



Dauphin County Probation Services

2023 Annual Report



Working Toward
Change



Mission Statement

“The Dauphin County Probation Services Department is dedicated to enhancing public safety by protecting the interests of the victims of crime and by monitoring compliance of those individuals under supervision to court-ordered conditions designed to bring long-term positive changes in juvenile and adult individuals through active supervision techniques and the effective use of evidence-based, re-entry programming and treatment practices.”



We at Probation Services are committed to...

Working collaboratively with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies, public health organizations, treatment teams and victims' rights groups to protect the community and enhance public safety.

Reducing costs and expenditure while maintaining quality probation services by reducing supervision caseloads through the utilization of best practices and continuous evaluation and improvement strategies.

Empowering our Officers by promoting professional integrity, enhancing communication through motivational interviewing, and providing continued classroom and field training opportunities.

Maintaining the public's trust by adhering to Evidenced Based Practices to best utilize our resources and provide services that are proven to reduce recidivism therefore enhancing the quality of life for all of those in our community.

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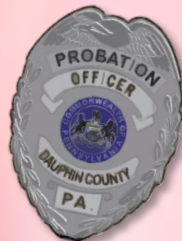
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Myths v. Facts



Thank You
Dauphin County
Probation Services Staff!

2023

Message from the Director

Dear Colleagues, Stakeholders, and Community Members,

I am honored to present the 2023 annual report for the Probation Department, reflecting on our achievements, challenges, and the collective efforts that have defined our work over the past year.

These past few years have been a testament to the resilience and dedication of our staff and the unwavering support of our key criminal justice stakeholders and community partners. Despite the unprecedented challenges posed to our department these past few years (i.e. pandemic and shortage of staff throughout the criminal justice system), our team has remained steadfast in their commitment to ensuring public safety, promoting rehabilitation, and fostering positive outcomes for those under our supervision.

Key Achievements:

- 1. Enhanced Supervision Programs:** We have implemented innovative supervision strategies that prioritize risk assessment and individualized case management. These programs have contributed to a significant reduction in recidivism rates and have provided our probationers with the tools necessary for successful reintegration into society.
- 2. Community Partnerships:** Our collaborations with local organizations have been instrumental in providing comprehensive support services. From mental health counseling to job training programs, these partnerships have enabled us to address the diverse needs of our clients more effectively.
- 3. Staff Development and Training:** Investing in our staff has been a priority. We have expanded our training programs to include new evidence-based practices, cultural competencies and officer safety have provided our team with the resources needed to stay at the forefront of probation services. Their professional growth directly translates into better outcomes for those involved in the criminal justice system.
- 4. Technology and Innovation:** We have leveraged technology to enhance our operations, from implementing electronic monitoring systems to utilizing data analytics for better decision-making. These advancements have not only improved efficiency but also ensured greater accountability and transparency in our processes.
- 5. Community Outreach and Education:** Engaging with the community through outreach programs has strengthened public trust and awareness. We have conducted numerous workshops and informational sessions to educate the public on the role of probation and the importance of supporting diverse individuals on their path to rehabilitation.

As we move forward, our focus will remain on continuous improvement and adaptation. We are committed to expanding our restorative justice initiatives, increasing support for victims, and enhancing our strategies for addressing the root causes of criminal behavior. Our goal is to build a safer, more just community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, whose tireless efforts make our mission possible. I also thank our criminal justice stakeholders and community members for their ongoing support and collaboration. Together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve and in the fabric of our community.

Let us continue to work together with unwavering resolve and shared purpose, as we strive to build a brighter, more hopeful future for all.

Sincerely,



Director of Probation Services



The Adult Division

Dauphin County Probation Services

In the heart of the Adult Division, a team of approximately 70 dedicated line staff members work tirelessly day in and day out to uphold our mission and serve our community. These individuals are the backbone of our operations, each bringing their unique skills and expertise to the table.

At the helm of the division are 10 supervisors who play a crucial role in guiding and supporting their teams. With their wealth of experience and leadership acumen, they ensure that operations run smoothly and efficiently, all while fostering a positive and inclusive work environment.

Assisting the supervisors are two deputy directors, whose strategic vision and oversight are instrumental in shaping the direction of the division. With their keen insight and commitment to excellence, they work hand in hand with the supervisors to tackle challenges head-on and drive forward initiatives that make a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

Together, this cohesive team forms a tight-knit community dedicated to achieving our organizational goals and making a positive impact on the lives of our clients. Their unwavering dedication, professionalism, and passion serve as a testament to the values we hold dear, ensuring that we continue to uphold our commitment to excellence in everything we do.

Suburbs Unit

Supervisor Tabby Spangler
Overseeing 6 Probation Officers

Harrisburg City Unit

Supervisor Tim Kinsinger
Overseeing 7 Probation Officers

Intake Unit

Supervisor Christine Woolfe
Overseeing 8 Probation Officers

Street Crimes & Intensive Drug Unit

Supervisor Jason Snyder
Overseeing 9 Probation Officers

Suburbs & DUI Unit

Supervisor Mike Gargiulo
Overseeing 4 Probation Officers, 4 DUI/CRN

Suburbs, Transfer & Mental Health Unit

Supervisor Juli Nicholson
Overseeing 6 Probation Officers, 1 CRN Evaluator

Veterans Court & Sex Offender Unit

Supervisor Mike Heisey
Overseeing 6 Probation Officers

R.A.L.L.Y Court & Upper County Unit

Supervisor Randy Mumma
Overseeing 8 Probation Officers

ARD, Monetary Compliance & Quality Assurance Unit

Supervisor Meredith Zurin
Overseeing 7 Probation Officers, 2 Administrative Assistants

Transfer, Specialty & Reduced Unit

Supervisor Tina Trostle
Overseeing 7 Probation Officers

The Juvenile Division

Dauphin County Probation Services

This group of individuals stands at the forefront, tirelessly working to guide and support young lives toward a brighter future. Among them are approximately 45 juvenile probation officers and their 9 supervisors, whose unwavering commitment and hard work shape the trajectory of countless young individuals.

With the help of a dedicated support staff these officers and supervisors are the unsung heroes of our communities, navigating the unique challenges and complexities of juvenile justice with compassion and dedication. Their days are filled with home visits, court appearances, and mentoring sessions, as they strive to provide guidance and support to youth in need.

From developing individualized treatment plans to connecting youth with essential resources, these officers and supervisors play a pivotal role in the rehabilitation and reintegration of young offenders. They are mentors, advocates, and role models, offering a beacon of hope to those who have lost their way.

But their work extends far beyond the confines of their job descriptions. They are champions for change, working tirelessly to address the underlying issues that contribute to juvenile delinquency and to break the cycle of recidivism. Despite the challenges they face, these officers and supervisors approach their work with unwavering dedication and resolve. They understand the importance of their role in shaping the futures of young individuals, and they are committed to making a positive impact, one life at a time.

Court & Intake Unit

Supervisor Kija Waithe
Overseeing 7 Probation Officers

Community-Based Supervision Unit

Supervisor Devon O'Connor
Overseeing 5 Probation Officers

Aftercare

Supervisor Brian Walker
Overseeing 4 Probation Officers

Harrisburg School-Based Supervision Unit

Supervisor Jeff Woollam
Overseeing 4 Probation Officers

Suburban School-Based Supervision Unit

Supervisor Liz Umstead
Overseeing 6 Probation Officers

Electronic Monitoring Unit

Supervisor John Christman
Overseeing 5 Probation Officers

Quality Assurance Unit

Supervisor Matt Foster
Overseeing 3 Probation Officers, 1 Administrative Assistant

Data Processing and Program & Development Unit

Supervisor Andrea Zimmerman
Overseeing 4 Administrative Assistants, 1 Program Specialist

Clerical Unit

Supervisor Bethann Hampton
Overseeing 2 Administrative Assistants

Congrats on Your Retirement!

George Miller

Supervisor, Adult Probation

Jeff Noggle

Lab Technician

Greg Spence

Juvenile Probation Officer



FLEXIBLE...COMPASSIONATE...

EMPATHETIC...SUPPORTIVE...

resourceful...trustworthy...

COMMUNICATIVE...PATIENT...

AUTHORITATIVE...RESPECTFUL...

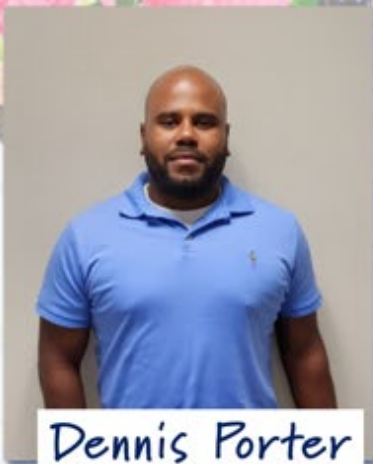
NON-JUDGEMENTAL...ADAPTIVE...

knowledgeable...assertive...

MOTIVATIONAL...OBJECTIVE...

COMMITTED...RESPONSIVE...

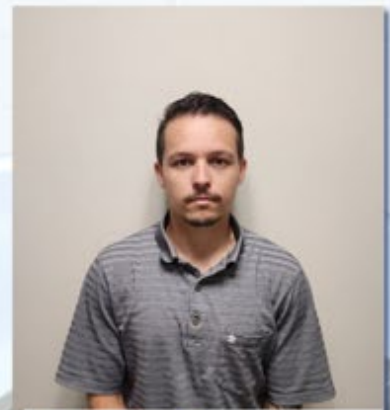
Welcome New Employees!



Dennis Porter
Adult Probation Officer



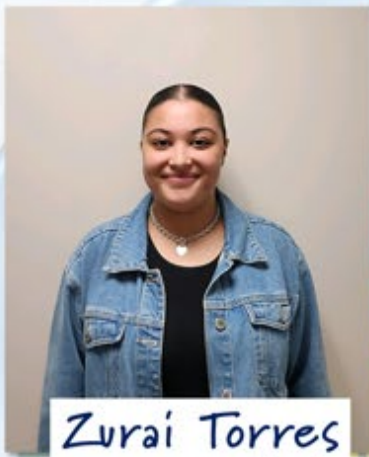
Jackie Jones
Lab Technician



Zach Brommer
Adult Probation Officer



Amber Pande
Department Clerk 2



Zurai Torres
Department Clerk 2



Bethann Dressler
Clerical Supervisor



Yaritza Garcia
Department Clerk 2

Building Bridges

Through Community Engagement

Throughout 2023, the role of our Community Outreach Coordinator has remained pivotal in Dauphin County Probation Services (DCPS) outreach efforts. As change agents with a progressive outlook, our outreach efforts remain centered around respect, relationship development, the fostering of positive community engagement, and the promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Conceptually, our outreach efforts, initiatives, and practices answer the question, “How Can We Help You”, which expands across our internal and external communities. Provisionally, educational opportunities focus on cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity, and learning how to cope through uncomfortable conversations and interactions that are necessary in bridging the gaps among DCPS staff and with the communities we service.

Observing national holidays through departmental events significantly impacted our staff, our stakeholders, and those we service. Significantly, these observances and associated events raised an awareness for cultural sensitivity among various cultural and communal backgrounds. In January we held our second Black History Month Breakfast which included the presence of Dauphin County Judges, Commissioners, and the Dauphin County Director of Criminal Justice. In March, our second Women’s History Month Networking event was held for staff and professional women of the community which was followed up by a surprise officewide recognition of our female management. Through these events, staff were able to gain a greater appreciation for the significance that both observances have on each other and surrounding communities. Other types of events included our Juneteenth observance where we focused on supporting black-owned businesses and resources, making their information accessible to staff; and our first International Day of the Girl Child event which focused on empowering young ladies who were active and inactive with DCPS.

The 2023 educational opportunities and trainings that were held included staff meetings with presentations on the Hamilton Health HOPE Program and the Muslim Community; conducted Lunch and Learns for Pride month and Hispanic Heritage month; and facilitated trainings on the Amish community, the Bhutanese Community of Harrisburg, through Georgetown University, and a Poverty simulation. Lastly, our community engagement included partnerships with THRIVE for our Back-to-School Supply Distribution, Merakey School during Autism Acceptance month, Central Dauphin East High School for our student learning initiative, and our participation in National Night Out, the Estamos Unidos – Multicultural picnic, and the Bhutanese Community of Harrisburg focus group.



With our progression and passion for our outreach efforts, DCPS departmentally continues to serve as change agents who are invested in positive community engagement. Our 2023 community engagement is an indication of the great initiatives we intend to implement in 2024.



Programs & Services for Adults and Juveniles

GEO Group Services

GEO Reentry provides flexible options such as residential housing and treatment, day reporting programs, and inpatient treatment and training for individuals returning from incarceration.

Justice Works Violation Initiative Program (VIP) (Pre-Disposition Program)

The VIP program is a **24/7** emergency response team that helps families and juveniles involved with probation who are at risk of placement out of home. This program is to be utilized as an alternative to detention when new charges that would warrant detention occur or a juvenile on probation is being considered for detention/shelter.

Commonwealth Clinical Group (CCG) provides a variety of outpatient services including specialized services. The level of treatment is based upon the recommendations from either an intake or an evaluation.

TrueNorth

Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is an evidence-based family therapy model. The goal of the service is to increase protective factors while minimizing risk factors in an adolescent's life.

Justice Works – Youth Employment Services (YES)

Youth Employment Services (YES) was developed to assist youth involved in the juvenile justice system in the development of competency employment skills, obtaining employment, and most importantly, maintaining employment.



Helping Individuals Succeed Greater Dad's Fatherhood Program (HIS)

Helping Individuals Succeed (HIS) is a fatherhood mentoring and training skills program that helps fathers rebuild stronger relationships with their children and co-parent.



Diakon Specialized In-Home Treatment Services (Spin)

Spin is an intensive, family-based mental health program that provides individual counseling, individual therapy, family therapy, case management, and group therapy to youths between 8 and 18 who have sexual-behavior issues that meet "medical-necessity" criteria for these services.



Pressley Ridge Intensive Family Services

The purpose of the in-home Family Services (IFS) program is to provide a comprehensive multi-level array of services to fully support the family in completion of their goals.



Camp Curtin YMCA

Man Up & Sisters Helping Sisters is a community-based group counseling program. The Program is designed to provide social skills needed to navigate life's trying times.



Gaudenzia, Inc.

(Drug & Alcohol Services)
Gaudenzia, Inc., Drug and Alcohol Services provides service to juveniles in several settings including the community, residential placement, detention facilities, or shelter.



Advent eLearning

provides over **30** online, cognitive-behavioral diversion courses proven to be effective at reducing recidivism in adults.

PA Counseling Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)

MST is an in-home family-focused and community-based treatment program that is developed for chronic, some violent, delinquent behavior, emotional problems, truancy, and academic problems.



Thank You Providers!

SUCCESS STORIES

“ I was into some bad stuff. I was arrested over and over for stealing and using. I spent more time on probation than off. I hit rock bottom. I asked my PO for help. Rehab was tough and I wanted to quit but I didn't. Things changed. I feel much clearer now, it feels good. Rehab saved me and I'm grateful. You're not alone. Keep going. ”

Maybe I had one drink too many, maybe I wasn't paying enough attention – whatever the reason, I saw those flashing lights in my rearview mirror, and my heart sank. Getting slapped with my second DUI charge was a wake-up call. The first time I got lucky and got ARD, this time, my whole world got flipped upside down. First off, there was the legal stuff. Court dates, fines, the whole nine yards. It was a headache, to say the least. But hitting rock bottom can be a pretty powerful motivator. I got serious about taking responsibility for what I did and making things right. That meant owning up to my mistakes, starting with apologizing to the people I'd let down. It meant taking a hard look at my relationship with alcohol and making some tough decisions about how I wanted to move forward. And yeah, it meant doing some serious soul-searching about the kind of person I wanted to be.

I won't lie, it wasn't easy. There were plenty of times I wanted to throw in the towel, call it quits, and have a drink, but after a while things started to shift. I found support in unexpected places, like AA and my probation officer.

I'm not saying that getting a DUI was a blessing or anything like that. But looking back, I can see that it was a turning point in my life. It forced me to confront some hard truths and make some changes that I desperately needed to make.



“After getting out of jail, I knew I had some serious work to do to reconnect with my kids. They'd been through a lot, and I couldn't blame them for feeling distant. With the help of my probation officer and some serious self-reflection, I started making changes. I focused on staying out of trouble, finding a job, and reconnecting with my family. It wasn't easy, and there were definitely some bumps along the way, but I kept pushing forward.

I started with family group conferences and I wrote them notes apologizing for everything and letting them know how much I missed them. Slowly but surely, we started talking again. It wasn't easy - there were tears, tough conversations, and moments where I felt like giving up. But I kept at it. My kids' mom and I still have a ton of work to do but she encourages me to stay involved and she participates in counselling with us.

I've completed my probation successfully. I've learned a lot about myself and what I want for my future. It's not just about following the rules; it's about taking responsibility and making positive choices. I'm grateful for the support I received and excited to keep moving forward.” Sal

Ryneisha, a single mother, was sentenced to probation following a domestic incident involving her partner. Her probation officer got her set up in parenting classes and individual counseling to address her anger. Through her efforts, Ry learned skills to help deal with trauma from the past, and to build trust with her children and her partner, which aided in the reunification of her family and the establishment of a safer and more supportive home environment.

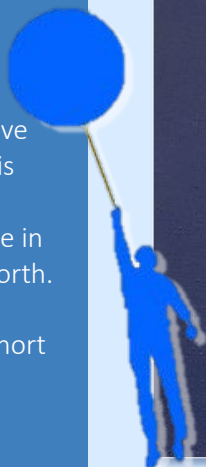
“You have to sit down and look at everything in your life that you have done, and that people have done to you,” Ry said. “And you have to accept all that because, I couldn't run to drugs, and I didn't have mom to run to. I have to trust that Andre wants what's best for my kids and me. Without my probation officer encouraging me to complete my treatment, I would have given up, I know I would have. I can actually feel proud.”

Meet Jamal. At 15, he found himself caught in a cycle of giving in to his friends and making bad choices. But instead of giving up on him, our juvenile probation team saw potential in Jamal and committed to helping him turn his life around.

With the guidance of his probation officer, Jamal began to see a path forward. He attended structured, local counseling sessions to address the root causes of his behavior and developed coping strategies to manage his emotions. Through the use of Family Group Conferencing, Jamal's family got involved and together they set achievable goals.

Despite facing setbacks along the way, he enrolled in educational programs to improve his academic skills and volunteered with his church to give back to those in need. With each small victory, Jamal gained confidence in his abilities and a renewed sense of self-worth.

Today, Jamal's transformation is nothing short of remarkable. Through the support of the juvenile probation system, Jamal has discovered his potential and embraced a brighter future.



Art created by clients in diversion program

Jalaysha J. was placed on consent decree supervision and owed \$4,196 in restitution. She completed the YES program, found a job and paid off her restitution in full within a year. She did all this while participating in a GED program.



Art created by clients in diversion program

Thinking about success stories...William O. comes to mind. Lost both his parents within the same year and continued to attend Dauphin County tech and got off probation. I believe he is taking some time off and working construction after high school.

An aerial, blue-tinted photograph of the Pennsylvania State Capitol building. The building's ornate dome and the Liberty Bell statue on top are prominent. The surrounding city of Harrisburg and the Susquehanna River are visible in the background under a cloudy sky.

By the **NUMBERS**

EBP enhances our ability to accomplish our mission of protecting the community, reducing crime, assisting victims through offender accountability and rehabilitation, and promoting competencies intended to bring long-term positive changes in juvenile and adult offenders under our supervision.

- Chad Libby, Director

2023 PROBATION AT A GLANCE

There were **58** Adult Division staff supervising active caseloads.

663 juveniles were referred to DCPS Juvenile Division.

There were **5379** adults being supervised.

There were **198** juvenile cases on supervision.

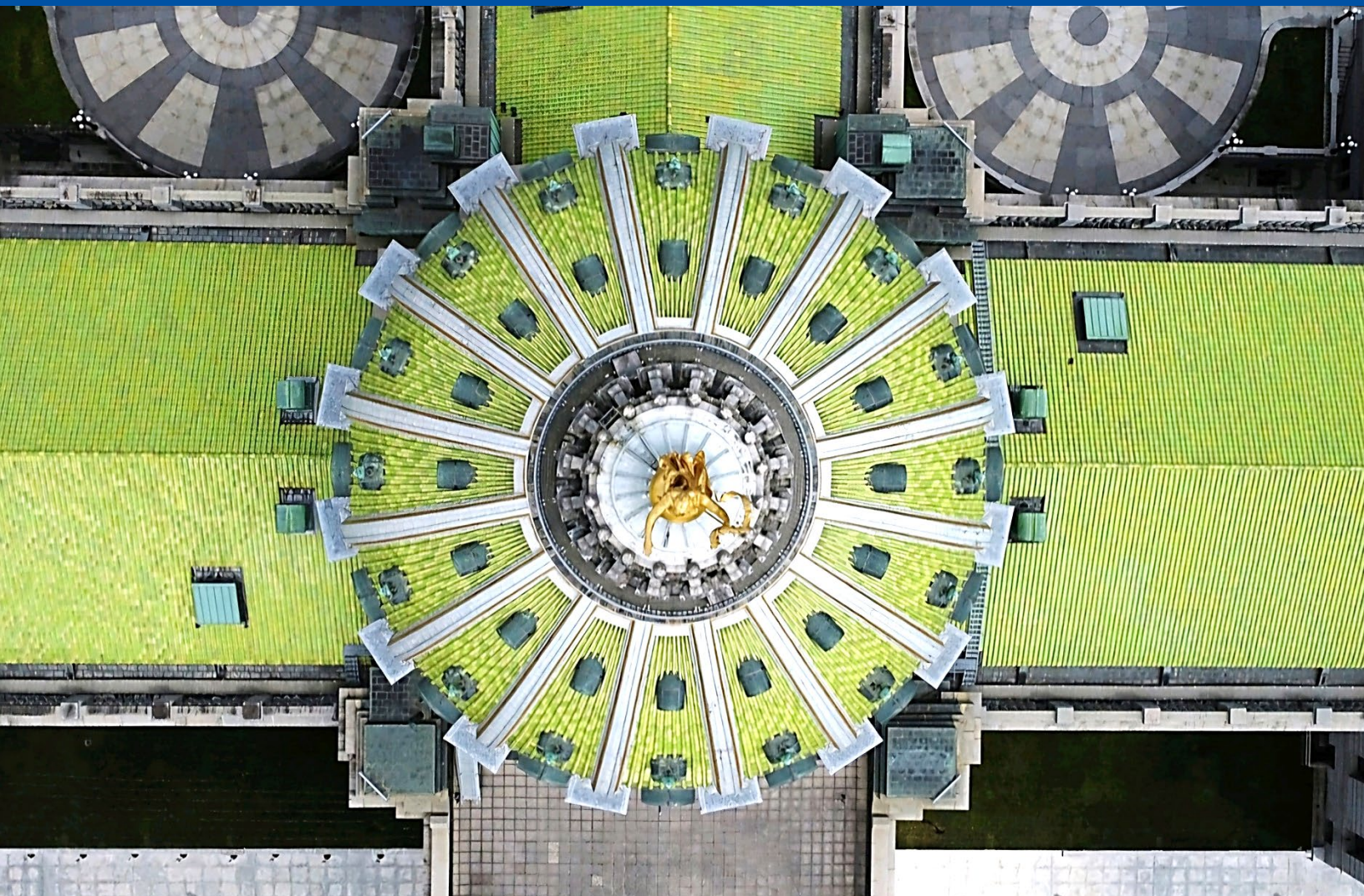
Adults are supervised in **31** townships & the city of Harrisburg.

There were **54** juvenile revocations.

731 adults absconded from supervision.

The Juvenile Division saw **40** successful releases from placement.


The Adult Division has **30** supporting staff members.




Adult NUMBERS

 369


 New Charges 63

 Drugs 11

 Guns or Contraband 52

 DUI Conditions 23







 Sex Offender Conditions 80


 Violation of Protection Order 124


FTR Failure to Report 101


Revocation Requests

Total Referrals 75  44  31

 White 40  Black 25  Hispanic 8  American Indian 0  Asian/Pacific Islander 1  Other 1

 Insured 25
Uninsured (Medical Assistance) 33
Unknown 17

 Co-occurring Mental Health Disorder 14
No Co-occurring Mental Health Disorder 17
Unknown/Other 44

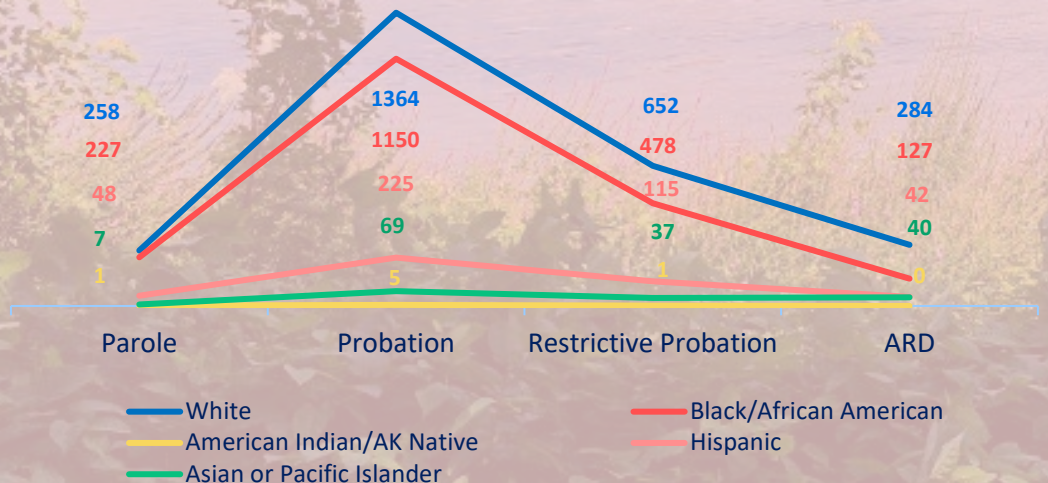
 Outpatient Recommendation 8
Intensive Outpatient Recommendation 16
Partial Hospitalization 2
Residential Inpatient Recommendation 21
No Treatment Recommended 1
Other 27

D&A Referrals for Detained Clients

Gender & Supervision Type

		
Parole	408	88
Probation	1952	676
Restrictive Probation	941	247
ARD Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition	305	208

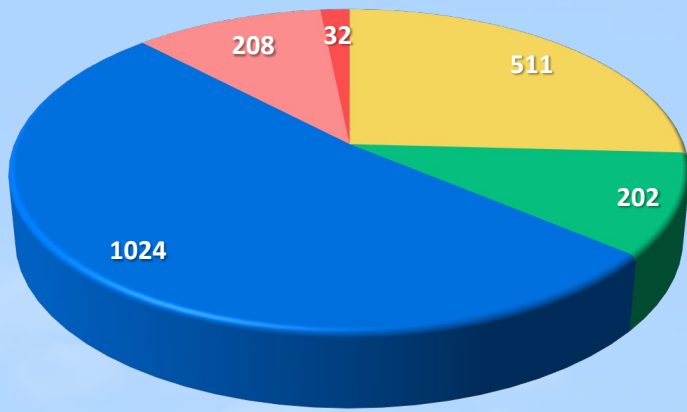
End-of-the-Year Race & Supervision Type



ORAS

Ohio Risk Need Assessment System

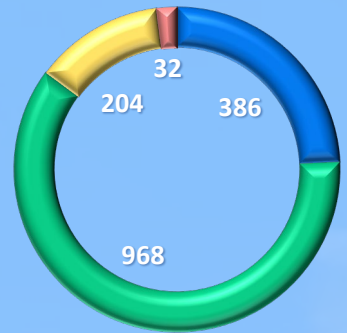
Supervision Level Breakdown



- Low
- Low-Moderate
- Moderate
- High
- Very High

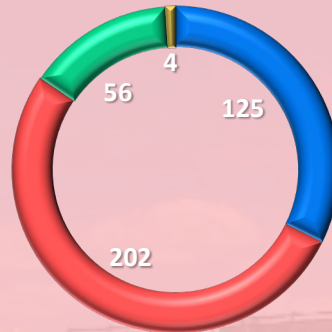
Male Supervision Levels

- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Very High

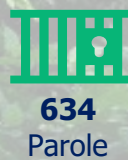


Female Supervision Levels

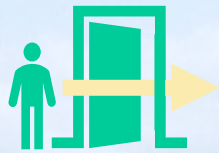
- Low
- Low-Moderate
- Moderate
- High



New Intakes



Juvenile NUMBERS



Detained

115 Juveniles detained and released during 2023.

13 Juveniles were still detained at time of this report (1/2/24).

Detained youth spent an average of **45 days** in detention.

41 of the **115** youth were detained more than **45 days**=36%.

30 juveniles were detained more than **60 days**.



Released

Active Cases



830



295

Gender



Successful Placement Releases **40**



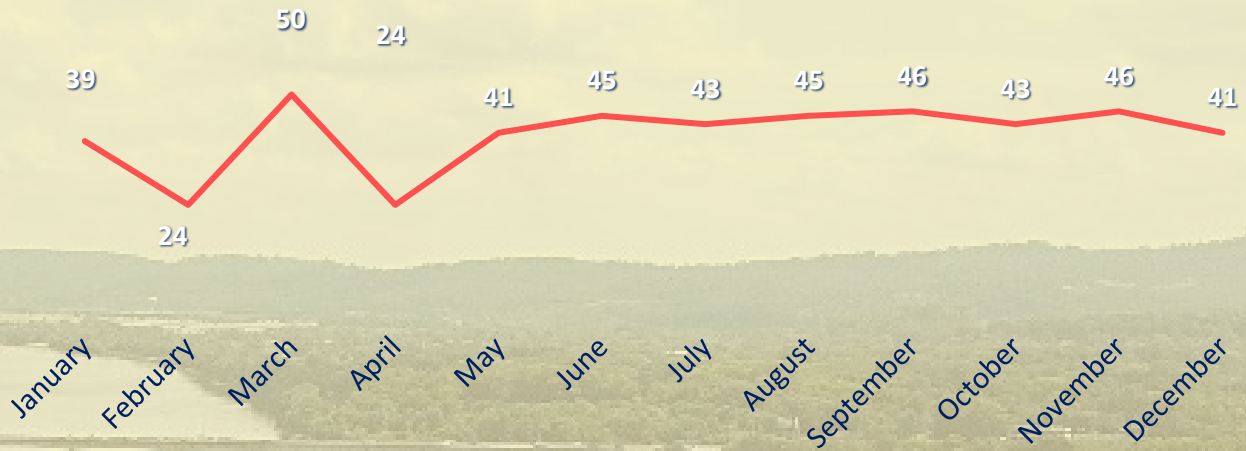
Unsuccessful Placement Releases **14**

YLS

Youth Level of Service Inventory



Juveniles Discharged from Probation in 2023



Disposition Types



Diversion **185**



Informal Adjustment **13**



Consent Decree **137**



Formal Probation **122**

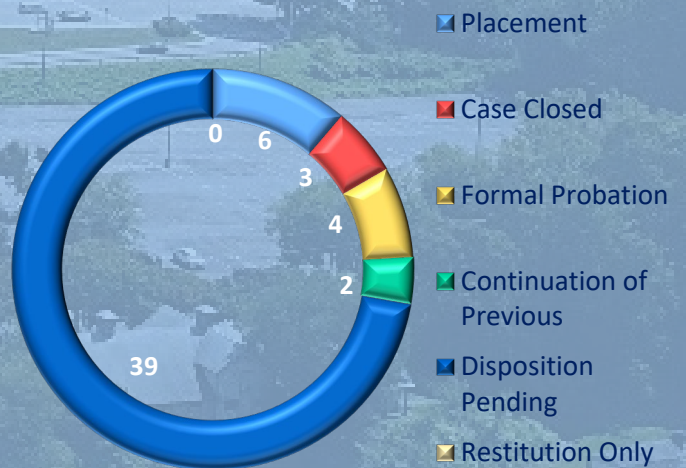


Restitution Only **2**



Placement **76**

Revocation Disposition Types



Meritorious Service Award – a person committed to furthering the development of at-risk, alleged and/or delinquent youth, or advancing the mission of the juvenile justice system.

**Congratulations to the
2023 JCJC Meritorious Award Winner
Kevin Jackson**

DCPS would like to recognize and congratulate Mr. Kevin Jackson, the 2023 recipient of the JCJC Meritorious Award. Mr. Jackson is the Director for the ARC Neighborhood Reporting Center (ANRC). The ANRC is a pre-dispositional evening reporting center which is an alternative to detention for adolescent males primarily between the ages of 14-18. Mr. Jackson (and his staff) works with these young men Monday through Friday, from 2pm until 8pm and on Saturdays from 9am to 2pm. It is important to remember that this is after working a full-time job during the day. Mr. Jackson understands and believes in the goals and mission of the juvenile justice system including community protection, accountability, and competency development. He understands the impact having a community-based alternative to detention program can have on an offender's life at a critical decision-making point in their involvement in the juvenile justice system. Working with at risk youth has been a labor of love for Mr. Jackson for the 20 plus years that he has been working with adolescents. Mr. Jackson was born and raised in Harrisburg and is a well-respected member of the community. This grass roots approach has proven to be very successful in engaging youth ordered into the ANRC program. He was fortunate enough to be raised by both a mother and father in the home and understands the huge impact that a father, or a positive male figure, can have on a young man's life.

The ANRC program provides structure during the evening hours to those youth with more serious charges that participate in the program. Mr. Jackson recognizes the impact that gun violence has had on the community. While in the program, he educates youth on the rippling effects that gun violence has on their community and runs a gun violence curriculum to help combat it. This curriculum is an open curriculum designed to both promote discussions about and educate young men on the impact gun violence has on their family and community. Mr. Jackson also engages the youth in goal setting activities, realizing for many that it is the first time that these young men have been asked what their goals are and what steps that they can make to obtain their goals. He helps run various other groups for the young men to include drug and alcohol education, life skills, soft job skills and parenting.

Mr. Jackson ensures youth give back to the community by participating in community service projects. He maintains open communication with the families of the youth who are in the program, sometimes having daily conversations with the families. Mr. Jackson makes himself available at all hours to those youth and families in the program.

“We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give.”
Winston Churchill

Whether it be taking phone calls in the middle of the night to deal with youth in crisis, helping locate a youth who has left home, or providing a ride to the probation office for an electronic monitoring install, Mr. Jackson goes to great lengths to ensure those in the program and their families know he is there for them. Further, because of the trust he has developed with those youth he works with, individuals in the program are very open and honest when participating in discussion in the program. As a result, Mr. Jackson has proven to be a very beneficial source of information for probation officers to call upon when needed. He assists youth with developing a resume and with finding youth employment. As part of the program, Mr. Jackson (and his staff) partners with other programs within the community including the Boys and Girls Club, Salvation Army and YMCA to not only build competencies within those in the program, but also to provide positive social alternatives to gangs, walking the streets and gun violence. Youth in the program also participate in community service activities including working at local food pantries and assisting with National Night Out to both build competencies and to also give back to the community they live in. Through his networking, Mr. Jackson has built professional alliances with many successful individuals in the community. He has called upon these alliances to provide impactful presentations at the program or has taken youth to visit their business. These alliances have served as an example to those in the program that there is a way out.

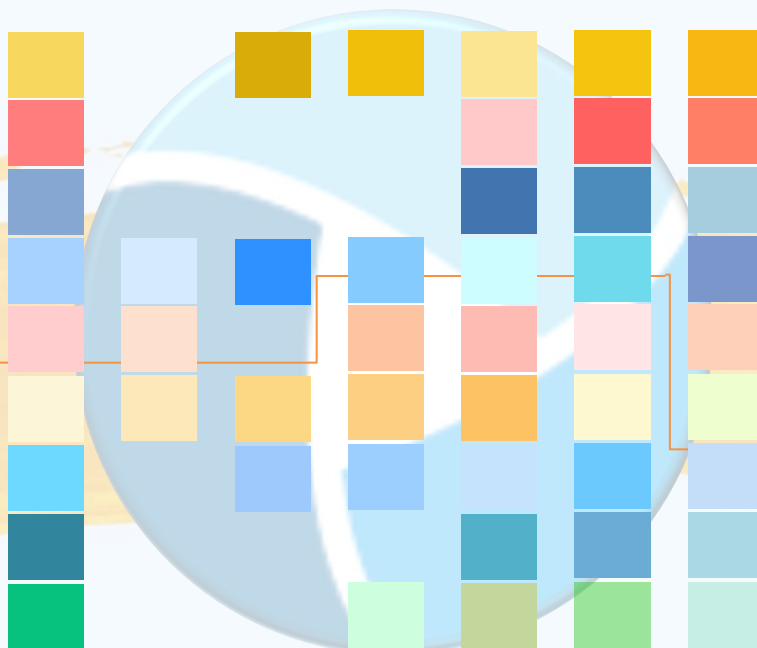
Of particular note, last summer Mr. Jackson had youth in the program compete in a recreational basketball league. This group of young men, under Mr. Jackson's direction, played as a team. They had to work through frustrations and dislikes and learn how to communicate with one another. They learned to win and lose as a team with a lot of learning experiences in-between. Eventually, these youth came together and won the league championship!

In conclusion, this award is well deserved. Mr. Kevin Jackson has touched the lives of many young men and their families in the juvenile justice system. His dedication to furthering the lives of the young men in his program and the impact he has had on them is unrivaled.

Averhealth Drug Testing

At the end of May 2023, Dauphin County Probation Services moved to an independent drug testing agency, Averhealth. For decades prior, Probation Services relied on in-house drug testing, only needing an outside agency for confirmation of positive results, when challenged. With the extraordinary number of substances being used by society today, Averhealth provides a wide range of services and testing abilities, which was not possible previously. Averhealth allows for many different panel selections, comprised of various drug choices, which can be selected based on the individual client. It also allows for a true randomizing of urines, which assigns the client a computer populated seven-digit number when they are entered in the Averhealth system. This “PIN” is entered by the client when they call a specific number and will be informed if a urine must be submitted. This also permits a wide range of random testing abilities.

In addition, there is expert testimony that is readily available when needed by the court to explain a positive drug confirmation. Another great feature is numerous programs can be created and clients we supervise can be placed according to their assigned supervision program. Currently we have program modules to include both Adult and Juvenile Probation, Mental Health Court, Veteran’s Court, and RALLY Court. In addition, we have programs developed for and provide testing abilities for Dauphin County’s Work Release Program, Pre-Trial Services and Children and Youth. Each program can tailor testing around their specific needs. Urines are shipped daily to Averhealth and have a 24–48-hour turnaround for test results, which can be viewed online by the Probation Officer and Management through the Averhealth website. The final positive of outsourcing to Averhealth is cost savings, while still being able to provide a host of additional features and abilities, which we were never capable of prior.



The State of Grant-in-Aid in PA

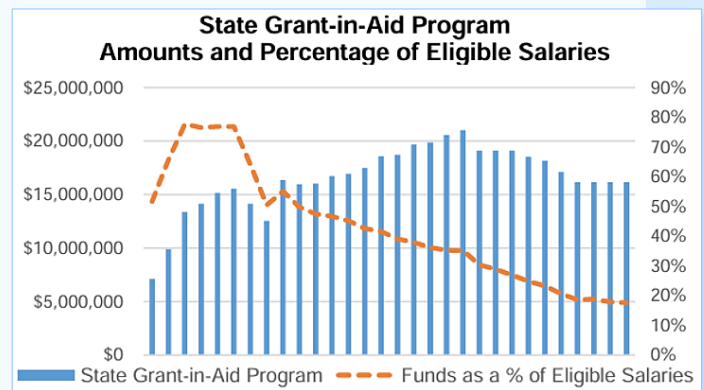
In Pennsylvania, the administration of justice relies heavily on its adult probation system to ensure public safety, facilitate rehabilitation, and promote successful reintegration of individuals into society. The state allocates significant resources to support probation services through various mechanisms, one of which is the Adult Probation Grant-in-Aid program. This program plays a crucial role in funding probation services across the state, enabling counties to effectively supervise individuals placed on probation. In this article, we will delve into the state of the Adult Probation Grant-in-Aid in Pennsylvania, examining its significance, allocation, challenges, and potential areas for improvement.

Significance of Adult Probation Grant-in-Aid

The Adult Probation Grant-in-Aid program serves as a vital funding source for Pennsylvania's probation services. It provides financial assistance to counties to support the operation of probation offices, probation officers' salaries, and essential programs aimed at reducing recidivism and promoting rehabilitation among probationers. By supplementing local resources, the grant-in-aid program ensures that probation departments can maintain adequate staffing levels, implement evidence-based practices, and offer comprehensive supervision and services to individuals under their supervision.

Allocation of Funds

The allocation of funds through the Adult Probation Grant-in-Aid program in Dauphin County is determined by various factors, including caseloads, programmatic needs, and priorities set by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). As one of the largest counties in Pennsylvania, Dauphin County receives a significant portion of grant funds to support its probation services. The county probation department collaborates with the PCCD to ensure that funding is allocated efficiently and in alignment with state guidelines and priorities.



Challenges Facing the Program

Despite the vital role it plays, the Adult Probation Grant-in-Aid program in Dauphin County faces several challenges that impact its effectiveness:

- **Resource Constraints:** Limited funding may restrict the ability of the probation department to address growing caseloads and implement innovative programs that could enhance probation outcomes.
- **Complex Needs of Probationers:** Many probationers in Dauphin County have complex needs, such as substance abuse issues, mental health disorders, or housing instability, which require specialized interventions and services that may strain available resources.
- **Staffing and Workload:** Probation officers in Dauphin County often manage high caseloads, which can impact their ability to provide individualized supervision and support to probationers effectively.

Moreover, the complexity of probation cases, including individuals with substance abuse issues, mental health disorders, and other criminogenic needs, poses a considerable challenge to probation departments. Meeting the diverse needs of probationers requires a multifaceted approach that may require additional resources beyond what the grant-in-aid program can provide.

Potential Areas for Improvement

To address the challenges facing the Adult Probation Grant-in-Aid program in Pennsylvania, several strategies could be considered:

- **Stable Funding:** Ensuring stable and predictable funding for probation services can help counties plan effectively and invest in long-term strategies to improve outcomes.
- **Performance-Based Funding:** Implementing performance-based funding mechanisms that reward counties for achieving positive outcomes, such as reduced recidivism rates and increased successful completions of probation, can incentivize effective practices and accountability.



- **Enhanced Collaboration:** Facilitating collaboration between probation departments, other criminal justice agencies, and community-based organizations can leverage resources and expertise to address the complex needs of probationers more comprehensively.



- **Investment in Evidence-Based Practices:** Prioritizing funding for evidence-based programs and interventions that have been proven to reduce recidivism and promote successful reintegration can maximize the impact of grant funds and improve probation outcomes.



By addressing these areas, Pennsylvania can strengthen its Adult Probation Grant-in-Aid program and enhance the effectiveness of probation services statewide.

Conclusion

The Adult Probation Grant-in-Aid program plays a critical role in supporting probation services and promoting public safety in Pennsylvania. While the program faces challenges such as funding variability and increasing caseloads, strategic investments and collaborative efforts can help overcome these obstacles and improve outcomes for probationers and communities alike. By prioritizing stable funding, performance-based approaches, collaboration, and evidence-based practices, Pennsylvania can ensure that its probation system remains effective, efficient, and responsive to the needs of those under its supervision.

The state Grant-in-Aid (GIA), established in the Improvement of Probation Services Act of 1965, was amended in 1986 to include the goal of covering **80%** of eligible county salary cost. It currently covers only **11%** !

Harrisburg, PA • December 15, 2023



Meek Mill, Rapper

No laws have completely given us what we need, but these are huge steps. If I were a governor in any state, I'd be looking at what Pennsylvania did and following suit- especially in an election cycle.

In 2008, just as his music career was taking off, 18-year-old Mill was sentenced to prison for a drug and firearm conviction. A court overturned the ruling 11 years later, and earlier this year, Pennsylvania's then-governor, Tom Wolf, pardoned him for the original charges. Mill, who lives in Philadelphia, has been on probation for much of his life, and has advocated for criminal-justice reform for years. After Gov. Josh Shapiro signed the legislation, the rapper spoke of not being able to pick up his son from school in New Jersey due to parole regulations. "They labeled us felons," he said at Friday's ceremonial bill-signing. "I had to fight against that the whole time to gain my respect and be who I am today."



Governor Josh Shapiro presided over a significant milestone in Pennsylvania's criminal justice reform efforts: the ceremonial bill signing of the bipartisan **Comprehensive Probation Reform**, formerly SB 838. This legislation marks a crucial step forward in modernizing the state's probation system, aiming to promote fairness, rehabilitation, and public safety. The Comprehensive Probation Reform bill addresses various aspects of probation, including probation terms, conditions, and supervision practices. It seeks to reduce unnecessary probation lengths, streamline supervision processes, and provide individuals on probation with better support and resources for successful reintegration into society.

Key provisions of the legislation include

- limitations on probation terms for certain offenses,
- opportunities for early termination of probation
- enhanced oversight mechanisms to ensure compliance with probation requirements while promoting individualized rehabilitation plans.

By embracing a bipartisan approach, Governor Shapiro and state lawmakers have demonstrated a commitment to addressing longstanding issues within the criminal justice system. The Comprehensive Probation Reform reflects a growing recognition of the need for evidence-based practices that prioritize rehabilitation and reduce unnecessary barriers to reentry for individuals under supervision.

Through this legislation, Pennsylvania aims to enhance public safety, reduce recidivism, and foster positive outcomes for individuals on probation. Governor Shapiro's leadership in hosting the ceremonial bill signing underscores the state's dedication to advancing meaningful reform and building a fairer, more effective criminal justice system for all Pennsylvanians.

“For some time now, Pennsylvania has been exploring and debating ways to control correctional costs without sacrificing public safety,” said Senator Lisa Baker. “This measure to reform probation, after some extensive negotiations, satisfies both goals.”

PSI Legislation

A PSI report typically includes a detailed account of the defendant's criminal history, personal background, family and social history, mental and physical health, substance abuse issues, and other factors relevant to sentencing. The report is prepared by probation officers and is intended to help judges determine an appropriate sentence that balances the goals of punishment, rehabilitation, and public safety.

Issues with the Current System

- 1. Inconsistency and Bias:** PSIs can vary significantly in quality and depth, leading to inconsistent sentencing outcomes which may result in disparate treatment of defendants based on race, socioeconomic status, and other factors.
- 2. Delays and Inefficiency:** The preparation of PSI reports can be time-consuming, often delaying sentencing hearings. This can prolong the pretrial detention of defendants, exacerbating jail overcrowding and increasing costs for the state.
- 3. Overreliance on Criminal History:** PSIs often heavily emphasize the defendant's past criminal record, which can overshadow other relevant factors such as the potential for rehabilitation.

Proposed Reforms

In light of these challenges, Pennsylvania is exploring several reforms to enhance the fairness and efficiency of the PSI process:

- 1. Standardization and Training:** Implementing standardized guidelines for PSI reports can help ensure consistency and quality. Enhanced training for probation officers on recognizing and mitigating implicit bias is also crucial.
- 2. Use of Technology:** Leveraging technology to streamline the collection and analysis of information can reduce the time needed to prepare PSI reports. Automated systems can also help identify relevant data more efficiently, minimizing delays.
- 3. Holistic Assessment:** Reform efforts advocate for a more balanced approach that considers a broader range of factors beyond criminal history. This includes greater emphasis on the defendant's personal circumstances, potential for rehabilitation, and the impact of sentencing on their family and community.
- 4. Alternative Sentencing Recommendations:** Encouraging probation officers to provide judges with a wider array of sentencing options, such as community service, treatment programs, and restorative justice initiatives, can promote more equitable and constructive outcomes.

Impact and Benefits

The proposed reforms to the PSI process in Pennsylvania aim to achieve several key benefits:

- **Fairer Sentencing:** By addressing biases and ensuring comprehensive, consistent reports, the reformed PSI process can contribute to more equitable sentencing outcomes.
- **Efficiency and Cost Savings:** Streamlining the PSI process can reduce delays in sentencing, decreasing pretrial detention times and alleviating jail overcrowding.
- **Enhanced Rehabilitation:** A more holistic assessment of defendants can support sentences that focus on rehabilitation, reducing recidivism and promoting reintegration into society.
- **Public Confidence:** Improving the PSI process can enhance public trust in the criminal justice system, demonstrating a commitment to fairness and justice.

Presentence investigation reform in Pennsylvania represents a crucial step towards a more just and efficient criminal justice system. By standardizing practices, embracing technology, and adopting a more holistic approach, the state can ensure that sentencing decisions are informed, fair, and conducive to the rehabilitation of defendants.

"Presentence investigations play a pivotal role in the sentencing phase of the criminal justice process in Pennsylvania. By providing judges with a detailed account of a defendant's background, these reports are instrumental in ensuring that sentencing decisions are well-informed, balanced, and just. However, the need for reform is evident to address the inconsistencies and potential biases that can undermine the fairness of this critical process."
- Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission Report, 2023.



The State of Juvenile Probation & Secure Detention Beds in PA

In Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, the juvenile justice system plays a crucial role in ensuring the well-being, rehabilitation, and successful reintegration of young individuals who come into contact with the law. Central to this system are juvenile probation services and secure detention facilities, which aim to provide supervision, support, and appropriate interventions for youth involved in the justice system. In this article, we will delve into the state of juvenile probation and secure detention beds in Dauphin County, examining their significance, allocation, challenges, and potential areas for improvement.

Significance of Juvenile Probation and Secure Detention Beds

Juvenile probation services and secure detention facilities are vital components of the juvenile justice system in Dauphin County. Juvenile probation officers work to ensure that young individuals receive necessary supervision, guidance, and access to services that address underlying issues contributing to delinquent behavior. Secure detention beds serve as temporary placements for youth who pose a risk to themselves or others or are deemed a flight risk pending court hearings or disposition.

Allocation of Resources in Dauphin County

The allocation of resources for juvenile probation and secure detention beds in Dauphin County is guided by state regulations, county budgetary considerations, and the specific needs of youth in the community. Funding for juvenile probation services may support probation officer salaries, programming, and interventions aimed at reducing recidivism and promoting positive youth development. Secure detention beds are typically funded through county budgets and may be managed by the county's juvenile detention center or contracted facilities.

Challenges Facing the System in Dauphin County

Despite the importance of juvenile probation and secure detention beds, several challenges impact their effectiveness in Dauphin County:

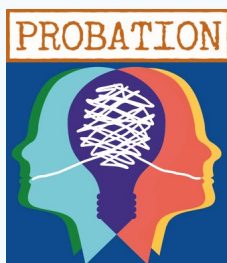
- **Limited Resources:** Funding constraints may limit the availability of probation officers, specialized programs, and secure detention beds, affecting the quality and scope of services provided to youth.
- **Overrepresentation of Minority Youth:** Like many jurisdictions, Dauphin County grapples with racial and ethnic disparities within its juvenile justice system, with minority youth disproportionately represented in secure detention and juvenile court proceedings.
- **Complex Needs of Youth:** Youth involved in the juvenile justice system often have complex needs, including mental health issues, substance abuse, trauma, and family challenges, requiring comprehensive and individualized interventions that may strain available resources.



Potential Areas for Improvement

To address these challenges and improve the state of juvenile probation and secure detention beds in Dauphin County, several strategies could be considered:

- **Investment in Community-Based Alternatives:** Prioritizing funding for community-based programs and interventions that provide alternatives to secure detention, such as diversion programs, mentoring, and family support services, can help reduce reliance on confinement and promote positive youth outcomes.



- **Training and Support for Probation Officers:** Providing ongoing training and support for juvenile probation officers to effectively address the needs of youth, including cultural competency, trauma-informed care, and evidence-based practices, can enhance the quality of supervision and services provided.
- **Data Collection and Monitoring:** Implementing robust data collection and monitoring systems to track outcomes, identify disparities, and evaluate the effectiveness of juvenile probation and secure detention practices can inform decision-making and drive system improvements.



Conclusion

Juvenile probation services and secure detention beds are critical components of the juvenile justice system in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. By addressing challenges such as limited resources, racial disparities, and the complex needs of youth, the county can enhance the effectiveness and fairness of its juvenile justice system. Through investment in community-based alternatives, training for probation officers, and data-driven decision-making, Dauphin County can better support the well-being and positive development of its youth population.

References:

Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Services. (n.d.).
Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. (n.d.). Juvenile Probation.
Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. (n.d.). Juvenile Justice Services.

Between 2006 and 2021,
15 detention facilities
ceased operation in PA.
As of April 2023, only **13** facilities
are providing secure detention
services in PA.

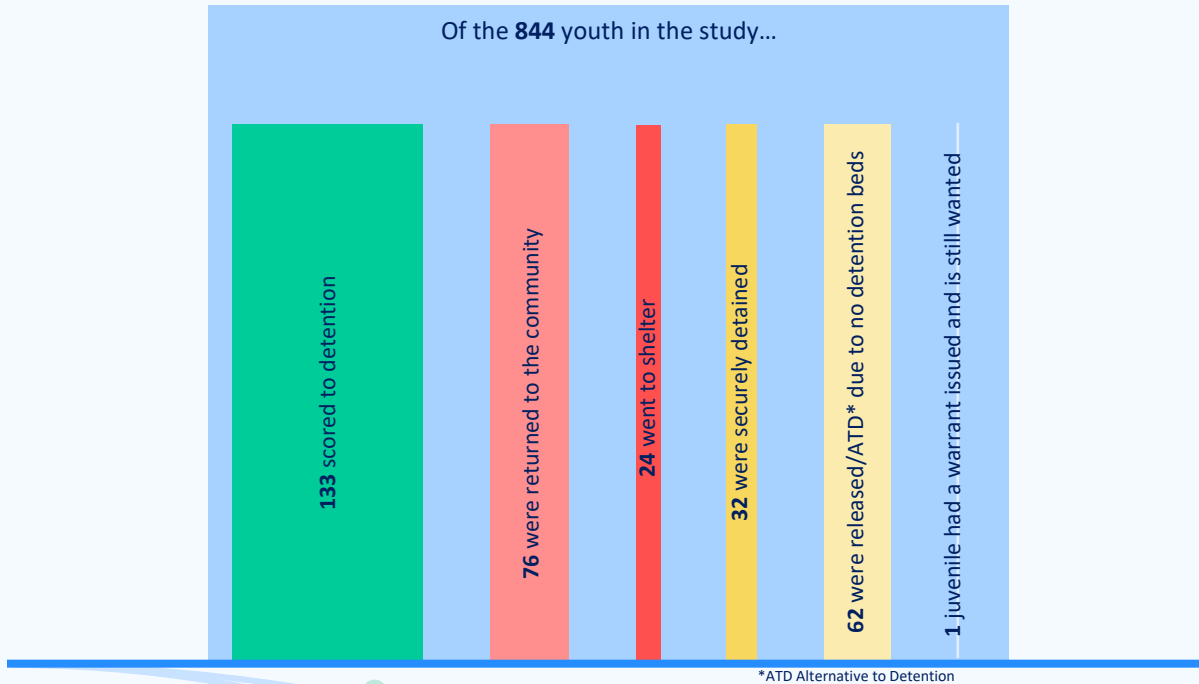
Detention centers “securely house children who for a variety of reasons aren’t able to remain in their homes as they await adjudication,” said Laval Miller-Wilson, deputy secretary for the Office of Children, Youth & Families in the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.

<https://reentry.networkofcare.org/dauphin-pa/CommunityResources/News/Article?articleId=143888>

“We are a victim of our own success, to be frank.” Chadwick Libby

PaDRAI Study Findings

The Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument



47% of juveniles that scored to detention went to Alternative to Detention.

24% of juveniles that scored to detention were securely detained.

47% of juveniles that scored to detention were not securely detained due to no beds being available. The rest were not detained due to other reasons.

Of the 133 juveniles that scored to detention, only 56 were removed from the home which equals 42%.

76 of 133 that scored to detention, were returned to the community which equals 58%.

The Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI)

is a concise, structured decision-making instrument used to assist in the critical decision of whether to securely detain a youth, release to an alternative to detention (ATD), or release to the custody of a parent or responsible adult during the period that the youth is awaiting his/her juvenile court hearing. The instrument is designed to assess the risk of a youth to:

1. commit additional offenses while awaiting his/her juvenile court hearing; and/or
2. fail to appear for his/her scheduled juvenile court hearing.

Dauphin County Placement Provider Study Findings

(January 1, 2022- May 17, 2023)

85% of the Dauphin County youth placed in a state facility was due to the inability to get the juvenile into a private provider.

Of the 85%, 45% of the juveniles are in a state facility due to private providers denying entry to their placement program.

60% of the denials were due to aggression.



Of the 85%, 33% of the juveniles are in a state facility due to a Failure to Adjust (FTA) from a private program.

64% of FTA's were a result of aggression.



100% of FTA's resulted in a placement at a state program.

71% of juveniles recommended for a mental health (MH) residential treatment facility were approved by Medical Assistance (MA).

Only 40% of juveniles that received MA funding went to a MH residential treatment facility (RTF). 40% ended up at a state program. The remaining 20% are still pending an outcome.

100% of the juveniles that were placed at a state-run program were denied from all RTFs and private providers due to aggression.

Dauphin County has reduced the number of juveniles in placement by 61% over the past 10 years.



The percentage of juveniles in a state program has increased by 9% over the past 10 years. (2013- 21%, now 30%). This number is likely to increase as there are several juveniles in detention that display the same aggressive traits that has resulted in denial from private providers and placement at a state program.

There has been a 33% reduction in placement facilities utilized by Dauphin County over the past 10 years. In 2013 Dauphin County utilized **39** different facilities.



From January 1, 2022, to May 17, 2023, Dauphin County utilized only **26** different facilities.

The Intersection of Juvenile Delinquency, Trauma, & Brain Development

Juvenile delinquency, characterized by antisocial or criminal behavior among adolescents, often intersects with experiences of trauma. Understanding the relationship between trauma, juvenile brain development, and delinquency is crucial for developing effective interventions and support systems.

Trauma and Juvenile Delinquency

Research suggests a strong association between trauma exposure and juvenile delinquency. Traumatic experiences such as abuse, neglect, or witnessing violence can increase the risk of delinquent behavior (Ford et al., 2010). Traumatized youth may exhibit aggression, substance abuse, or other maladaptive coping mechanisms as a response to their experiences.

Impact on Brain Development

Trauma during adolescence can significantly impact brain development, particularly in areas responsible for emotional regulation, impulse control, and decision-making. The prefrontal cortex and the limbic system, crucial for cognitive and emotional processing, may be adversely affected (McLaughlin et al., 2016). These neurological alterations can contribute to impulsive and risky behavior characteristic of delinquency.

Neurobiological Mechanisms

Neurobiological research has elucidated the mechanisms through which trauma influences juvenile delinquency. Dysregulation of stress response systems, alterations in neurotransmitter function, and disruptions in neural circuitry contribute to maladaptive behavior patterns (Teicher et al., 2016). Trauma-induced changes in brain structure and function may predispose individuals to engage in delinquent acts as a means of coping or seeking relief from distress.

Interventions and Implications

Understanding the neurobiological underpinnings of juvenile delinquency related to trauma informs the development of targeted interventions. Trauma-informed approaches that address underlying emotional and cognitive needs while promoting healthy brain development are essential. Early identification of trauma exposure and tailored interventions can mitigate the risk of delinquent behavior and promote positive outcomes for at-risk youth.

In conclusion, the intersection of trauma, brain development, and juvenile delinquency underscores the importance of holistic approaches to intervention and prevention. By addressing the underlying trauma and supporting healthy brain development, society can break the cycle of delinquency and promote resilience among vulnerable youth.

References:

- Ford, J. D., Chapman, J. F., Hawke, J., & Albert, D. (2010). Trauma among youth in the juvenile justice systems: Critical issues and new directions. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 11(3), 171-181.
- McLaughlin, K. A., Sheridan, M. A., & Lambert, H. K. (2016). Childhood adversity and neural development: Deprivation and threat as distinct dimensions of early experience. *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*, 47, 578-591.
- Teicher, M. H., Samson, J. A., Anderson, C. M., & Ohashi, K. (2016). The effects of childhood maltreatment on brain structure, function and connectivity. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, 17(10), 652-666.

FYI

For Your Information

What are the consequences of a probation violation in the adult system?

Depending on the crime committed or the technical violation, some of the possible outcomes of an offender's probation violation hearing are:

- Full revocation of their probation - they will now serve their original sentence in jail instead.
- Revocation of their probation and a new sentence, which can go up to the original crime's statutory maximum.
- Original probation sentence can be lengthened.
- Ordered to perform community service.
- Compulsory drug rehabilitation or other court-ordered treatment.
- A revision of their probation's conditions.



In Dauphin County, a point in time study was conducted as part of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board's Quality Assurance Subcommittee's activities. The study looked at all individuals on the prison roster at the beginning of 2024...

- There were **983** individuals on the roster (which does include the Work Release Center) as of that date.
- There were **163** individuals on the roster that were involved with adult probation. Of the 163 individuals, only 20 individuals were there on technical violations. This accounts for 2% of the prison roster population. The remaining 143 had received new charges in addition to being on active supervision.
- Of the **20** individuals, it is possible that they had charges in other counties that were not processed completely, and we were waiting for the charges. Additionally, some of the reasons for technical violations included: violations of sex offender conditions, violations for drug abuse and awaiting a treatment bed, and violations of treatment conditions.



What is the difference between county and state sentences in the adult system?

In PA, a prison sentence must have a minimum and a maximum time frame. A state sentence is a prison sentence with a maximum of two or more years. The Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole oversees the parole and supervision of state sentenced offenders. On the other hand, a county sentence has a maximum sentence of two years minus one day or less. The sentencing judge will grant parole for county sentences, and then the county parole officer will supervise the offender going forward.



Why is an offender charged a supervision fee?

According to Act 1991-35, an offender is charged at least \$25 as a supervision fee to help cover the parole or probation officer's duties, like their equipment and office space. This fee also lessens the burden on taxpayers.



When is an offender eligible for parole?

There is no right to parole in PA, but every offender who receives a state sentence with a minimum sentence date will be reviewed for parole at least 4 months before that date. If the parole board approves the offender for parole, they can be released on or after that minimum sentence date. Offenders serving life or execution sentences are not eligible for parole.

Probation Myths versus Facts



Myth:

Probation officers only monitor offenders and enforce rules.

Fact:

While monitoring and enforcing rules are a part of their responsibilities, probation officers also provide guidance, support, and resources to help offenders rehabilitate and reintegrate into society. They often connect offenders with education, employment, and treatment programs to address underlying issues and reduce recidivism.

Myth:

Juvenile probation is an easy way out compared to juvenile detention.

Fact:

Juvenile probation comes with strict requirements and conditions, including regular meetings with probation officers, adherence to curfews, and participation in programs aimed at addressing the problematic behaviors. Failure to comply can lead to more serious consequences, including placement in a juvenile detention facility.

Myth:

Probation officers have unlimited authority over probationers.

Fact:

While probation officers have authority to enforce probation terms and conditions, their power is not unlimited. They must adhere to legal guidelines and due process rights of probationers. Probationers have the right to challenge decisions made by probation officers and to have their cases reviewed by a judge.

Myth:

Juvenile probation is ineffective at reducing recidivism.

Fact:

Research shows that well-designed juvenile probation programs can be effective at reducing recidivism rates among young offenders. These programs often incorporate evidence-based practices, such as cognitive behavioral therapy, family interventions, and educational support, to address risk factors and promote positive outcomes.

Myth:

Probation officers only work with criminals.

Fact:

While probation officers primarily work with individuals who have committed criminal offenses, their role extends beyond law enforcement. They often collaborate with community organizations, social service agencies, and other stakeholders to address the complex needs of probationers and promote rehabilitation and reintegration.

Myth:

Juvenile probation officers only focus on punishment.

Fact:

Juvenile probation officers aim to rehabilitate and support young individuals. They work with juveniles and their families to address underlying issues, such as family dynamics, substance abuse, mental health, and educational needs. Their goal is to promote positive behavior change and prevent future involvement in the justice system.

Myth:

Probation is a one-size-fits-all approach.

Fact:

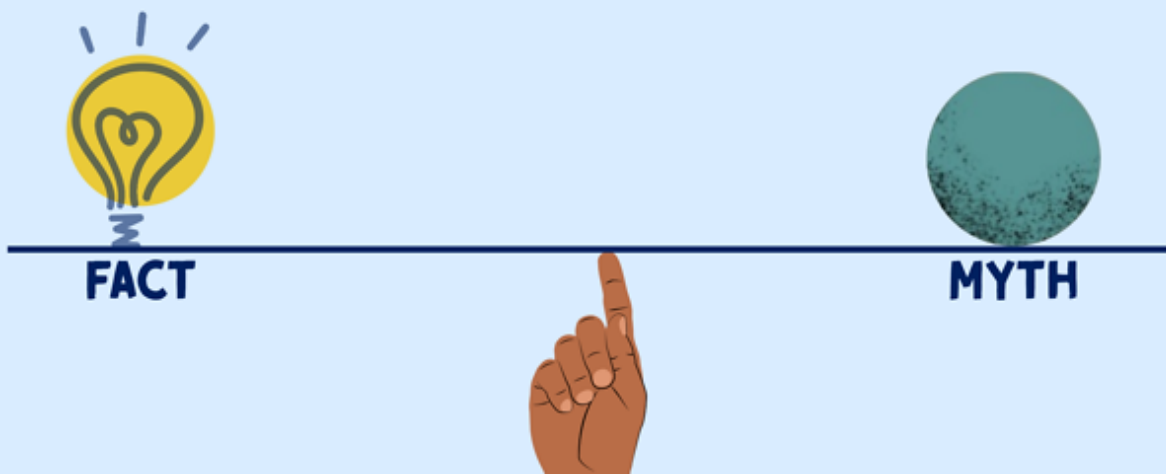
Probation is individualized to meet the unique needs and circumstances of each person. Probation officers assess risk levels, conduct need assessments, and develop personalized supervision plans tailored to address specific challenges and promote positive outcomes. This individualized approach increases the likelihood of successful rehabilitation and reduces recidivism.

Myth:

Probation officers have no compassion for those they supervise.

Fact:

Probation officers are trained to approach their work with empathy and understanding. They recognize that individuals under their supervision may have experienced trauma, substance abuse, mental health challenges, or other difficulties. Many officers work collaboratively with probationers to address underlying issues and support their efforts toward positive change.



Defined Jargon

Adjudication: The portion of a hearing in which the judge or a hearing officer determines whether a youth committed the crime or any portion of the crime for which they have been charged.

Adjudicatory Hearing: A fact-finding court proceeding that determines whether the allegations of a juvenile petition or other pleading are supported by legally admissible evidence. An adjudicatory hearing is similar to a non-jury trial in a criminal or civil proceeding.

Aftercare: Refers to the post-release services, supervision, and supports that help adults and youth reintegrate safely and successfully.

Alternative Sanctions: Nontraditional sentences in lieu of imprisonment and fines.

Examples of alternative sanctions are community service, in-home detention, day reporting, drug treatment, or placement on electronic monitoring.

Arraignment: The initial appearance of youth or adults before a court, at which time the court advises them of their formal charges, informs them of their constitutional rights, appoints counsel, schedules a hearing date, and establishes the need for detention, incarceration, alternative placement, or conditional release pending the next hearing.

Arrest: The act of taking a person into custody to be questioned or charged for the commission of a crime.

Beyond A Reasonable Doubt: A legal standard in which the degree of certainty required by the judge or jury to find a defendant guilty leaves no reasonable doubt that the defendant committed the alleged crime. This standard requires that no other logical explanation can be derived or inferred from the evidence provided.

Burden Of Proof: The duty to establish a claim or allegation by admissible and credible evidence at the time of hearing. Also referred to as “the legal standard,” this duty is usually the responsibility of the accuser, not the accused.

Beyond A Reasonable Doubt: A legal standard in which the degree of certainty required by the judge or jury to find a defendant guilty leaves no reasonable doubt that the defendant committed the alleged crime. This standard requires that no other logical explanation can be derived or inferred from the evidence provided.

Burden Of Proof: The duty to establish a claim or allegation by admissible and credible evidence at the time of hearing. Also referred to as “the legal standard,” this duty is usually the responsibility of the accuser, not the accused.

Community Service: A specified period of supervised work or service ordered by a court to be performed by a youth or adult without payment or compensation.

Community Supervision: Formal or informal probation supervision in the community ordered by a court.

Competency To Stand Trial: A defendant’s capacity to understand the nature and object of the proceedings, consult with counsel and assist in preparing his or her defense. Due process prohibits the government from prosecuting someone who is not legally competent to stand trial.

Congregate Care: Term used to describe placement settings that consist of 24-hour supervision for youth in varying degrees of highly structured settings, such as group homes, residential childcare communities or institutions, residential treatment facilities, or maternity homes.

Cooperative Supervision: Supervision by the correctional agency of one jurisdiction of a person placed on probation by a court or on parole by a paroling authority in another jurisdiction. This is also known as “courtesy supervision.”

Court: An agency of the judicial branch of government, authorized or established by statute or constitution, consisting of one or more judges or judicial officers who have the authority to decide on legal cases.

Crime: An illegal act punishable by law. A misdemeanor is a low-level crime, while a felony is a more serious crime.

Criminogenic Needs: Issues, risk factors, characteristics, or problems that relate to a person's likelihood of reoffending or recidivating.

Deferred Entry Of Judgment: A possible avenue for a youth who commits a felony. To be eligible for a deferred entry of judgment, the youth must be at least 14 years old and have never had probation revoked or been committed to the state’s Division of Juvenile Justice. If a youth successfully completes deferred entry of judgment, the matter is dismissed and deemed never to have occurred.

Dependent: A minor who needs the services or intervention of the state, pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code 300, as a result of parental abandonment, neglect, abuse, or failure or inability to control the minor's behavior. In some jurisdictions, very young children who have committed delinquent acts are treated as dependent children.

Deferred Entry Of Judgment: A possible avenue for a youth who commits a felony. To be eligible for a deferred entry of judgment, the youth must be at least 14 years old and have never had probation revoked or been committed to the state’s Division of Juvenile Justice. If a youth successfully completes deferred entry of judgment, the matter is dismissed and deemed never to have occurred.

Dependent: A minor who needs the services or intervention of the state, pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code 300, as a result of parental abandonment, neglect, abuse, or failure or inability to control the minor's behavior. In some jurisdictions, very young children who have committed delinquent acts are treated as dependent children.

Direct File: Youth who commit a serious or violent felony after the age of 14 whose case is filed directly in adult court and who face adult consequences. Proposition 57, approved by voters in November 2016, ended the practice of direct file and instead allows a judge to determine if a youth should be transferred to adult court.

Disposition: A court order that determines what is to be done with a youth following adjudication; or the formal resolution of a case before the court. For a youth, disposition analogous to the term “sentence” in an adult criminal case. Dispositions in cases regarding youth and status offenders may include sanctions and limitations upon the youth's conduct and liberty, as well as treatment and other rehabilitative interventions.

Disposition Hearing: A hearing that determines the appropriate sentence, placement, or terms and conditions of supervision for a youth following adjudication. Includes considerations of the youth's social and treatment needs.

Diversion: The practice of officially stopping or suspending a case prior to court adjudication and referring the youth to a community-based program in lieu of adjudication or incarceration. Successful completion of a diversion program results in the dismissal or withdrawal of formal charges. Youth who fail to comply with the diversion terms and conditions are normally subject to adjudication.

Electronic Monitoring: An option in community corrections, that is designed to verify that a youth or adult is at a given location during specified times or to ensure compliance with sanctions or restrictions, such as house arrest or curfew.

Emancipated Minor: A legal mechanism by which the court agrees to free a person under the age of 18 from the control of their parents or guardians. Emancipated minors are totally self-supporting, and their parents no longer have the right to their care, custody, and earnings, nor the responsibility to perform parental duties.

Felony: A serious crime designated by law or statute, for which the maximum penalty may be incarceration in a county jail, state prison, or federal penitentiary.

Hearing: A proceeding before a judicial officer in which information, documentation, and legal arguments are submitted by the parties and legal findings are made.

Home Supervision: A temporary release program in which a youth or adult is released to their home, with or without an electronic monitoring device, until the court process is complete.

Incorrigibility: Youth on probation supervision, pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code 601, for repeatedly failing to obey parents, habitual truancy, or harmful conduct.

Interstate Transfer: The transfer of supervision of a youth or adult from one state to another, pursuant to an agreement called an Interstate Compact.

Justice-Involved: Individuals who have become involved with the criminal justice system, including individuals in prison, in county jail, on probation, on parole, or undergoing an adult or juvenile matter through the court(s).

Juvenile: According to California state law, a minor or child under the age of 18.

Miranda Rights: A warning read by a probation or law enforcement officer reminding a youth or adult of their right to remain silent and to have an attorney present during questioning.

Misdemeanor: A crime designated by law or statute that is of a less serious nature than a felony. The maximum penalty provided for a misdemeanor may include imprisonment for up to one year, usually in a county or municipal facility, a fine, or both.

Notice of Alleged Violation (NOAV): The written notice issued to a respondent after a probation /parole officer has found probable cause to believe that there has been a violation of supervision.

P
Permanency: A social work practice philosophy that promotes a permanent living situation for every child entering the foster care system.

Petition: A document prepared by a prosecuting attorney and presented to the court that requests relief, damages, or performance by an opposing party.

Placement: Youth placed by a juvenile court in a residence in the community other than that of their primary caretaker.

Private Attorney: An attorney hired and paid for by a defendant who requires representation in court.

Probable Cause: A legal standard in which the evidence, facts or circumstances would lead a reasonable person to believe a suspect has committed a specific crime or delinquent act.

R
Re-Entry: Re-entry is the process of preparing and planning for adults released from jail or prison or youth who have been in out-of-home placements to transition back to their home communities.

Restorative Justice: A process and practice in which all parties with a stake in an offense voluntarily come together to determine collectively how to deal with the aftermath of the offense and its implications for the future. Restorative justice is a facilitated approach that involves collaboration among victims, the youth or adult who committed the offense, and the community. It establishes a process and forum for implementing sanctions that make amends for the wrongdoing.

Revocation Hearing: A judicial or administrative hearing held to determine whether a youth or adult's probation or parole status should be vacated because of an alleged violation of terms and conditions.

S
Status Offender: A youth who has been adjudicated for conduct that would not be an offense if committed by an adult (Welfare & Institutions Code 601), such as running away from home, truancy from school, disobeying parents or guardians, or drinking alcohol.

Subpoena: A written order issued by a court clerk or judicial officer requiring that a person appear in court on a specified day and time to serve as a witness in a case. Failure to comply can result in a contempt of court charge, which may be punishable by a fine, jail time, or both.

Supervision: The court-authorized and required oversight of youth or adults by a probation or parole agency that monitors their activities to ensure they comply with the terms, conditions and restrictions of their probation or parole.

Technical Violation: An act by a youth or adult on probation that does not conform to the terms and conditions of their probation but is not an actual crime.

Truant: Youth on probation supervision, pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code 601, for habitual truancy.

Victim: An individual or entity that suffered injury or economic loss as a result of an individual's illegal conduct. A victim may be a private citizen, a business, an organization, or a unit of government.

W
Violation: An offense designated by statute, ordinance or regulation for which there is no penalty enacted other than a fine, forfeiture, or other civil penalty. A violation is also known as an infraction.

Violation Of Probation: When a probation client engages in conduct that is prohibited by his or her conditions of probation or fails to perform an action that is required by his or her conditions of probation. A violation of probation is not considered a crime.

Warrant: An order of arrest issued by the court.





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