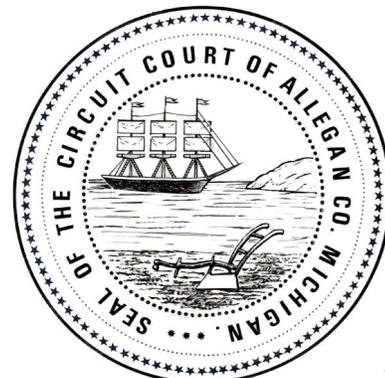


48TH CIRCUIT COURT

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019

CRIMINAL AND CIVIL, FRIEND OF THE COURT,
FAMILY DIVISION



THE JUDICIARY

**HON. MARGARET BAKKER,
CHIEF CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE**



**HON. ROBERTS KENGIS,
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE**



**HON. MICHAEL BUCK,
PRESIDING FAMILY COURT JUDGE**



CIRCUIT COURT STAFF

Public Servants - We come to work each day to make other peoples' lives better



Back Row: Erin Stender, Court Administrator;
Judge Kengis; Judge Bakker;
Chris Dulac, Financial Coordinator

Front Row: Carol Visser, Circuit Court Receptionist;
Carley Dalke, Judicial Secretary; Anne Lange,
Judicial Secretary; Chris White, Scheduling Clerk

Not Pictured: Law Clerk, Law Clerk

CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATION

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF
ERIN STENDER, CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATOR



Back Row: Chris Dulac, Erin Stender

Front Row: Carol Visser, Chris White

CIRCUIT COURT JUDICIAL TEAM

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF
HON MARGARET BAKKER,
CHIEF CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

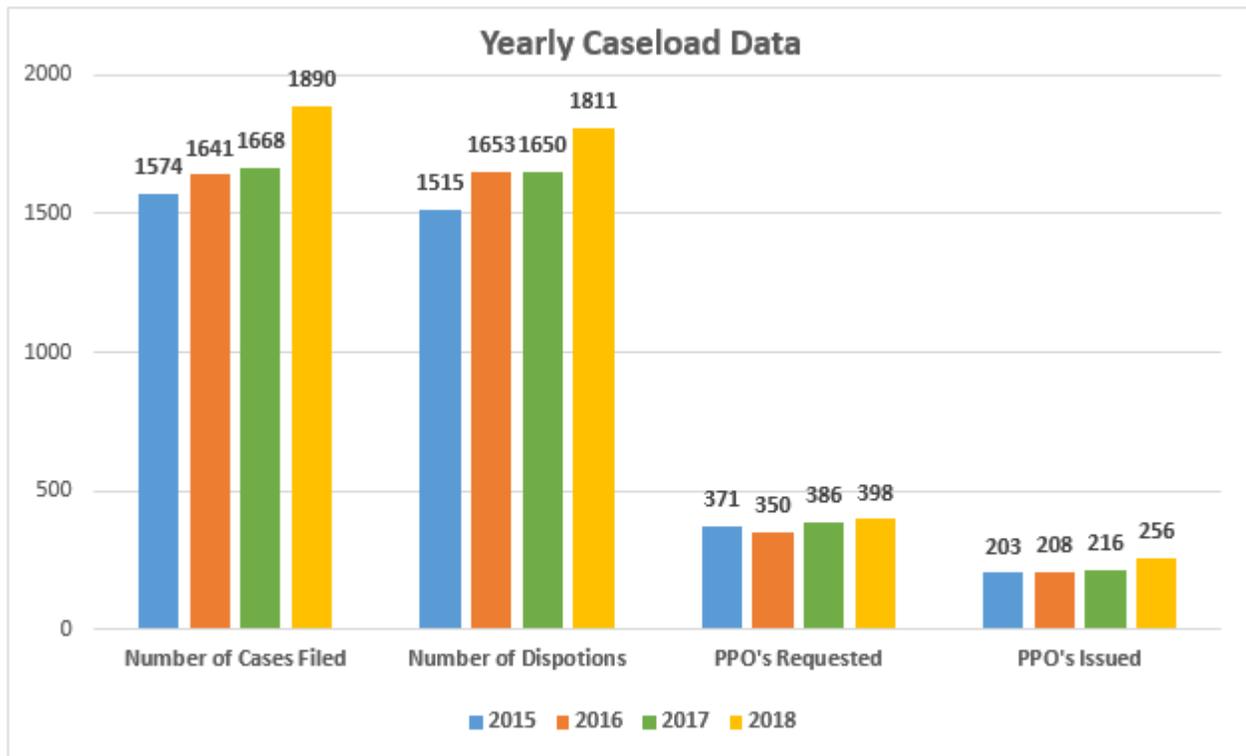


Back Row: Judge Kengis; Judge Bakker;

Front Row: Carley Dalke, Anne Lange

Not Pictured: Law Clerk, Law Clerk

CIRCUIT COURT STATISTICS: CASELOAD DATA



The Circuit Court has now seen a four year trend of consistent increases. We are the busiest we have been in the history of the court. We are currently analyzing all of our processes from scheduling dockets to jury summons in an effort to maintain our high levels of service, but there is no sign that things are slowing down.

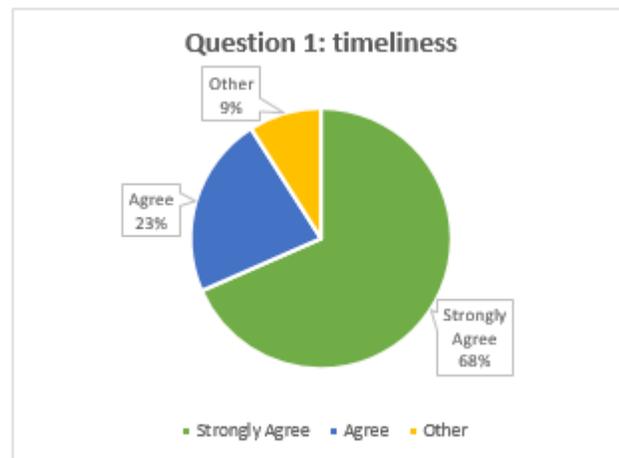
CIRCUIT COURT

STATISTICS:

CUSTOMER SERVICE

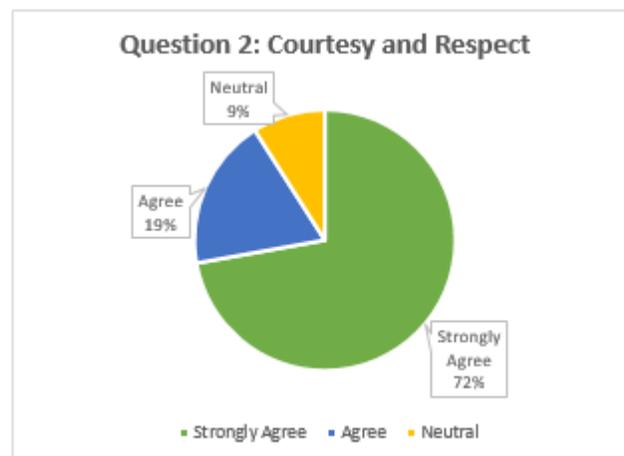
In 2018, the court again participated in a customer service survey. Of 133 random samplings, we have the following results on 2 of the 10 questions:

1. I was able to get my court business done in a reasonable amount of time today.



91% satisfaction rate

2. I was treated with courtesy and respect by court staff.



91% satisfaction rate

SWIFT AND SURE SANCTIONS PROBATION PROGRAM

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF
DUSTIN COPEMAN,
SSSPP CASE MANAGER



Pictured: Rep. Mary Whiteford, Sen. Aric Nesbitt, Judge Bakker, Judge Kengis,
Dustin Copeman—Case Manager, Thomas Myers—SCAO SSSPP Director

- Slowing the prison pipeline
- Completely Grant Funded
- Visited by 2 legislators, 2 supreme court justices, and the Supreme Court Administrator's Office SSSPP Director
- Joint effort between Allegan County Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney, Circuit Court Judges, and Michigan Department of Collections

ALLEGAN COUNTY LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (ACLAC)

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF
JAMIELYNNE COMMISSARIS AND LINDA TEETER



The Legal Assistance Center helps individuals with a variety of types of civil cases including divorce, child support, parenting time, custody, paternity, personal protection orders, guardianship, landlord-tenant, small claims, court-fee waivers, and judgment collection. Assistance includes providing tools, information, and forms to assist an individual in the advancement of their civil case.

At the Legal Assistance Center we only help Pro Per individuals. "Pro Per" is short for *propria persona*, which is Latin for "for oneself," usually applied to a person who represents themselves in a lawsuit rather than have an attorney. If you have an attorney, you do **not** qualify for assistance from the Legal Assistance Center.

ACLAC: SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Complimentary service was provided to **2,924 residents** of Allegan County of which 1,779 were repeat customers and 1,145 were first time visitors.

Testimonials:

A lady came into the Allegan County Legal Assistance Center seeking help with a divorce. She had been married to her husband for over 40 years, but she had experienced years of verbal abuse. Now that her kids were adults, and she had secured regular employment, she felt empowered to proceed with a divorce. However, she was unsure of the steps involved and not confident in her ability to represent herself. Through multiple trips to ACLAC, which included very detailed instructions on what she needed to do for every step, she was able to file her divorce summons and complaint, follow through with service and subsequent default paperwork and draft her judgment of divorce. Just moments after her final divorce hearing, where her divorce was granted, she returned to ACLAC to profusely thank the staff for their assistance and compassion through the entire process. “I couldn’t have done this without you. God bless you,” she said.

A grandmother came into the Allegan County Legal Assistance Center, requesting help with adopting her five grandchildren. The childrens’ mother, the patron’s daughter, had abuse and neglect charges against her and had her parental rights terminated. The grandmother and her husband had been guardians of the children for more than a year, and now she wanted to give them security of a forever family. During her three visits to ACLAC, staff walked her through each of the five adoption petitions, and ensured each question was answered and required attachments were included. After the paperwork was complete, she filed it with Circuit Court and received a court hearing date. Shortly after, the adoptions were finalized and all five children have a forever family.

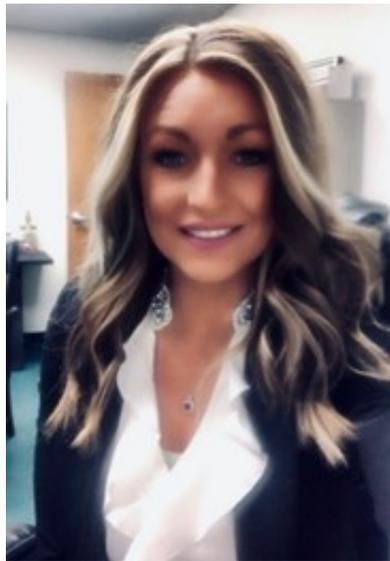


ALLEGAN COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF

JENNIFER KAMPS

FRIEND OF THE COURT



2018, was a sad and challenging year as the Friend of the Court (FOC) faced the retirement of Mike Day. Despite this great loss, the FOC team worked through the transitions and continued to meet all performance standards set by the State and Federal title IV-D programs.

Also in 2018, the FOC welcomed the Friend of the Court Bureau (FOCB) into the office to review all practices and procedures. This review was initiated by a request from the Honorable Margaret Zuzich Bakker, after learning about the option for assistance from the State Court Administrator's Office. Throughout 2018, analysts from FOCB met with all FOC staff members, interviewed local attorneys, and examined all office procedures. Following completion of this review, a detailed 140 page report was provided which outlined all recommendations. The FOC, Court Administrator and the Judges will continue to review and implement the recommendations over the next few years.

FRIEND OF THE COURT STAFF



Jennifer Kamps
Friend of the Court



Jaclyn Jelsema
Attorney/Referee



Kelsey Hooker
Conciliator/Investigator



Aimee Kamphuis
Conciliator/Investigator



Aaron Arredondo
Enforcement Specialist



Jesse Bergwerff
Enforcement Specialist



Jessica Guzman
Specialized Enforcement



Shawn Shaw
Enforcement Specialist



William Tange
Enforcement Specialist

FRIEND OF THE COURT STAFF



Candy Adrianson
Legal Assistant/CER



Gina Cole
Support Investigator



Jenny Curry
Support Investigator



Laura Calvillo
Client Financial Services Clerk



Brynne Ebels
Clerk II



Jody Leonard
Clerk II



Nicole Bakri
Receptionist

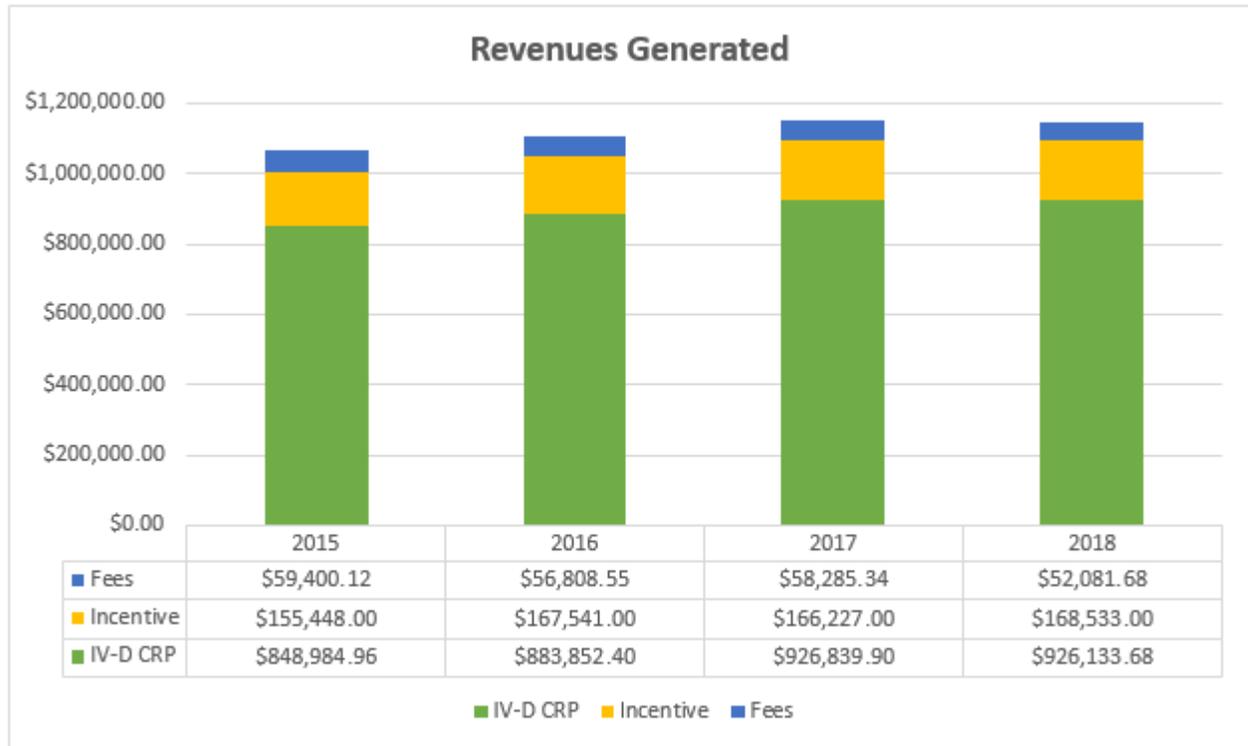


Missy Risner
Receptionist

FOC COMMUNITY OUTREACH: ALTERNATIVE CONTEMPT TRACT “ACT PROGRAM” 2018 STATISTICS

- 23 individuals were admitted into the program, which represented 27 cases.
- Weekly check-ins
 - ◊ 371 successful contacts
 - ◊ 189 unsuccessful contacts
- 8 support modifications
- 8 successful discharges
- 11 unsuccessful discharges
- \$5,340.96 was collected on these “uncollectable” cases during 2018.
- One participant recently reported that the program was “the best thing that has ever happened to him.”
- Another participant has asked to be placed back on SCRAM (alcohol monitoring)

FOC COUNTY REVENUES:

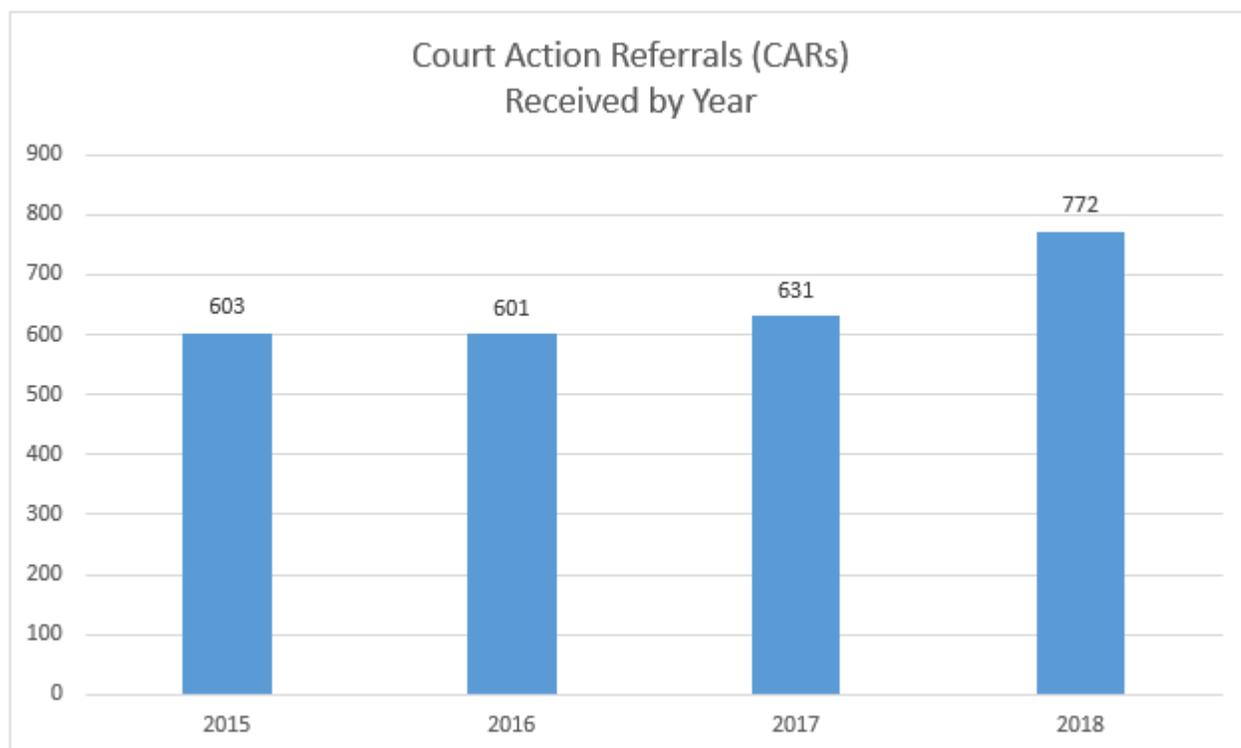


1. **IV-D CRP** reflects the revenue for IV-D services. It is the total amount received under the Cooperative Reimbursement Program (CRP) contract. The CRP is a federal payment allocated to the county general fund. This amount is directly related to the amount of expenditures by the FOC office.
2. **Incentive** reflects the performance-based federal payment allocated to the county general fund. It is the total amount of incentives received pursuant to the federal IV-D program. 42 USC 658A, 45 CFR 305.35.
3. **Fees** reflects the statutory collections allocated to the county general fund. It is the total amount for semiannual service fees, which is \$2.25 received by the county treasurer and not the service fees collected and sent to the state treasurer.

MCL 600.2538(1).

FOC STATISTICS:

EXCEEDING THE STANDARD



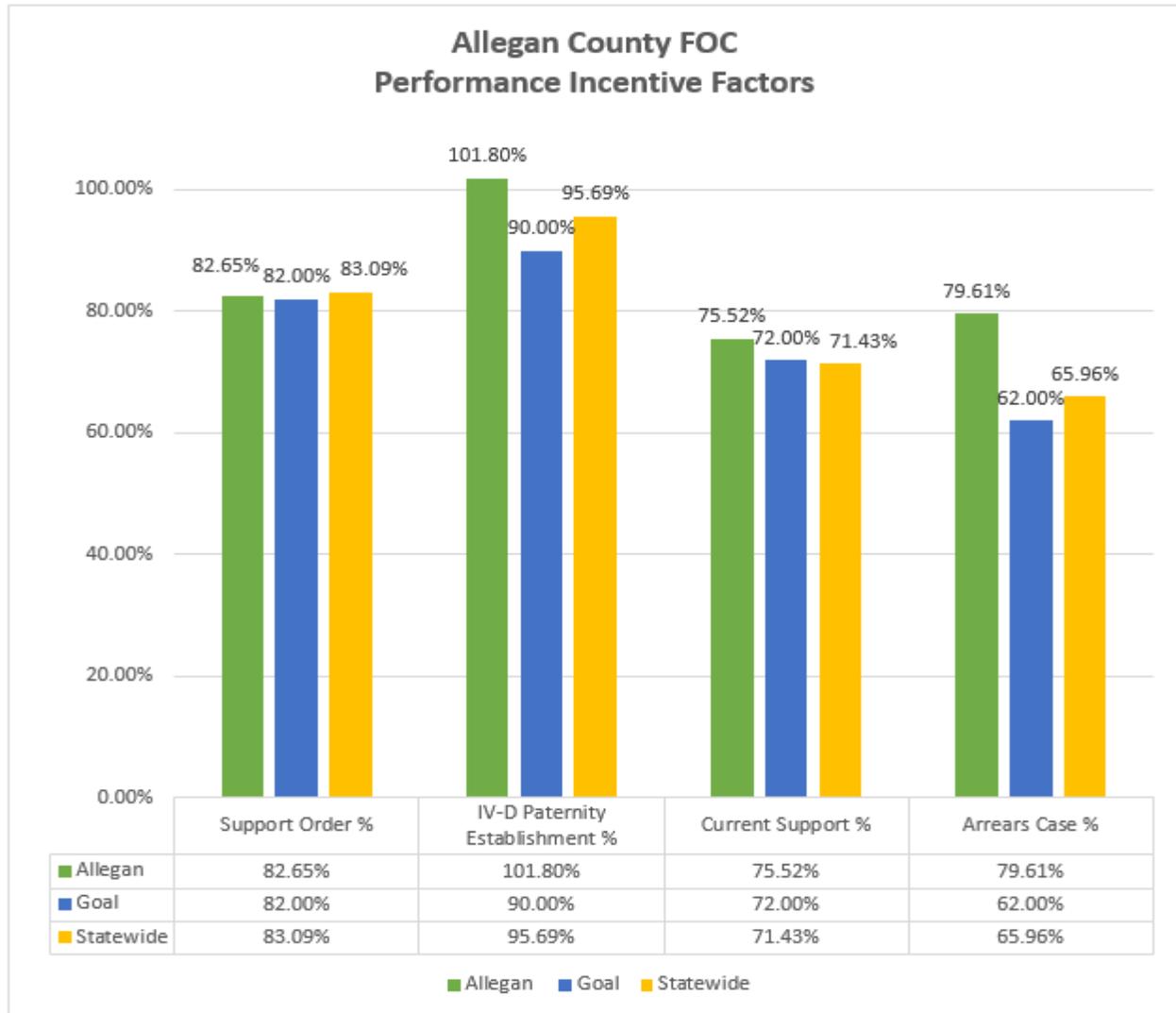
The Establishment unit of the FOC received 772 referrals to begin paternity and child support actions in 2018. Future incentive payments will be based upon meeting separate Contract Performance Standards:

- 1) 75% of the referrals must be worked within 14 days,
- 2) 75% of cases must meet the federal expiration date for service, and
- 3) 75% of the cases must have a final order within 6 months.

The Establishment unit consistently meets and exceeds standards #1 and #3, but needs assistance with standard #2, serving the complaints within the given timeframes.

FOC STATISTICS:

EXCEEDING THE STANDARD

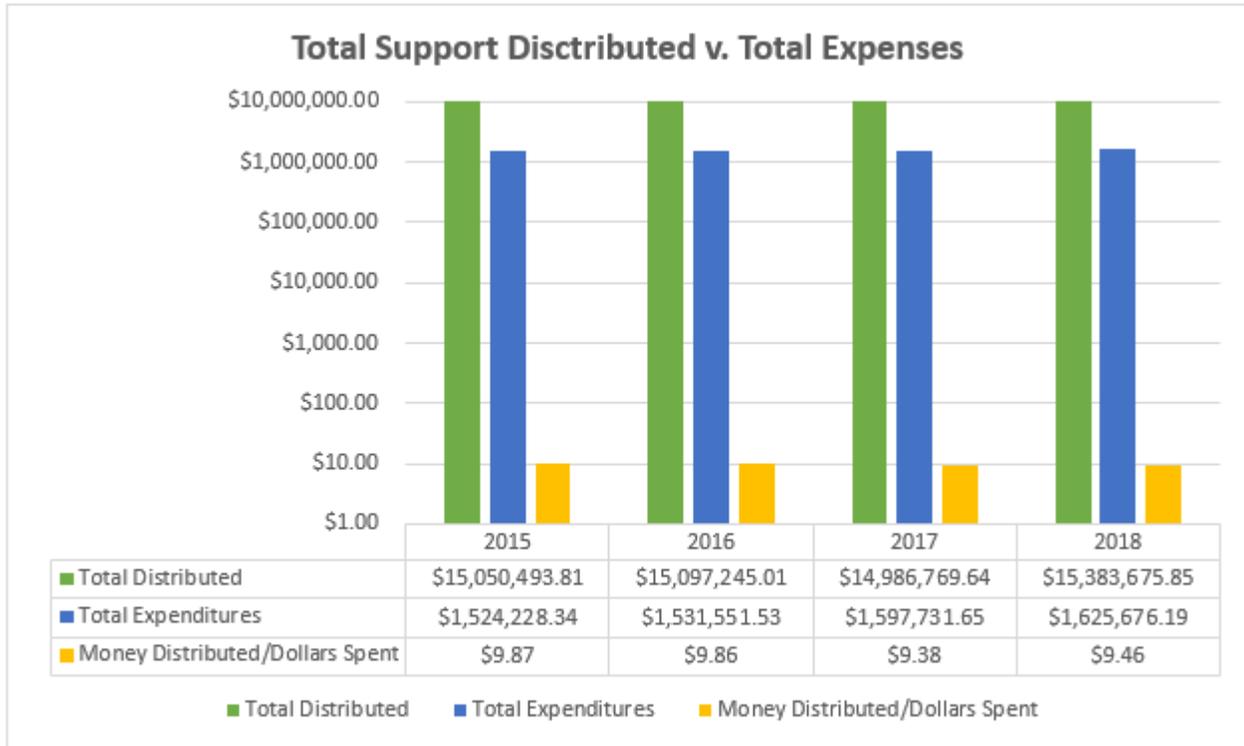


Again this year the FOC continues to meet or exceed the goals set forth by the state in every performance incentive factor category.

The above graph compares Allegan FOC to the statewide performance and also the goals for performance set forth by the state. Ultimately, each individual county FOC office needs to meet the goals in order for the state to maximize its incentive dollars, which are distributed to the counties.

These numbers are provided through a tracking system implemented by the state called the Dashboard. These numbers can be accessed through Business Objects in the Michigan Child Support Enforcement System.

FOC STATISTICS:

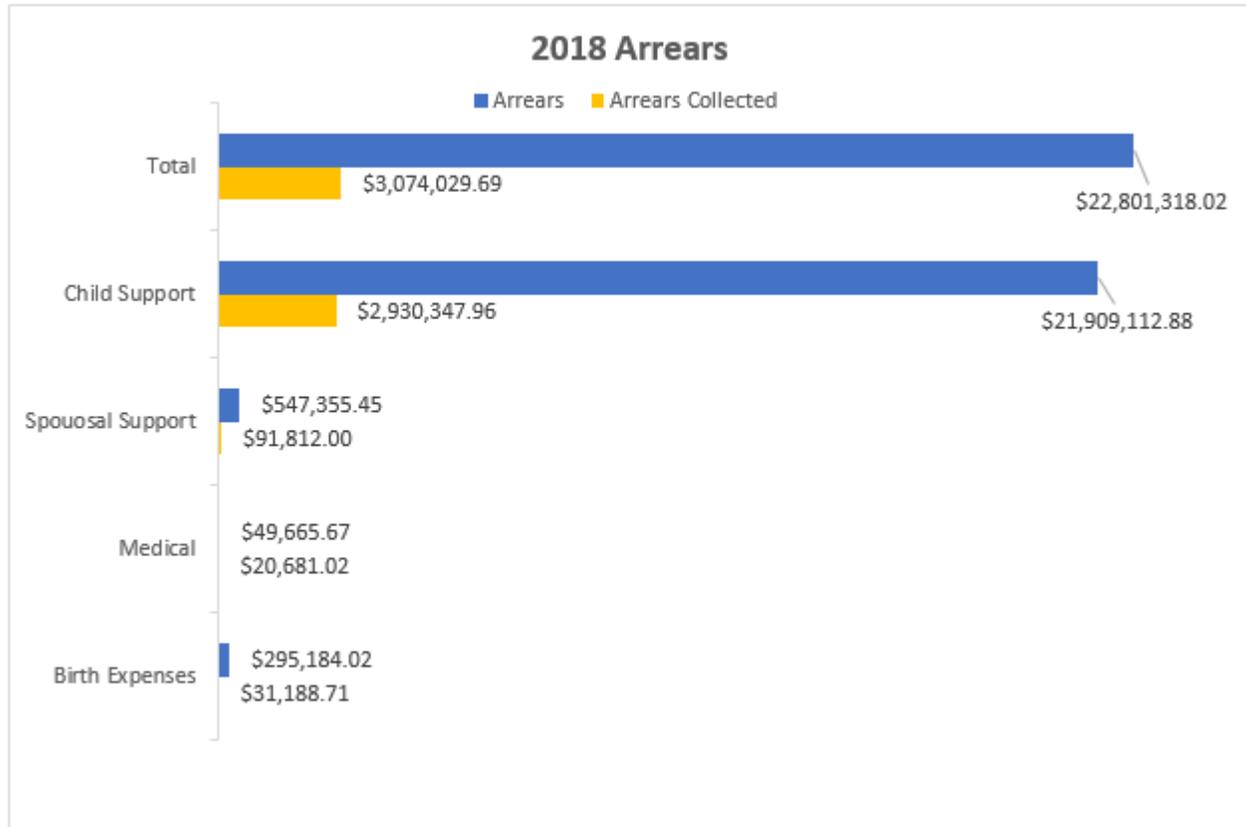


For every dollar the FOC spends to perform daily tasks and functions there is over \$9.00 in support that is distributed.

The total amount of support distributed includes IV-D and non IV-D child support, IV-D and non IV-D spousal support, child care, ordinary medical expenses, extraordinary medical expenses, birthing costs, educational expenses, interstate payments, payer's bonuses, and foster care payments collected.

The total expenses include the amount spent to perform IV-D and non IV-D functions, and expenses billed by offices or agencies outside the FOC office, for example, custody investigations and mediations performed by a human services agency.

FOC STATISTICS:



In 2018, Allegan County FOC cases had a total of **\$22,801,318.02** in arrears, which is money that is past due.

567 bench warrants were issued in 2018.

776 support show cause hearings were conducted by the Circuit Court Judges in 2018.

As of April 1, 2019:

- There were **279** active bench warrants for payors with an address in Michigan.
 - The bond payments alone totaled **\$655,665.00**.
- There are another **171** active bench warrants for payors with a bad address.
- There are another **129** active bench warrants for payors residing outside of Michigan.
- Total of **579** outstanding warrants.
- Allegan FOC is not currently able to utilize other permitted enforcement remedies, such as booting vehicles or placing liens/seizing/selling property.

48TH CIRCUIT COURT, FAMILY DIVISION

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF
HON MICHAEL L. BUCK
PRESIDING FAMILY COURT JUDGE



Serving the youth of Allegan County



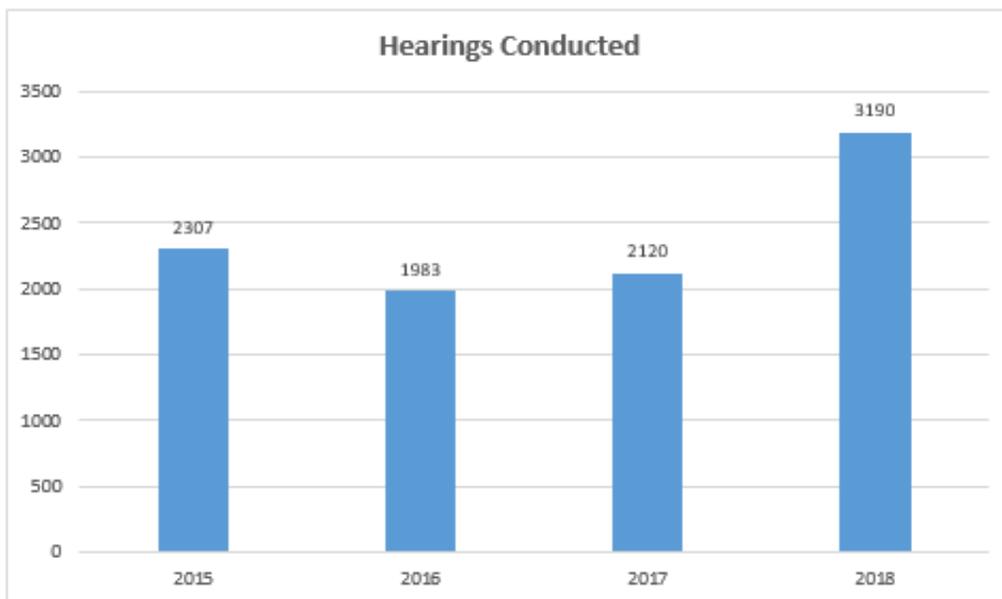
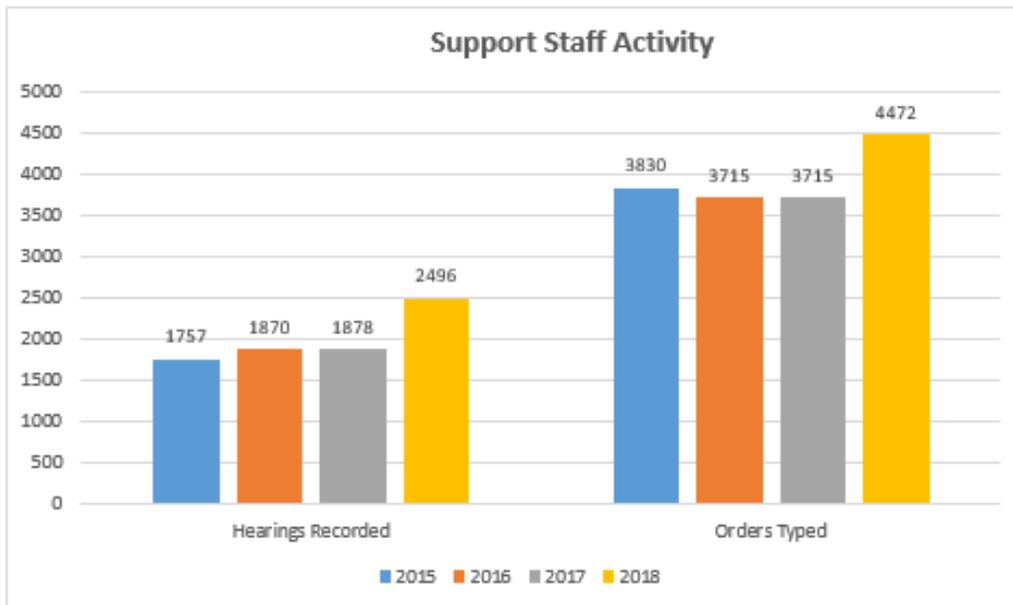
FAMILY COURT STAFF



Back Row: Amy Cornell, Judicial Secretary; Hon Michael Buck, Presiding Family Court Judge; Craig Sewell, Attorney Referee; Jolene Clearwater, Attorney Referee

Front Row: Alicia Nevenzal, Client Financial Services Clerk; Meagan Scofield, Client Financial Services Clerk; Cyndi Krug, Assignment Clerk/Court Recorder

FAMILY COURT STATISTICS



Similar to Circuit Court, Family Court is seeing a consistent rise in courtroom activity.

**48TH CIRCUIT COURT,
FAMILY DIVISION:
COMMUNITY PROBATION AND
JUVENILE DIVERSION**

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF

JOLENE CLEARWATER

DIRECTOR OF PROBATION / ATTORNEY REFEREE



COMMUNITY PROBATION AND JUVENILE DIVERSION



Back Row: Ben Schruer, Charlie DeVries, Katie Kurdelski, Van Sloan

Front Row: Ann Marie Briggs, Janice Lovett, Jolene Clearwater

A key component of family court probation is the community involvement of probation officers. Every probation officer is encouraged to participate in a community-based group, and as a result, probation staff sit on committees such as the Multi-Agency Coordinating Council, Allegan County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Allegan County Suicide Prevention Coalition, Allegan County Coordinating Council on Domestic Violence, and the Ottaway County Gang Taskforce. Probation officers are volunteers with 4-H, church-based youth groups, and are actively encouraged to attend client's school and community-based events such as sporting events, concerts, and awards assemblies. In coordination with local churches, family court probation also assists with long-standing traditions involving giving back to the community. Specifically, probation staff assist with the Episcopal Church Christmas Party and gift delivery from the Otsego Church of God.

COMMUNITY PROBATION AND JUVENILE DIVERSION COMMUNITY OUTREACH: HOLIDAY SPIRIT

In 2018, the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, in partnership with the Hunter family, hosted the **54th Annual Christmas party** for disadvantaged youth in the community. The church and Hunter family regularly reach out to family court probation for assistance in sending out invitations, arranging transportation from local elementary schools (and home, if necessary), and helping to chaperone and monitor the party. At the party, kids participate in singing Christmas carols, seeing a magic show, eating pizza and treats, and also receive a gift from Santa. Family court probation is proud to be a part of this tradition.



The Julie Hunter Children's Christmas Party

The Children's Christmas Party was established in 1964 by Julie Hunter, a juvenile probation officer. Julie saw the need and wished for her church, The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, to be involved.



The first party had more than 100 guests. Allegan County Probate workers made the invitation list and transported the children to the event.

Julie treated the children as an extension of her own family.

When Julie died in 1973, John Atkins stepped in to continue the tradition. It has been a continuous affair that the Episcopal Church Women has sponsored. Today, Chuck and Linda Pullen are instrumental to the effort. Each event is a great party with magic, caroling and a visit from Santa Claus.

Every Christmas season, generous donors and volunteers at the Otsego Church of God provide gifts to juvenile justice-involved youth and their siblings. Family court probation provides to OCG non-identifying information regarding these children such as sizes, likes/dislikes, and needs. OCG volunteers then purchase a truckload (literally!) of gifts to be given to these children during the Christmas season. After these gifts are delivered to the court, probation officers are tasked with playing Santa by delivering a bag of gifts to each child. This tradition is wonderful, and the generosity and giving spirit of the OCG volunteers is uplifting and inspiring. Family court probation looks forward to the privilege of being part of this tradition long into the future.

COMMUNITY PROBATION AND JUVENILE DIVERSION TRUANCY TASK FORCE



Pictured: Director of Probation and Attorney Referee, Jolene Clearwater, swearing in 3 Truancy Officers at Plainwell High School.

The Truancy Task Force is present in every Allegan County school district with the exception of Otsego Schools. This great collaboration between Family Court, the Prosecutors Office, Community Resources, AAESA and MDHHS is helping families keep the children of Allegan County in school.

48TH CIRCUIT COURT, FAMILY DIVISION: JUVENILE DETENTION

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF
ROBIN LYONS

DIRECTOR OF DETENTION AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES



The Detention Program is designed to provide a short-term, physically restrictive, safe and humane environment for youth, both male and female, ages 10-17 who are detained pending further court action. Youth under the age of 18 who are charged with committing a delinquent or criminal act are processed through the juvenile justice system. While similar to that of the adult criminal justice system in many ways—process includes arrest, detainment, petitions, hearings, adjudications, dispositions, placement, and probation. The juvenile justice process operates according to the premise that youth are fundamentally different from adults, both in terms of level of responsibility and potential for rehabilitation. In 2018 the juvenile center admitted 264 youth and the average length of stay was 21 days. Release from detention occurs only through posting of bond (if applicable), or by order of the court.

Although not a treatment program, the detention program offers daily programming and activities within the framework of a token economy system to help youth learn how to use more appropriate/positive behaviors.

JUVENILE DETENTION PROGRAMING

Education

The educational program at the Allegan County Juvenile Detention Center is provided by the Outlook Academy. Residents are expected to fully participate in the education program provided daily during the school year. During the summer residents attend four half days for 6-10 weeks depending on funding. In most cases, residents will be enrolled in school after 3 days in detention. Their prior school is notified and records requested. Students are encouraged to stay on track with their academics and often use a credit recovery program such as E20/20 to stay on course. Residents are screened in the area of reading shortly after admission and will receive individual reading intervention if testing determines they are below their grade level. GED completion is also an option for youth age 16 or above with little chance of earning the credits needed to receive a diploma. For those residents, Outlook staff and detention staff collaborate to provide services needed for a successful completion of the GED. In 2018 nine youth received their GED certificate.

Why Try

“Why Try” is a researched based national program used in schools, and correctional facilities, to help kids overcome daily challenges and live lives of opportunity, freedom, and self-respect. The curriculum teaches social and emotional skills using a practical, multi-sensory approach. Hands on learning activities engage the youth while they learn skills needed to improve behavior and academics. Emphasis include; basic problem solving, anger management, dealing with peer pressure, building a support system and working on future goals.



JUVENILE DETENTION

PROGRAMING

Art Therapy

Jeff from Jeff Blandford Gallery in Saugatuck provides art therapy by using clay so the residents have an opportunity to produce various items and express themselves in a new way. Pottery has several benefits for the residents including a new creative outlet, improved focus, boost in self-esteem, stress reduction, and an opportunity to practice social skills in a group setting. Emphasis is given to creating for others. This year the youth delivered gifts to the medical care facility and water/food bowls to a local pet rescue.

Book Club

Scheduled book club and shared journal writing is scheduled at the beginning of the second part of the day for the residents. It is an opportunity to promote a love for literature and a positive attitude towards reading. One book is read by the youth and staff and discussions generated. Book themed incentives such as T-shirts, book bags, and book marks are provided to generate enthusiasm.



Gardening

The gardening program kicks off in April by planting seeds to transplant into the garden. The program helps the youth learn about growing vegetables, helps them understand where healthy food comes from, and get active outdoors in the garden. Life skills training is tied into the gardening program to encourage the youth to grow and prepare their own food.



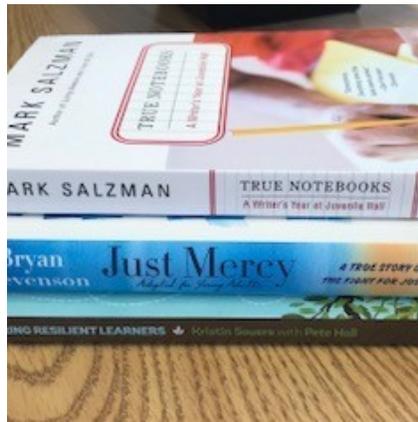
Life Skills

Residents are coached to demonstrate competency in several areas including; laundry, room care and bed making, meal manners, meal preparation, food storage, use of kitchen appliances, maintaining personal appearance, know yourself– your strengths, limitations, manage your time, and be a life long learner.

JUVENILE DETENTION PROGRAMING

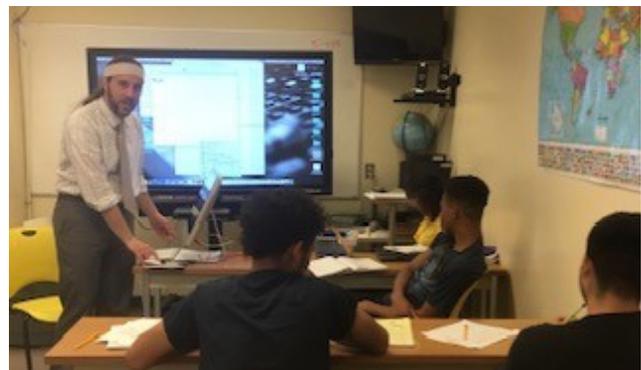
Staff Training

Staff training and teamwork can be a challenge in a 24 -7 facility. In an effort to help model a culture of on-going education staff participate in book clubs throughout the year. Book clubs are an opportunity to share and learn together, but are also used as a way to model strategies the staff can use when facilitating book clubs with the youth. A few of the books enjoyed in 2018 include; *Fostering Resilient Learners: Strategies for Creating a Trauma-Sensitive Classroom* by Kristin Souers, *Just Mercy A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson and *True Notebooks—A Writer’s Year at Juvenile Hall* by Mark Salzman.



Music Therapy

The juvenile center offers music therapy for residents in detention to augment efforts in the programs that address social and vocational skill building, conflict resolution, attention control, and problem solving skills.



JUVENILE DETENTION

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborating with others to enhance programming opportunities for our youth.

Prime for Life is an alcohol and drug program for people of all ages. It is designed to gently but powerfully challenge common beliefs and attitudes that directly contribute to high-risk alcohol and drug use. The program goals are to reduce the risk for health problems and impairment . Provided by CMH staff.

Mi Works through resume building, interviewing, and employment related strategies. Provides students with information and training as it relates to employment.

Barnabas Ministries provides our facility with weekly youth groups and mentoring, as well as schedules local pastors to come in for Sunday afternoon services.

Community Mental Health provides health care services for our residents.

Louie Morand provides weekly music therapy for the residents.

Jeff Blandford from Blandford Gallery provides Art Therapy for our residents.

Bruce Adams although recently retired as an employee from juvenile detention, Bruce volunteers to work with the residents once a week with the *Highly Effective Teen* curriculum.

2018 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Youth made and delivered projects in November and December for the Medical Care Facility. Centerpieces to decorate the dining tables and an assortment of clay ornaments were shared with the residents to help brighten their holiday season.



A fundraiser to help sustain art therapy was held by collaborating with Saugatuck Center for the Arts in February 2019. Pottery was on display for purchase prior to an event at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts.

Giving back.....Youth made food /water bowls for newly adopted pets.



JUVENILE CENTER STAFF



Felipe Gonzalez and Taneesha Plair are the night owls keeping watch over the facility while the rest of us sleep.



Youth Specialists: Mary Robinson, Eric Essenburg, Alex Holshoe and Reading Interventionist -Lonna Schaap



Deborah Arms (Juvenile Register) and Wendy Dopp (Deputy Juvenile Register) keep the departments running smoothly.



Janitor, Robert Trujillo, joined the juvenile center team in September 2018. The building has never looked this good!



Anna Cole and Joan Laraway are the food service staff and the reason the residents and staff are well fed!



David Chan—Youth Specialist



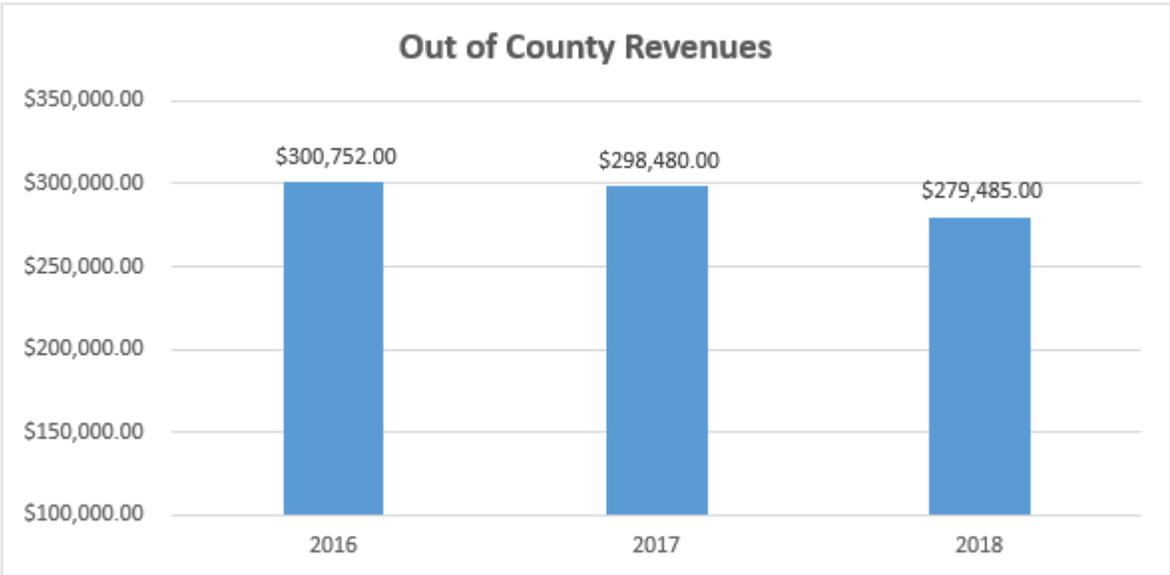
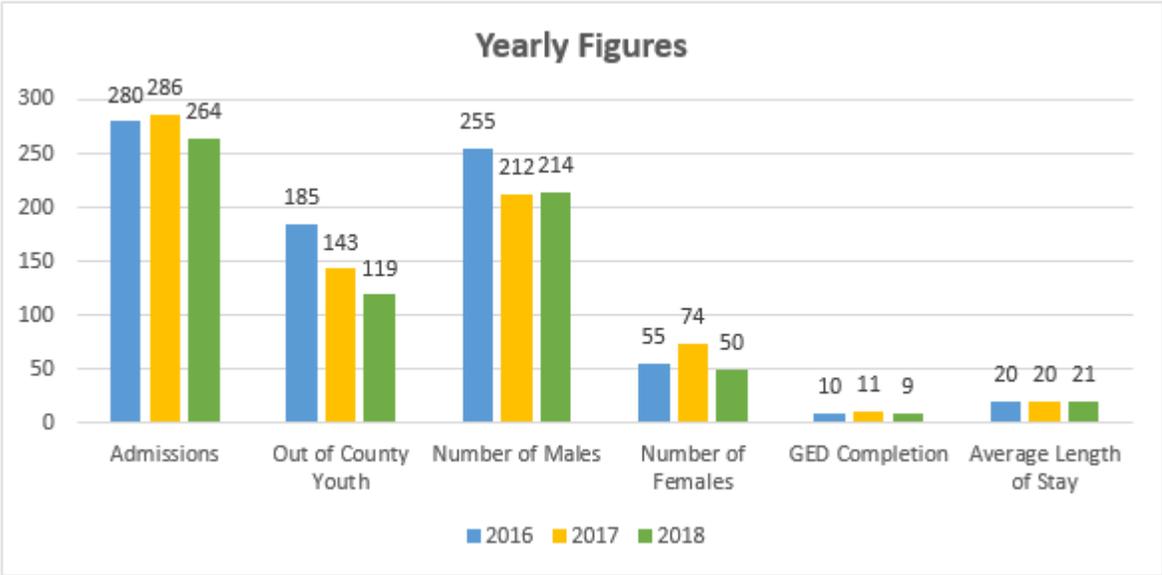
Youth Specialists (back row) Juan Charo, Cori Perkins, Sergio Armijo, Felipe Gonzalez, and Brandon Broekhuizen



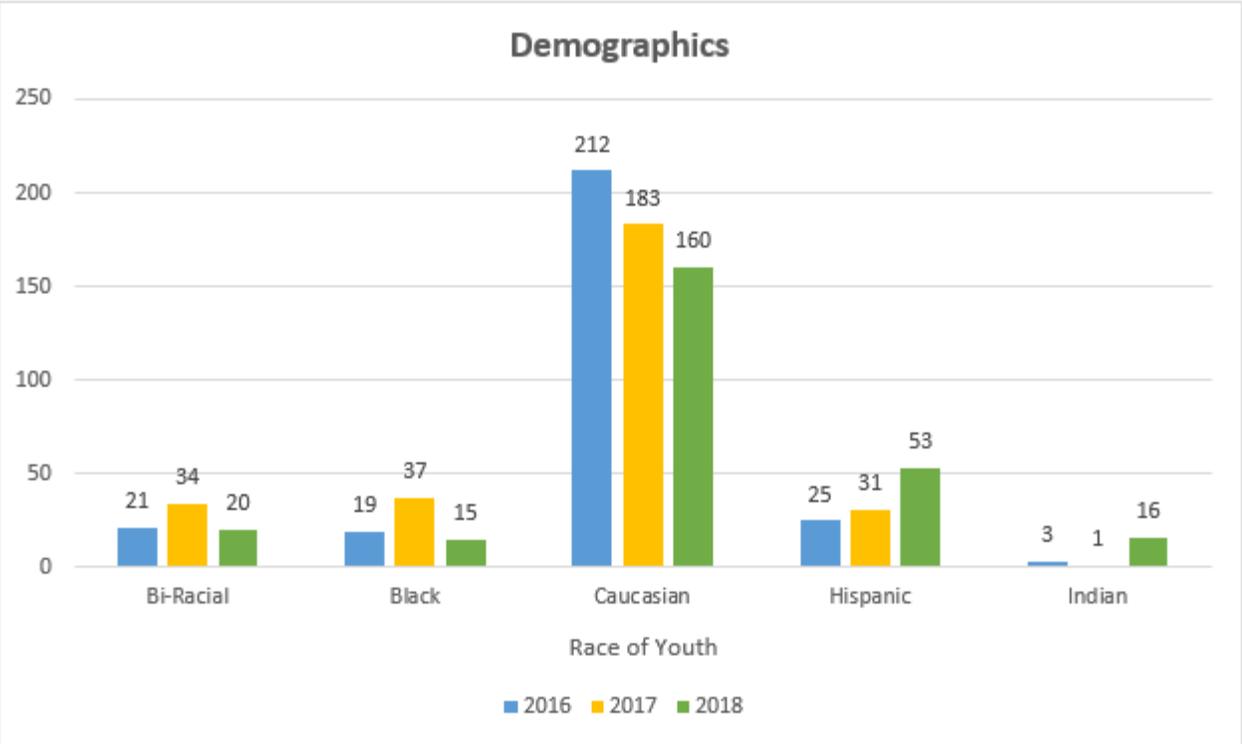
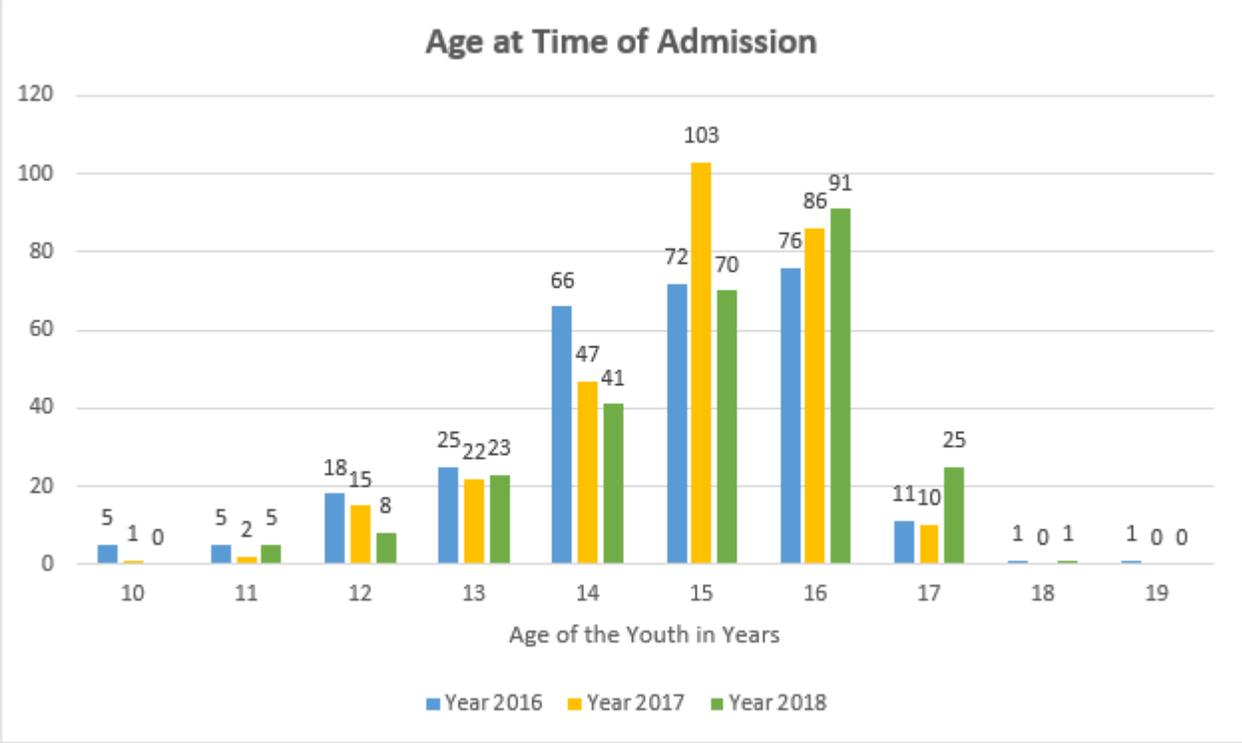
Supervisory Team

Alma Benavidez-Alonzo Supervisor, Jim Dortch—Assistant Director, Robin Lyons—Director, and John Morris—Supervisor

JUVENILE CENTER STATISTICS

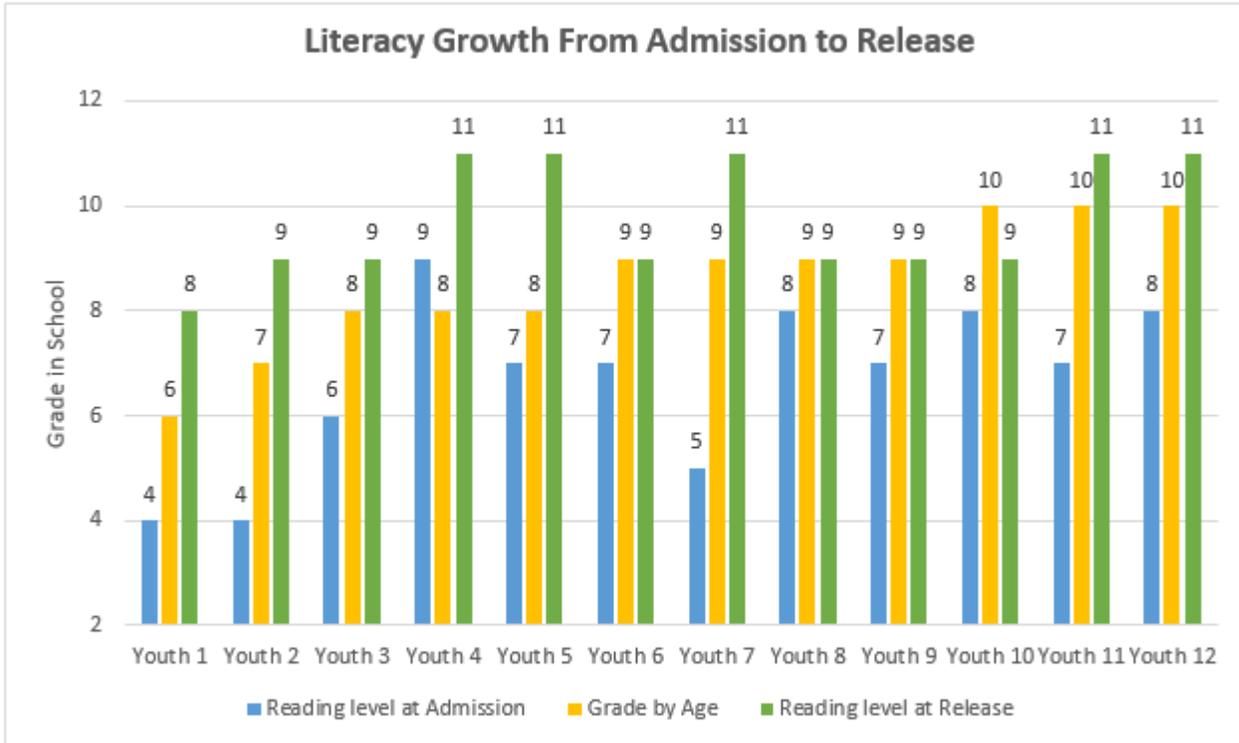


JUVENILE CENTER STATISTICS



JUVENILE CENTER

LITERACY IMPROVEMENT



In 2018—25 youth were detained 30 days or more. This table is a sample of youth tested using the San Diego Quick Assessment tool at the time of admission and a minimum of 30 days following admission giving us a clear indication of growth. As you can see in the graph above, all youth met or exceeded their par reading level for their grade.



COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Community Justice Officers: Kendall Domeier, Lisa Dortch, Director Robin Lyons, and Judy Skinner

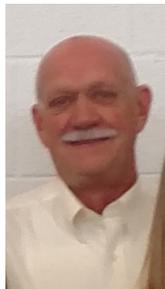
The community resources team covers multiple services including but not limited to:

- Aftercare
- Surveillance
- Community Service
- Skill Streaming Groups

youth
services

48TH CIRCUIT COURT, FAMILY DIVISION: CHEEVER TREATMENT CENTER

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF
TED REIMER
CHEEVER TREATMENT CENTER DIRECTOR



Broadening our skills, one family at a time



CHEEVER TREATMENT CENTER STAFF



Back Row: Nate VanderPloeg—Treatment Specialist, Jessica Duguid—Clinical Psychologist, Emily Frisbie—Treatment Specialist, Dustin Peck—Treatment Specialist, John Arens—Treatment Specialist, Ted Reimer—Director, Darrin Meiste—Treatment Specialist

Front Row: John Mieras—Supervisor, Heidi Chu—Treatment Specialist, Jodi Langlois—Supervisor, Kristen Schauss—Treatment Specialist, Ross Robrahn—Treatment Specialist, Aida Cefo—Treatment Specialist, Krystal Skinner—Treatment Specialist, Ken Cote—Treatment Specialist

Not Pictured: Terri Sharrar—Supervisor

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

Last year's report addressed the significant complexity of the mental health concerns our residents are suffering from when they are admitted into Cheever. This past year we experienced the continuation of mental health struggles. These mental health issues are often the result of complex trauma in the resident's life. This leads to external manifestations of social maladjustment, poor problem solving, victim thinking, and a sense of entitlement, along with anger and depression. Having these issues, it is predictable that they will struggle in school, at home and in the community.

Our focus is to work with families, in particularly the impact of trauma and strategies related to treating trauma. Most of the families we work with have experienced a significant traumatic event or in some cases multiple events. The trauma impacts the behavior and mental functioning of these youth. Symptoms of trauma can be anger, depression, anxiety, flashbacks, fatigue, loss of concentration, hypervigilance, avoidance, isolation, emotional numbing, lack of trust and suicidal thoughts/ideation.

The complexity of the trauma is the root issue. Everyone has been harmed in their own way, thus treatment is individual for each youth. We must ask ourselves how do we put the pieces back together? Do they want to have their life be different? If I agree to making a change, what will I lose?

The therapeutic systems Cheever utilizes in treatment are in place to create healthy resilience in the residents as well as the family. First and foremost, we work to build relationships with all parties to increase the willingness to listen to the information and trust that the person providing it has their best interest at heart. As simple as it sounds, the residents and families we work with are extremely reluctant to trust others.

Creating healthy resilience is achieved through multiple parts. Cheever incorporates these parts in our therapeutic systems of care. We provide treatment groups focused on strengthen relationships. The two groups, Choice Theory / Reality Therapy and Restorative Practices.

Learning Opportunities



FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

Choice Theory / Reality Therapy and Restorative Practices, build the understanding of empathy and learning new coping skills for stronger relationships that lead to more effective life choices. The families are introduced to the information along with being challenged to integrate these skills into their families' lives. Cheever staff meets with the families in their homes twice a month to assist the resident in teaching their family what they are learning. The family meetings continue to build relationships, as they discuss how to integrate the information into the family's life.

Cheever residents and their families become involved in family therapy with Jessica Duguid, our psychologist. This is an extremely important part in the process to build healthy resilience. The valuable work the resident and families complete in therapy focuses on three areas. First, Jessica works with them to build on current protective factors, which begins with building a trusting working relationship. The second area is working to create a safe environment where families can share the deeper issues that negatively impact overall family functioning. The third area includes Jessica working with families to explore options for change and identifying resources to assist them in the difficult process of change.

Trauma affects families' ability to function appropriately. It may cause extreme levels of stress and burden that have them feeling overwhelmed. The overwhelming feelings make family functioning difficult. Cheever provides continuity of care. This provides a safe environment for the residents and their families to be less stressed and more open to improve the wellness of the family. The desired outcome is to foster a greater sense of family resiliency.

CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHEEVER RESIDENTS

- Focus Group (Choice Theory teaching)
- Balanced and Restorative Justice Group (BARJ)
- Substance Abuse Group (SAG)
- Leadership Academy
- Music Therapy
- Community Service