

Fiscal
Year
2018

Annual Report

Juvenile Court of Clayton County, Georgia

Clayton County Youth Development & Justice Center

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770.477-3270 | claytoncountyga.gov/government/courts/juvenile-court

This report was authored by Juvenile Court Director of Operations, Colin Slay, and covers the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. Most of the data presented in this report was generated by Canyon Solutions (2 Renaissance Center, 40 N. Central Avenue, Suite 1400, Phoenix, Arizona 85004).

We are appreciative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation for their support of our reform efforts, but we acknowledge that any opinions expressed in this report are those of the author and may not necessarily reflect upon the opinions of the Foundation.

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INTRODUCTION



Dear Fellow Citizens:

I am pleased to present to you our annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. I strongly believe the citizens of our county are entitled to be informed about the functioning of their Juvenile Court and trust that you will find this report to be both informative and useful.

Clayton County Juvenile Court continues to serve as a leader in innovation, particularly in the arenas of school-justice partnerships and juvenile justice reform, something for which I am extremely proud. Our success is due in large part to the strong collaborative relationships with our local partnering agencies and community-based providers and through the support of organizations like the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and Georgia's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

You will observe in this report that the shift in our workload toward front-end interventions, diversion, and informal processes has continued. This is intentional. It is a strategy that is supported by a plethora of research that warns of the dangers of pulling the wrong children into the juvenile justice system. The research is clear that informal processes that focus on problem solving and that utilize restorative practices are far more effective at curbing delinquency and improving outcomes for children than punitive measures. Research also points to the important role that adverse childhood experiences play in delinquency and dependency, and within this past year, we have started incorporating trauma-informed practices into our assessment, classification, and treatment protocols. All of these efforts are strategically geared toward improving the lives of the children and families that we serve and enhancing the safety of our community by reducing the likelihood that these children will reoffend or continue into the adult criminal justice system.

As mentioned earlier, this approach requires strong collaboration with our many partners, and we are fortunate in Clayton County, to have forward-thinking leaders in our county agencies and community organizations. We are very appreciative of their contributions.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to praise and thank the fine employees of the Juvenile Court. They shoulder the heavy burdens of the work daily and strive to treat every child coming before them as they would their own child. Our success is a direct tribute to their hard work, dedication, and care.

Sincerely,
Steve C. Teske
Chief Judge
Clayton County Juvenile Court

JUVENILE COURT OPERATIONS

VISION AND MISSION

The *Vision* of the Clayton County Juvenile Court is a safe and secure community that utilizes prevention and treatment services in collaboration with families and other organizations to ensure the wellbeing of children.

The *Mission* of the Juvenile Court is to endeavor to protect and restore the children of the county as secure and law-abiding members of society, and to strengthen families and reduce the need for further intervention by the prompt treatment, rehabilitation, and supervision of delinquent children and children in need of services, and the decisive processing of dependency cases.

JURISDICTION

Except as noted below¹ the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA) § 15-11-10, gives the Juvenile Court exclusive jurisdiction over matters concerning a child who is:

1. Under the age of 18 years;
2. Under the age of 17 years when alleged to have committed a delinquent act;
3. Under the age of 22 years and in the care of the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS);
4. Under the age of 23 years and eligible for and receiving independent living services through DFCS; or
5. Under the age of 21 years who committed an act of delinquency before reaching the age of 17 years and who has been placed under the supervision of the court or on probation to the court for the purpose of enforcing orders of the court.

¹ Georgia law requires that certain serious violent felony offenses be handled by the Superior Court if

The Juvenile Court receives referrals from more than ten local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, DFCS, school officials, and other sources. The referrals are commonly referred to as, “complaints.”

There is no filing fee for submitting a complaint to the Juvenile Court; however, there are fees associated with publication in certain matters, and supervision fees are often assessed in cases where a child is placed under the court’s supervision or under an informal adjustment.

In FY18, Clayton County Juvenile Court served 3,247 children.

SERVICES

Following is a partial list of the services provided by the Juvenile Court, often in collaboration with partnering community-based service providers:

- Crisis intervention and counseling
- Psychological assessment and evaluation
- Trauma assessment
- Home study and evaluation
- Informal adjustment, mediation, and other non-adjudicatory diversion services
- Probation
- Restitution and community service
- Resource coordination
- Multisystemic Therapy
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Permanency planning and oversight
- Surveillance of high-risk offenders
- Electronic monitoring
- Drug testing for children under the court’s supervision

The Juvenile Court is a founding partner of the Clayton County System of Care and is heavily

committed by a child 13 to 17 years of age (OCGA § 15-11-160).

engaged in collaborative partnerships with a multitude of agency and community organization stakeholders. The court also pursues the Balanced and Restorative Justice philosophy of juvenile justice and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.

FUNDING

The Clayton County Board of Commissioners provides most of the operational funding for the Juvenile Court. More than half of this funding goes to support the salaries and benefits of the court's more than 70 full- and part-time employees. The remainder of the budget is primarily devoted to operational costs. The FY18 budget included \$24,000 for direct services for children that fall under the court's jurisdiction.

The operational budget of the Juvenile Court for FY18 remained relatively flat at \$4,416,480. The

Juvenile Court also collected \$10,931 in Supervision Fees and was awarded \$838,366 in grant funding from a variety of sources.

Because the traditional funding for services is limited, the Juvenile Court also collects Supervision Fees from juveniles who are placed under informal adjustment and the formal supervision of the court. The collection and expenditure of these funds are limited by statute and are used for evaluation, education, treatment, and supervision of children under the court's jurisdiction.

Finally, like past years, the Juvenile Court has been very successful in pursuing grant funding to support our work. Please see the *Grants and Staff Development* section of this report for more detailed information about the court's grants.

LEADERSHIP

JUDICIARY

The Juvenile Court is served by three full-time judges and one part-time associate judge, with the Honorable Steve Teske serving as the chief judge. The Juvenile Court's judges are appointed by the Clayton County Superior Court to four-year terms.

Juvenile Court judges hear all cases that fall under the court's jurisdiction that are formally processed. This includes the arraignment, adjudication, and disposition of matters involving delinquency, children in need of services (CHINS), dependency, and traffic offenses involving juveniles. Detention hearings to determine if a child must remain in a detention facility or foster care pending court action are the duty of the associate judge. The judges are responsible for issuing all orders of the court, as well as bench warrants, search warrants involving juveniles, pick-up orders, *ex parte* orders, and case seal and expungement orders for matters falling under the Juvenile Court's jurisdiction.

There were 2,526 court hearings in Juvenile Court involving delinquency, children in need of services, dependency, and traffic during FY18.

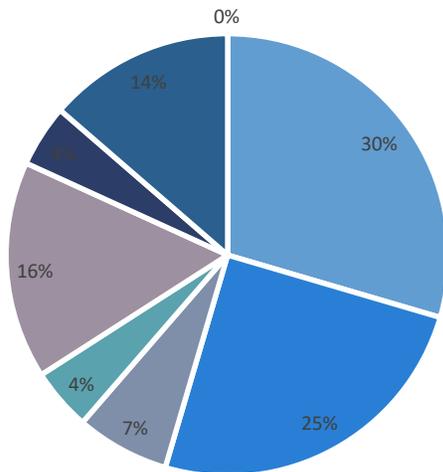
In addition to these types of cases, the Juvenile Court judges hear a variety of special proceedings cases. These cases involve circumstances such as permission to marry, extensions of custody, waiver of parental notification of abortion, expungement of a person's name from the state child abuse registry, and termination of parental rights. Juvenile Court judges may also serve as Superior Court judges when designated by that court to do so.

Of the special proceedings, perhaps the most extreme is the termination of parental rights. These highly emotional and sensitive cases involve the severance of all relationship between a parent and child, opening the door to possible adoption of the child.

There were 26 motions to terminate a parent's rights filed in Juvenile Court during FY18. Of those, 11 resulted in the severance of the parent's rights.

Special Proceedings: 44

- Asian Males/Females (0)
- Black Males (13)
- Black Females (11)
- Hispanic Males (3)
- Hispanic Females (2)
- White Males (7)
- White Females (2)
- Others (6)



CHIEF JUDGE STEVE C. TESKE

The Honorable Steve C. Teske was appointed to the Juvenile Court bench as an associate judge in July 1999; he was appointed as judge in July 2003. Judge Teske has served as the Juvenile Court’s chief judge since July 2011.

Judge Teske has received numerous awards and recognition for his leadership and innovation while serving the Juvenile Court. In May 2018, Judge Teske was awarded the prestigious Leadership Prize by the Juvenile Law Center in Philadelphia. Judge Teske is also a widely sought-out speaker, trainer, and consultant, particularly in the areas of school-justice partnerships and juvenile justice system reform. He frequently writes opinion pieces concerning juvenile justice and has authored scholarly works in research and legal journals.

Judge Teske has also served on many boards and commissions, including the Georgia Council of

Juvenile Court Judges, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council’s State Advisory Group for Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Juvenile Justice’s Judicial Advisory Council. Judge Teske recently served as the national chair of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. Governor Nathan Deal appointed Judge Teske to serve on the Special Council for Criminal Justice Reform and to the Georgia Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Steering Committee.

JUDGE DEITRA BURNEY-BUTLER

The Honorable Deitra Burney-Butler was appointed to the Juvenile Court in January 2009. Prior to her appointment, Judge Butler served as an assistant district attorney with the Clayton County District Attorney’s Office.

Judge Butler serves on several important committees, including the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges’ Dependency Court Improvement Initiative and as the chair of the Clayton County Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children multidisciplinary team. Judge Butler has received specialized training on dependency matters, including the Advanced Child Abuse Institute and the Carter Center’s Complex Trauma Summit.

Judge Butler is a 1994 graduate of the University of Denver’s College of Law and is a member of the Georgia and Colorado Bar Associations. She also is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the National Association of Women Judges.

JUDGE BOBBY D. SIMMONS

The Honorable Bobby D. Simmons was appointed to the Juvenile Court in July 2011. Prior to his appointment, Judge Simmons served as the Presiding Judge of the Clayton County Magistrate Court, and prior to that as municipal judge for the City of Forest Park.

Judge Simmons is a 1986 graduate of the Mississippi College of Law, and he was sworn into the Georgia Bar in June of that year. Prior to law school, Judge Simmons attended the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in radiologic technology.

Judge Simmons is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and has served as the president of the Clayton County Bar Association. Judge Simmons also serves as the chair of the Clayton County Community Services Authority Board and chairs the Community Outreach Committee of the Clayton County System of Care. Judge Simmons is actively involved in his church; he serves as a deacon and on the worship team, where he enjoys playing saxophone.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

John P. Johnson, III, the former Director of Juvenile Court Operations, retired this year after 28 years of service to the Clayton County Juvenile Court. We are especially thankful for Mr. Johnson's leadership through the decade of the Juvenile Court's reform efforts, and his mark on the Juvenile Court will forever be felt.

DIRECTOR OF JUVENILE COURT OPERATIONS, COLIN SLAY

The Director of Juvenile Court Operations, Colin Slay, serves as the Juvenile Court's public information officer, and he oversees the administrative and management aspects of the Juvenile Court. Mr. Slay has served with the Juvenile Court since 1998. He directly oversees the Juvenile Court's Chief of Staff, Office Administrator, and the Information Technology Coordinator. Additionally, Mr. Slay has responsibility for the court's policy, legislative, and budget functions.

Mr. Slay is a member of the Georgia Council of Court Administrators (GCCA), from which he has earned master-level certification in court administration. Mr. Slay currently serves as the secretary for GCCA.

He is a 2011 graduate of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Applied Leadership Network leadership development program. Mr. Slay serves as the chair of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's State Advisory Group Disproportionate Minority Contact Subcommittee. In 2015, Governor Nathan Deal appointed Mr. Slay to the Georgia Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Steering Committee. Mr. Slay chairs the Brighter Futures Clayton Leadership Council, a local project of the United Way of Greater Atlanta. Mr. Slay is also involved with other civic organizations, and he is an elder and works with the student ministry of his church.

CHIEF OF STAFF, TIFFANY MOEN

Tiffany Moen previously served as the Juvenile Court's Chief of Child Welfare before being promoted to her current position. Mrs. Moen has management responsibility for most of the Juvenile Court's staff. She directly supervises the work of the Clerk of the Juvenile Court as well as the chiefs of the various Juvenile Court divisions.

GRANTS AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Grant writing and management and the training functions of the Juvenile Court fall under the Grants and Staff Development Coordinator, Taiyona Smith. In addition to researching and writing proposals for grants to support our programs, Ms. Smith manages grant awards by compiling statistical, program, and fiscal reports; coordinating grant activities; and ensuring compliance with grant terms.

The Juvenile Court was awarded three grants in FY18, with a combined total award of more than \$896,990. These grant funds helped support evidence-based programs for high-risk probationers, prevention services, and volunteer support services for our CASA program.

The Grants and Staff Development Coordinator is also responsible for developing, organizing, and coordinating training and professional development opportunities for Juvenile Court staff. The training

occurs in various formats, including web-based seminars, reviews of emerging juvenile justice and child welfare research, on-site classes, and collaboration with partners such as Georgia State University and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Many of our staff are members of the

Juvenile Court Association of Georgia and attend its annual conference, which offers two-and-a-half days of seminars and workshops.

During FY18, Juvenile Court staff participated in 17 training opportunities.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF JUVENILE COURT

The Clerk of the Juvenile Court, Angela E. Buggs, oversees a staff consisting of the Assistant Clerk, Matthew Cormier, the court’s receptionist, and nine deputy clerks that perform a wide variety of important duties.

The Clerk’s Office is responsible for recording all juvenile traffic citations, petitions, motions, orders, and other legal processes filed in the Juvenile Court. The tasks of drafting delinquency petitions, assigning court-appointed attorneys, scheduling hearings, issuing summons, notifying parties, scheduling interpreters, preparing court dockets, and recording case dispositions are responsibilities of the Clerk’s Office. Deputy clerks also attend all court hearings and make a record of the proceedings as well as providing administrative support for the judge during the hearing.

The Clerk is responsible for the receipt and disbursement of monies for all court-ordered payments. The payments include restitution to victims, traffic fines, attorneys’ fees, publication fees, and supervision fees. Table 1 lists the monies collected and disbursed by the Juvenile Court during the 2018 fiscal year.²

The Clerk has the responsibility of maintaining all Juvenile Court records and preparing records when cases are transferred to another court and transcripts for appeals as required or when requested by a party. The confidentiality of all court records is maintained through the Clerk’s Office. The Clerk is responsible for controlling access to and sealing juvenile records in compliance with the Juvenile Court’s policies and Article 9 of the Juvenile Code of Georgia.

Table 1: Fees Collected and Disbursed by the Clerk’s Office in FY18

TYPE OF FEE	AMOUNT COLLECTED	AMOUNT DISBURSED
Publication	\$4,440.00	\$3,210.00
Restitution	\$3,905.84	\$3,066.32
Supervision Fees	\$10,931.75	\$10,557.75
Traffic Fines	\$6,046.57	\$5,757.32
Copy Fees	\$1,318.50	\$426.00
Contempt Fines	\$800.00	\$0.00
TOTALS	\$26,902.66	\$23,017.39

² Please note that the amounts distributed may not equal amounts collected. This occurs because some

funds collected during the prior fiscal year were not paid out until this fiscal year.

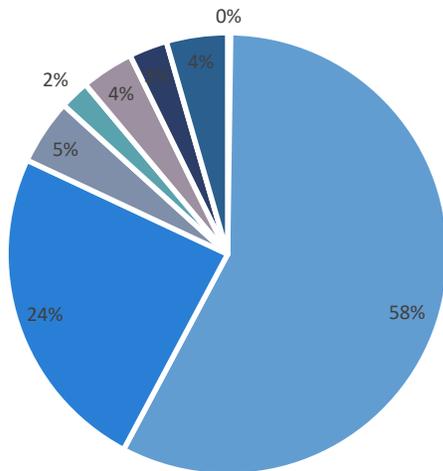
INTAKE OPERATIONS

Intake Operations is responsible for receiving referrals (i.e., complaints) from law enforcement officers, parents, school officials, the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), and private citizens on children alleged to be delinquent, in need of services, and dependent, or who have been cited for traffic code infractions. The Chief of Intake Operations, Catherine Slay, oversees a staff of three court officers (referred to as “intake officers”) and an intake assistant. Because juvenile intake is a 24-hour-a-day-operation, court officers from other units also serve in an on-call intake capacity outside of regular court business hours.

jurisdiction, if there is probable cause, and if so, the most prudent course of action with regard to processing the complaint. If the intake officer determines that formal processing is in the child’s and community’s best interest, the case is sent to the District Attorney’s Office for investigation. Children are generally not detained on private citizens’ complaints.

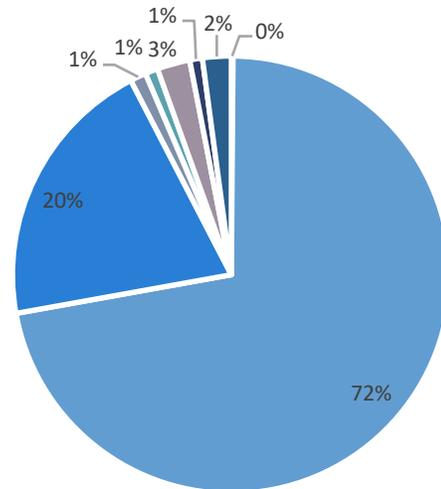
Total Filings: 2,686

- Asian Males/Females (6)
- Black Males (1546)
- Black Females (650)
- Hispanic Males (128)
- Hispanic Females (58)
- White Males (103)
- White Females (75)
- Others (120)



FY18 Delinquency Filings: 1,654

- Asian Males/Females (2)
- Black Males (1157)
- Black Females (325)
- Hispanic Males (19)
- Hispanic Females (15)
- White Males (39)
- White Females (15)
- Others (34)



DELINQUENCY CASE PROCESSING

When a private citizen files a complaint alleging a child is delinquent as defined by OCGA § 15-11-2, an intake officer reviews the facts and allegations in the complaint to determine if the Juvenile Court has

When a police officer charges a child with a delinquent act, the police officer is responsible for investigating the complaint. When a child is taken into custody by the police, the intake officer assesses the child’s risk to the community using the Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI), an objective risk classification tool developed by the Department of Juvenile Justice, to determine the need for detention pending an initial appearance before a judge. OCGA § 15-11-105 requires the use of the DAI to drive detention decisions, and the instrument can only be

overridden if there are significant mitigating or aggravating factors that are not measured by the DAI.

During FY18, Intake Operations made 399 detention decisions, detaining 214 youth. The average override rate for the DAI was 33%.

CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES (CHINS)

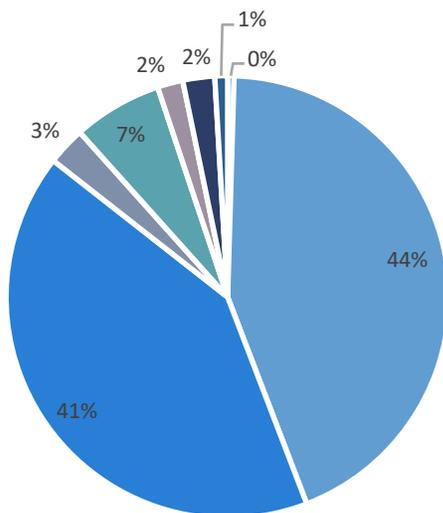
Complaints alleging that a child is in need of services are handled differently by Intake Operations. Beginning in January 2014, the Juvenile Court of Georgia separated status offenses, those offenses that would not be crimes if the individual committing them was an adult, from the delinquency code, creating a unique governance structure for CHINS.

indicate that a child is experiencing serious difficulties, and inasmuch, requires a multidisciplinary approach to addressing the issues.

If a family or school is unable to effectively address the problematic behaviors on their own, the intake officer will refer the matter to the Clayton County Collaborative Child Study Team (Quad-CST). The Quad-CST is a panel of representatives from various child- and family-serving agencies and organizations in Clayton County, and its purpose is to review the presenting issues and assist families in developing a comprehensive service plan to address them. Only after the comprehensive service plan has been proven ineffective may a CHINS case be processed in a formal sense through the Juvenile Court.

FY18 CHINS Filings: 215

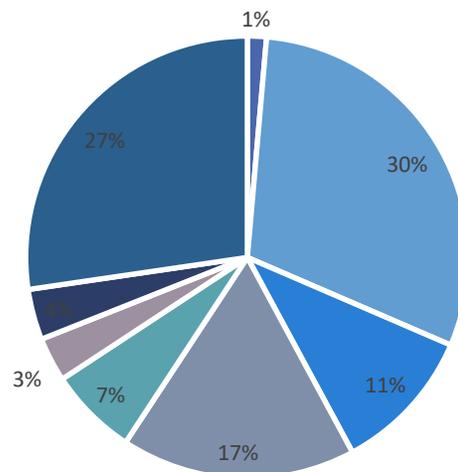
- Asian Males/Females (1)
- Black Males (94)
- Black Females (89)
- Hispanic Males (6)
- Hispanic Females (14)
- White Males (4)
- White Females (5)
- Others (2)



Article 5 of the Juvenile Code of Georgia acknowledges that certain behaviors or conditions that occur within a family or school environment

FY18 Traffic Filings: 216

- Asian Males/Females (3)
- Black Males (65)
- Black Females (23)
- Hispanic Males (37)
- Hispanic Females (14)
- White Males (7)
- White Females (8)
- Others (59)



DEPENDENCY CASE PROCESSING

In addition to handling delinquency and CHINS matters, Intake Operations also receives all complaints involving matters of dependency. Article

3 of the Juvenile Code of Georgia governs dependency proceedings, and its purpose is to assist and protect children whose physical or mental health and welfare is substantially at risk of harm from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Complaints involving dependency generally originate from one of three sources: the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), law enforcement officers, and private citizens.

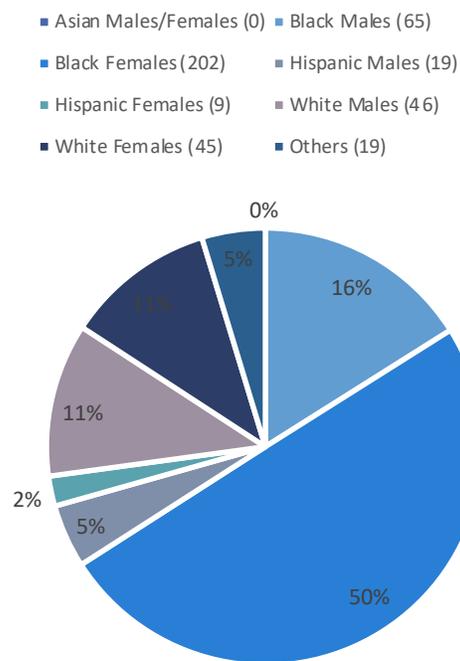
DFCS is most often the complainant in dependency matters. An intake officer facilitates the processing of the complaint from DFCS and plays an approving and coordinating role in efforts made by the agencies involved in the placement of a child into shelter care or with a relative pending a court hearing. The intake officer schedules these cases for their first appearance before a judge, which by law must occur within 72 hours of the removal of the child from his or her parents or legal guardians.

If a police officer encounters a situation where there is probable cause to believe a child is in danger from his or her immediate circumstances, the officer may take the child into protective custody and deliver the child to the Juvenile Court. If the intake officer determines the Juvenile Court has jurisdiction and that protective custody is indeed required, DFCS will investigate placement for the child. If there is no appropriate relative, the child will be placed into shelter care and scheduled for an initial appearance before a judge within 72 hours of removal from his or her parents or legal custodian.

A private citizen or family member may also make allegations of abuse and/or neglect. Generally, after determining jurisdiction, an intake officer will refer these “third-party” complaints to DFCS or a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for investigation.

The intake officer has the authority to issue a shelter care order if the circumstances warrant immediate removal of the child for safety reasons. In many cases, if the DFCS or CASA investigation finds probable cause to proceed, the intake officer will file a petition on behalf of the child, and the matter will be scheduled for a hearing before a judge. In instances where the whereabouts of the child’s parents are unknown, the complainant is required to pay a publication fee for legal advertisement as required by law before a petition will be filed.

FY18 Dependency Filings: 557



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Restorative Justice Unit is an important facet of the Juvenile Court. According to the National Institute of Justice, research indicates that juveniles

who commit minor offenses are most often better served and have better outcomes from *informal* processing when compared to minor offenders

placed into the formal juvenile justice system.³ Further, delinquent juveniles who are detained are far more likely to reoffend than their peers who are not detained. In their report, *No Place for Kids: The Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration*, the Annie E. Casey Foundation cites multiple studies documenting the dangers associated with using detention, particularly when there are more effective, less costly alternatives available.

The Restorative Justice Unit is led by the Chief of Restorative Justice, Tabatha Barker. Mrs. Barker is assisted in her duties by the Mediation Coordinator, Dierdre Fluker. The unit is staffed by a court officer II, four full-time court officers, one part-time court officer, and two part-time program assistants.

DIVERSION AND INFORMAL ADJUSTMENTS

Diversion program and informal adjustments are authorized by OCGA § 15-11-515 and are appropriate for complaints filed by law enforcement or other individuals in which the child is alleged to have committed a delinquent act that is not of a serious nature or is alleged to be a child in need of services and that the child appears amenable to informal handling.

Program data for FY18 indicates that 581 cases were screened for informal processes and 103 informal contracts were monitored by the Restorative Justice unit for a period of 90-180 days.

DIVERSION SCREENING

Complaints involving delinquency and children in need of services (CHINS) referred to the Restorative Justice by Intake Operations are screened towards first seeking an informal adjustment of the matter where it is in the best interests of the child and community, using an objective screening instrument. The juvenile complaint is examined to determine if

³ [NIJ Practice Profiles](#). *Juvenile Diversion Programs*. Accessed May 29, 2018.

the child is eligible for diversion, informal adjustment, or mediation. The determination is based on the totality of the child's circumstances, which may include: the child's age at the time of the offense; nature of the act; ability of the child's parents to correct and intervene; correction and discipline already provided by the parents and/or school; and the child's level of remorse and the parents' understanding of the child's need for correction; among other factors. After considering these circumstances, the court officer may recommend dismissal of the complaint, refer the child/family to another agency for services, informally adjust the case, file a petition, or take other appropriate action as provided by the Juvenile Code of Georgia.

INFORMAL ADJUSTMENT AGREEMENTS

If it is determined that a child shall be placed on an informal adjustment agreement, a court officer will monitor the child for an initial period of three months; a judge may extend the agreement for an additional three months if conditions suggest a successful completion is likely within the extension. The typical terms of an informal adjustment agreement include: writing an apology letter; writing an educational essay or report; producing study logs; performing community service; participating in court programming or workshops; and payment of a supervision fee. Failure to comply with the informal adjustment agreement may result in the filing of a formal petition on a complaint.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES

Program services are coordinated by Court Officer II, Keshia Johnson. The Juvenile Court places an emphasis on utilizing programs and services that have demonstrated successful outcomes or have been proven effective at reducing recidivism. Often referred to as "promising practices" or "evidence-based practices" respectively, the Juvenile Court

actively seeks partnerships with community-based service providers who adhere to the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Model Program Guide or those services identified by the National Institute of Justice’s [Crime Solutions](#) web resource as “effective.” Youth who are on probation, as well as those who are monitored under informal adjustment agreements, are referred to these programs by their supervising court officers.

First-time offenders are sometimes given an opportunity have their charge(s) dismissed by completing a workshop through our diversion program.

Most programs offered by the Juvenile Court or its community partners require parental participation, which empowers the parents to reinforce the information or approaches at home, thereby increasing the intervention’s effectiveness with their children.

Our programs require a referral from the child’s assigned court officer, probation officer, school resource officer, or school administrator. For up-to-date scheduling information, please visit the Juvenile Court’s [Facebook](#) page.

SCHOOL REFERRAL REDUCTION PROGRAM

Through a cooperative agreement with the Clayton County Public Schools and its police department, the School Referral Reduction Program (SRRP) allows

school resource officers to refer students to workshops, mediation, or other informal processes in lieu of filing a formal juvenile complaint for minor delinquent offenses occurring on campus. The goal is to expose the students to information that can help them avoid further conflict or infractions without formal involvement with the juvenile justice system. In addition, school administrators may refer students to workshops such as Conflict Resolution,

Project HIP, and Choices as an alternative to out-of-school suspension.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR)

ADR is a phrase that describes a number of processes used to resolve disputes as an alternative to formal processing of complaints. In addition to being less formal, these processes are less adversarial than traditional court approaches, and research shows that participants are often more satisfied with the experience than those whose cases are formally

processed. Courts have increasingly utilized these methods as tools to alleviate crowded court dockets and to produce more meaningful results.⁴

In the fall of 1996, the Juvenile Court implemented its first mediation program. This action was taken to supplement the Juvenile Court’s existing restitution effort. That program evolved into our current ADR program, which extends beyond mediation and

Clayton County a National Model

The SRRP has been the source of much national attention for its innovative approach to addressing school disciplinary issues and minor school related offenses. The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF), MacArthur Foundation, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and other influential organizations have identified Clayton County’s School-Justice Partnerships Model as a promising approach to dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline, the result of zero-tolerance policies that push students who commit minor school infractions into the juvenile justice system.

A team that includes key staff from the Juvenile Court, Clayton County Public Schools, Clayton County law enforcement, and the Clayton County System of Care have provided technical assistance on the model to more than 50 jurisdictions across the nation. This work has been supported by AECF and NCJFCJ.

⁴ *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, v. 62. pp. 124-29, Feb. 1994.

includes several other programs. In addition to the Juvenile Court staff assigned to the ADR section, the Juvenile Court contracts with several mediators who are selected from the community with diverse backgrounds; all are registered neutrals with the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution and have completed a juvenile mediation curriculum in addition to other educational requirements. ADR's goal is to assist youth in successfully closing their case while providing education about the law and promoting accountability to the offender and restoration to the victim.

Mediation is an informal process in which the parties are empowered to resolve their own differences with the assistance of a neutral third party, the mediator. Mediation is a voluntary process as the parties agree to work together to resolve their differences. The parties may solicit legal

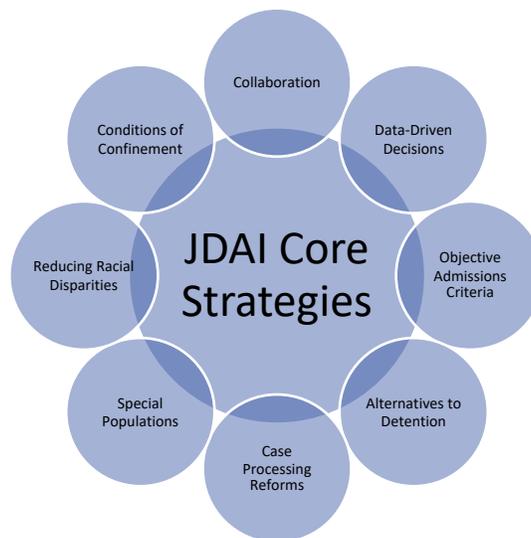
representation, but it is neither necessary nor mandatory in this setting. The focus of mediation is not to prove guilt, but rather to address the charge, identify the conflict, assess its impacts, clear-up any misunderstandings, and attain a resolution that is workable for all parties. Furthermore, mediation creates a forum of accountability and provides the respondents with an educational awareness about the law as it relates to juveniles. Cases are screened for mediation much in the same way cases are screened for other non-adjudicatory informal processes.

During FY18, there were 197 cases assigned to ADR for screening, and of those, 65 youth were monitored for a period of 90-180 days as part of a mediated agreement and another 56 were monitored as part of an informal adjustment agreement.

JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE (JDAI)

JDAI is a 25-year-old project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF). According to AECF, JDAI is one of the nation's most effective, influential, and widespread juvenile justice reform initiatives. JDAI is primarily focused on the use of detention by the juvenile justice system; over the past three decades, a large body of research has documented the dangers of using detention inappropriately. AECF contends that, "youth are often unnecessarily or inappropriately detained at great expense, with long-lasting negative consequences for both public safety and youth development."⁵ For more information on

the national JDAI movement, please visit JDAI's online community, [JDAIconnect](#).



Clayton County became a JDAI replication site in 2003, as a response to tremendous stress on our juvenile justice system. Extremely high referral rates, primarily the result of minor school offenses, lead to all-time high probation caseloads and recidivism rates. JDAI has had a profound impact on the outcomes for court-involved youth in Clayton County.

Since becoming a JDAI replication site in 2003, the average daily population in detention has

associated with using detention, particularly when there are more effective, less costly alternatives.

⁵ In their report, *No Place for Kids: Reducing Juvenile Incarceration*, the Annie E. Casey Foundation cites multiple studies documenting the dangers

decreased by 75%. The average length of stay in detention has fallen by 41%. The commitment rate for all youth has dropped by 70%, and the commitment rate for youth of color has fallen by 64%. Less than 1% of juveniles released on detention alternative programs were rearrested before disposition. Juvenile petitions have decreased by 69%. For more information on our JDAI results, please see the data trends section at the end of this report.

The JDAI Coordinator, Shannon Howard, manages two of the most important JDAI programs in Clayton County, the award-winning⁶ Finding Alternatives for Treatment and Safety (FAST) Panel and Clayton County Collaborative Child Study Team (Quad-CST). Mr. Howard is assisted in his responsibilities by a two court officers and part-time program assistant.

FAST PANEL

The FAST Panel is a multidisciplinary detention review committee that meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (except on holidays) to review the cases of children who have been detained by Intake Operations. The objective of the panel is to identify resources that might enable the child to be safely released from detention pending

the final disposition of the youth's case. The panel is comprised of certified community volunteers, community-based service providers, court officers, and agency representatives from our collaborative partners. For more information on becoming a FAST Panel volunteer, please contact [Shannon Howard](#) at (770) 472-8138.

QUAD-CST

The Quad-CST is another multidisciplinary panel composed of community-based service providers and agency representatives of our collaborative partners that serves as a single point-of-entry for access to available resources in CHINS cases and other complicated cases involving delinquency.

SYSTEM OF CARE LIAISON

Partnering with Clayton County Public Schools, the Quad-CST serves as the primary review committee for the Clayton County System of Care, staffing the cases of students exhibiting persistently problematic behaviors in school, with the goal of providing services that might prevent the student from becoming involved with the juvenile justice system. A court officer serves as a liaison between the Juvenile Court and Clayton County System of Care.

PROBATION

The probation function of the Juvenile Court is divided into three units: Investigations, Field Operations, and Special Juvenile Justice Programs.

INVESTIGATIONS

The Investigations Unit is headed by Chief of Investigations, Victoria Berry, and consists of four court officers. The unit's primary responsibility is conducting predisposition investigations and preparing social history reports for the disposition of

delinquency cases (and occasionally CHINS cases) that have come before the Juvenile Court for formal processing. In addition to investigating and writing reports, the court officers assigned to Investigations supervise youth who have been placed on Community Detention Orders as an alternative to detention, pending the final disposition of their cases.

⁶ The FAST Panel was awarded the American Probation and Parole Association's *President Award* in 2006, for its innovative approach.

The Investigations Unit was assigned 270 cases during FY18.

FIELD OPERATIONS

The Field Operations Unit is led by Chief of Field Operations, Stacy Weaver, who supervises eight court officers (referred to as “field officers”). Field officers use information contained in the risk classification and needs assessment completed by Investigations to prepare individualized treatment plans for all youth placed on probation. Field officers also provide ongoing supervision and resource coordination for those youth.

Field officers use a system of graduated responses to ensure compliance with court-ordered conditions of probation and the goals of the treatment plan.

Sanctions range from verbal warnings to formal violations of probation that may result in the child being placed into detention. Sanctions are based on the severity, nature, and frequency of the violation, relative to the probationer’s risk to reoffend as determined by the risk classification tool. If it is determined that all appropriate community-based options have been exhausted, the field officer may recommend that the child be committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) if the child poses a risk to others and meets the statutory requirements for commitment. Commitment to DJJ is generally considered an option of last resort.

In FY18, 1,869 counts involving delinquency and CHINS were filed against 1,129 children, and only 38 juveniles were committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

In addition to monitoring compliance, field officers coordinate rehabilitative and treatment services for probationers and their families. These services are based on criminogenic risk factors and needs identified by assessment instruments. Investigations and Field Operations uses DJJ’s Pre-Disposition Risk Assessment and Juvenile Needs Assessment tools in the planning process for developing a juvenile’s treatment and case supervision plan. Field officers evaluate the juvenile’s progress toward achieving probation goals and recommend successful termination of probation once the juvenile has made significant progress toward those goals and is refraining from reoffending.



In FY18, 237 juveniles were assigned to Field Operations. Field officers initiated 2,720 face-to-face contacts with these children, most of which occurred in the juveniles’ communities. Field officers also participated in 8,487 collateral contacts through an array of educational, community service, treatment, and family interactions concerning these children.

SPECIAL JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

The Special Juvenile Justice Programs Unit was created in 2015 in an effort to provide oversight and to help manage some of the Juvenile Court’s unique programs that are specific to what is commonly referred to as the “Deep End” of the juvenile justice system. This unit is led by the Chief of Special Juvenile Justice Programs, Indya Grier, and is staffed by one court officer II, one court officer, a part-time surveillance officer, and a part-time transportation aide.

ENHANCED SUPERVISION PROGRAM

In 2016, the Juvenile Court partnered with Sheriff Victor Hill to create the Enhanced Supervision Program (ESP) for high-risk youth placed on probation by the court. In addition to the regular supervision provided by the youth's assigned field officer, the ESP provides additional field-based supervision by a special unit of the Sheriff's Office. This approach enhances public safety, and accountability and is achieved through a community-oriented policing and problem-solving approach.

SECOND CHANCE COURT

The Second Chance Court (SCC) is an alternative to incarceration for high-risk designated felony offenders. Participants and their parents must agree to the terms of the program and adherence is closely monitored by two court officers.

Participants undergo routine screening for the illicit use of substances, are electronically monitored, and participate in cognitive behavioral therapy and intensive family counseling. The program is based on the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's accountability court framework, and there are heavy penalties for willful noncompliance, which includes incarceration of up to five years in a juvenile prison. SCC is a collaborative effort between the Juvenile Court, Evidence-Based Associates, and Grace Harbour, and is largely supported through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant program.

In FY18, 15 youth participated in the Second Chance Court program.

MULTISYSTEMIC THERAPY (MST)⁷

MST is an evidence-based, intensive family- and community-based model of service delivery that focuses on reducing barriers that keep families from

⁷ Multisystemic Therapy description adapted from the [National Institute of Justice's Crime Solutions web tool](#).

accessing services. The overarching goal of MST is to keep juveniles who have demonstrated serious clinical problems (e.g., substance abuse, violence, severe delinquent behavior) at home, in school, and out of trouble. Through intensive contact and involvement with the juvenile and family, MST looks to uncover and assess the functional origins of the juvenile's behavioral problems. It works to change the juvenile's ecology in a manner that promotes prosocial conduct while simultaneously decreasing problem and delinquent behaviors.

MST typically uses a home-based model for service delivery. Therapists have small caseloads of four to six families, work as a team, and are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, providing services at times convenient to the families. The average length of treatment occurs over a four-month period; however, there is no definite length of service. MST therapists concentrate on empowering parents and improving their effectiveness by identifying strengths and developing support systems. In the family-therapist collaboration, the family takes the lead in setting treatment plan goals, and the therapist assists them in achieving those goals.

MST is funded through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant program and is reserved for youth assigned to the Second Chance Court and probationers scoring in the high range on the Predisposition Risk Assessment.

The Juvenile Court served 70 high-risk youth with intensive, evidence-based services through the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant program during FY18.

THINKING FOR A CHANGE (T4C)⁸

T4C is a cognitive-behavioral curriculum that was developed by the National Institute of Corrections; it concentrates on changing the criminogenic thinking

⁸ Thinking for a Change description adapted from the National Institute of Justice's [Crime Solutions web tool](#).

of offenders. T4C combines cognitive restructuring and cognitive skills theories to assist individuals in taking control of their lives by taking control of their thinking. It stresses interpersonal communication skills and confronts problematic thought patterns. It has three components: (1) cognitive self-change, (2) social skills, and (3) problem-solving skills. The program is divided into 25 lessons, each lasting from one to two hours. The curriculum is designed to be implemented with small groups of eight to 12 juveniles. Most sessions include didactic instruction,

role-play illustrations of concepts, review of previous lessons, and various homework assignments designed to allow juveniles to practice the skills learned in the group.

T4C is funded through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant program and is reserved for youth assigned to the Second Chance Court and probationers scoring in the high range on the Predisposition Risk Assessment.

CHILD WELFARE

The Juvenile Court's Child Welfare Division is headed by Chief of Child Welfare, Concilia Chilumuna. Mrs. Chilumuna is assisted in her duties by the Citizen Review Panel Coordinator, Annell Graniela. The unit is staffed by six full-time CASA volunteer supervisors, two part-time CASA volunteer supervisors, a CASA training supervisor, and a part-time Citizen Review Panel assistant.

presence throughout the Juvenile Court and Superior Court processes.

CASA volunteers and staff advocated for 244 foster children and 2,032 children in total during FY18. CASA staff also logged more than 971 hours in the courtroom, and CASA volunteers spent more than 2,113 hours advocating for children. CASA staff and volunteers completed 200 home evaluations and spent 920 hours in training.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA)

The Clayton County CASA program provides essential, high-quality advocacy, intervention, and support to children who have been the victim of abuse and neglect in Clayton County, who are in foster care, the care and custody of relatives, or are involved in custody disputes.

Trained and screened CASA volunteers, working in concert with the Juvenile Court, and through a memorandum of understanding the Superior Court, the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), and others from the community, provide support services and bring relevant information, resources, and recommendations to the courts in the best interests of the children they serve. Clayton County CASA is also affiliated with the National CASA, Georgia CASA, and Metro Atlanta CASA organizations. For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer with our program, please contact [Griffin Shirley](#) at (678) 610-1061.

During FY18, the Clayton County CASA/Superior Court GAL program took in \$6,450 in GAL fees and staff and volunteers spent more than 78 hours in Superior Court hearings, advocating for 51 children.

Statistical evidence shows that the numbers of substantiated child abuse and neglect cases continue to rise, and it is essential that we expand the current capacity of our court to provide the essential advocacy. CASA programs represent a well-documented and nationally recognized response to this growing need.⁹ CASA volunteers, serving as the child's own special advocate or guardian *ad litem*, develop relationships with assigned children and families, enabling them to be a powerful voice and

⁹ [National CASA](#).

JUDICIAL CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS

The Judicial Citizen Review Panels (JCRP) are a program of the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges. Its purpose is to assist judges in determining the most appropriate permanency plan for children in foster care. Clayton County began using JCRPs in 1986.

The JCRPs consist of a cross-section of volunteers from the community, who undergo two days of specialized training from the Council of Juvenile Court Judges to acquaint them with the process of foster care review. Upon the completion of the training, the volunteers are sworn in as officers of the court, to act in the best interests of the child.

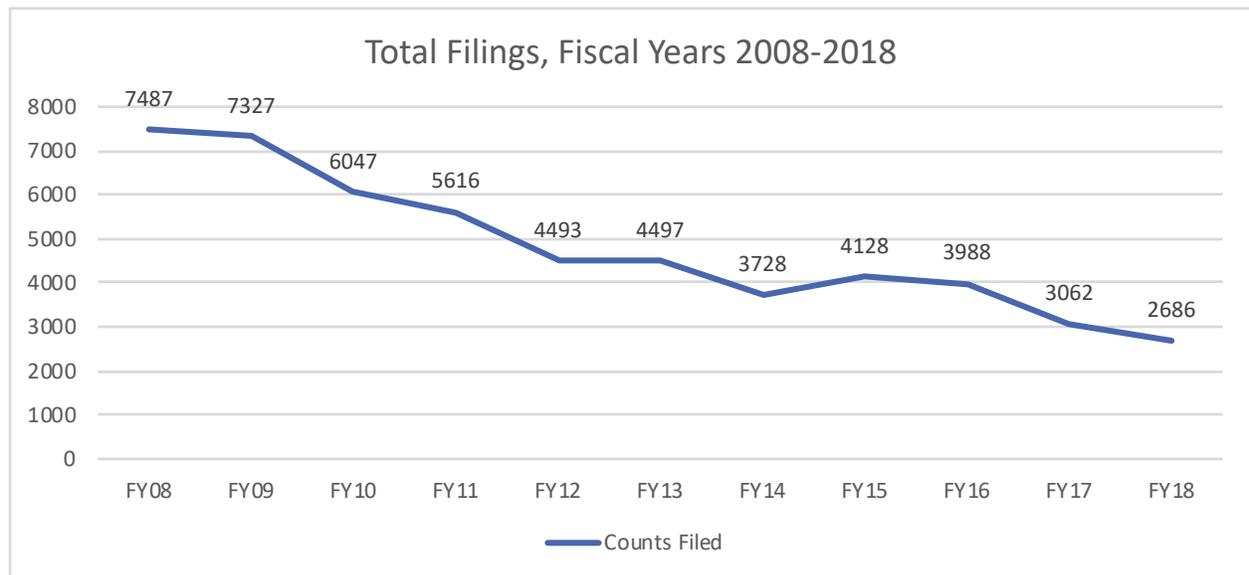
Panel volunteers (known as panel members) serve on one of nine panels, who meet one day a month to review cases of children placed in foster care by the

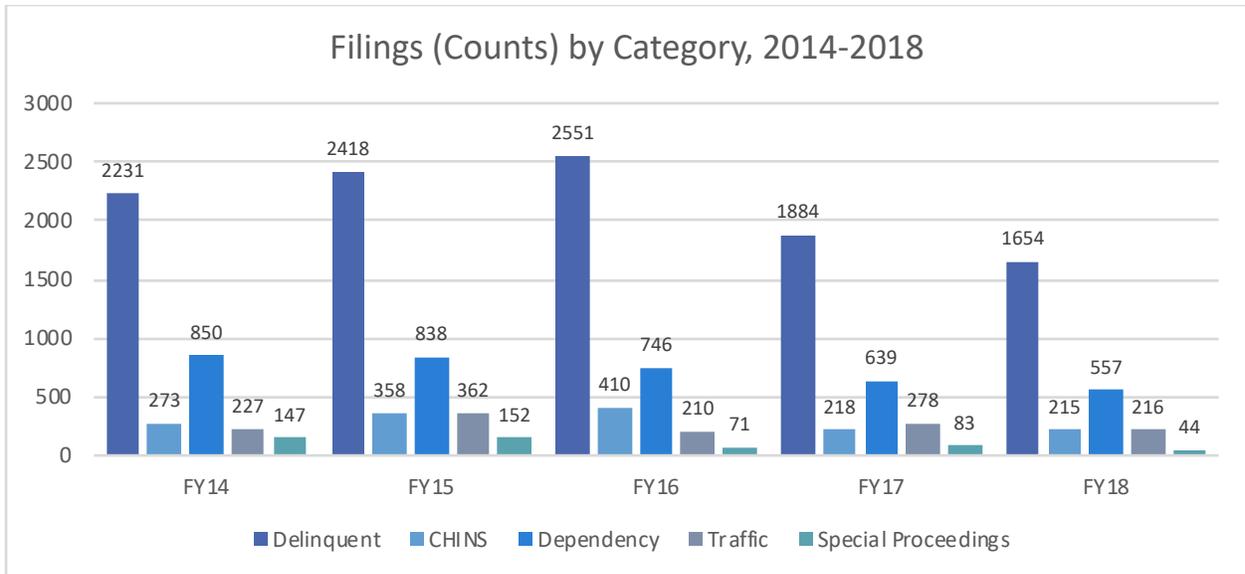
Juvenile Court. The JCRP's ultimate task is to see that the children are in a permanent home as soon and as safely possible. JCRP reviews are conducted with panel members meeting with the DFCS caseworker, parents, the children, other family members, foster parents, service providers, and CASA to review the progress of the parent, to ensure compliance with the court-ordered case plan, and to make sure that all necessary services are being provided to the children and family, as well as monitoring the welfare of the children. Panel members then make recommendations to the judge on what should happen next in the case. The judge has final authority in all matters that appear before the JCRP.

During FY18, the Judicial Citizen Review Panels logged 145 hours in 89 panels, and 65 children achieved permanency.

DATA TRENDS

ANNUAL FILINGS TRENDS



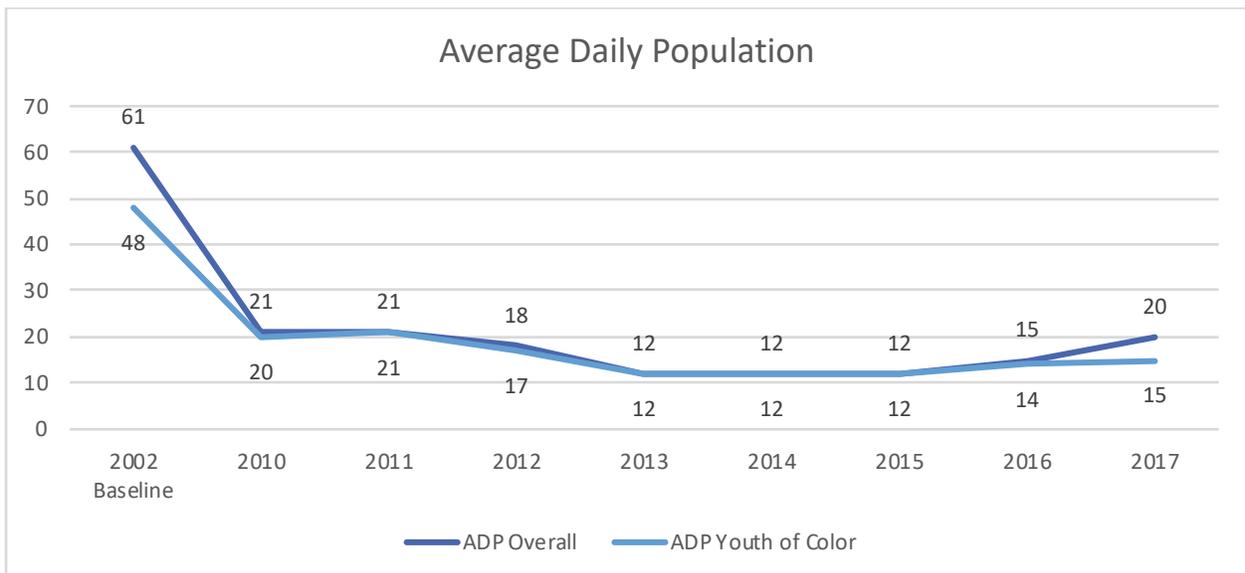


JDAI ANNUAL RESULTS TRENDS

The Juvenile Court routinely tracks the following data indicators and prepares an annual result report in the fall of each year. For comparison purposes, our pre-JDAI baseline year is 2002.

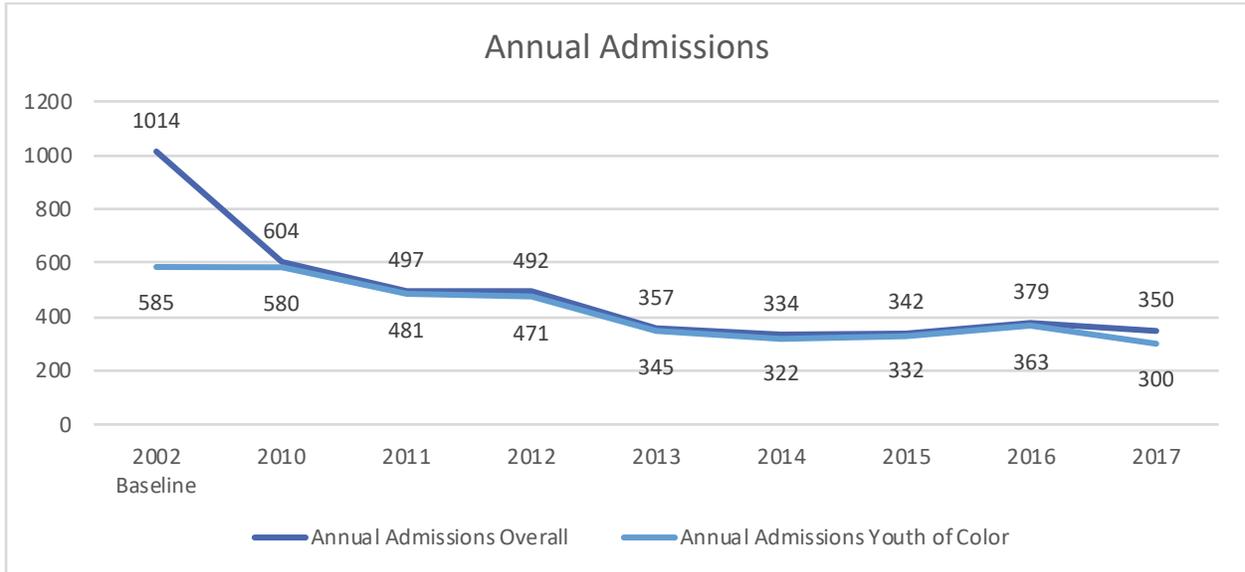
AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION (ADP) IN DETENTION

ADP is an indicator of the overall use of detention. Clayton County youth have historically been housed by DJJ at the Martha K. Glaze Regional Youth Detention Center (MKG RYDC) in Lovejoy; however, from time to time, DJJ has placed our youth in other facilities. Most recently, MKG RYDC became an all-male facility, and DJJ began housing Clayton County girls at Metro RYDC. The baseline detention capacity used for this measure is 60 beds, the original capacity of MKG RYDC in 2002. In our baseline year, the ADP was 61 youth overall, and 48 of them were youth of color. Last year, the ADP was just over 14 youth, a 75% reduction.



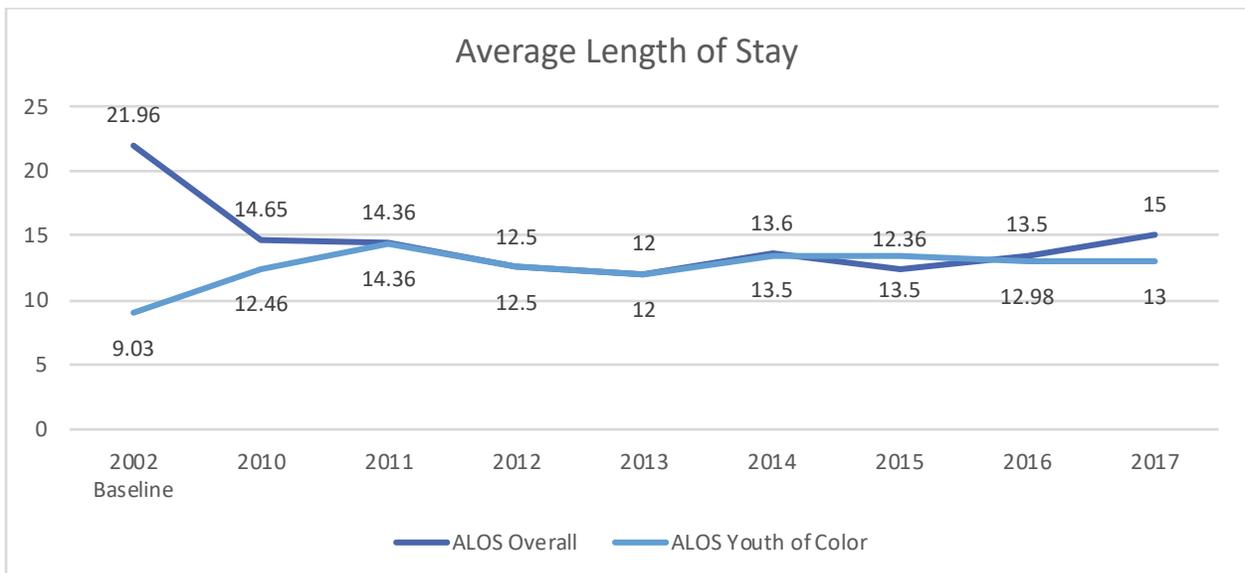
ANNUAL ADMISSIONS TO DETENTION

This measure tracks how many youth enter detention each year. In our baseline year of 2002, Clayton County admitted 1,014 youth into detention overall, and 585 of them were youth of color. Last year, 379 youth entered detention, a 66% reduction. For youth of color, there was a 43% reduction in admissions when compared to our pre-JDAI baseline.



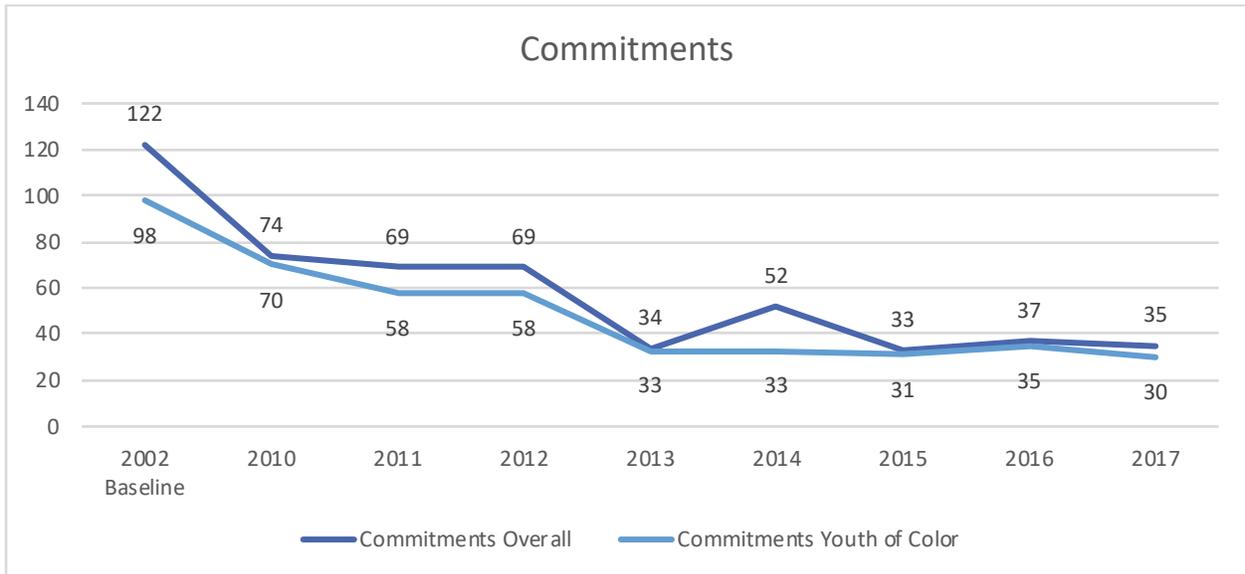
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY (ALOS) IN DETENTION

ALOS is a measure of, on average, how long each youth stays in detention once detained at intake and through disposition. In our baseline year of 2002, the ALOS for Clayton County youth in detention was 21.96 days overall and 9.03 days for youth of color. Last year, our overall ALOS was 12.98 days, 41% less than in 2002.



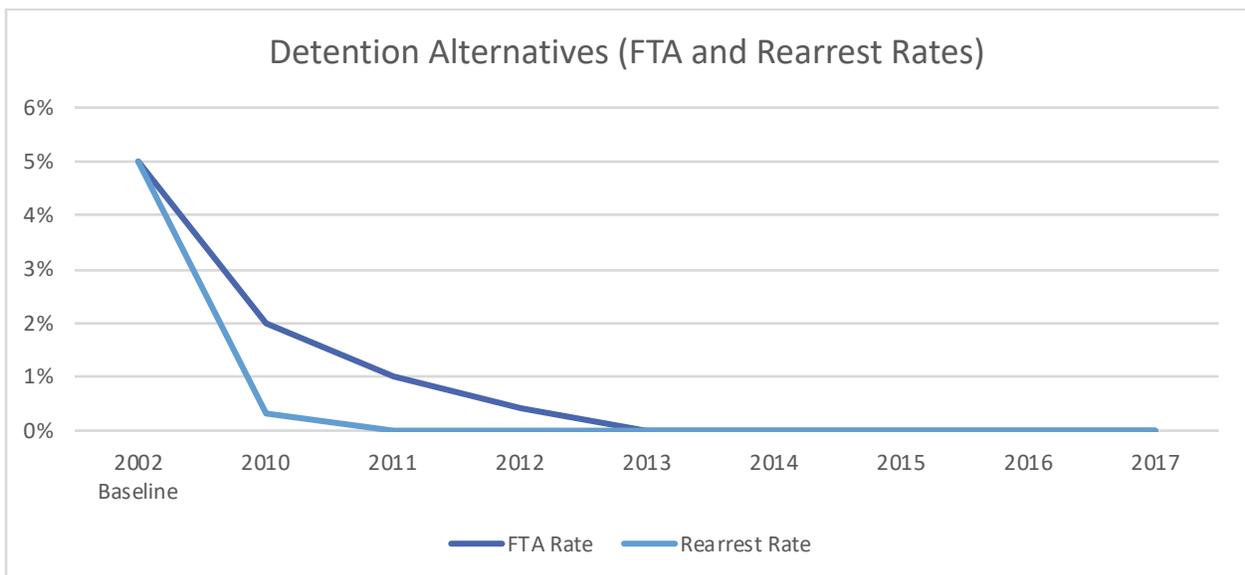
COMMITMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

This indicator includes youth who were committed to DJJ with restrictive custody and those youth who were committed to DJJ without the court ordering restrictive custody. The 2002 baseline indicator was 122 overall commitments and 98 commitments of youth of color. We committed 37 youth to DJJ last year, a 70% reduction from 2002; the number of youth of color who were committed last year was 66% lower than in 2002.



PUBLIC SAFETY AND DETENTION ALTERNATIVES

This indicator includes two of the most prominent safety measures for youth who are released on detention alternatives, the Failure to Appear (FTA) rate and rearrest rate for youth released on detention alternatives pending disposition. The 2002 baseline measure for both was 5% of all youth released on detention alternatives. It has remained at less than 1% for the past several years.



JUVENILE CRIME INDICATOR

This indicator is a measure of the number of delinquency petitions filed each year in the Juvenile Court. The 2002 baseline indicator was 2,604 petitions. Last year, there were 796 delinquency petitions filed with the court, a reduction of 69% from our pre-JDAI baseline in 2002.

