.3%
Amphetamines	1.2%	1.0%	1.2%	1.5%	2.0%	2.0%	1.75
6-Acetylmorphine (heroin)	0.7%	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%	0.25%
Oxycodone	1.4%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.95%	.33%	0.65
ETG - alcohol		8.3%	7.5%	7.7%	7.4%	7.7%	7.7%
Fentanyl		1.0%	1.3%	0.9%	0.95%	1.7%	0.6%
Benzodiazepine					2.0%	2.6%	1%

Specimens are tested for two to nine drugs and may be positive for more than one drug. In addition, validity testing is performed on each specimen by measuring the creatinine level. The laboratory added fentanyl to its testing menu July 1, 2016. The laboratory added benzodiazepine testing in December 2019.

HAIR TESTING

Hair specimens are sent to Omega Laboratories Inc., an accredited reference laboratory (CAP - College of America Pathologists Laboratory Accreditation Program). The majority of these tests are for Domestic Relations Court where hair generally provides a longer detection window of use over urine tests. Some specimens may be positive for more than one drug. (* 6-acetylmorphine (6-AM) Heroin metabolite)

Hair Testing	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Specimens	124	121	117	131	115	63	44
Negative	98	93	80	94	81	48	31
Quantity Not Sufficient	2	6	1	5	1	2	0
Positive	31	22	36	32		13	13
Cocaine	12	24	51	25	4	21	3
Marijuana	15	10	18	15	13	7	9
Amphetamines	2	3	9	12	0	2	1
MDMA (Ecstasy)	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
Methamphetamine	2	0	3	2	1	1	0
Morphine	0	1	2	1	0	0	0
Codeine	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
6-AM*	0	1	2	1	0	0	0
Phencyclidine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

ORAL FLUID TESTING

Oral fluids are routinely tested in the laboratory from individuals who are unable to produce urine specimens due to medical conditions (i.e. renal dialysis) and those who continue to submit dilute urine specimens. Approximately 3% of all urine specimens are considered dilute and unacceptable due to a low creatinine concentration of less than 20 mg/dl. The procedure currently being used is an on-site immunoassay device BioTech and is the only FDA approved oral fluid device in the United States. The following drugs are reported: Amphetamine, Cocaine, Marijuana, opiates, oxycodone and PCP.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Specimens	707	837	632	792	302	301	422
Positive Specimens	39	67	35	48	19	19	21
% Positive Specimens	5.5%	8.0%	5.6%	6.0%	6.2%	6.3%	5%
**Tests (6/specimen)	2828	3348	2528	3163	1208	1204	2498

URINE DIP TESTING

The laboratory utilizes Reditest, an on-site device for preliminary screens to be used when routine instrument testing is unavailable. Tests reported are: cocaine, opiates, marijuana, PCP and amphetamines. Dilute specimens cannot be identified with this device as it does not test for creatinine. Test results are presumptive only, and all specimens are retested when the instrument is available.

REFERENCE LABORATORY TESTING

The Probation Laboratory utilizes Redwood Toxicology Laboratories and Metro Health Toxicology Laboratory for confirmatory and dilute urine testing.

Total tests: The tests performed by Metro Health consist of cocaine confirmation, opiate confirmation, amphetamine confirmation, THC confirmation and PCP confirmation. Specimens tested for opiates include codeine, morphine, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, 6-AM and oxycodone; amphetamine is tested for amphetamine, methamphetamine, MDA, MDMA and, MDEA. Each component is a separate test. Testing sent to Redwood Toxicology consist of all 29 panel fentanyl confirmations, ETG confirmation, K2 and Kratom testing.

In December 2021, all confirmation testing was moved to Redwood Toxicology Laboratory exclusively.

	2018	2018	2019	2019	2020	2020	2021	2021
	METRO	RED WOOD						
Total Tests	8181	1044	7412	1297	1655	718	1464	1566
Positive Tests	1441	365	2898	513	777	482	798	870
% Positive Tests	17.6%	34.9%	39%	39.5%	46.9%	67.1%	54.5%	55.5%



*REBECCA B. WETZEL,
ADMINISTRATOR*

DISPUTE RESOLUTION



COURT MEDIATORS

Michael Biglow
Robert McClelland

STAFF

Two Administrative
Assistants

The Dispute Resolution Department provides civil mediation, arbitration and business mediation. 2021 saw continued changes to the department and the manner in which we conduct our proceedings. Our most significant changes were to the members of our department. In January 2021, former Common Pleas Court Judge Robert McClelland joined us as a full time mediator. He has added a wealth of knowledge and perspective that is appreciated by the department and the parties that come in for mediations. The department has also added two independent contractor mediators to handle Worker's Compensation cases. Virginia Fisher and Susan Beres, both with years of experience handling worker's compensation cases for the Attorney General's Office, began mediating cases in August 2021. The department continues to adapt to the current health challenges and offered both "in person" and "Zoom" options. The mediators continued to outreach to the community, which they have done over the years. Some of the events include being guest speakers at Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association and Case Western Reserve University School of Law, as well as CLE conferences. For the seventh year in a row, the Department experienced an increase in civil mediation referrals.

MEDIATION

Mediation is the most widely used method of dispute resolution in the court. It is a non-binding process in which a mediator assists the parties in negotiating their case's contested issues to try and help them reach an agreement. As an impartial participant, the mediator does not advocate for a particular outcome. The mediator does challenge the parties to view the issues from different perspectives and focus on their interests, instead of their initial positions.

CIVIL MEDIATION

Civil mediation cases are referred directly by the Judges. In 2021, the number of referrals once again increased, the settlement ratio bounced back a bit from its low point in 2020. A number of factors; including the uncertainty of trial dates and virtual (rather than in-person) hearings being the norm for much of the year, lead to a lower than normal settlement ratio.

Statistics & Analysis for 2021

Total Cases Referred to Court Mediation	2,853
Total Cases Mediated	1,406
Total Cases Settled by Mediation	760
Percentage of Settlements	54%

BUSINESS MEDIATION

Business mediations are conducted pursuant to Local Rule 21.2. Judges may refer any business case to the department for mediation. The department notifies the parties of the referral and provides them with three names from the list of eligible mediators. The parties rank their choice and return the ranking sheet to the department. The Dispute Resolution Administrator then designates the mediator and notifies the parties. The business mediator must conduct the mediation within 30 days of being designated and file a report within ten days of the hearing.

Statistics & Analysis for 2021

Total Cases Referred to Business Mediation	14
Total Completed Mediations	10
Total Settlements	9
Percentage of Settlements	90%

SUMMARY

Dispute Resolution remains an effective and efficient way to resolve legal disputes. This conclusion is supported by the department's referral and settlement rates. Cuyahoga County residents are fortunate to have multiple dispute resolution options, which provide them an opportunity to take control of their case outcomes and promote fuller and longer lasting resolutions.

COURT SERVICES

*MARY KAY ELLIS,
CENTRAL SCHEDULING
SUPERVISOR*



STAFF

Assistant Supervisor/
Courtroom Assistant

Re-Entry Program
Administrative Assistant

Courtroom Assistants (10)

Visiting Judge Bailiff

Floating Courtroom
Assistants (3)

Receptionist

The Central Scheduling Office consists of 18 employees assisting the Judges in docket management, record keeping, scheduling of cases, and the preparation of criminal and civil journal entries.

COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

COURTROOM ASSISTANTS

The Courtroom Assistants are responsible for scheduling criminal and civil hearings, distributing various court pleadings and forms to the appropriate departments, and helping Judges prepare their annual inventory of pending civil and criminal cases. Courtroom Assistants are able to create criminal and civil journal entries for their Judges, bailiffs, and staff attorneys, and continue to be an integral part of the courtroom team, while helping to relieve the load from other staff.

The Courtroom Assistants are an essential part of each courtroom team, often called upon to substitute in the absence of the court bailiff. In these instances, the Courtroom Assistant is required to fulfill all the duties of the regular court bailiff, as well as to perform their own duties until the bailiff's return. Also, because a Courtroom Assistant may be asked to assist in a courtroom to which they are not regularly assigned, they must be well versed in all facets of courtroom operation in order to adequately assist the Judge or bailiff to whom they have been temporarily assigned.

RECEPTIONISTS

Our Receptionists are multi-functional employees. In addition to assisting the general public and attorneys with specific questions relating to criminal and civil cases in person and via telephone, they also assist in the preparation of the assigned counsel fee bills.

ASSIGNED COUNSEL VOUCHERS

Our Assigned Counsel Coordinator is responsible for preparing assigned counsel vouchers for fee bills. These vouchers are forwarded to the Fiscal Office for payment to the attorneys who were assigned by the Court to represent indigent defendants. **In 2021, 6,236 vouchers were prepared, examined for errors and submitted for distribution of funds.** This figure represents a decrease from previous years due to reduced court activity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

JUDICIAL SECRETARIES

The Secretarial Department of the Court serves the 34 sitting Judges, as well as the visiting Judges, judicial staff attorneys and other Court personnel. Their responsibilities include the following: transcribing from Dictaphone (those who take dictation may be called upon to do so, but it is no longer a requirement), typing various documents that include criminal and civil jury instructions, verdict forms, jury interrogatories, journal entries, opinions, various reports, speeches, letters, and any other documents required by the Judges.

This Department consists of eight secretaries. Each secretary is assigned to four Judges, with the exception of two secretaries who are assigned to five Judges. The Department works as a unit, filling in for each other during absences, as well as assisting each other with heavy workloads.

The secretaries also attend periodic training classes to upgrade their skills, including the use of new software and installation of new programs.

VISITING JUDGE PROGRAM

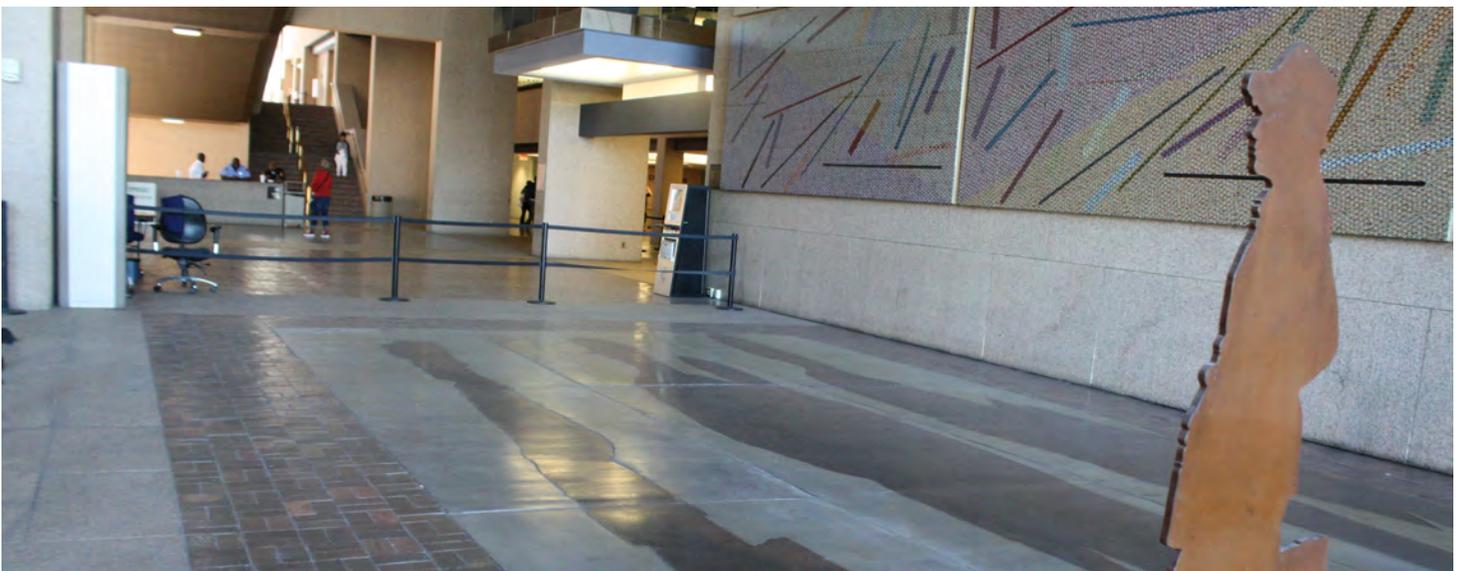
The Visiting Judge Program is managed by the Supervisor of Central Scheduling and consists of four retired Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judges and six retired out-of-county Judges called in for special cases. The Supervisor of Central Scheduling maintains records and prepares monthly and annual reports on this program for submission to the Administrative Judge and Court Administrator. **In 2021, in addition to the specialized Asbestosis/Workers' Compensation and Asbestos dockets, the Visiting Judge Program disposed of 28 civil cases.** Of those, eight cases were disposed of by settlement, which resulted in a 45% settlement rate for the year. In addition, out-of-town judges were also appointed by the Ohio Supreme Court to handle a few criminal cases. **In 2021, one criminal case was disposed.**

Please note that the Visiting Judge Program's numbers were reduced in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

JUDGE	CIVIL CASES DISPOSED	CRIMINAL CASES DISPOSED
Burnside, Janet	2	0
Cosgrove, Patricia	1	0
Haas, John	7	0
Hanna, Harry	1	0
Kelsey, Reeve	6	0
McGinty, Timothy	4	0
McMonagle, R.J.	5	0
Pollex, Robert	1	0
Yarbrough, Steve	1	1

ASBESTOS/WORKERS' COMP ASBESTOS DOCKET

The specialized Asbestos docket and Workers' Compensation Asbestos docket are presided over by Visiting Judge Harry A. Hanna. **At the beginning of 2021 the pending case load was 531, the total pending cases at the end of 2021 was 441. There were 19 new cases filed in 2021. Judge Hanna disposed of 109 cases in 2021.** Since January 2014, the Asbestos Docket has been reduced by 4,929 cases.



*GWENDOLYN BENNETT,
BOND COMMISSIONER*

CRIMINAL RECORDS



*ASSISTANT BOND
COMMISSIONER*
Gregory Burger

STAFF
Office Assistants (6)
Bail Investigators (6)

The Criminal Records Department is primarily responsible for bond investigations, arraignment room proceedings, and defendant criminal history maintenance.

BOND INVESTIGATION

The bond investigators monitor the Sheriff Department's daily booking list for incoming inmates who have not yet been indicted and/or arraigned and need to have their bond continued, set, or lowered. The investigators interview the defendants, verify accuracy of information obtained from the interview, run an extensive criminal background check, and review the felony charges filed against the defendant. A risk assessment is completed and a recommendation for a reasonable bond is presented to the Arraignment Judge. Bond investigators also provide information to the courtrooms where there has been a motion for bond reduction.

The department's bond investigators conducted 5,550 bail investigations during 2021.

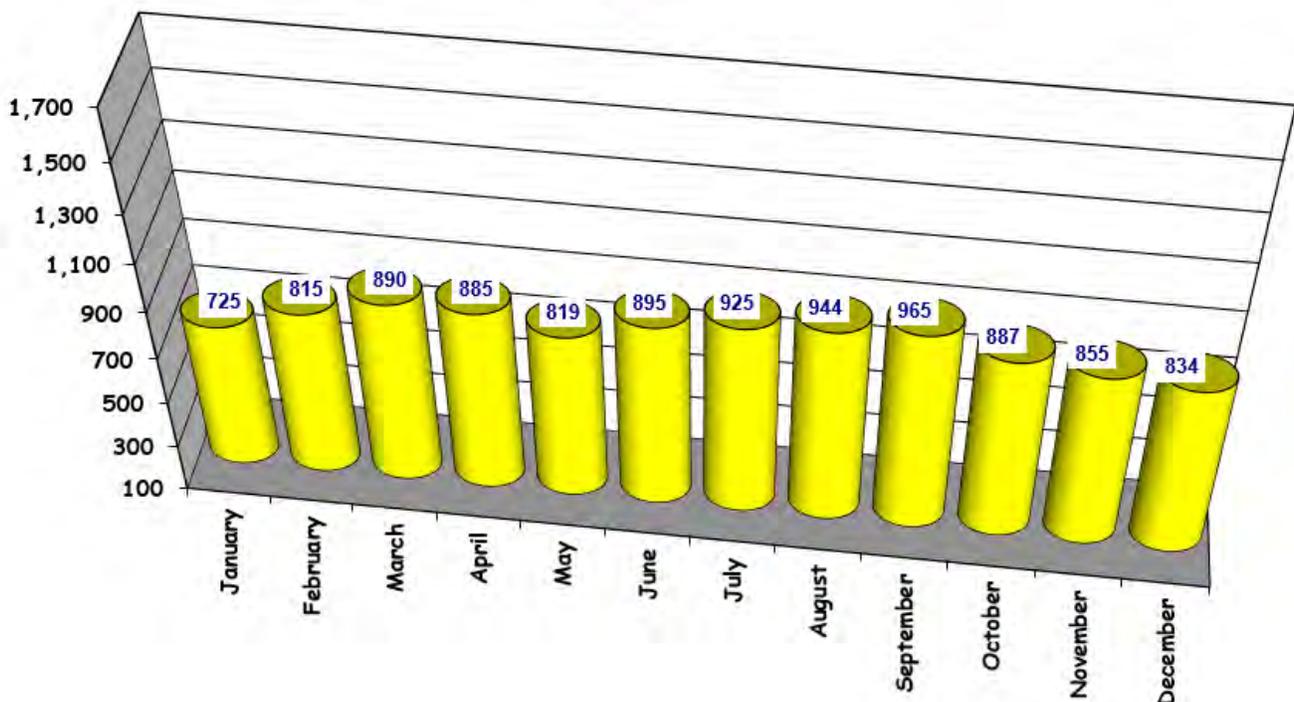
ARRAIGNMENTS

The arraignment clerks assemble and summarize the criminal history of each defendant scheduled for arraignment, along with determining if the case needs to be assigned randomly or to a specific trial Judge based on local rules. During the arraignment hearing, the Bond Commissioner presents these materials, along with a bond recommendation, to the Arraignment Room Judge. The Judge proceeds with the arraignment, which includes the setting of the bond, instructions on any conditions of a bond, assignment of the trial Judge, and appointment of an attorney, if the defendant needs to have one be appointed. The Arraignment Judge may also issue *capias* (arrest warrant) for defendants who fail to appear at the scheduled arraignment.

At the conclusion of the arraignments, the staff updates the case files and forwards the files to the trial Judges who have been assigned. E-mails are automatically sent to the attorneys who are appointed to represent indigent defendants.

During 2021, there were 17,965 scheduled arraignments. The staff maintains detailed statistics on the defendants who are scheduled for, and appear at, arraignment, *capias* issued, and assignments to private counsel and the Cuyahoga County Public Defender.

Common Pleas Court Monthly Felony Arraignments 2021



FIRST APPEARANCE DOCKET

In 2021, defendants bound over to Common Pleas Court from Municipal Courts were referred for a First Appearance in Common Pleas Court. The main purpose of the First Appearance is to assign indigent defendants with defense counsel at the early stage of the felony process. At this appearance, a bond is set or continued and the case is referred for a Case Management Conference or presentation to the Grand Jury. (As a change during the pandemic, all cases were sent to the Grand Jury.)

2,011 First Appearances were held in 2021.

The department supports these Court appearances through bond investigation, preparation of defendant criminal history, coordination of scheduling with the clerk of courts and sheriff departments, assistance in the court proceedings, and notification of appointed attorneys.

The staff of the Criminal Records Department works closely with other departments, but most specifically with the Sheriff, Clerk, and Prosecutor Offices to assure correct identification of defendants, timely scheduling of arraignments, and accurate indictment information for the arraignment process. The Bond Commissioner and staff are often assigned special projects at the request of various Judicial Committees.

YTD Monthly 2021	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD TOTAL
Total Scheduled Bails	1022	1017	1225	1208	1051	1104	1083	1208	1187	1153	1010	1045	13313
Total Scheduled Jails	289	373	339	367	333	421	461	418	419	386	420	426	4652
Total Scheduled	1311	1390	1564	1575	1384	1525	1544	1626	1606	1539	1430	1471	17965
Bails Arraigned	462	482	576	549	515	517	508	566	569	523	464	436	6167
Jails Arraigned	263	333	314	336	304	378	417	378	396	364	391	398	4272
Total Arraigned	725	815	890	885	819	895	925	944	965	887	855	834	10439
Total Capias	227	219	290	339	194	312	335	407	393	358	349	322	3745
Total Cont.	359	356	384	351	371	318	284	275	248	294	226	315	3781
Retained Atty.	188	221	228	248	258	228	218	211	206	211	193	177	2587
Assigned Atty.	537	594	662	637	553	667	707	733	759	676	662	657	7844
PD Assigned	192	222	235	243	210	255	250	252	296	243	240	255	2893
TOTAL SCHEDULED	1311	1390	1564	1575	1384	1525	1544	1626	1606	1539	1430	1471	
MONTHLY YEAR to DATE		2701	4265	5840	7224	8749	10293	11919	13525	15064	16494	17965	

Capias % of scheduled bails: 22.2%

Cases assigned to Public Defender: 37%

MAGISTRATES

*STEPHEN M. BUCHA III,
CHIEF MAGISTRATE*



*ASSISTANT CHIEF
MAGISTRATE*

Kevin C. Augustyn

STAFF

Magistrates (9)

Office Manager

Receptionist

Magistrates' Clerical Assistants (5)

The magistrates' diverse case load entails adjudicating most of the Court's often complicated and emotionally fraught foreclosure, partition, and quiet title cases. Additionally, most of the judges refer civil stalking protection order cases to the magistrates. The magistrates serve as the primary backup to nearly all judges who do not automatically refer such cases. Some judges refer other types of civil matters, such as preliminary injunction hearings or administrative appeals, to the magistrates. The magistrates are also available to the judges for consultations on matters related to foreclosure and real estate law in general. This work requires intensive docket management, extensive research, and detailed written opinions. **Overall, the magistrates were referred 31.2% of the Court's civil cases (4,774 of 15,283) and assisted the Judges with disposing 28.1% of the Court's civil cases (4,880 of 17,357) in 2021.**

The magistrates' involvement begins upon referral of a case, shortly after filing, and it continues through trial or other disposition. The magistrates are also responsible for post-judgment proceedings in the cases assigned to them. Unlike most civil cases, foreclosures involve complicated post-judgment matters, including sheriff's sale confirmations, distribution of sheriff's sale proceeds, supplemental judgments, and approval of appraisers' fees.

As it did in 2020, the COVID pandemic significantly affected the operations of the magistrate's department in 2021. While governmental and quasi-governmental agencies and, in some instances, mortgage servicers themselves, had moratoriums on mortgage foreclosures in effect for all or part of the year, case referrals to the department increased 12.3% and the entry of foreclosure decrees by the department increased by 26.9% compared to 2020. Moreover, the magistrates are adjudicating an ever increasing number and percentage of the court's civil stalking protection order cases. **In 2021, the magistrates held a total of 867 hearings in civil stalking protection order cases, a huge increase of 67.4% compared to 2020.** The magistrates held at least one hearing in 96.8% of such cases filed with the court in 2021 (867 of 896 cases). This rate was 77.3% in 2020 and 35.5% in 2019.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CSPO HEARINGS EX PARTE</u>	<u>CSPO HEARINGS FULL</u>	<u>TOTAL CSPO HEARINGS</u>	<u>TOTAL CSPO CASES ADJUDICATED IN PART OR IN FULL</u>	<u>TOTAL CSPOS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CSPO CASES ADJUDICATE IN PART OR IN FULL BY MAGISTRATES</u>
2019	152	160	312	244	687	35.50%
2020	416	314	730	518	670	77.30%
2021	775	625	1400	867	896	96.80%

In addition to adjudicating cases, the Magistrates Department serves the people of Cuyahoga County and the legal community in myriad ways. Magistrates take part in educational forums around the county and field thousands of phone calls and in-person visits by self-represented litigants. The department continually educates and informs academics, municipalities, the bar, and the general public, including those facing foreclosure, about real estate law and procedure. The department assists homeowners in exploring ways to save their home or to make a smooth transition to other living arrangements. Magistrates Department personnel serve on the Court's Access to Justice Committee, which seeks to improve access to the court for non-represented litigants, and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's Foreclosure Subcommittee, which looks to improve foreclosure procedure.

Others serve on the Ohio Supreme Court Judicial College planning committee, have contributed to Ohio Supreme Court Judicial College curriculum project, and have appeared as speakers in numerous Judicial College seminars and other continuing legal education courses. The department assists a committee that is redrafting and improving the court's local rules. The magistrates make themselves available on a rotating basis to answer lawyers' general questions concerning foreclosure law and procedure.

This impressive record of service shows that the magistrates have done their part to achieve the Court's mission.

In order to place the statistics reported herein in proper context, below is a 31 year summary of the Magistrates Department's statistics.

Year	Referrals ¹	% Change from Previous Year	Reinstates ²	% Change from Previous Year	Referrals & Reinstates Combined	% Change From Previous Year	Supplements ³	% Change From Previous Year	Decrees ⁴	% Change from Previous Year	Dispositions ⁵	% Change from Previous Year	Net Case Gain/Loss ⁶
1990	4796	n/a	45	n/a	4841	n/a	1564	n/a	2854	n/a	4512	n/a	329
1991	4247	-11.4%	66	46.7%	4133	-14.6%	1320	-15.6%	3678	28.9%	4535	0.5%	-402
1992	3895	-8.2%	60	-9.1%	3955	-4.3%	1430	8.3%	3060	-16.8%	3933	-13.3%	22
1993	3564	-8.4%	39	-35.0%	3603	-8.9%	1821	27.3%	2875	-6.0%	3656	-7.0%	-53
1994	3366	-5.6%	77	97.4%	3443	-4.4%	2569	41.1%	2463	-14.3%	4271	16.8%	-828
1995	2582	-23.3%	230	198.7%	2812	-18.3%	4611	79.4%	2199	-10.7%	3974	-7.0%	-1162
1996	4065	57.4%	245	6.5%	4310	53.3%	4364	-5.3%	2174	-1.1%	3960	-0.3%	350
1997	3867	-4.9%	411	67.8%	4278	-0.7%	5121	17.3%	2608	20.0%	4597	16.0%	-319
1998	5133	32.7%	538	30.9%	5671	32.6%	6431	25.6%	3043	16.7%	5583	21.4%	88
1999	5446	6.1%	628	16.7%	6074	7.1%	7097	10.4%	2823	-7.2%	5795	3.7%	279
2000	5915	8.6%	835	32.9%	6750	11.1%	10083	42.1%	3073	8.8%	6265	8.1%	485
2001	7161	21.1%	928	11.1%	8089	19.8%	17438	72.9%	3048	-0.8%	6843	9.2%	1246
2002	9609	34.2%	1101	18.6%	10710	32.4%	19753	13.3%	3261	7.0%	7315	6.5%	3395
2003	8724	-9.2%	1421	29.1%	10145	-5.3%	26591	34.6%	3510	7.6%	8544	16.8%	1601
2004	9739	11.6%	1470	3.4%	11209	10.4%	29539	11.1%	4988	42.1%	10394	21.6%	815
2005	11075	13.7%	1634	11.2%	12709	13.4%	33100	12.1%	5515	10.6%	11852	14.0%	857
2006	13276	19.9%	1584	-3.1%	14872	17.0%	67972	105.4%	10412	88.8%	16351	38.0%	-1479
2007	13968	5.2%	1356	-14.4%	15324	3.0%	77592	14.2%	11378	9.3%	18041	10.3%	-2717
2008	13742	-1.6%	1241	-8.5%	14983	-2.2%	64506	-16.8%	9698	-14.8%	15950	-11.6%	-2208
2009	13417	-2.3%	936	-24.6%	14353	-4.2%	57016	-11.6%	6908	-28.8%	13210	-17.2%	1143
2010	12050	-10.2%	849	-9.3%	12899	-10.1%	66644	16.8%	7781	12.6%	14219	7.6%	-1320
2011	10434	-13.4%	752	-11.4%	11186	-13.3%	60771	-8.8%	5707	-26.7%	12996	-8.6%	-1810
2012	10280	-1.5%	744	-1.1%	11024	-1.5%	62311	-8.8%	6260	9.7%	11168	-14.1%	-144
2013	8941	-13.0%	607	-18.4%	9548	-13.4%	58720	-5.8%	6149	-1.7%	11144	-0.2%	-1596
2014	7076	-20.1%	515	-15.2%	7591	-20.5%	46367	-21.0%	5653	-8.1%	9428	-15.4%	-1837
2015	6529	-7.7%	348	-32.4%	6877	-9.4%	38734	-16.5%	4664	-17.5%	7386	-21.7%	-509
2016	6166	-5.6%	315	-9.5%	6481	-5.8%	37811	-2.4%	4387	-5.9%	6933	-6.1%	-452
2017	5211	-15.5%	301	-4.5%	5512	-15.0%	31426	-16.9%	3947	-10.0%	6316	-8.9%	-804
2018	5754	10.4%	245	-18.6%	5999	8.9%	28482	-9.4%	3613	-8.5%	5926	-16.3%	173
2019	5927	3%	183	-25.30%	6110	1.9%	27693	2.80%	3862	6.90%	5998	1.20%	112
2020	4252	-28.3%	101	-44.8%	4353	-28.8%	19937	-28%	2603	-32.6%	3916	-34.7%	437
2021	4774	12.30%	92	-0.90%	4866	11.8%	25,061	25.70%	3303	26.90%	4880	24.60%	-14

(1) This column represents all cases referred to the Magistrates which includes all of the Court's Foreclosure, Quiet Title and Partition cases, and some of the Court's Civil Stalking Protection Orders. Foreclosures represent 90%± of all cases referred to the Magistrate's Department.

(2) This column represents all cases reinstated after a final judgment has been entered or from bankruptcy stays, contract stays, and the Court of Appeals.

(3) In the years 1990 through 1992, this column represents all proposed rulings by the Magistrates' Department on motions to distribute funds generated by sheriff's sales. After 1992, this column represents all proposed rulings by the Magistrates' Department on miscellaneous motions and all magistrates orders.

(4) This column represents all decrees of foreclosure, decrees for quiet title, and decrees of partition entered by the Magistrates.

(5) This column represents all cases disposed by the Magistrates Department including disposition by decree, dismissal, trial, vacated reference, real estate tax contract stays and bankruptcy stays.

(6) This column is the difference between Referrals and Reinstates Combined and Dispositions.

*BRUCE J. BISHILANY,
CHIEF COURT REPORTER*

COURT REPORTERS



*ASSISTANT CHIEF COURT
REPORTERS*

Robert P. Lloyd
Kellie Roper

STAFF

Court Reporters (36)
Administrative Assistant

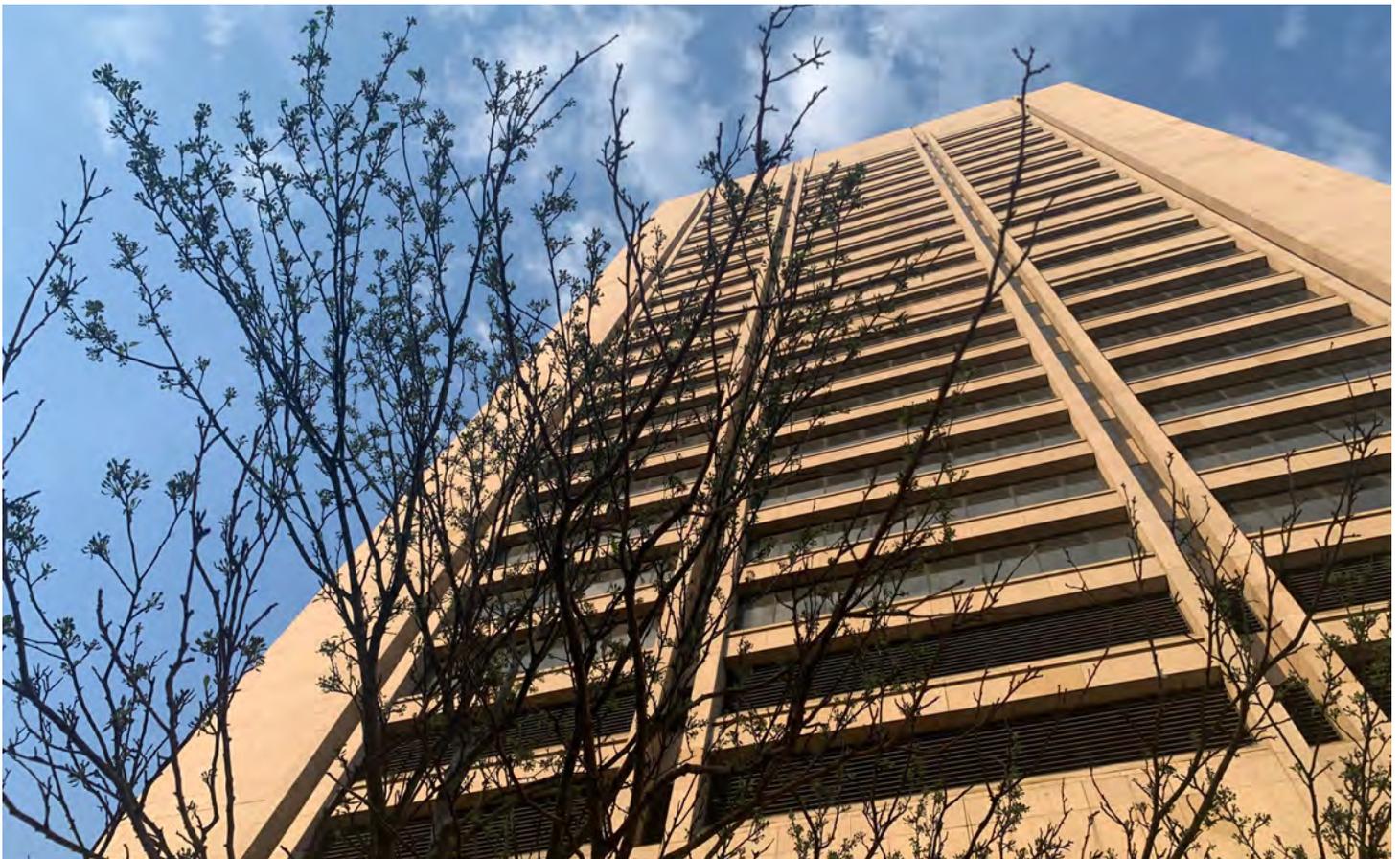
In 2021, 22,044 job cards were filed representing court reporter attendance at trials, pleas, sentencings, motions, hearings, and other related matters in both civil and criminal cases. In addition, the Court Reporters Department reported 10,439 arraignments and diversions, and a similar number of cases in Grand Jury. On average, each member of the Department stenographically reported over 1,088 cases.

Court Reporters serve the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in the Justice Center, visiting judges sitting by assignment in the Lakeside Courthouse, the arraignment room, and all Grand Jury proceedings. As guardians of the record, the members of the Court Reporters Department make a verbatim record of the proceedings for later use by the Judges, attorneys, litigants, Court of Appeals, or any interested party. All assignments are coordinated through the Chief Court Reporter.

Realtime reporting, the instantaneous translation from the Court Reporter's steno machine to a viewing device, should be coordinated with the Chief Court Reporter. The Court Reporters Department regularly provides Realtime reporting throughout the year for hearing impaired jurors, as well as hearing impaired attorneys so that they are able to participate fully in the judicial process and in order for the County to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Court Reporters Department continues to provide Realtime reporting to the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas on trials.

The onset of the COVID-19 shutdown in March of 2020, and the ensuing public health crisis, brought a new set of challenges to the Court and the Court Reporters Department with regard to record making. The Department quickly recognized the need to implement an alternate method of providing its services in certain scenarios. Although the Reporters continued to appear at in-court proceedings, albeit on a limited basis as determined and scheduled by the Court, they became proficient in the use of Zoom teleconferencing when the court proceedings needed to be held remotely. **The use of Zoom has proven successful despite technological difficulties at times. The Department reported approximately 1,300 cases via this method.**



*PATRICIA I. BITTNER
VERONICA L. ADAMS
CO-DIRECTORS JURY BAILIFF*

JURY COMMISSION



STAFF

Jury Bailiffs (2)
Grand Jury Bailiff
Jury Commissioner (2)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, trials were suspended from January through March 2021.

Our goal is to reduce the cost of jurors and gain more effective utilization of jurors.

In comparison to 2020, there was a substantial increase in the number of jurors who were called in, and an increase in the number of juror days. The number of jurors who spent more than the five day minimum increased dramatically. Our goal this year is to try and utilize the jurors in a way that, if possible, we can reduce their five day term so that we can stay within our budget.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, prospective Grand Jurors reported in February, June, and September. In January, May, and September, prospective jurors' names are drawn for service on a Grand Jury. There are three Grand Juries per term, and each Grand Juror serves two days a week for four months. The Grand Jury Bailiff is the liaison between the Prosecutor, the Grand Jurors and Grand Jury witnesses.

JUROR UTILIZATION - CRIMINAL 2021

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Panels	0	0	0	6	21	27	28	34	18	26	38	21	219
Trials	0	0	0	5	16	19	18	17	9	18	22	6	130

JUROR UTILIZATION - CIVIL 2021

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Panels	0	0	0	0	2	4	6	5	10	5	6	6	44
Trials	0	0	0	0	2	4	6	5	8	4	5	5	39

CAPITAL CASE JURY TRIAL - 1

NUMBER OF JUROR DAYS OVER 5 - 650

NUMBER OF JURORS - 11,167

TOTAL NUMBER OF JUROR DAYS - 26,114

JURY COMMISSION

JURY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2021

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Drawn	0	0	1700	1700	7000	7900	5900	7000	6050	5000	5100	2000	49350
Report	0	0	0	372	1373	1511	1295	1326	1285	1270	1677	1058	11167

PETIT JURORS DRAWN 49350

GRAND JURORS DRAWN 4050

SPECIAL JURORS DRAWN 0

TOTAL 53400

In 2013, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court was given the responsibility of overseeing and managing the Cleveland Municipal Court Jurors. **Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, municipal trials were suspended from January through April 2021.**

JUROR UTILIZATION - CITY 2021

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Panels	0	0	0	0	1	2	7	2	1	2	0	3	18
Trials	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	4

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Drawn	0	0	500	500	1500	2500	1700	2000	1600	1600	1200	600	13700
Report	0	0	0	0	12	68	101	23	37	20	0	38	299

MICHAEL H. ARONOFF, PSY.D.

*INTERIM DIRECTOR/CHIEF OF
PSYCHOLOGY*

PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC



STAFF

Part-time Neuropsychologist
Chief of Psychology
Part-time Psychiatrists (12)
Chief Social Worker
Office Manager
Full-time Psychologists (2)

Assistant Office Manager
Full-time Social Workers (2)
Office Assistant
Part-time Psychologist
Transcriptionists (3)

OPERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Conducting the daily activities of the Court Psychiatric Clinic in 2021 continued to be challenging due to the pandemic. Some activities were conducted remotely, while others were on-site. It was often difficult for clinicians to evaluate Cuyahoga County Jail defendants due to a number of them being placed in quarantine or exposure isolation for extended periods, thus preventing their transport to the Clinic for interviews.

From April 2020 until March 2021, the full-time psychologists conducted in-person evaluations of jail defendants at the Court Psychiatric Clinic on a rotating basis in order to minimize exposure/contact risk. In April 2021, they returned to working on-site on a full-time basis, conducting in-person evaluations of jail defendants as well as those residing in the community.

At the onset of the pandemic, the social workers conducted the bulk of their evaluations (Mental Health Court Eligibility, Probation Reports, Intervention in Lieu of Conviction) over the phone, but would occasionally conduct in-person interviews at the Clinic. By April 2021, the social workers also returned to working on-site on a full-time basis, conducting in-person evaluations of jail defendants as well as those residing in the community. During 2021, the part-time psychiatrists and psychologists resumed their regular schedules, working on-site. Clerical staff also returned to working on-site on a full-time basis by April 2021. The three transcriptionists, who already worked from home prior to the pandemic, continued to type evaluations dictated by clinicians.

CLINICAL STAFF

Michael Aronoff, Psy.D. served as Interim Director/Chief of Psychology in 2021.

In April 2021, John Tilley, Psy.D. resigned from his full-time psychologist position. In June 2021, Stephen Noffsinger, M.D. retired from his part-time psychiatrist position after having worked at the Clinic for over 25 years.

All clinical staff (psychiatrist/psychologist/neuropsychologist/social worker) provide direct evaluation services to the Court of Common Pleas and Probation Department.

CLERICAL STAFF

The clerical staff worked diligently in 2021 to prepare clinical reports in a timely manner. The Office Manager, Assistant Office Manager, and Office Assistant demonstrated continued excellence in their office reception, answering telephone calls, processing and scheduling referrals, sending out requests for and distributing medical records, preparing dictations for transcription, and compiling case-specific information from the Prosecutor's File for examiners' perusal.

The Court Psychiatric Clinic continues to process referrals and schedule appointments using an electronic calendar, developed by the Information Services Department (ISD). This has proved to be a significant time-saver and helped to streamline the overall referral and scheduling process. Office Manager Molly Kelly continues to work closely with ISD to enhance and improve the system to ensure more complete case management with respect to monitoring and assigning transcription services, completion of reports by clinical staff, delivery of reports to the courts, and notifying defendants and their attorneys of upcoming appointments. This has facilitated reports being completed and delivered in a timely manner and reduced the number of defendants who "no show" for their appointments. Finally, clerical staff worked with ISD to further refine the process of entering data for statistical forms mandated by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

COURT CLINIC REFERRALS

During calendar year 2021, the Court Psychiatric Clinic received 1,722 referrals. This number represents a 49% increase in referrals over the 1,153 received in 2020. Although the number of referrals is still lower than pre-pandemic (due to reduction of court services and suspension of jury trials), this represents a significant increase from the previous year and suggests a gradual return to normal levels of operation.

SENATE BILL 285/122 "SECOND OPINION" EVALUATIONS

For the 24th year, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services provided funding to enable the Court Psychiatric Clinic to conduct Senate Bill 285/122 "Second Opinion" evaluations. Clinical staff conduct the evaluations at Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare (Northfield, Ohio) or the Warrensville Developmental Center (Highland Hills, Ohio) on defendants who have been adjudicated either Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity or Incompetent to Stand Trial-Unrestorable and have been recommended by their Treatment Team for "Movement to Non-Secured Status." The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services funds the Court Psychiatric Clinic in the amount of \$122,000/year to conduct these evaluations. The funds are administered through the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County. **In 2021, Court Psychiatric Clinic staff completed 12 Senate Bill 285/122 "Second Opinion" evaluations, a decrease of 59% from the previous year.**

COMPETENCY AND SANITY EVALUATIONS

In 2021, competency and sanity evaluations constituted 36% of the total referrals to the Court Psychiatric Clinic. Competency evaluation referrals totaled 464 for the year, representing an increase of 63% from 2020. Sanity evaluation referrals for 2021 totaled 159. This represents an increase of 28% from 2020.

INTERVENTION IN LIEU OF CONVICTION EVALUATIONS

Referrals for Intervention in Lieu of Conviction evaluations totaled 315, a 24% increase from those received in 2020. The Social Work staff completed the vast majority of these reports, which, in addition to substance use, require the examiner to consider factors such as mental illness, intellectual disability, and human trafficking/prostitution victimization in the assessment.

HOUSE BILL 180 (SEXUAL PREDATOR) AND SEXUAL OFFENDER EVALUATIONS

The Court Psychiatric Clinic received 10 referrals for House Bill 180-Sexual Predator Evaluations, the same number as in 2020. Sexual offender evaluations often require administration of the Abel Assessment for Sexual Interest, scoring of the Static-99R (an actuarial risk instrument), in addition to a thorough clinical interview and occasional testimony at court hearings. Sexual offender evaluations continue to be one of the most labor-intensive examinations conducted at the Court Psychiatric Clinic.

MITIGATION OF PENALTY AND PROBATION EVALUATIONS

The Court Psychiatric Clinic received 717 referrals for Mitigation of Penalty evaluations in 2021. This represents a 71% increase from 2020. The Clinic received 41 referrals for Probation reports, an increase of 78% from 2020.

COURT PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC TRAINING FUNCTIONS

The Court Psychiatric Clinic maintained its affiliation with Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Two groups of Forensic Psychiatry Fellows (three in each cohort), pursuing fellowship training under the supervision of Stephen Noffsinger, M.D. and Susan Hatters-Friedman, M.D. rotated through the Court Psychiatric Clinic during the academic years of 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.

The Court Psychiatric Clinic also maintained its association with the Mandel School of Applied Social Science (MSASS) at Case Western Reserve University and had Social Work students placed at the Court Psychiatric Clinic for 24 hours per week during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years.

Due to the pandemic, the Court Psychiatric Clinic in 2021 was unable provide educational seminars and other experiences to students/trainees of various disciplines, as it has for several decades.

These activities will resume once they are permissible.

THE ASSOCIATION OF OHIO FORENSIC EVALUATION CENTER DIRECTORS

In 2021, Interim Director Michael Aronoff was active in the Association of Ohio Forensic Evaluation Center Directors. During the pandemic, he participated in monthly Zoom meetings with other forensic center directors, assisted in organizing a two-day continuing education webinar attended by forensic center staff, and explored the possibility of developing a statewide fellowship program that would facilitate the training and retention of qualified forensic examiners.

THE COURT PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC REMAINS FOCUSED ON ITS CORE MISSION

During 2021, the Court Psychiatric Clinic continued to focus its resources on fulfilling its primary mission of preparing thorough, timely, and useful clinical assessments of defendants referred by the Common Pleas Court and Probation Department despite the various challenges encountered due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**COURT PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC (01/01/21 – 12/31/21)
NUMBER OF REFERRALS**

Competence to Stand Trial-2945.371(A)	464
Sanity at the Time of the Act-2945.371(A)	159
Mitigation of Penalty-2947.06(B)	717
Civil Commitment-2945.40 & 5122.01	4
Movement to Non-Secured Status–S.B. 285	12
House Bill 180	10
Intervention in Lieu of Conviction-2945.041	315
Reports for Probation-2951.03	41
Miscellaneous	0
Total	1,722

**COURT PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC COMPARISON OF REFERRALS
2010 & 2021**

	2020	2021	% Change, +/-
Competence to Stand Trial-2945.371 (A)	285	464	+63%
Sanity at the Time of the Act-2945.371 (A)	124	159	+28%
Mitigation of Penalty-2947.06 (B)	420	717	+71%
Civil Commitment-2945.40 & 5122.01	8	4	-50%
Movement to Non-Secured Status-S.B. 285	29	12	-59%
House Bill 180	10	10	----
Intervention in Lieu of Conviction-2945.041	254	315	+24%
Reports for Probation-2951.03	23	41	+78%
Miscellaneous	0	0	----
Total	1,153	1,722	+49%

*CHAIR,
JUDGE BRENDAN J. SHEEHAN*

CORRECTIONS PLANNING BOARD



Image by Vecteezy.com

ADMINISTRATORS

Martin P. Murphy
Linda Lagunzad

407 PRISON DIVERSION

Stephania Pryor,
Program Director

408 JAIL DIVERSION

Tammy Sherman
Program Director

Mission Statement

Cuyahoga County Corrections Planning Board strives to develop and support community corrections programming in Cuyahoga County to enhance public safety and the protection of victims.

Toward this end, the Corrections Planning Board members and staff work to:

- Provide effective alternatives to incarceration
- Seek and secure funding and resources
- Provide oversight of all grant funding
- Develop and maintain partnerships with stakeholders

The Corrections Planning Board, comprised of eighteen members, administers Community Corrections Act (CCA) grant funds from the State of Ohio's Department of Rehabilitation and Correction for community jail and prison diversion programs. The Chair of the Board is the Presiding Judge of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. Cuyahoga County established its Corrections Planning Board in 1984. The Court's Adult Probation Department administers most of the Court's local community sanction programs. The staff includes two Substance Abuse Placement Coordinators, a Research Planner, a Case Management Specialist, a Fiscal Officer, three Office Assistants, and a Record Check Specialist.

During FY 2021, the Board administered 407 and 408 CCA grants to fund and staff local community corrections programs. In addition to the annual CCA funds, the State provided the 2020-2021 Justice Reinvestment and Incentive Program grant initiative for reduction in prison commitment for non-violent F4 and F5 offenders and the 2020-2021 TCAP initiative to support efforts to comply with new sentencing regulations for certain F5 offenses. The Corrections Planning Board also oversees a significant amount of funding from other sources including federal grants from Health and Human Services - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Department of Justice - Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), as well as the County Office of Re-Entry.

The state funding supports programming designed to divert eligible criminal offenders from the Cuyahoga County Jail and/or the state prison system, while maintaining public safety. Cuyahoga County has reduced the number of prison commitments from 20% of all ODRC commitments in SFY 2010 to 9.4% in SFY 2021. Cuyahoga County, whose population is 10.5% of the State population, historically contributes approximately 17% of the statewide total of non-residential diversions. In CY 2021, local community sanction alternatives resulted in diversion from incarceration for 3,266 criminal offenders.

The Cuyahoga County CCA programs and the Corrections Planning Board have been the recipients of numerous awards to recognize their contributions to community corrections. Most recently, in 2019, both Deputy Chief Probation Officers received the Franklin A. Polk Public Servants Merit Award from the Cleveland Bar Association. The Probation Management Team and CPB Administrator actively participate in the CCA Directors Organization. In addition, the Chief Probation Officer serves on the Board of Trustees/Executive Board Members of the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC).

Several projects are funded jointly with other Cuyahoga County agencies such as the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADAMHS) and the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. This allows all concerned agencies to maximize the resources available to the community. In addition, the Board participates in the planning and coordination of a number of collaborative projects (e.g., Mental Health Advisory Committee, Criminal Justice/Behavioral Health Leadership Committee, Office of Re-Entry Leadership Coalition, Community Based Correctional Facility, and the Cuyahoga County Drug Court). The Corrections Planning Board also provides fiscal and administrative oversight, as needed, for various grants on behalf of the Common Pleas Court and the Adult Probation Department separate from CCA for several state and federally funded grants.

CORRECTIONS PLANNING BOARD ROSTER OF MEMBERS

Honorable Brendan J. Sheehan, Chair
 Administrative and Presiding Judge, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court
 As of January 1, 2021

Hon. Dick Ambrose <i>Judge, Common Pleas Court</i>	Russell R. Brown III <i>Court Administrator Cleveland Municipal Court</i>	Dean Jenkins <i>Administrator of a CCA- funded program within Cuyahoga County</i>
Scott Osiecki <i>Chief Executive Officer, Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County</i>	Armond Budish <i>Cuyahoga County Executive</i>	Arthur B. Hill <i>Director, Salvation Army Harbor Light Complex</i>
Maria Nemec <i>Chief Probation Officer Cuyahoga County Adult Probation</i>	Meredith Turner <i>Public Representative</i>	Chief Michael Cannon <i>Hunting Valley Police Department</i>
Michael C. O'Malley <i>Cuyahoga County Prosecutor</i>	Illya McGee <i>Vice President - Correctional Programs, Oriana House, Inc.</i>	Calvin D. Williams <i>Chief of Police, City of Cleveland</i>
Hon. K.J. Montgomery <i>Judge, Shaker Heights Municipal Court</i>	Gregory Popovich <i>Court Administrator, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court</i>	David D. Schilling, Jr. <i>Cuyahoga County Sheriff</i>
Kelly Petty <i>Superintendent and CEO, Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities</i>	Cullen Sweeney, Esq. <i>Cuyahoga County Chief Public Defender</i>	Christopher P. Viland <i>Representative of the Law Enforcement Community in Cuyahoga County</i>
Robert Coury <i>Chief Public Safety and Justice Officer</i>		

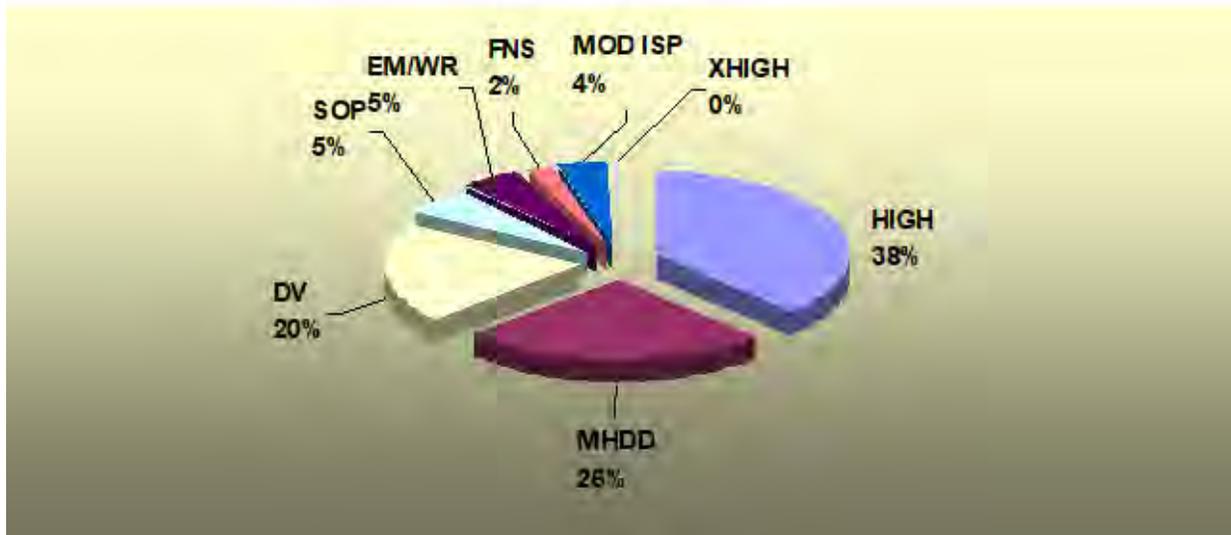
407 INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROGRAMS

For program descriptions and 2021 figures, please see the Probation Department Report.

The 407 Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) strives to divert offenders from prison by providing intensive supervision in the community as an alternative to incarceration. ISP includes various high-risk units, specialized units, programming and services including cognitive skills development programming, Apprehension Unit services, the Staff Training and Development Project, Substance Abuse Case Management, and drug testing.

FELONY DIVERSIONS ACHIEVED IN 2021

502	High Risk Supervision
349	Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (MHDD)
189	CBCF Supervision
263	Domestic Violence (DV) Unit
68	Electronic Monitoring/Work Release (EM/WR)
72	Sex Offender Program (SOP)
59	Moderate ISP
27	Felony Non-Support (FNS)
7	Recovery Court
2	Extreme High Risk Supervision
1,538	TOTAL Felony Diversions



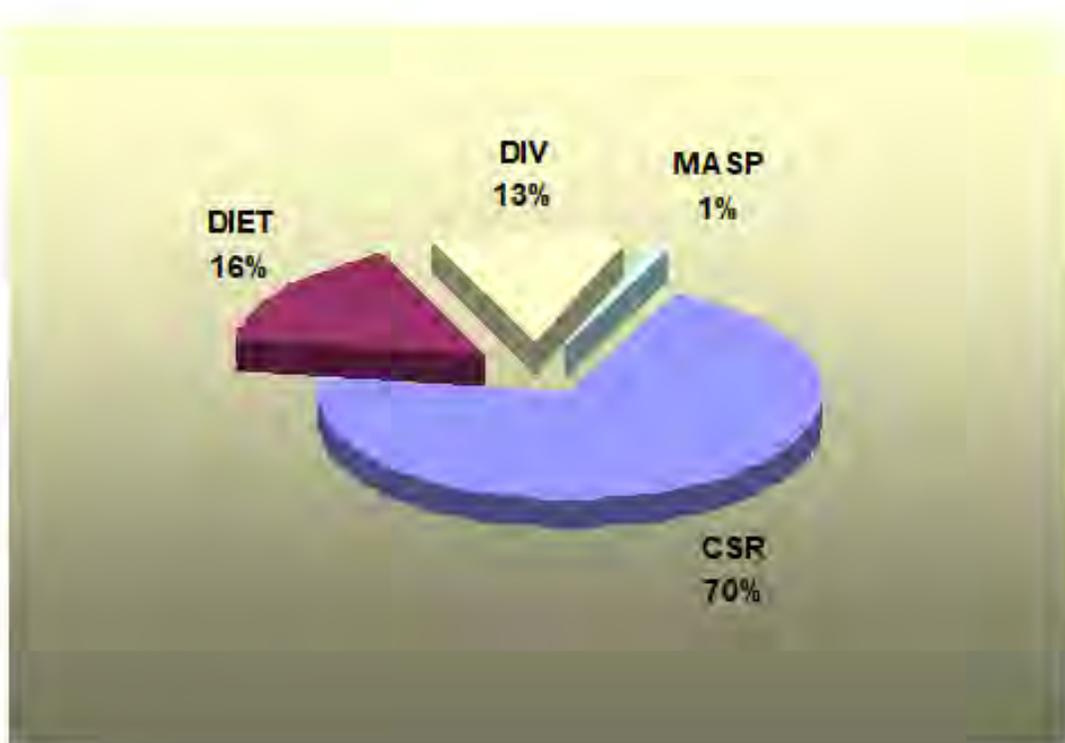
408 JAIL REDUCTION PROGRAMS

For program descriptions and 2021 figures, please see the Probation Department Report.

The Jail Population Reduction Project began as a Community Corrections Act project in 1994. The project's overall goal is to reduce jail overcrowding by reducing unnecessary pretrial detention and case processing delay and better utilization of limited local jail space for appropriate offenders. The project gears its activities to developing and operating community control programs described below to reduce commitments and the average length of stay in local jails. The 408 grant provides staff and resources for several programs, as well as a treatment coordination specialist.

JAIL DIVERSIONS ACHIEVED IN 2021

2,333	Court Supervised Release (CSR)
34	Misdemeanor Alternative Sentencing (MASP)
532	Domestic Intervention Education and Training (DIET)
416	Prosecutorial Diversion
3,315	Total Jail Diversions



STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

CCA funding reimburses salary and a portion of fringe benefit costs for the Probation Department's Training Specialist. The Staff Development and Training Program's most important objective is to provide training and enhance professional standards for probation staff in Ohio CCA-funded programs, striving to meet all CCA program standards regarding training. Additionally, it provides this service for non-CCA funded staff to insure compliance with the mandated training requirements of H.B. 86. Staff consistently meets grant and legislative requirements for training hours with innovative training events, utilizing in-house facilities, and offering a variety of other pertinent topics.

The Training Specialist has created an EBP curriculum for staff skill development, a comprehensive Safety Training Program that began in 2014, and a Technology Training curriculum. A total of 60 line staff and supervisors volunteer to implement many of the components of the Training Program.

In 2021, the Probation Department continued to utilize web-based learning due to the unprecedented circumstances brought by COVID-19. The Line Staff and Supervisors provided approximately 64.50% of the training hours in 2021. This percentage is a decrease of 2.75% from 2019 due to the web-based learning transition. This is still an increase of 13.25% from what was provided in 2014. All Probation Officers and Supervisors met the State HB 86 training standard of 20 hours per year. All CCA Probation Officers and Supervisors met the State CCA training standard of 24 hours per year related to evidence-based practices and service delivery.

During 2021, the total number of training hours provided was 8,570.03. The cost for training in 2021 was \$5,156.44.

For description of specific trainings offered in 2021, please see the Probation Department Report.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM

The Substance Abuse program targets offenders with drug and alcohol problems. The 407 grant funds the Substance Abuse Case Manager tasked with referring and managing offenders placed in various residential substance abuse treatment programs. The Case Manager coordinates all offender referrals for residential substance abuse assessment and treatment services. The newly created Case Management Specialist assists the Case Manager. Referrals are based on evaluation of Bail Bond Investigation reports, Pre-sentence Investigation reports, Risk/Needs Assessment, and Alcohol and Drug Assessment. Referrals can also be a condition of probation. The Case Manager makes treatment referrals when requested for drug dependent persons requesting Intervention in Lieu of Conviction under O.R.C. 2951.041.

The Corrections Planning Board also manages treatment contracts not funded by CCA dollars: Common Pleas Court treatment contract, the Halfway House Initiative and the Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board Jail Reduction contracts. Due to the continuing opiate/heroin epidemic in the community in 2021, the length of time spent waiting for treatment placement ranged from the previous average of 14 days to as long as 30 days as demand for residential treatment increases. The most difficult clients to place continue to be those dually diagnosed with a mental illness, which complicates treatment, or those with a prior sex offense or arson conviction. To assist with placement of these offenders, through collaboration with the ADAMHS Board, limited access to psychotropic medication is available from Central Pharmacy for offenders waiting in jail for treatment placement.

In 2021, 555 offenders (a 4% decrease from 2020) were placed into residential drug/alcohol treatment programs through the Probation Department/Correction Planning Board's Centralized Case Management program. The program utilized various funding sources:

- County contract
- ODRC
- Medicaid
- ADAMHS Board
- Other

Placements were made to the following agencies:

- Catholic Charities - Matt Talbot Inn & Matt Talbot for Women
- Community Assessment and Treatment (CATS)
- Salvation Army – Harbor Light Residential Treatment Program
- Salvation Army – Harbor Light HWH Program
- ORCA House
- Oriana House CCTC HWH
- HUMADAOP/Casa Alma
- Hitchcock House Center for Women
- Other CBCF (Northwest, Lucas County)

Centralized Case Management also coordinates court-ordered placements with non-contracted providers (e.g., Ed Keating Center, Jean Marie's House, Edna House, City Mission/Laura's Home, The Lantern, and Glenbeigh).

On February 1, 2011, the Nancy R. McDonnell Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) opened in Cuyahoga County. **In 2021, of 527 CBCF placements, 317 (60%) were from Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court; similar to 2020 with 320 placements. In addition, 42 female defendants were placed in the Cliff Skeen CBCF in Summit County; a 22% decrease compared to 2020 placements.**

To comply with court orders, the Centralized Case Manager referred 1,264 offenders to Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) for assessments, case management and referral to treatment (includes re-referrals), a 2% decrease compared to 2020. In addition, 148 offenders were referred to TASC for assessments at the PSI stage; a 2% increase compared to referrals made at the PSI stage in 2020.

Effective November 8, 2010, the Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) division transferred from the BOCC Department of Justice Affairs to the Common Pleas Court Corrections Planning Board (See TASC Section of the Annual Report for 2019 figures).

408 TREATMENT COORDINATOR

The 408 Treatment Coordinator receives referrals for treatment for defendants identified and assessed during pretrial incarceration in the jail or during pretrial supervision and determined to have mental health and/or substance abuse issues by any of the Pretrial Services programs, including CSR, Bond Investigation, EIP, Diversion and the MASP. **In 2021, the Treatment Coordinator used various funding sources to place 23 defendants into residential treatment, a 44% decrease over 2020 placement numbers of 41.** The drastic decrease is attributable to the effects of the pandemic: non-violent inmates released quickly from the County Jail; treatment facilities delaying or stopping referrals, and a decrease in drug cases.

The 408 Treatment Coordinator also serves as the point person for identification, eligibility determination and placement for the Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities Court (MHDD) docket, and coordinates with the Forensic Mental Health Liaisons and the Jail Mental Health Intake Specialist to place defendants identified with substance abuse and/or mental health issues. The Coordinator works with judges, attorneys, public defenders, court coordinators, defendant family members, municipal courts, community agencies and the Sheriff's Department in placing individuals in the appropriate substance abuse and mental health settings.

In addition, the Coordinator sets up weekly staffing with the Mental Health Judges, community agencies, MHDD supervision officers, forensic liaisons and attorneys and assisted in the development of a female CBCF pilot with the ADAMHS Board.

DRUG TESTING LABORATORY

To provide drug testing for CCA and other probation programs, the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Drug Testing Laboratory operates under several funding sources including Court funding, Community Corrections Act funding, SAMHSA grants, BJA grants and TASC HHS Funds. A portion of Community Corrections funding covers reagents and drug testing fees. A contract (June 30, 2019 through June 30, 2022) for instrumentation and reagents was awarded to ThermoFisher Scientific, Inc. (formerly Microgenics). (Please see Probation Department Report for 2021 figures).



*RONDA BLANEY,
TASC MANAGER
MS, LSW, ICDC-CS*

TASC

TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES TO STREET CRIME



STAFF

Clinical Coordinators (4)

Fiscal Officer

Program Officers (2)

Assessment Specialists (23)

Office Assistants (2)

Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) is a nationally recognized program model designed to break the addiction-crime cycle of recidivism by providing Substance Use Disorder treatment services for criminal justice involved individuals in their efforts to become healthy, sober, self-sufficient, and law abiding citizens. TASC seeks to link drug involved offenders to therapeutic interventions of drug treatment programs. All justice-referred clients receive a comprehensive biopsychosocial diagnostic clinical assessment, which becomes the foundation for treatment recommendations and ongoing services. Cases are managed by assisting the offender through the criminal justice process and into drug treatment, simultaneously providing monitoring services as an adjunct to criminal justice supervision. TASC's comprehensive case management services create a unique interface among the criminal justice system, the treatment service system, and the offender, thus allowing for effective and efficient outcomes. TASC programs also work to establish treatment accountability by ensuring that offenders receive the appropriate type and level of treatment, are attending treatment sessions regularly, are progressing in treatment, and that treatment agencies are providing effective treatment services.

Calendar year 2021 continued to present challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the TASC department suspended on site programming for several weeks and reverted back to Telehealth. Once a determination was made that it was safe to do so, staff returned to the office on a rotating basis in combination with the continued utilization of Telehealth. Clients were then slowly integrated back into the TASC offices for in-person services, assessments, case management, and group as local pandemic infections subsided.

The mission of Cuyahoga County TASC is to provide an objective and effective bridge between the treatment community and the criminal justice system. In working towards this mission, Cuyahoga County TASC participates in the justice system processing as early as possible, providing substance abusing criminal defendants the help and guidance they need to achieve abstinence, recovery, and a crime-free life. Cuyahoga County TASC is Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services certified to provide non-intensive outpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, and mental health services. Additionally, TASC acquired Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accreditation in 2013, and has successfully renewed this accreditation in both 2016 and 2019. TASC is currently in the process of collecting performance measurements data to present at the next accreditation survey December 2022.

TASC serves substance abusing adult offenders referred by the criminal justice system on both the misdemeanor and felony levels. Referrals are generated from Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and Cleveland Municipal Court. TASC provides assessment, case management, non-intensive outpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, coordination of referrals to community treatment providers, and drug testing. TASC Assessment Specialists are Master's Degree educated and licensed by the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board and/or the Ohio Chemical Dependency Board. TASC Clinical staff have all been trained on American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) treatment criteria for addictive, substance-related and co-occurring conditions, and the appropriate use of the criteria in clinical decision-making and treatment planning.

ASSESSMENT

TASC assessments are conducted at the following stages in the criminal justice continuum: Diversion and Post Sentence. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, TASC assessors continued conducting bail assessments via Telehealth and jail assessments in the jail behind glass this year. The assessor determines whether a substance use disorder exists using DSM 5 criteria and then recommends the appropriate treatment intervention based on ASAM Dimensional Criteria. TASC utilizes an in house MDA (multidimensional assessment) for all clinical assessments. The computer generated program allows clinicians to expand narrative fields to include more detailed data on each individual. The tool also includes additional exploration of current and historical trauma.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Assessment Specialists develop individualized case plans to assist clients in meeting treatment recommendations as identified in the substance abuse assessment. The TASC Assessment Specialists link clients to treatment facilities and assists in removing any barriers that might interfere with the individual successfully completing treatment. TASC licensed staff provide crisis intervention and individual counseling when appropriate. TASC Assessment Specialists also assist offenders with the Medicaid applications.

NON-INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT

TASC provides a Non-Intensive Outpatient Treatment program for males. TASC groups transitioned to a Zoom beginning April 2020 and extended through the remaining calendar year. The six-session group meets weekly for two hours. Participants are required to attend online 12-step meetings and submit to random urinalyses. Participants complete a URICA (University of Rhode Island Change Assessment Scale) at intake, and then at successful completion to measure shifts in a client's stage of change. TASC also utilizes the Gorski Relapse Prevention evidence based practice program.

INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT

TASC currently provides two Intensive Outpatient Treatment programs via ZOOM and on-site. Our MATRIX Model Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program is recognized by SAMHSA as a best practice model for intensive outpatient treatment. This group consists of individual and group therapy with men and focuses on Early Recovery Skills, Relapse Prevention Skills, Family Education, and The Twelve Steps. The MATRIX IOP Treatment group meets three days a week for three hours each day for eight weeks, which is then followed by four weeks of aftercare.

Our second program, the Women's Trauma, Recovery and Empowerment Model, Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program, TREM, combines the TREM Model and a Trauma-Informed Addictions Treatment Model. Both models are recognized as being evidence-based and were developed by Dr. Maxine Harris and other clinicians at Community Connections in Washington, D.C. The TREM is an evidence-based program designed to help members develop and strengthen the skills necessary to cope with the impact of traumatic experience. It utilizes psycho-educational and cognitive behavioral techniques in an actively supportive group context. The Trauma-Informed Alcohol and Drug Treatment Model are also focused on Early Recovery and Relapse Prevention Skills, as well as The Twelve Steps. It also builds on key principles of safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration, and empowerment, while at the same time taking care not to inadvertently re-traumatize the clients. Eligible group members are court-referred female clients who have been assessed as having a substance use disorder, meet the placement criteria for Intensive Outpatient Treatment, and have experienced past or present trauma.

JAIL FEMALE INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT

Through a grant received from the Cuyahoga County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADAMHS Board), TASC in 2019 implemented an evidence-based behavioral health program for females incarcerated in the County Jail, and diagnosed with having an Opioid Use Disorder. Multiple participants in the TASC IOP program concurrently receive Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) through MetroHealth Medical Center. This services combination is consistent with the U.S. HHS - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administrations (SAMHSA) guidance for best practice intervention services with Opioid Dependent clients. On an annual basis, this program has capacity to serve a maximum of approximately eighty (80) clients annually. This program has been temporarily suspended due to COVID 19 restrictions as set forth by the County Jail with programming set to resume when determined by the CDC as safe.

2021 TASC REFERRALS

<i>Referral Source</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>
	<i>Referrals Received</i>	<i>Referrals Received</i>	<i>Referrals Received</i>
<i>Common Pleas Court PRETRIAL</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Common Pleas Court PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION</i>	<i>368</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>148</i>
<i>Common Pleas Court PROBATION</i>	<i>1,782</i>	<i>1,095</i>	<i>1,212</i>
<i>Common Pleas Court DRUG COURT</i>	<i>219</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>144</i>
<i>Common Pleas Court RECOVERY COURT</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Common Pleas Court VETERAN'S COURT</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Common Pleas Court INTERVENTION IN LIEU OF CONVICTION</i>	<i>412</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>176</i>
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>2,967</i>	<i>1,616</i>	<i>1,783</i>
<i>Cleveland Municipal Court PROBATION</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Cleveland Municipal Court DRUG COURT</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Women's Jail IOP (referred by Cuyahoga County Warden's Office)</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>3,096</i>	<i>1,643</i>	<i>1,816</i>

MEGHAN E. PATTON
*SPECIALTY COURT
ADMINISTRATOR*

SPECIALTY DOCKETS



Image by Vecteezy.com

STAFF

Coordinators (5)

MHDD Jail Liaison Specialist

Administrative Assistant

The Specialty Courts Department was created in 2017 as the Court continued to expand different approaches to specific populations while ensuring criminal justice partners worked collaboratively with behavioral health partners. These partnerships allow for offenders diagnosed with substance abuse and/or mental illness to receive enhanced services, along with court interventions.

The Specialty Courts Department's mission is to provide direct oversight and management of the different specialty dockets in partnership with the assigned Judge and Court Administration. Specialty Court staff work closely with the Corrections Planning Board, the Adult Probation Department and various criminal justice and behavioral health stakeholders to ensure successful implementation of docket operations, team management, education and training experiences, along with county wide initiatives and taskforces.

Our Specialty Courts began in 2003 with the creation of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (MHDD) Court dockets. In 2009, the Adult Drug Court Program was created and a coordinator was hired to oversee the program's management. Seeing the benefits to the coordinator role, a coordinator was hired for the MHDD Court in 2015. Soon after the creation of the Veterans Treatment Court, a coordinator was hired in early 2016. In 2019, the High Risk Domestic Violence docket and the Violence Intervention Program (VIP) Court were developed, both of which hired coordinators to oversee the dockets. That same year, a MHDD Jail Liaison specialist was hired to assist the MHDD Docket with safe reintegration planning efforts of offenders who are incarcerated within the county jail. In order to continue to support the various coordinator and specialist roles, a Specialty Docket administrator was hired to oversee the expanding department. Administrator Meghan Patton began in July of 2020 with the support of a Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Affairs grant.

The administrator oversees the Specialty Court Department, along with managing the Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Initiative, which is focused on providing essential training to the behavioral health community on the standards of specialty dockets. The administrator does not oversee the Commercial Docket or the Re-Entry Docket.



Judge Nancy A. Fuerst
Judge Michael J. Russo
Judge Cassandra Collier-Williams
Judge Peter Corrigan

COMMERCIAL DOCKET



Image by Vecteezy.com

Effective January 1, 2018, the Commercial Docket was re-established with broad support from the legal community under the newly enacted Superintendence Rule 49. Ohio courts with more than six judges may elect to establish such a docket and Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, General Division, is one of two jurisdictions in Ohio with this specialized docket.

Judge Nancy A. Fuerst, Judge Michael Russo, and Judge Cassandra Collier-Williams were joined by Judge Peter Corrigan on January 1, 2021. He replaced Judge Maureen Clancy, who completed her term. Judges currently serve staggered three-year terms and preside over any civil cases which involve disputes among business entities, owners, shareholders, partners, sole proprietors or members.

The Commercial Docket Judges are required to complete 12 of their 40 required continuing education hours on commercial issues and report their case activity to the Ohio Supreme Court.

In 2021, 294 new cases were assigned to the Commercial Docket. That number includes Commercial Docket and Commercial Docket with Foreclosures.

THE ADULT DRUG COURT & RECOVERY COURT PROGRAM



DRUG COURT

Judge David T. Matia

DRUG COURT

Judge Nancy R. McDonnell

RECOVERY COURT

Judge Joan Synenberg

COORDINATOR

Molly Lekcler

HISTORY

The Cuyahoga County Adult Drug Court program was established in May of 2009. The mission of the Adult Drug Court Program is to provide judicial intervention, treatment, and intensive supervision to individuals who have committed criminal acts as a direct or indirect result of their substance use disorders. The Adult Drug Court Program was created through Local Rule 30.2 for assignments of criminal cases to Drug Court dockets.

Judge David T. Matia was appointed as the first Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Drug Court Judge in 2009. Since then, the Adult Drug Court Program has expanded with two additional courts. In January of 2015, the existing Drug Court Program under Judge David T. Matia added a second track to serve those specifically diagnosed with an opioid use disorder. Also in 2015, Recovery Court began serving those diagnosed with substance use disorder and trauma-related mental health issues under the leadership of Judge Joan Synenberg. Judge Synenberg provided a wealth of experience having previously served on the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (MHDD) Court dockets. In November 2019, Judge Nancy McDonnell was appointed to the Cuyahoga County Drug Court to preside over the tradition Drug Court track, which services those diagnosed solely from substance use disorder. This allowed Judge Matia to oversee the ever-growing Opioid Use Disorder Court that provides immediate access to Medication Assisted Treatment to assist through with a participant's drug use.

It is with great sadness we share that Judge McDonnell passed away in September of 2021. The Drug Court team members and participants greatly miss Judge McDonnell, an exceptional jurist who provided compassion and kindness to those participating in the Drug Court programs. Judge McDonnell always believed that recovery from drugs and alcohol was possible, and encouraged participants to continue to work towards their goals.



OVERVIEW

The Adult Drug and Recovery Court Program is designed to serve those suffering from moderate to severe substance use disorders who find themselves involved in the criminal justice system and request the assistance of a non-adversarial approach to the judicial system. The Cuyahoga County Adult Drug and Recovery Court Program admits participants in any stage of the case process system. All clients referred for eligibility are triaged and accepted into the most appropriate Drug/Recovery Court program.

The Adult Drug and Recovery Court Program has two tracks that participants can enter. Track One is designed for individuals who have only one prior felony conviction. These participants are eligible for diversion upon completion of the program. Track Two is designed for those with three or less prior felony convictions. Participants who enter Track Two will not receive the benefit of diversion after completion, but will receive all the same enhanced services.

Once an offender is identified as possibly eligible for the Adult Drug and Recovery Court Program, notice is sent to the assigned courtroom and parties requesting a referral. Once journalized, all potential participants take part in a screening interview conducted by the Adult Probation Department's Specialty Court unit and complete a clinical assessment through TASC, which will determine diagnosis and recommended treatment course. The clinical assessment will also determine which docket is most appropriate for the individual. Priority is given to those high-risk participants' (e.g. current IV-drug use and pregnant women).

FUNDING

In September of 2020, Cuyahoga County Recovery Court completed their three-year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant. This grant provided funding for staff salary, training, and treatment services provided to Recovery Court participants. The court successfully enrolled 135 participants into the project and maintained an 85% follow-up rate for the Government Performance and Results Acts, which is a requirement for the grant.

All three dockets continue to receive Addiction Treatment Program funds awarded by Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. These funds assist certified Drug Court Programs to pay for treatment, sober living placements, and other funds needed to treat individuals in recovery.

Judge David T. Matia's docket continues to operate using a five-year award provided to the court by the Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. These funds assist the court in staff salary, medication-assisted therapy, treatment, and training.

TEAM MEMBERS

The Team is comprised of the Judge, coordinator, TASC case managers, probation officers, prosecutor, public defender, and treatment liaisons. This collaborative team is responsible for the daily operations of Drug/Recovery Court and meets weekly for staffing and status review hearings.

Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas has three Judges who preside over the three different programs under the Drug/Recovery Court Program umbrella. Judge David Matia, Judge Nancy McDonnell, and Judge Joan Synenberg. Their docket responsibilities are detailed on the previous page.

The Drug/Recovery Court Judge chairs the team meetings and runs the status review hearings each week, providing ongoing judicial interaction with each participant. Judges are the final decision-maker, especially concerning incentives, sanctions, phase advancement, and successful completion or termination from the Drug Court programs.

The Coordinator oversees the operations of the court under the direction of the Judge and court administration. The Coordinator monitors service provider agreements and contracts, and the services to participants. The Coordinator ensures that the treatment team members follow program policies and procedures, and assists in the availability of training and education. The Coordinator ensures that the court is in compliance with the certification from Supreme Court of Ohio.

The team Prosecutor incorporates a non-adversarial approach while pursuing justice and protecting public safety and victims' rights. The prosecutor reviews cases for diversion eligibility. The team Public Defender also incorporates a non-adversarial approach while recognizing the distinct role of defense counsel in preserving the Constitutional rights of the participant. The Public Defender explains the rights waived by entering the program and discusses possible sanctions and incentives with the participants.

The Case Manager assists participants in the development, utilization, and coordination of the treatment plan. Case managers attend all team meetings and status review hearings. Case managers are instrumental in advising the Judge in regards to participant's progress or struggles. Case Managers are responsible for linking clients to appropriate treatment and any other additional services needed.

The Probation Officer conducts legal eligibility screening and communicates court orders are followed while participating in the program. The Probation Officer provides written violations to the court for formal hearings, communicates conditions to participants, and present violations of those conditions to the court team.

YEAR IN REVIEW

2021 proved to be another challenging year due the pandemic. The first half of 2021 continued with Zoom Court hearings for the majority of participants until May of 2021, when in-person staffing and status review hearings resumed.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, referrals were still lower than in past years due to lockdown procedures and the number of cases being processed. However, we did see an increase from the previous year. **The Cuyahoga County Drug Court Programs received 179 cases for eligibility in 2021 as compared to 147 in 2020. Judge Synenberg's Recovery Court admitted 18 new clients into the program. Judge Matia's Drug Court Program admitted 37 and Judge Nancy McDonnell admitted 28 in 2021.**

Recovery Court Program held three graduation ceremonies in 2021 with 22 clients successfully completing the program. Recovery Court hosted a ceremony in June of 2021 in which six clients had the opportunity walk across the stage at Cleveland's own Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. This ceremony was celebrated jointly with the Cleveland Municipal Drug Court Graduation.

Judge David T. Matia and Judge Nancy McDonnell jointly held three graduation ceremonies in 2021, celebrating 20 clients from Judge Matia's Drug Court and 28 clients from Judge McDonnell's docket. Participants were able to attend ceremonies in-person with one guest. The Drug Court and Recovery Court Programs allowed all other family, friends, and current participants to view the ceremony through Zoom.

TREATMENT TEAM AND COURT HEARINGS

Status hearings are a crucial element in the success of the Drug/Recovery Court Program. These hearings provide opportunities for participants to speak directly with the Judge. Status hearings are attended by all Drug Court staff members and involve discussions regarding incentives, sanctions, and treatment responses. Status hearings are held bi-weekly at the beginning phases of Drug Court and decrease monthly after certain criteria have been met by the participant.

Prior to status review hearings, Drug Court teams meet for pre-court staffing to discuss participant progress. This provides a platform for discussion and suggestions for individuals in the programs and prepares the team for upcoming status hearings. Drug/Recovery Court held 110 status review hearing throughout 2021 across the three programs, and 99 team meetings.

TRAINING INITIATIVES

The Cuyahoga County Drug/Recovery Court Program staff attended many trainings throughout the year on various virtual platforms. The Supreme Court of Ohio Specialized Dockets section held their annual Fall Education Webinar Series that the staff attended including "Mitigating Trauma in the Courthouse" and "Growing Peers Support in Specialty Dockets". The Drug/Recovery Court teams also attended "Human Trafficking" training that was offered to all Common Pleas Court staff. Lastly, the Recovery Court team attended a virtual webinar with the Veterans Treatment Court in October of 2021 provided by the MetroHealth Resiliency Center. It focused on trauma-informed practices in the Courtroom.

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES

Cuyahoga County Drug Court and Recovery Courts continue to participate in monthly Overdose Fatality Review Stakeholder meetings held by the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office.

In 2021, the Court determined the need for an additional Drug Court docket to allow those with lengthier criminal histories to participate. With this decision, a new coordinator will be hired in 2022 to assist with the implementation of this new High Risk Drug Court.

COURT IN THE NEWS

Judge Nancy R. McDonnell's court earned three-year certification by the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Specialized Dockets in May of 2021. Judge Nancy McDonnell joined three other Common Pleas Judges who were awarded certification from the Specialized Dockets Section of the Ohio Supreme Court.

Judge David T. Matia was featured on FOX8 News for offering an incentive to those clients that received their COVID-19 vaccine. <https://fox8.com/news/i-team/cuyahoga-county-judges-offer-breaks-to-defendants-who-get-vaccinated-i-team/>



Judge David T. Matia was named, Outstanding Jurist by the Ohio Association for Justice (OAJ) annual convention in Columbus, Ohio on June 16, 2021.



Judge Joan Synenberg held Recovery Court Graduation in October 2021 at the Rock N Roll Hall of Fame. This celebration jointly held with Cleveland Municipal Court's Drug Court Graduation featuring twenty graduates across both dockets. Graduates were able to tour the facility after the ceremony and enjoy the many exhibits on display.

*JUDGE NANCY
MARGARET RUSSO*

RE-ENTRY COURT



Probation Officer, Chyvonne Kimbrough
Administrative Assistant, Brooke N. Hadjuk
Bailiff, Deena Lucci

The Cuyahoga County Re-Entry Court (REEC) was implemented in January 2007 and is presided over by Judge Nancy Margaret Russo. The goal of REEC is to reduce recidivism and re-commitments to ODRC through intensive, specialized supervision of persons accepted into the program and granted Judicial Release.

REEC participation has specific eligibility criteria and defendants are screened by the REEC team. The decision to accept or deny the defendant is made by the REEC Judge and the decision to permit the defendant to transfer into the REEC program for purposes of the Judicial Release Hearing and supervision, is made by the individual sentencing Judge.

All Judges of the Court of Common Pleas may either opt in or opt out of participation in this specialized docket. At present, 32 of 34 of the Court of Common Pleas Judges participates in the REEC program.

The REEC keeps savings and demographic data for all defendants filing Motions for Judicial Release on the dockets of Participating Judges, and for all those filing REEC Applications.

REEC savings to taxpayers in calendar year 2021: \$629,336.00

REEC savings to taxpayers from 2007 through 2021: \$14,972,663.20

These savings are calculated conservatively, using only the established per diem rate for prison commitment, and does NOT include such things as medical costs, PRC supervision costs or other ancillary commitment costs saved by ODRC, as the result of the defendants' participation in REEC. These savings also do not reflect the value gained by the employment of these individuals, their status as taxpayers and not as inmates, the value to their families and reduction on government assistance, nor can we quantify the value of a person not returning to prison for future crimes.

The REEC also partners with non-profit organizations and governmental agencies to seek solutions to the recidivism and re-entry issues facing Cuyahoga County. Some of those partners include EDWINS and Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.

Graduates are followed for a three year period to determine if they are arrested subsequent to their completion of REEC. This is an aggressive, self-imposed measure that REEC sets for itself and its graduates, in order to determine the effectiveness of REEC.

REEC currently measures its success at 92%, with only an 8% recidivism rate, based on the most recent measures.

REEC wishes to express its gratitude to the Court of Common Pleas, our participating Judges, and to the taxpayers of Cuyahoga County, for their support of the REEC.

JUDGE SHERRIE MIDAY

HIGH-RISK DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

A purple awareness ribbon is shown on the left side of the image, looping and crossing itself. The background is a gradient of purple and lavender.

**DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**

BREAK THE SILENCE

Erin Becker, Coordinator

“The mission of the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court is to reduce the risk of violence and homicide in high-risk cases of intimate-partner violence. A specially-trained, multi-disciplinary team of justice system professionals works collaboratively to improve victim safety by providing resources for victims and intense monitoring and behavioral interventions for offenders.”

HISTORY

Under the leadership of Administrative and Presiding Judges John J. Russo and Brendan J. Sheehan, and in collaboration with Judge Sherrie M. Miday, the Common Pleas Court identified a unique opportunity to improve the criminal justice system’s response to felony-level cases of intimate-partner violence in Cuyahoga County.

Judge Miday engaged and received the enthusiastic support of Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Administration and stakeholders, including the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office, the Office of the Public Defender, the Adult Probation Department, the Bond Commissioner, the Witness Victim Service Center, the Cuyahoga County Sheriff’s Department, Cleveland Municipal Court, Journey Center for Safety and Healing, Legal Aid Society of Greater Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

With the support of the Ohio Supreme Court and the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women and Center for Court Innovation, stakeholders explored the feasibility of a specialty docket to address dangerous, high-risk domestic violence cases. Encouraged by the results, stakeholders met regularly and developed a plan for implementation of the specialty docket. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted and slowed efforts to implement this new specialty court. However, during the pandemic, incidents of domestic violence increased by 8%. The reported severity of injuries increased, including a notable rise in strangulations, according to the Ohio Domestic Violence Network. The need for the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court was urgent.

On September 8, 2020, the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judges voted to adopt Local Rule 30.5 for the establishment of a High-Risk Domestic Violence docket, and on September 28, 2020, the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court began accepting its first cases.

OVERVIEW

In order to identify the most dangerous cases of intimate-partner violence, eligibility criteria includes lethality risk factors of an allegation of the use of firearm and/or strangulation in the offense. Prior to arraignment, the specialty docket coordinator flags domestic violence cases that meet eligibility criteria, and the case is randomly assigned to one of the 34 Common Pleas Court Judges. Defendant participation is voluntary, and the assigned Judge has to approve transfer of the case to the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court docket. Participation is not an admission of guilt; defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty and retain the right to a trial. The emphasis is on victim safety and not all defendants are granted the privilege of community control supervision (frequently known as “probation”). However, the docket has been designed to safely and appropriately supervise defendants who are released into the community.

While in the community, whether on court-supervised release at the pretrial phase or community control supervision, defendants are closely monitored by the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court Team. The victim advocate outreaches victims early in the case process and maintains communication throughout the duration of the case. Together, they complete the Jacqueline Campbell Danger Assessment to help victims understand the level of risk and to inform safety planning. The advocate provides resources to victims and ongoing case information. The advocate, being a member of the court team, is able to ensure that updated address information is conveyed to the probation officer, so that the GPS exclusion zones are accurate. The advocate keeps the victim apprised of developments in the case, the defendant’s jail status, and relays victim input to the team. Information regarding supervision of the defendant can be helpful in safety planning for the victim.

All defendants are initially ordered to have no contact with the named victims and are placed on GPS monitoring. Exclusion zones are set up around victims’ homes, places of employment, and other frequently visited locations such as homes of victims’ family members. Sheriff’s Department deputies monitor GPS on a 24-hour basis, and they arrest defendants who violate the No Contact orders by entering exclusion zones. High-Risk Domestic Violence Court probation officers, along with the team deputies conduct field visits to defendants’ homes and jobs. During the pretrial phase, High-Risk Domestic Violence Court team members communicate frequently with one another in order to monitor defendant compliance and victim safety.

Defendants who are sentenced to community control are typically sentenced to a two-year term of supervision. There are five phases to the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court program. Defendants are required to attend compliance hearings regularly. Intensity of monitoring and frequency of required court appearances decrease as defendants successfully progress through the phases. In order to reduce risk of violence and recidivism, the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court program uses evidence-based practices in supervision. Defendants create case plans with their probation officers, which are individualized based on defendants' specific areas of risk and needs. Risk is assessed using the Ohio Risk Assessment System and the Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment. All defendants are required to complete the University of Cincinnati Cognitive-Behavioral Program for Interpersonal Violence. Additional behavioral interventions are implemented where a specific need is indicated, such as substance abuse or mental health. All defendants are required to submit to regular drug and alcohol testing, obtain full-time employment and satisfy the financial obligations of their case.

The High-Risk Domestic Violence Court team meets weekly to discuss cases and attend compliance hearings. Prior to hearings, the Judge leads the team in case discussions regarding defendants' compliance and victim safety. Risk is monitored on an ongoing basis by the team. The Court responds swiftly and appropriately to all non-compliance and rewards are given for compliance.

FUNDING

A three-year, \$1 million grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Innovations in Supervision was awarded to Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court for the creation of the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court docket to handle 50 cases per year, or 150 cases over the life of the grant.

Case Western Reserve University will assess the effectiveness of the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court. Jeff Kretschmar, Ph.D., the Managing Director of Case Western Reserve University's Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education, and Research Associate Ashley Bukach, MPH, will conduct an outcome evaluation of the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court, which will be continuous throughout the duration of the project period. The process evaluation will examine whether the proposed High-Risk DV Court model was implemented as intended. The outcome evaluation will measure the effectiveness of the High-Risk DV Court in producing intended change.

TEAM MEMBERS

Judge Sherrie Miday leads the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court Team and presides over all High-Risk Domestic Violence Court cases. The High-Risk Domestic Violence Coordinator, Erin Becker, oversees the operations of the court under the direction of Judge Miday and court administration. The High-Risk Domestic Violence Court Coordinator interacts with various personnel within the court system and with external partners and providers on an ongoing sustained basis. Judge Sherrie Miday and Erin Becker established policies and procedures of the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court with input from stakeholders, team members, technical assistance provider and after consulting with leaders of other successful Domestic Violence Courts. Together, they continue to identify ongoing needs while incorporating innovative solutions and strategic planning to strengthen operations and ensure continued efforts towards the Court's common mission.

High-Risk Domestic Violence Court Team members commit to serving for at least one year to promote team consistency and cohesiveness. Team members include an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, two Public Defenders, a court-supervised release Probation Officer, post-sentence Supervision Probation Officer, victim advocate, sergeant from the Sheriff's Department Electronic Monitoring Unit, social workers from the Office of the Public Defender, mental health professionals from Signature Health, and a domestic violence program facilitator.

YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2021, 48 new individuals were accepted to the docket. Nine defendants were sentenced to prison, one was sentenced to jail, and one was sentenced to time served. Two cases were dismissed, two cases were abated by death, and one was transferred to the MHDD docket. Six cases were terminated due to a violation of community control.

At the end of 2021, 24 participants were active on community control supervision of the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court Program. Community control supervision on the docket lasts two years and is divided into five phases. As participants meet requirements of phases and comply with rules of community control, intensity of monitoring decreases in each phase. At the end of 2021, twelve participants were in Phase I, the Stabilization Phase of the program. During the Stabilization Phase, participants must obtain employment, test clean for alcohol and drugs, begin necessary behavioral intervention programming such as batterers' intervention or substance abuse treatment, obtain stable housing, abide by the No Contact Order, comply with GPS monitoring home detention and report to Probation and Court weekly. Thirteen participants successfully completed Phase I and were promoted to Phase II, the Taking Responsibility Phase where they are expected to complete batterers intervention, participate in other the behavioral intervention programming as needed and incorporate what they learned into their personal lives. Home detention is lifted, but they remain on GPS monitoring. They are expected to continue to abide by the No Contact Order, maintain employment and stable housing, submit clean drug and alcohol tests, and make payments on costs and fees. They are required to report to Court for compliance hearings twice monthly, and report to their Probation Officer twice monthly. In order to be promoted to the next phase of the program, participants complete a Phase Change Application, which is reviewed by the Court Team and Judge for approval.

In July 2021, the Risk Management Group was established. This group is a subgroup of the larger court team and meets weekly outside of the larger team meeting. Comprised of the docket coordinator, probation officers, victim advocate and sergeant from the Electronic Monitoring Unit, this group reviews cases when they are assigned to the docket. The group collectively assesses the level of risk through a comprehensive review of the case, reviewing criminal history, lethality risk factors, relationship history and victim input. They strategize individual supervision that reduces risk of danger. This Risk Management Group also provides the Court with a supplemental report prior to sentencing to recommend risk reduction conditions should the defendant be granted community control supervision.

The Risk Management's early review of cases has enabled them to identify behavioral health needs such as history of trauma, substance abuse and mental health issues. Participants in the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court have exhibited a high rate of mental health and substance abuse needs. In December 2021, the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court partnered with community mental health agency Signature Health to streamline referrals for services to High-Risk Domestic Violence Court participants such as mental health care, substance abuse treatment and case management needs. Representatives from Signature Health link participants with the appropriate care. They also attend weekly court team meetings and hearings and provide input on cases related to mental health and substance abuse needs.

TRAINING INITIATIVES

In June 2021, the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court hosted Gael Strack and Jim Henderson of the Alliance for Hope Training Institute for Strangulation for a two-day, interactive online training. All team members of the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court attended, as well as other medical professionals, law enforcement, municipal courts, prosecutors, defense attorneys and advocates. Participants left with an increased knowledge in how to appropriately handle, investigate and charge domestic violence strangulation cases. They also left with concrete action steps and tools to implement a cross-system protocol to best handle strangulation incidents. Stakeholders have taken the forms and tools provided by the Alliance for Hope and are integrating them into improved strangulation protocols.

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES

In addition to presiding over the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court, Judge Sherrie Miday chairs the Cuyahoga County Domestic Violence Task Force, a multi-disciplinary collaborative comprised of leadership from municipal courts, law enforcement and the medical field who are committed to improving victim safety and reducing intimate-partner violence in the community.

COURT IN THE NEWS

Buduson, S. (2020, 1 June). After six months, Cuyahoga High-Risk Domestic Violence Court docket already near full capacity. Retrieved from New domestic violence court's goal? Prevent homicides (news5cleveland.com)

In October 2021, at the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections Conference, Judge Sherrie Miday was awarded the C.J. McLinn Award, an award given to an elected official in Ohio who has worked towards the improvement of community corrections in Ohio. Judge Miday was recognized for her work establishing the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court docket

*JUDGE HOLLIE L. GALLAGHER
JUDGE SHANNON GALLAGHER
CO-CHAIRS*

MHDD DOCKET



JUDGE DEENA CALABRESE

JUDGE SHANNON GALLAGHER

JUDGE DEBORAH TURNER

PHILIP FLORIAN
Coordinator

The mission of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Court is to promote early identification of offenders with severe mental health and/or developmental disabilities in order to promote coordination and cooperation among law enforcement, jails, community treatment providers, attorneys and the courts for offenders during the legal process and achieve outcomes that both protect society, and support the mental health care and disability needs of the defendant.

HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

The Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (MHDD) Court was established in 2003 as a response to the increasing number of offenders with serious mental illnesses and/or developmental disabilities entering the criminal justice system. The Court was established with the intent to operate with a high level of collaboration among court personnel, criminal justice entities, and behavioral health partners. From arrest to disposition and community control (probation), many dedicated services have been developed for offenders who suffer from severe mental illness and/or developmental disabilities.

Acceptance to the Cuyahoga County MHDD Court is diagnosis-driven. Therefore, eligible offenders enter the MHDD Court with all offense types and offense levels. This distinguishes our Court from virtually all other such specialty dockets in the State of Ohio.

The jurists who served the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (MHDD) Court in 2021 were Judge Hollie L. Gallagher (co-chair), Judge Deborah Turner, Judge Deena R. Calabrese, Judge Michael P. Shaughnessy and Judge Shannon M. Gallagher (co-chair). Judge Deborah Turner stepped down from both the MHDD Court on December 31, 2021. Judge Turner brought a careful and thoughtful approach to the docket that will be missed.

The MHDD Court consists of an interdisciplinary team that strives to provide support to the Court and the offenders through a therapeutic approach. Along with the five MHDD Court Judges, the team consists of a variety of individuals and programs.

The MHDD Court was created through amendments to local rules 30, 30.1, and 33, which outlines the eligibility, acceptance and transfer process. In 2017, the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judges adopted revised amendments to Local Rule 30.1 allowing for eligible cases to have additional opportunity to transfer into the MHDD Court, including after sentencing an offender to community control sanctions (probation). On August 16, 2021, the Judges voted to accept an amendment to Local Rule 30.1 that impacts pre-trial transfers. It notes, "Defendants charged under Ohio Revised Code Sections 2903.01, 2903.02, 2903.03 and 2903.04 are not eligible for the MHDD docket upon arraignment or upon transfer except as provided in subsection (C)(2)(e) and (f)." In practice, this means that any cases involving murder charges cannot be transferred until the resolution of the case.

Offenders qualify by meeting either of the following criteria per the clinical diagnosis of a mental health professional; a) schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders, major depressive disorder with psychotic features, and bipolar disorder with psychotic features and/or b) suffer from an intellectual disability with an IQ of 75 or below, have adaptive skills deficit based on a diagnostic report, or may be eligible for services through the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (e.g., Autism Spectrum Disorder, Tic Disorder or Major/Mild Neurocognitive Disorder with onset prior to age 22). Cuyahoga County is one of the only felony level courts in Ohio that includes developmental/intellectual disabilities as part of its criteria eligibility, and not as a secondary diagnosis. This feature also distinguishes the Court on the national level.

FUNDING

The MHDD Court is funded by the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, and is supported by local, state, and federal funding entities.

TEAM MEMBERS

The MHDD Judges lead the MHDD Court team and preside over all MHDD Court cases.

The Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities (MHDD) Coordinator oversees the operations of the court under the direction of the judges and court administration. The MHDD Coordinator interacts with various personnel within the court system and with external criminal justice and behavioral health partners. Throughout the year, the MHDD Judges and the coordinator continue to identify ongoing needs while incorporating innovative solutions and strategic planning to strengthen operations and ensure continued efforts towards the Court's mission.

The Court of Common Pleas and the ADAMHS Board created a collaborative position, the Mental Health Jail Liaison Specialist. This position is funded by both organizations to assist with identification and linkage of mental health services for incarcerated clients at the earliest opportunity as possible. The Specialist works closely with the MHDD Judges, MHDD Court Coordinator, Bond Commissioner's Office, contracted and non-contracted liaisons, MetroHealth's county jail psychiatric unit, the MHDD probation unit, county jail staff, the Public Defender attorneys and social worker unit, and other pertinent staff.

The Cuyahoga County Public Defender's Office continued to identify four Public Defender Attorneys who oversee the cases assigned to their office on the MHDD Docket, including representing clients at the MHDD Staffing hearings. The Public Defender's office has also engaged their staff social workers with assisting in release planning, staffings and other valuable supports to individuals on the MHDD docket.

The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's office continued to identify a supervisor to oversee MHDD Court cases through pretrial to post-conviction. This assistance, starting in 2018, has allowed for more meaningful dialogue between criminal justice agencies and provided consistent oversight of MHDD cases through their agency.

The MHDD Adult Probation Unit assists persons clinically diagnosed with severe mental illnesses with a psychotic component or those with developmental disabilities whose conditions may be aided by medications, case management, and supervision in the community, including those in the MHDD Court. The unit provides Judges with an alternative to prison commitment. The MHDD Unit is currently staffed by 12 specially trained officers and two supervisors. The MHDD Unit allocates seven officers to supervise clients with severe mental illness and four officers to supervise clients with developmental disabilities.

The ADAMHS Board funds the behavioral health jail Liaison program, which provides mental health linkage and reintegration planning efforts to those incarcerated with a severe mental illness in the county jail. Agencies receiving funding for this program during 2021 were Recovery Resources, Metro WRAP, Murtis H. Taylor, and Signature Health. The Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities provides liaisons through a court contract to assist in the management of offenders with developmental disabilities while they are in the pretrial process, whether bail or incarcerated, on community control sanctions (probation), or sentenced to prison. CCBDD Liaisons also collaborates with the Forensic Monitor from Recovery Resources to assist with their role monitoring the progress of individuals under the Incompetent to Stand Trial, Unrestorable status who are under Court Jurisdiction, focusing on individuals whose primary needs are developmental disabilities.

The MHDD Pre-trial Coordinator assist the Court by flagging cases eligible for the MHDD Court and sending notification of eligibility to the arraignment room, assigned courtrooms and parties. This position is funded and located within the Cuyahoga County Corrections Planning Board.

YEAR IN REVIEW

The five judges oversee the MHDD Court on a voluntary basis while also carrying non-MHDD criminal and civil cases on their dockets. In 2021, approximately 56% of the MHDD Judges' active criminal dockets were identified as MHDD offenders.

In 2020, 368 pretrial or probation cases transferred to the MHDD Docket. In 2021, that number decreased to 265. The decrease in cases were likely caused due to the impact of COVID-19.

During 2021, the Jail Liaison Specialist obtained or coordinated 280 mental health records for MHDD Court eligibility review (this includes new and updated MHDD eligibility). The Specialist provided various assistance to incarcerated individuals during 2021 as the primary contact of communication between stakeholders to assist in streamlining reintegration efforts. The Mental Health Jail Liaison Specialist conducted over 900 contact meetings with inmates for psychiatric, medical, and medication-assisted treatment needs. The Mental Health Jail Liaison Specialist and liaisons completed 332 reintegration plans during 2021 to the MHDD Court Judges, and coordination was provided to additional defendants. This is an increase of 36% from the previous year.

At the close of 2021, there were approximately 497 offenders under active post-conviction supervision by the MHDD Unit. This includes those whose highest level of conviction was a felony (70%) as well as those who plead down from a felony charge at indictment to a misdemeanor conviction.

TREATMENT TEAMS AND COURT HEARINGS

One of the most important features of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (MHDD) Court is the incorporation of judicial treatment team staffing hearings. Staffing hearings are consistent with a philosophy of providing team commitment and therapeutic approaches for each offender while using evidence-based practices. This also engages the judge more centrally as a problem solver and collaborator in the therapeutic process. Research has suggested that people suffering from mental illnesses are more likely than others under community supervision to have their community sentences revoked nationwide. This has an enormous effect on their involvement in the criminal justice system and has vast implications for public safety, health, and tax dollar spending. The MHDD Court employs several sound interventions to assist the MHDD offenders in successfully complying with their community control conditions through the treatment team staffings. Although MHDD offenders may have a higher amount of minor technical violations, the MHDD Court consistently works with the offenders in order to assist them through medication compliance, substance abuse treatment, housing stability, securing entitlements, benefits and employment when public safety is not in jeopardy.

Each MHDD Judge schedules staffing hearings twice per month in close collaboration with MHDD probation officers and team members. Community behavioral health partners from several agencies attend the staffing and assist in community development plans. Community and jail liaisons, attorneys and social workers from the Public Defender's Office are also typically present at the team meetings. The team commitment by various stakeholders continues to strengthen the collaborative relationship.

The MHDD Court and the treatment team established a variety of court hearings that may be requested by officers at the staffing hearings. These hearings reinforce the obligations and consistency of compliance among offenders. Throughout an offender's community control experience within MHDD Court, probation officers will regularly have an offender attend staffing hearings for a variety of reasons.

Treatment team and court hearings started in-person at the start of 2020 twice a month, but by early March were temporarily paused as the court adjusted to new social distancing requirements brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Soon after the start of the health and safety restrictions, court and treatment team staffings moved to all virtual gatherings using the Zoom software. Overall, the number of defendants seen during these staffings dropped compared to the in-person practices as can be seen on the following chart. Though the totals dropped over the prior year, the types of cases and percentages of the types of reviews remained consistent.

Statistics and Analysis	2021 Stats	2021 %	2020 Stats	2020 %
Total Staffing Hearings	368	100%	324	100%
30-day Review Hearings and New Transfers	9	2.4%	31	9.5%
Case Review Hearings	167	45%	70	22%
CBCF Pre-Release Hearings	4	1%	6	2%
Compliance / Modification Hearings	22	6%	15	4.5%
Violation Hearings	127	35%	148	45%
Early Termination Hearings	15	4.1%	0	0%
Terminations	10	2.7%	31	9.5%
Release Plans	2	.5%	1	.3%
Other (i.e. CR hearings, Status, etc)	12	3.3%	22	7%

TRAINING INITIATIVES

COVID-19 continued to have an enormous impact on potential training initiatives in 2021. Local and Statewide conferences were still replaced by Zoom-based webinars. These short and focused webinars provided opportunities for MHDD partners to engage in learning on a wide variety of topics. For example, MHDD Court received monthly invitations from the US Department of Health Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) GAINS Center for Behavior Health and Justice Transformation on webinars such as “Trauma Training for Criminal Justice Professionals” and “Role of the Criminal Justice System in Reducing the Duration of Untreated Psychosis.” Most of the training opportunities were free and easily accessed on work or home computers. Many of these recorded webinars continue to be available.

Annual MHDD Court Attorney Certification Seminar

The annual Mental Health and Development Disabilities (MHDD) Court Attorney Certification Seminar typically is held in-person with a large panel of professionals presenting to a room full of attorneys. COVID-19 precautions required that the MHDD Court modify its approach and in April of 2021, the MHDD Attorney Training presentation returned in a virtual setting, consisting of two half-day sessions. More than 100 attorneys attended in sessions taught by local MHDD team members as well as representatives from North Coast Behavior Healthcare, County Board of DD, the Jail behavioral health unit and a panel of experienced MHDD attorneys, representing interests of both the public and private sector. Attorneys from the County Prosecutor’s office also attended, recognizing the importance of understanding the workings of the MHDD Court.

National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD) 2021 Conference

In the Spring of 2021, Mental Health Jail Liaison Lottie Gray and MHDD Court Coordinator Phil Florian were invited to present on Cuyahoga County’s MHDD court model at the 2021 NADD State of Ohio MI/ID Conference. This was a virtual, multi-day conference that pushed the boundaries of what can be done in the online environment and offered many interesting presentations on challenges treating and supporting individuals with dual diagnoses of mental illness and developmental disabilities. The presentation was well received, with many in attendance encouraged by Cuyahoga County’s efforts to address this population in the criminal justice system.

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES

Even with much of the region shut down and partner agency staff working from home, the MHDD Court Coordinator continued to find ways to engage with partnership initiatives.

Mental Health Awareness Month

The Court celebrated its fourth annual Mental Health Awareness Month in May of 2021 with a virtual art display provided through Recovery Resources, a behavioral health community agency that assists those struggling from addiction or mental health illnesses through comprehensive continuum of services including prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery and support.

Court employees, court visitors, and the public were able to view the artwork and see that, through recovery of addiction and treatment of mental illness, combined with the artistic process, can bring beautiful ideas to light. An informational table with resources about the MHDD Court, the ADAMHS Board, and a variety of other services were available.

The Stepping Up Initiative

This initiative was launched nationally in 2015 through the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the National Associations of Counties and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation. The goal is to reduce the number of people living with severe mental illness in jails. In Ohio, the initiative is funded by The Peg's Foundation and under the leadership of Retired Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton. In 2016, Cuyahoga County Council passed a resolution to support the Stepping Up Initiative within Cuyahoga County. In 2017, a cross-system Sequential Intercept Workshop was held to assist the county in identifying areas for improvement.

Subsequently, Cuyahoga County Stepping Up Taskforce was created. Presently, the Honorable Hollie L. Gallagher, MHDD Court Chair, Mr. Robert Coury, County Executive Office's Office, Scott Osiecki, CEO of the ADAMHS Board, and Dr. Julia Bruner of MetroHealth chair the taskforce. The co-chairs continued their leadership efforts by working with close to 75 key leaders and stakeholders from criminal justice and behavioral health systems to improve cross-collaboration efforts.

Since forming subcommittees in 2018, the following objectives have been completed and continue to be built upon:

- Adoption and implementation of Jail Brief Mental Health Screener at booking at the Cuyahoga County Jail;
- Cuyahoga County played an integral role of the State's adoption of the Standard Authorization Form (Universal Release of Information) through field-testing. The Ohio Department of Medicaid has made it a requirement for all HIPPA covered entities to accept the form (ODM 10221);
- The ADAMHS Board released an updated Request for Proposals for the Jail Liaison Program;
- The Court of Common Pleas and the ADAMHS Board collaborated on Mental Health Jail Liaison Specialists.

In addition to these milestones, the following projects continue to develop and grow:

Stepping Up Data Match Project

Starting in 2019, one of the more involved Stepping Up projects involved a massive effort to share data between the County-wide homeless system and the County jail. The results of the study will be used by the Cuyahoga Stepping Up team to estimate the number of people cycling between jail, homelessness system providers, and health systems. The report will help inform the Stepping Up team's work and may serve as a model for other Stepping Up Ohio teams to match and analyze the data that exist in their communities.

While receiving aggregate-level data back from the analysis, the Stepping Up team intends to use these estimated numbers to assist policymakers in scaling and coordinating appropriate interventions between these systems. The data is mostly in place and the team is working on how to best access this data. These efforts will continue into 2022.

Jail Shelter Diversion

The MHDD Court has partnered with Cleveland Mediation Center to incorporate shelter diversion and mediation techniques when discharge planning for individuals rather than waiting until they are in the community. This short-term intervention can have long-term impact in preventing a person from entering the shelter system. The target population includes incarcerated, currently homeless, or in unstable housing and on pre-trial or probation. Referrals will come from bond investigators, pre-trial officers, Probation officers, Judges/Bailiffs, attorneys, and even the inmates themselves. The intention is that the medication Specialist will assist the client in figuring out better or other alternatives than entering the shelter system. These efforts continued throughout 2021 and into 2022.

Returning Home Cuyahoga

Returning Home Cuyahoga is a partnership between EDEN, Inc, Frontline Services and the MHDD Court. This program began in 2018 with a presentation to the Stepping Up leadership and stakeholders group about the Homeless Continuum and the larger Returning Home Ohio program. From 2018-2019, data was examined to understand MHDD Clients who were the highest utilizers of mental health services who also cycled through the jail as well as hospital systems and were also chronically homeless. In 2019, the following criteria was determined for candidates for this initiative: currently incarcerated in the county jail, on the MHDD docket, homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, frequently incarcerated (three times in 365 days), a high utilizer of the shelter system and/or hospital system and finally diagnosed with an Axis I mental health disorder. Individuals who met these criteria engage in intensive planning that will end with paid housing, a case plan, assignment to a Frontline Case manager and engagement with peer supports. By the end of 2021, nine new clients were successfully housed. More importantly, looking at the candidates who were in the program the longest, all went from multiple hospitalizations and jail stays to none during the year they were involved in the program. The pilot program will continue into 2022.

Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare Pilot program

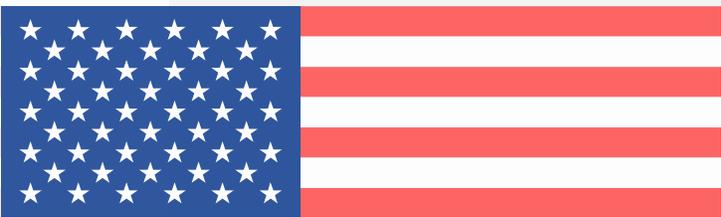
The Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare Reintegration Pilot project was created in 2019 to achieve safe community reintegration of low-level felony offenders on the MHDD Court docket swiftly upon returning to the county jail from Northcoast Behavioral following a restoration period. This project was possible due to the collaboration of the Court, Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare, the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office and the Cuyahoga County Public Defender's office.

COURT IN THE NEWS

Senate Bill 2 in 2021 gives a boost to outpatient restoration:

<https://bgindependentmedia.org/senate-bill-2-signed-into-law-to-improve-mental-healthcare-in-ohio/>





VETERANS TREATMENT

JUDGE JOHN J. RUSSO



KENYA GRAY
Coordinator



HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is a certified Supreme Court of Ohio Specialized Docket with a multi-disciplinary approach made up of criminal justice and behavioral health experts. This unique team offers services tailored to a shared military experience making direct and positive differences for veterans and those who served in the military. Data has proven that participation in VTC, in Ohio and nationally, yields less recidivism for veterans.

The Veterans Treatment Court was dedicated on May 29, 2015, under the Honorable Michael Jackson. Following Judge Jackson's retirement, Judge John J. Russo has presided over the court and was certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio's Specialized Docket Commission on September 17, 2019.

The Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judges voted to approve a Local Rule for The Veterans Treatment Court on January 21, 2015. The Local Rule establishes clinical and legal criteria for acceptance into the docket and transfer policy procedures.

There are several fundamental components to The Veterans' Treatment Court to ensure fidelity of the model. These components are integrating substance abuse and mental health services into the court setting, early identification, using a non-adversarial approach by team members, responding to compliance and non-compliant behavior, ongoing judicial interaction, regular and random drug testing, and the Mentor program. Mentors are volunteer veterans who assist the veteran participant in VTC with accountability, support, friendship, and guidance through shared military experience. Additionally, team members closely monitor an offender's progress through phase requirements and progression.

The Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court created Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) to work exclusively with individuals who are veterans or serviced in the military and who suffer from a substance abuse diagnosis. Individuals are clinically eligible for VTC if they have a moderate to severe substance abuse diagnosis or a mental health illness and/or traumatic brain injury with a substance abuse diagnosis (mild, severe, or moderate).

The Court accepts most military discharges, however, if a veteran received a dishonorable or uncharacterized discharge, the veteran must present compelling evidence for consideration to VTC. A veteran must provide verification of Veteran status through DD214 and, or other governmental forms.

Identification of potential participants may occur at any time; pre-arraignment, pre-trial or post-conviction. Pretrial officers, pre-sentence investigators, defense counsel, the prosecutor, probation officers, county jail, the Veterans Justice Outreach specialist, TASC, or family or friends may identify a possible eligible veteran.

Once notification is sent to the assigned courtroom, a journal entry order can be issued. Thereafter, a veteran will complete a VTC screening and substance abuse assessment. To be found legally eligible, most offense levels are acceptable, In Lieu of Conviction (ILC) or diversion related programs, and any offense for which a defendant may receive Community Control Sanctions (probation). Individuals charged with sexually oriented offenses or gang-related offenses must present compelling circumstances to warrant acceptance by the VTC Judge.

The VTC Judge shall have discretion to decide admission into the program in accordance with the VTC written eligibility criteria. Lastly, an individual must agree to participate by signing the Participation Agreement. Transfer may occur pre-plea for any diversion or ILC related programming, post-plea for charges with a felony of the third, fourth and fifth degree, and post-sentencing for felony of the first or second degree when ordered to Community Control Sanctions.

FUNDING

The VTC is funded by various sources including Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) through a five year grant, Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry, Ohio Mental Health and Addictions Services Specialized Docket subsidies, and Cuyahoga County Council Veterans allocation.

Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) assesses the effectiveness of the Veterans Treatment Court as part of the SAMSHA grant services. CWRU's research team conducts a process and outcome evaluation for VTC, both of which have been continuous throughout the duration of the SAMSHA grant.

TEAM MEMBERS

Judge John J. Russo leads the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) and presides over all cases transferred to the docket. The VTC Coordinator oversees the operations of the court under the direction of the Judge John Russo and court administration. The VTC Coordinator interacts with various personnel within the court system and with external partners and providers on continual basis. Throughout the year, the VTC judge and coordinator continue to identify ongoing needs while incorporating innovative solutions and strategic planning to strengthen operations and ensure continued efforts towards the Court's common mission.

The Treatment team commit to service for at least one year to promote team consistency and team cohesiveness. Team members also include designated public defender, designated prosecutor(s), Veteran Affairs' Justice Outreach Specialist, TASC case manager, probation officer(s), probation supervisor, representatives from Veterans Benefits Administration, Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission, and volunteer mentors. Many team members are veterans themselves and have the ability to relate to the participants involved in the court program.

YEAR IN REVIEW

As the Court continued to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic, the court instituted a hybrid work-from-home model, along with in-person and virtual hearings depending on the severity of COVID-19 transmission throughout the county. Nevertheless, VTC continued to meet regularly for court and with participants.

Throughout 2021, the coordinator and team members identified 177 potential referrals to Veterans Treatment Court. Of those 177 potential clients, 112 individuals were referred for VTC and 41 were accepted into VTC. A total of 71 individuals were found ineligible or declined participation.

The court happily graduated 20 Veterans from Veterans Treatment Court in 2021. Graduations were held quarterly throughout the year.

TEAM AND COURT HEARINGS

The Judge leads the team meetings and court session weekly throughout the year. The Veteran's Treatment Court team reviews each participant's progress, compliance, and non-compliance while responding swiftly with incentives or sanctions. The Judge relies on the expert input of the trained treatment members when imposing therapeutic adjustments, sanctions or incentives.

Advancement through the phases is dependent on completion of specific criteria for each phase of treatment. The veteran will work with a treatment team to identify goals the veteran will work towards while in the program. These goals may include, trauma related treatment, returning to school, job-skill training, counseling, employment, substance use treatment, medication compliance, reconnecting with family, strengthening supports in the community, accessing benefits, and securing safe and stable housing.

There were a total of 33 VTC Court sessions held in 2021 with approximately 445 hearings/discussion reviews held.

Types of Hearings	Number of hearings	Percentage
Case Reviews <i>(Hearings not held on the records)</i>	34	8%
Compliance / Check-ins	274	62%
Probation Violations	110	25%
Sentencings/new acceptance	41	9%

TRAINING INITIATIVES

In August 2021, members of the VTC team attended the National Association of Drug Professionals (NADCP). The conference reviewed ways to divert veterans from the traditional criminal justice system into an alternative to incarceration program that addresses their specific needs. In May 2021, Judge Russo presented at a CMBA for attorneys working to increase their knowledge and understanding of veteran resources. This presentation was held virtually with more than 100 attendees.

In July 2021, the VTC team completed a SAMSHA grant presentation training reviewing the grant goals, and evaluation purpose. The training was presented by Case Western Reserve University. In November 2021, a virtual training, The Other Traumatic Aftereffects of Combat: Survivor Guilt, Traumatic Grief, and Moral Injury Confirmation, was held and many team members attended.

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES

Through coordinated efforts with the Cuyahoga County Sheriffs Department and jail administration, a Veteran's Pod was established in 2016. Veterans incarcerated can remain together and receive services while in jail awaiting their formal plea into the docket, residential treatment place, or serving court sanctions. This designated pod fosters the ongoing engagement from Court and treatment staff. Furthermore, the jail utilized the Veterans Re-entry Search System to identify veterans who have served in the United States military. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs makes this service available to facilitate its own direct outreach to veterans in the criminal justice system.

The VTC team and Probation Department implemented a robust case planning process and revised phasing requirements for VTC clients participating in VTC, which allows the team to monitor a client's progress more closely. The Court continued to work with new agencies throughout the year, including Forever Amber Acres Animal (FAA) Sanctuary in Medina, Ohio. Throughout 2021, the Court collaborated with FAA's Veteran's Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy to be able to provide an opportunity to identify, explore, and solve a variety of psychological and physical challenges through the process of human to horse bonding. The VTC Court is excited to begin referring clients to this organization throughout 2022.

COURT IN THE NEWS

On November 19, 2021, VTC held its Veterans Day graduation at the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. Various agency stakeholders, family members of graduates, and team members attended the graduation event, featured on The CMBA's You Tube account.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ct_eiWSE7gs

*JUDGE BRENDAN
J.SHEEHAN*

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM



MEGHAN E. PATTON,
SPECIALTY COURT
ADMINISTRATOR

MAGUIRE TAUSCH,
JUDICIAL SECRETARY

"Target young adult felony offenders with a gun-related specification who are at an increased risk of committing future gun-related violent crime."

HISTORY

Recognizing the stark reality that Cuyahoga County experiences large numbers of gun violence and gun-related deaths each year, Judge Brendan J. Sheehan piloted the Violence Intervention Program (VIP) Court to target felony offenders with gun-related specifications in 2018. The program works to prevent felony offenders with gun-related specifications well before they become a gun-violence or even homicide-related statistic.

The pilot program demonstrated tremendous promise, and Judge Sheehan received support from the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judges, the Court's Probation Department, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's office, the Office of the Public Defender and other agency stakeholders to pursue grant funding to continue to expand the program. Volunteer peer mentors, trauma therapists, and job placement agencies assisted the program to target additional participants, specifically young men between the ages of 18 and 26 from high-poverty Cleveland neighborhoods known for gun-related homicides.

The Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Affairs awarded the court a grant of \$750,000 over three-year period to support the VIP efforts.

OVERVIEW

In June of 2021, the VIP Court began accepting participants under the grant funding. Cases can be transferred to the VIP Court by any of the 34 Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judges.

Cases that are eligible are gun-related charges that include: Carrying a Concealed Weapon, Having Weapons under Disability, Using Weapons while Intoxicated, and Improperly Handling Firearms in a Motor Vehicle. Additionally, priority is given to those with a moderate to high risk of re-arrest using the Ohio Risk Assessment Score (ORAS), are transitional youth (ages 18-26), are unemployed or underemployed, have educational needs, require trauma services, and have a willingness to complete the program. Finally, cases that are ineligible for the VIP Court would be instances where the pending charges are violent, related to significant drug issues, or sexual offenses. There can be no prior history of domestic violence.

After referral, the Prosecutor's Office (specifically the Crime Strategies Unit in conjunction with the Cleveland Police Gang Unit) and the Court Probation Department complete screenings before a defendant is presented to the VIP Court Judge and team for review.

Participation is voluntary, and if accepted, an individual is required to sign a Participation Agreement to join the program.

Once in the program, participants then move through five phases: (1) Making the Choice, (2) Challenging Yourself, (3) Changing for the Better, (4) Planning for Success, and (5) Making the Commitment (graduation). Throughout the phasing process, participants work closely with dedicated team members, ensuring the adherence to all program conditions and expectations. This includes reporting to the probation officer, having regular compliance check-ins with the judge, completing the individualized goals developed in the case plan, undergoing drug and alcohol testing, and working with a trauma coach, mentors, and employment experts.

Regular court staffings are held, and once a participant is identified as achieving all of the major goals of the program, while also developing the positive thinking and safety skills needed for future pro-social decision-making, a graduation is held. The program follows a diversion track, and as a result, at the time of graduation, the case was dismissed.

FUNDING

The Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Affairs awarded a grant to the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court for VIP Court. With a grant of \$750,000 over three years, the VIP Court is able to address between 105-135 unduplicated defendants (35-45 per year), provide designated team members to the VIP Court, contract with MetroHealth Trauma Resiliency Center and the Cleveland Peacemakers, and work with Passages Employment Program and Ohio Means Jobs. The VIP Court is evaluated on its ability to meet the principles of "Swift, Certain, and Fair" required by the grant. The VIP Court does so by providing therapeutic responses, mentoring opportunities, incentives to reinforce prosocial behavior and develop new skills, and sanctions to stop undesired behaviors. The VIP Judge, Court Coordinator and team members regularly reviews adherence to the standards.

TEAM MEMBERS

Judge Brendan J. Sheehan leads the VIP Court and presides over all cases transferred to the docket. The VIP Court Coordinator and Specialty Court Administrator, Meghan E. Patton, oversees the operations of the Court under the direction of Judge Sheehan and court administration with assistance from Judicial Secretary, Maguire Tausch. Moreover, the VIP Court Coordinator interacts with various personnel within the court system and with external partners and providers on an ongoing sustained basis. Throughout the year, Judge Sheehan and the coordinator continued to identify ongoing needs while incorporating innovative solutions and strategic planning to strengthen operations and ensure continued efforts toward the Court's common mission.

Team members of the VIP Court include a designated public defender, prosecutor, probation officer, and probation supervisor, a trauma coach through MetroHealth Trauma Resiliency Center, mentors with the Cleveland Peacemakers, and employments experts from Ohio Means Jobs and Passages.

This VIP Court Team meets for staffings on the first and third Tuesday of every month.

YEAR IN REVIEW

30 participants were supervised throughout 2021. During the 2021 year, 24 individuals were admitted into the VIP Court. All individuals admitted completed screenings and were reviewed by the VIP Court team.

Of the 24 individuals admitted, all were male. Additionally, 19 newly admitted participants were Black, two were Hispanic, one was White, and one individual's race was not identified.

Furthermore, of those admitted, four were "low risk" with high responsivity needs, 17 were "moderate risk," and three were "high risk" using the ORAS score.

Additionally, two participants graduated successfully from the program and their cases were dismissed. One case was abated by death due to a participant's death and one participant was terminated for non-compliance and ordered to a community control supervision.

TREATMENT TEAM AND COURT HEARINGS

The Judge leads the team meetings and court session weekly throughout the year. The VIP Court team reviews each participant's progress, compliance, and non-compliance while responding swiftly with incentives or sanctions. The Judge relies on the expert input of the trained treatment members when imposing therapeutic adjustments, sanctions or incentives.

Advancement through the phases is dependent on completion of specific criteria for each phase of treatment. The participant will work with a treatment team to identify goals and will work towards while in the program. These goals may include, trauma related treatment, returning to school, job-skill training, counseling, employment, substance use treatment, medication compliance, reconnecting with positive family members, strengthening pro-social supports in the community, accessing benefits, and securing safe and stable housing.

In June of 2021, the Court established regular court sessions reviews with the team and participants. Over the remainder of the year, the team held approximately 17 court sessions

With 25 or more years of service with the Court

Michael Aronoff	Interim Clinic Director
Kevin Augustyn	Assistant Director Magistrates
Kathleen Barry	Foreclosure Scheduler
Gary Bolinger	Probation Officer Supervisor
Michael Brady	Probation Officer Supervisor
Stephen Bucha III	Director Magistrates
Erika Bush	Office Manager
Michael Cain	Probation Lead Officer
Michael Caso	Chief Social Worker
Jarvis Clark	Probation Officer
Rachel Colbert	Probation Officer
Mary Cooley	Assistant Court Reporter
Laura Creed	Coordinator Legal Support
Michelle Davis	Executive Secretary
Marlene Ebner	Assistant Court Reporter
Brian Ely	Substance Abuse Case Manager
Winston Grays	Probation Officer Supervisor
Sertarian Hall	Laboratory Assistant
Mary Hayes	Probation Officer
Eric Hess	Assistant Law Librarian
Lisa Hrovat	Assistant Court Reporter
James Jeffers	Probation Officer
Michelle Kozak	Cashier/Bookkeeper
Catrina Lockhart	Probation Officer
Nicholas Marton	Systems Analyst
Tracey McCorry	Probation Officer
Steve McGinty	Probation Officer
Timothy McNally	Probation Officer
Denise McNea	Probation Officer
Timothy Meinke	Assistant Court Reporter
Evangelina Orozco	Bail Investigator
Susan Ottogalli	Assistant Court Reporter
Patricia Parente	Probation Officer
Kerry Paul	Assistant Court Reporter
Janna Phillips	Probation Officer Supervisor

Gregory Popovich	Court Administrator
Kellie Reeves-Roper	Assistant Chief Court Reporter
Cheryl Russell	Administrative Aide I
Kelli Summers	Probation Officer
Brian Thelen	Probation Officer
Nicole Thomas	Probation Officer
James Toth	Probation Officer Supervisor
Jennifer Vargics	Office Assistant
Margaret Wagner	Probation Officer
Kimberlee Warren	Probation Officer
Rebecca Wetzel	Administrator

With 20 to 24 years of service with the Court

Thomas Arnaut	Director Information Systems
Lisa Austin	Probation Lead Officer
Mary Jo Baden	Assistant Court Reporter
Tion Benn	Probation Officer
Patricia Bittner	Jury Bailiff Co-Director
Monica Brown	Clerk-Typist
Angie Bryant	Probation Lead Officer
Nicole Byron	Probation Officer
John Coakley	Probation Officer
Angela Collins	Probation Lead Officer
Shaunte Dixon	Probation Officer
Vivian Eskridge	Probation Officer
Leila Fahd	Courtroom Assistant
Teresa Faulhaber	Assistant Law Librarian
Anna Foley	Courtroom Assistant
Julianne Fritz-Marshall	Probation Lead Officer
Keith Fromwiller	Bailiff
Kevin Gallagher	Probation Lead Officer
Michelle Gordon	Laboratory Assistant
Erricka Grays	Probation Lead Officer
Margaret Hastings	Bailiff
Aileen Hernandez	Psychiatrist
Michelle Hoiseth	Probation Lead Officer

Robert Intorcio	Assistant Court Reporter
Amy Jackson	Magistrate
Karen Jopek	Probation Officer
Sean Kincaid	Probation Officer
Monica Klein	Magistrate
Richard Kraft	Probation Officer Supervisor
Paul Ley	Assistant Director/Senior Analyst
Robert Lloyd	Assistant Chief Court Reporter
Paul Lucas	Magistrate
Deena Lucci	Bailiff
Renee Maalouf	Probation Officer
Wendy McWilliam	Probation Officer Supervisor
Laura Miller	Courtroom Assistant
Patricia Mingee	Payroll Officer/HR Admin Assistant
Nakia Mitchell	Probation Officer
Eric Moten	Probation Officer
Philip Novak	Probation Lead Officer
Sarah O'Shaughnessy	Bailiff
Patricia Palmer	Bailiff
Cheryl Parker	Probation Officer Supervisor
Kathleen Patton	Cashier/Bookkeeper
Molly Rakic	Probation Officer
Jessica Rivera	Probation Officer
Lauren Rivera	Probation Officer
James Rodio	Psychiatrist
Loretta Ryland	Research Planner
Patricia Schmitz	Clerk-Typist
Mary Schuler	Assistant Court Reporter
Leslie Svoboda	Probation Officer
Pamela Thompson	Office Assistant
Shontrell Thompson	Probation Officer
Mathew Urbancich	Probation Lead Officer
Stephanie Wherry Branch	Probation Officer Supervisor
Latanya Wise	Clerk-Typist
Michael Yezbak	Probation Officer

With 10 to 19 years of service with the Court

Gerald Abbadini	Assistant Court Reporter
Jessica Alvarado	Probation Officer
Jessica Amos	Bailiff
Rhonda Andres	Assessment Specialist
Barbara Apanites	Probation Officer
Kelly Barr	Probation Officer
Kathleen Barrett	Office Assistant
Nannette Barrett	Assessment Specialist
Carleen Bartlett	Foreclosure Scheduler
Erin Becker	Coordinator DV Court High Risk
Gwendolyn Bennett	Bond Commissioner
Kristin Beutler	Assistant Court Reporter
Ronda Blaney	Manager
Christopher Bonezzi	Probation Lead Officer
Maria Bonezzi	Foreclosure Scheduler
Ronald Borchert	Bail Investigator
Victoria Boyd	Probation Officer
Maureen Broestl	Assistant Chief Judicial Secretary
Gregory Burger	Deputy Bond Commissioner
Brendan Campbell	Bailiff
Luann Cawley	Assistant Court Reporter
Cathleen Cerny-Suelzer	Psychiatrist
Marchila Chapman	Probation Officer
Jacqueline Cheatwood	Probation Lead Officer
LaToya Cook	Jury Bailiff Assistant Director
Michael Cooney	Probation Officer Supervisor
Don Crump	Probation Officer
Angela Cudo	Assistant Court Reporter
Christopher Day	Magistrate
Kathleen DiNovo	Assistant Court Reporter
Meghan Disbrow	Administrator Special Dockets/Courts
Kamil Drutel	Network Administrator
Kathleen Dugan	Law Librarian
John Dyke	Magistrate
Teresa Egan	Program Officer
Omer Farhat	Probation Officer

Julie Farrell	Bailiff
Charise Flowers	Receptionist
Melissa Foster	Clinical Coordinator
Iris Jennifer Franklin	Psychologist
Colleen Gallagher	Bailiff
AnnMarie Gardner	Probation Officer Supervisor
Kenya Gray	Coordinator Veterans Treatment
Celeste Hodous	Probation Officer
Arlene HudsonBey-Lewis	Assessment Specialist
Jessica Hurt	Probation Officer
Jayne Jakubaitis	Judicial Staff Attorney - Administrative Judge
Akeyasha Jones	Probation Lead Officer
Kari Jones	Probation Officer
LaToya Jones	Probation Officer Supervisor
Michelle Jones	Assistant Court Reporter
Bill Kavourias	Probation Officer
Andrea Kinast	Deputy Court Admin/Court Ops
Mary Nell Komara	Foreclosure Scheduler
Gregory Koterba	Assistant Court Reporter
Carla Kuhn	Assistant Court Reporter
Amanda LaBanc	Probation Officer
Bradley Lamb	Bailiff
Molly Leckler	Coordinator Drug Court
Pamela Lee-Kisiel	Laboratory Assistant
Walter Luc	Bail Investigator
Heather Malecki	Foreclosure Scheduler
Timothy Malik	Probation Officer
Mikel McCormick	Probation Officer Supervisor
Kelly McTaggart	Administrative Assistant
Althea Menough	Probation Officer
Marija Mergl	Judicial Staff Attorney
Jennifer Moody-Davis	Substance Abuse Case Mgr
Scott Moorman	Judicial Staff Attorney
Renee Murray	Office Manager
Sabrina Nelson	Judicial Secretary
Maria Nemec	Chief Probation Officer
Felicia Norwood	Assessment Specialist

Matthew O'Brien	Probation Officer Supervisor
Dara Opala	Assessment Specialist
Elise Panehal	Office Assistant
Diangie Perez	Foreclosure Scheduler
Patrick Phillips	Probation Officer
Maureen Povinelli	Assistant Court Reporter
Michael Rahm	Probation Officer
Lyndsy Roser	Probation Officer Supervisor
Marybeth Sammon	Office Manager
Ricardo Sanders	Probation Officer
Nancy Scarcella	Judicial Staff Attorney
Thomas Sedgwick	Laboratory Assistant
Patrick Shepard	Probation Officer Supervisor
Dylan Shepherd	Probation Officer Supervisor
Tammy Sherman	Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Timothy Smith	Office Assistant
Weddie Sojourney	Probation Officer
Joy Ellen Stankowski	Psychiatrist
Carlos Torres	Probation Officer
Minerva Torres	Probation Officer
Sarah Tuggey	Training Specialist
Tracy Vargo	Assistant Court Reporter
Lisa Villanueva	Probation Officer
Margaret Wallison	Bailiff - Asbestos
Jennifer Walt	Probation Lead Officer
Bobbie Watkins	Probation Officer
Ilene White	Assistant Court Reporter
Ritamarie White	Probation Officer
Christopher Wise	Probation Officer
Donna Woods	Assessment Specialist



Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court

General Division

1200 Ontario Street

Cleveland, OH 44113

216-443-8560

<https://cp.cuyahogacounty.us/>