

*Greene County Family Court:
Juvenile & Domestic Relations
Division 2012 Annual Report*



Introduction

The leadership team of the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile & Domestic Relations Division thank you for your interest in learning more about all that we do for children, families and the community. Please contact us at 417-868-4008 if there are any questions we may answer.



Front cover illustration: Artwork provided by KayleAnn, age 14, program participant

Table of Contents**Chapter 1 - Child Welfare****Pages 4-8**

Child Abuse & Neglect Unit
Domestic Relations Unit

Page 4-6
Page 7-8

Chapter 2 - Juvenile Justice**Pages 9-21**

Law/Status Violation Unit
Girls Empowering Minds & Spirits (GEMS)
Probation Department
Guiding Probation Success (GPS)
Evening Reporting Center (ERC)
**Responding Appropriately to Drug and Alcohol Referrals
(RADAR)**
Teen Court
Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA)
Detention Center

Page 9-10
Page 11
Page 12
Page 13
Page 14
Page 15
Page 16-17
Page 18-19
Page 20-21

Chapter 3 - Court and Support**Pages 22-25**

Legal Unit
Victim Witness
Support
Grants and Revenue

Page 22
Page 23
Page 24
Page 25

Chapter 4- Community**Pages 26-30**

Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP)
Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)
Glossary
Community Partners

Page 26
Page 27
Page 28-29
Page 30

Child Abuse & Neglect Unit



In 2012, the Greene County abuse and neglect deputy juvenile officers investigated allegations of abuse and neglect regarding 382 children to determine

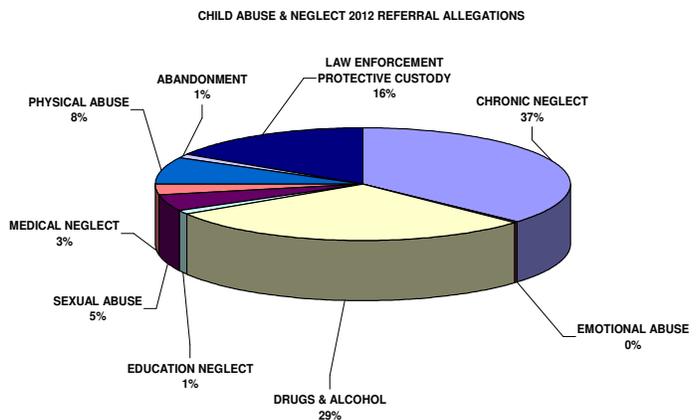
whether they should be placed into protective custody. The deputy juvenile officers also provide court case management to children in foster care which includes attending court hearings and participation in team meetings. Throughout 2012 the number of children in foster care declined by 12% from 2011. Throughout the year the deputy juvenile officers were responsible for monitoring an average of 65 families and 100 children on their caseload.

2012 Court Petitions filed in the Abuse/Neglect Unit	
Abuse & Neglect	310 children
Termination of Parental Rights	133 children
Adoption (foster care, private, stepparent, foreign & adult)	167 children

Children are placed into protective custody for a variety of concerning issues; and many cases involve multiple issues of concern.

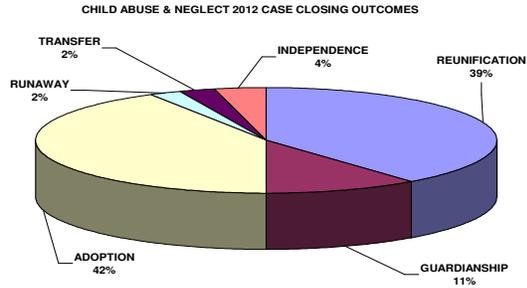
For more extensive data and information please view our 2012 Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics report on our website:

www.greencountymo.org/juvenile/abuse/index.php



The optimal permanency goal is for reunification with a parent. However, when that cannot happen other permanency options are sought. Throughout 2012 cases were closed for 462 children. This was an increase of 44 case closings over 2011.

Child Abuse & Neglect Unit



The Abuse/Neglect unit is involved with a variety of programs focused toward enhancing services and improving outcomes for families with children in care.



Fostering Court Improvement (FCI) is a collaborative partnership within the child welfare system tasked with identifying and working toward reducing barriers to achieving permanency for children in foster care. Greene County FCI is made up of juvenile officers, case management agencies, attorneys and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

In 2012 FCI accomplished goals that included: remodeled court reports with an emphasis of incorporating Framework for Safety concepts; developed Visitation Training and through use of training grant funds was able to present that training to Attorneys, CASA, Case Workers, Foster Parents, and Juvenile Officers; and established permanency goal subcommittees to address issues regarding permissive placements exceeding 180 days and protective custody assessment barriers.



Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC) is a specialized court that provides comprehensive supervision, drug testing, substance abuse treatment services, and immediate sanctions and incentives to parents addicted to drugs and/or alcohol. The Drug Court commissioner works with a team that includes representatives from the Juvenile Office, Children’s Division, guardian ad litem, parents’ attorneys, prosecuting attorney, probation and law enforcement agencies who work together to serve the best interests of children by helping parents resolve their drug and/or alcohol issues.

Child Abuse & Neglect Unit

Road to Reunification (R2R) is a class which explains to parents with children who have been placed into foster care the court process, family support team roles, responsibilities & meeting process, and suggestions to improve parent-child visitation and interactions. The course is led by the abuse and neglect deputy juvenile officers. In 2012 about 100 parents attended the class.

-Parent comments about what they found helpful from the Road to Reunification presentation...

"I am more confident in the process and steps I'm going to take and changes I'm going to make."

"The class gave a full step by step explanation of the overall process."

"This was helpful to understand the process and know what to expect."

Kids In Court (KIC) is a program that encourages older youth to attend their court hearings so that they have an active voice in their case. In 2012 34% of older youth were able to attend their court hearings.

- Older Youth comments about why it is important to them to be at court hearings...

"Because I need to know what is going on. I have the right to know everything that is going on."

"Because if it is going to change my life in the slightest I would like to be there."

"I love being here. I think it's amazing. All of the people in that room are very supportive of me a lot. I just enjoy being around them so much."

In 2012, 222 adoption hearings were held in Greene County. The style of adoptions ranged from 125 Children's Division, 38 step parent, 9 relative, 3 foreign, 2 independent or agency and 1 adult adoption were finalized.

A favorite adoption match story from Adoption Specialist, Shayla Lowe. This is an excerpt from an email received from a birth mother after she had been matched with her son:

We are getting along just GREAT!!! He came over to my house the Saturday after I signed the release form. We spent about 5 hours together- I fixed brunch - and we talked, cried, talked, laughed, looked at pictures, etc. It was wonderful. He told his mother and she was happy. I told my son ...he was shocked at first of course, but he handled it very well. He just told me that he doesn't want me to get hurt....but that he wishes me the best. It was one of the most difficult things I've ever had to do. I feel as though I've have grown so much as a person through this - to date.



Domestic Relations Unit

In 2012, the Domestic Relations Unit (DRU) continued to serve families with cases pending in Family Court, to include dissolutions of marriage, paternity actions, motions to modify previous cases, and family access motions. All Domestic Relations Officer's (DRO's) have a master's degree in psychology, two are licensed professional counselors, and one is a provisionally licensed counselor undergoing supervision. Officers are located in the Judicial Courthouse.



From the left: Chelsey Ortiz, Michael Metz, Karen Lehmann, & Becky Clifton Hopkins

Alternative Dispute Resolution Class

Greene County Local Rule 6.9D mandates that all individuals involved in a contested family court case attend the Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Family Courts (ADR) class. The ADR class provides litigants with detailed information about the family court process, the effects of litigation on children, and the benefits of mediation. ADR is provided to litigants free of charge and is offered two to three Tuesdays per month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. *1,023 litigants attended the ADR Class in 2012 (serving approximately 85 litigants per month).*

ADR Survey Comments:

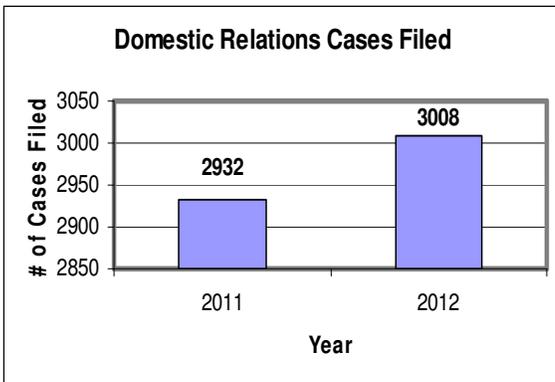
"I was impressed with the knowledge of the presenters. It was excellent!"
"I am actually glad that this class is required. It is very informative. I don't remember having to do this class 11 years ago when I got divorced – wish we had."
"This presentation affected my decision on pursuing mediation a lot, because I want the best interest for our children."
"The presenters were both very good speakers. Kept me awake! J Both made great points I haven't really thought about."
"Thank you! This class opened my eyes about a lot of issues and things I need to change! I would rather be the bigger person."
"It makes me stop and think about going to trial and the time/money involved that I could be spending on my children."

Caseflow Management

Every case filed in Family Court is assigned to one of four Family Court Divisions. All petitions are tracked by DRO's to ensure continuous movement towards finalizing each case via settlement or trial completion. *3,008 petitions were filed in Greene County and each officer tracked approximately 752 cases in 2012.*

Case Management Hearings

Contested cases involving children are scheduled for a case management hearing soon after an answer is filed. The goal is to provide stability for the minor children by implementation of a temporary contact schedule and child support order. DRO's facilitate conferences with attorneys and/or pro se litigants to summarize case details and expedite the hearing for the Commissioners. *DRO's conducted 341 case management conferences in 2012 (serving approximately 29 families per month).*



Domestic Relations Unit**Common Ground**

Common Ground Supervised Access Program (CG) provides an opportunity for children to visit their non-residential parent (NRP) in a safe, secure, and monitored environment. Visits may be ordered due to a variety of reasons, to include intense conflict between parents, allegations of child abuse, child neglect, domestic violence, substance abuse, criminal activity, or introduction or reintroduction of a child to a parent. CG meets the national standards for supervised access programs provided by the Supervised Visitation Network and is a self-sustaining program charging families \$20 per visit. In 2012, licensed DRO's were ordered to provide an additional service of therapeutic intervention for 11 families to assist the child and NRP in transitioning into a comfortable visit or to address specific issues. *492 supervised visits occurred at Common Ground in 2012 (serving an average of 15 families and 20 children per month).*

Investigations

Investigations are ordered in Family Court cases that involve high-conflict custody disputes between the parents. DRO's summarize background information and provide records as requested. Investigations include summaries of police and sheriff's department records, Missouri Children's Division records, and Greene County Juvenile Office records. They may also include interviews of the parties, home visits, medical and mental health records, or records requested from other agencies. Additionally, licensed DRO's were ordered to provide 5 therapeutic assessments for families who could not afford to pay for a full psychological evaluation from an outside agency. *64 investigations were ordered by Family Court and 89 Probate Court record checks were ordered for guardianship petitions in 2012 (serving 153 families).*

Mediation

All DRO's are Court approved Civil and Family Mediators. DRO's may be ordered to mediate cases when the parties have a combined income of less than \$40,000. Mediated issues generally include: contact schedules, child support, and property. *63 Family Court cases were mediated with a 73% agreement rate in 2012.*

2012 DRU Highlights:

Audited course materials for the five Parent Education courses. Litigants are required to attend a Parent Education course by local rule (6.9A). Attended Synthetic Drug Training held by Community Partnership and the Missouri Highway Patrol to obtain updated drug information. Assisted the Juvenile Office in creating much

P.O.W.E.R. Court

Parents Overcoming Obstacles to Work and Exhibit Responsibility (POWER Court) is an initiative developed in 2012 to provide community resources and job placement assistance to eligible litigants who are not paying court ordered child support. The goal is to minimize county and state monies spent on families with parents who have the potential for gainful employment but may need one-on-one assistance. This program is in collaboration with the Greene County Child Support Prosecutor's Office, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Missouri Career Center, OTC, and Family Court.

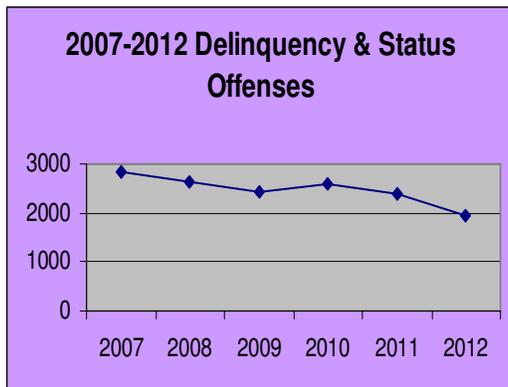
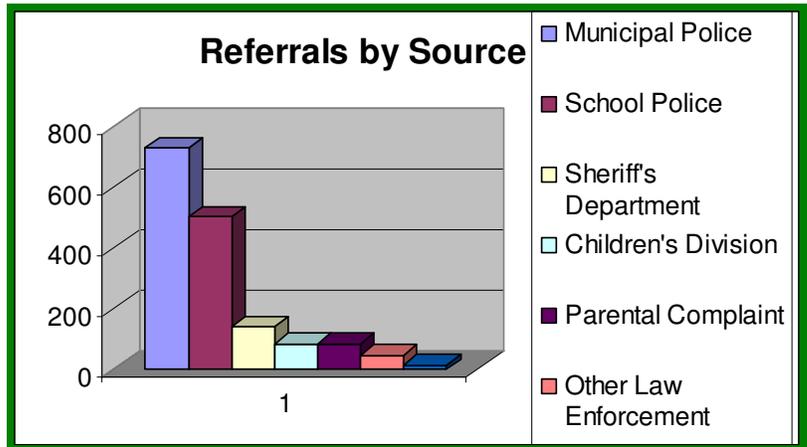
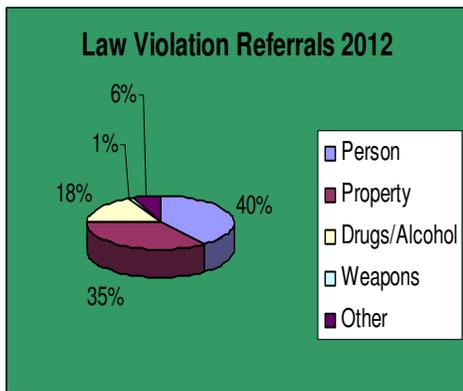
The DRU was approved for a \$3,500 Domestic Relations Resolution Funding (DRRF) Grant through the Office of State Courts Administrator

Thank You!

- *Center for Dispute Resolution and Central Assembly for allowing the DRU to use your space for Common Ground on Tuesday and Thursday evenings!*
- *Burrell Behavioral Health Center for allowing the DRU to use the Children's Theater to conduct the ADR class two to three Tuesdays per month!*

Law/Status Violation Unit

The Law/Status Violation Unit received 1562 juvenile Delinquency referrals and 376 non-criminal juvenile status offense referrals in 2012. The largest percentage of referrals came from municipal police departments in Springfield, Republic and Willard. Combined, they sent more than 755 delinquency and status offenses to the Greene County Juvenile Office. School police departments made up the second largest number of referrals with 690 reports. The Greene County Sheriff's Department sent 144 delinquency and/or status offense cases. The Greene County Children's Division referred 88 delinquency/status offenses. In 2012, at least 87 juvenile complaints came from parents seeking intervention from the Juvenile Office.



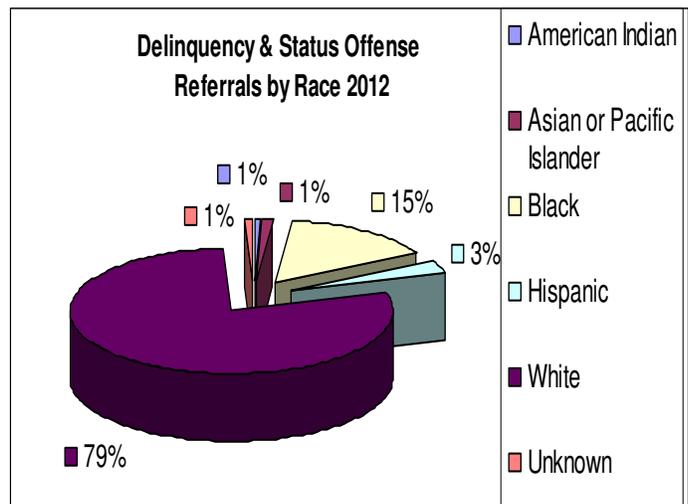
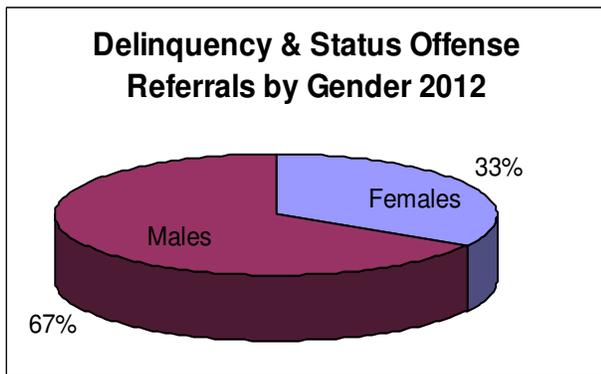
Investigations

Deputy juvenile officers (DJOs) within the Law/Status Violation Unit responded to the above referrals by assisting law enforcement or conducting follow-up investigation on the reports received. DJOs reviewed police reports, referral information, interviewed victims, witnesses and met with juveniles and their parent or custodian to gather the facts of the case. DJOs met and discussed cases with staff attorneys to determine legal sufficiency, appropriate charges and court preparation plans. As part of the investigative process, youth reported as sexual offense victims are referred to the Child Advocacy Center for follow-up interview and services. During 2012, 72 such victims were referred to the Child Advocacy Center.

Law/Status Violation Unit

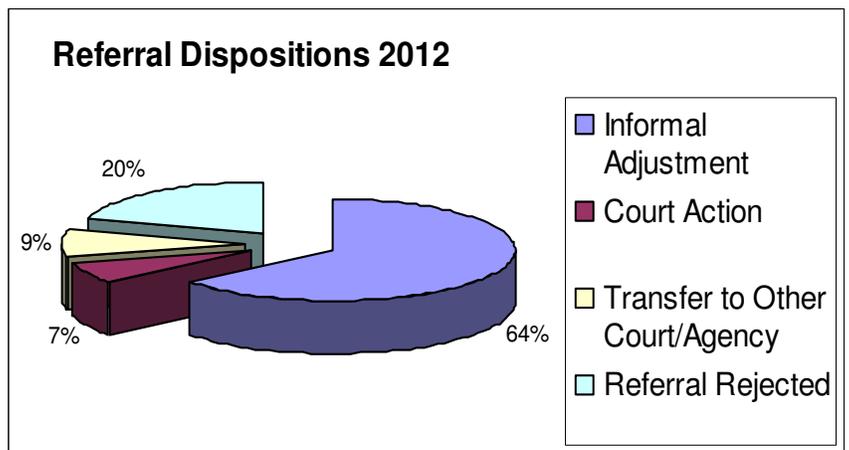
Screening & Assessment

In an effort to appropriately identify the risk level a youth poses to the community, DJOs utilized two validated objective screening tools in 2012, the Missouri Juvenile Offender Risk and Needs Assessment and the Missouri Juvenile Detention Assessment. The tools help determine proper levels of detention, alternatives to detention and supervision/intervention plans for youth referred to the Juvenile Division. The Law/Status Violation Unit also administered mental health/substance abuse screenings for youth referred to the Greene County Juvenile Division during 2012 that included the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs Short Screener (GAIN-SS) and the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-Version 2 (MAYSI-2). These screening instruments are designed to help identify who may need further assessment and/or treatment for mental health and/or substance abuse.



Case Disposition

Deputy juvenile officers prepared and disposed of more than 1200 cases through an informal adjustment process. Of those, 402 were referred for follow-up probation supervision including 85 that were referred to the Greene County Teen Court Program. During 2011, 68 youth were referred to the Victim Offender Mediation Program and 60 youth to the Victim Impact Panel. 157 petitions were filed to handle cases through a formal court proceeding heard by the judge. Deputy juvenile officers attend a team staffing for each case where they share and discuss appropriate treatment recommendations in preparation for the court hearing. They also gather educational, social, psychological and offense history on these juveniles. Such information is included in a summary and made available to all parties of the case and ultimately offered to the court to assist in the disposition of the case.



GEMS

Recent years have seen a growth in Gender Responsive Services (GRS) in Greene County, but in 2012 efforts to improve services for girls became a central focus of the Juvenile Office. Much of the changes that occurred in Greene County in 2012 can be attributed to a site visit to the PACE centers in Florida. These centers have long been models for girls' programming, and being able to tour them gave Greene County staff a chance to see first-hand what PACE has done to make their programming successful. While there, staff toured the PACE facilities, spoke with girls involved in the program and were able to speak with the presidents of each facility to get their input on what worked and didn't work. With lessons learned, staff returned to Greene County and began making changes for the betterment of girls.

Changes began with the Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA). The GCYA had historically been a residential program for boys. Due to needed changes, the GCYA shifted to an intensive supervision outpatient program and began opening its doors for girls. Rather than trying to put girls into the existing program (which had been built for boys), staff made a conscious effort to begin creating a program within the GCYA geared specifically toward meeting the needs of girls. With the help of grants, it became possible to offer separate classrooms for girls so that they could receive more individual attention from a teacher. Additionally, staff began conducting girls' groups utilizing SAVVY Sister curriculum. Lessons from this curriculum are tied into their classroom work, as well as in other programming that girls receive.

Additionally, Missouri State University's Center for Dispute Resolution (CDR) continued to offer Networks for Girls services. This group allows girls an opportunity to meet with a trained facilitator and other girls to speak about girls' issues including body image, self-esteem, relationships and more. Furthermore, it allows girls and their families a chance to come together with the guidance of a mediator in order to identify the girl's and family's strengths and concerns. From there, a plan is made on what needs to change, whose responsibility it is, consequences if there is no follow through and more. Overall, this program has had great success as 78% of participants never return to the Juvenile Office after completing the program.

The Juvenile Office also focused greatly on girls' activities in 2012. This included volunteering projects such as the Prom Closet and Drury's Women's Entrepreneurship Symposium. Additionally, Lela Panagides of LEAP into Leadership sponsored tickets for our girls to be able to see the movie *Brave* in theaters. This was followed up by speaking with the girls about the necessity of having strong female characters in the stories we share. This also led directly into the first Career Daze, a program within the Juvenile Office which allows girls to meet, listen to and speak with women of success in careers ranging from successful stay-at-home mothers to presidents of companies.

Lastly, in an effort to honor the power of language, all GRS programs and services are now a part of a wider reaching component of the Juvenile Office called Girls Empowering Minds and Spirits (GEMS). The purpose of this was to create a name with a positive connotation that girls and families alike could be proud of. Additionally, girls have actively been a part of helping review all materials related to GEMS. This has helped give power back to girls who have historically had their voice taken from them. Together, GEMS participants and staff are stepping into 2013 with a stronger foundation from the past year to create a better future.

**Diversity artwork provided by
Emma, 4th grade.**





Probation Unit

Formal Probation

The role of formal probation is that of a catalyst for developing safe communities and healthy youth and families. Juveniles are placed on formal probation by the Juvenile Court Judge after they are found to be within the jurisdiction of the court for a law violation or status offense. In 2012, 106 youth were released from formal probation. 68% of those youth were diverted from the Division of Youth Services resulting in 33 probation commitments to the state.

Youth are placed on formal probation for an indeterminate period of time and for a variety of offenses. The average length of stay for youth released from probation this year was just over 10 months. That is up slightly from 2011 which had an average of 9.3 months. Length of stay on probation varies greatly depending on the risk and needs of the youth, their families, and their willingness to comply with the orders of the court. There are three officers who supervise formal cases, one of which supervises a specialized case load of sexually harmful youth. Youth supervised for sexually harmful behavior made up 17% of the formal probation cases closed in 2012.

18% of the youth released from formal probation were female and racial demographics were: Caucasian = 65%, African-American = 25%, Hispanic = 5% and Other = 5%.

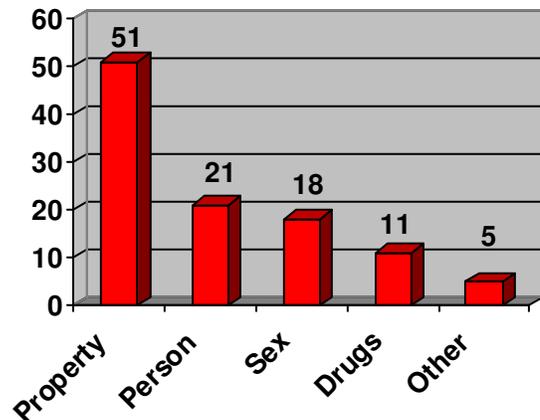
Informal Probation

Informal probation is designed to be a diversionary process to keep youth from entering further into the juvenile justice system. Informal probation officers serve as a conduit to resources in the community to provide families information, support and services. The youth on informal probation generally are lower risk youth. Informal probation is an agreement between the youth, family and the juvenile office to work together on an individualized treatment plan for the benefit of the youth.

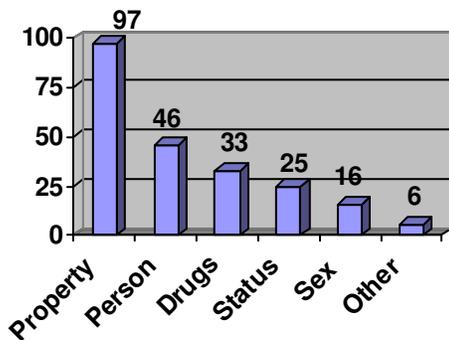
In 2012 the Greene County Juvenile Division employed two informal probation officers through Division of Youth Services, Juvenile Court Diversionary Funds. In that same year, 223 youth who committed delinquent and/or status offenses were released from informal probation or informal adjustment. This is up 14% from 2011. These youth were supervised through the completion of many programs such as: Substance Abuse Treatment, Homework Assistance, Victim Offender Mediation, Victim Impact Panel, Counseling, and other individualized services.

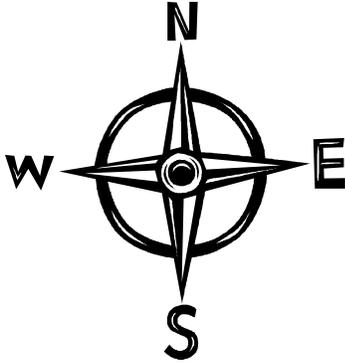
In 2012, 63% of the youth released from informal probation were successful. 37% of those youth were female. Racial demographics of youth released were: Caucasian = 78%, African-American = 17%, Hispanic = 3% and Other = 2%.

Offense Type for Youth Released from Formal Probation 2012



Offense Breakdown for youth released from Informal Probation in 2012



GPSGuiding Probation Success

In 2012, the Probation Unit created Guiding Probation Success (GPS), which is a class once a month for parents of youth on probation. Guiding Probation Success is a program aimed at educating parents about the probation process. GPS is designed as a one-time informational meeting for parents of children recently placed on informal or formal probation. Parents will learn in detail what is expected of their child and themselves during the probation process, as well as the various levels of supervision and the court process in general. Parents are encouraged to ask questions and give their input as to what services and resources they feel youth would benefit from. This will allow parents to become better informed supervisors of their children. The Probation Unit feels that parents are the most valuable and influential resource for children. GPS seeks to build on that value through open communication between parents and the probation unit in an effort to increase success during probation.



**Diversity artwork provided
by
Mallorie, 3rd grade.**

Quotes from Guiding Probation Success:

“Reinforced my responsibility as a parent to stay firm in actions & consequences when dealing with my children.”

“Better understanding and helped relieve some stress.”

“Answered questions I had without hesitation. I totally enjoyed the class.”



ERC

The Greene County Juvenile Division's Evening Reporting Center (ERC) provides intensive supervision for higher-risk juveniles who are awaiting their court hearing or require a sanction. Youth are referred to the ERC through the use of an objective screening tool to determine their suitability and overall risk. The ERC has been serving more youth and their families each year. For 2012, 85 youth were served, a 32% increase from 2011.

Once admitted into the program, the youth are expected to participate and follow the rules of the program for 20 program days or until their court hearing as well as complete one community service requirement on a weekend. Once they have completed the requirements of the program without committing a new law violation or violating their rules, the youth are successfully released from the program.

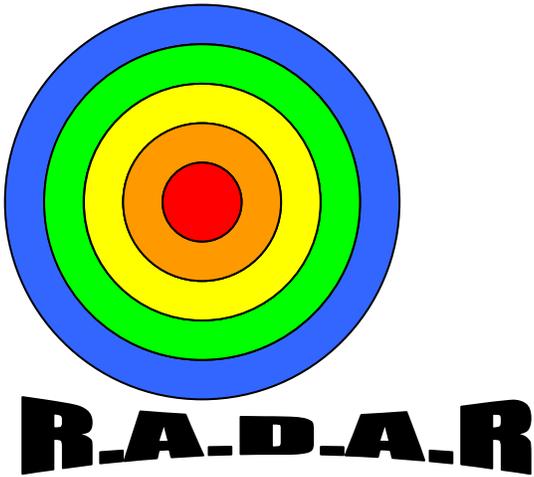
The ERC has continued to improve services to both the community and the youth in the program. For 2012, 82% of the youth achieved the requirements of the program and were successfully released. Since the inception of the ERC, 97% of the youth have successfully completed the program without a new law violation.

The ERC relies heavily on the dedication of our community partners. Our community partners facilitate a wide range of groups including anger management, coping skills, and yoga. The interaction that our youth have with the volunteers from the community provides a wide net for youth to learn invaluable information.

In 2012, the ERC completed a video that is just under 14 minutes in length, providing a greater level of information that is useful to both the family of youth referred to the program as well as other communities interested in starting their own Evening Reporting Center. The video can be located at <http://youtu.be/TNaDHvejiFk>. Additionally, the ERC developed a Facebook page that maintains communication with youth, family, and community partners; the Facebook page can be accessed at <http://www.facebook.com/GreeneCountyERC>.

The ERC utilizes various funding sources in order to conduct programming. In 2012, the ERC had to adapt to funding no longer being provided to facilitate groups previously funded through Title II Juvenile Justice Formula grant and Reclaiming Futures. With the cessation of funds, an opportunity was presented that allowed for a revised partnership with Forest Institute wherein the students were driven to provide services that accommodated the interest of the population. Furthermore, the program established a partnership with the Springfield Police Department and the Missouri State Highway Patrol in order to conduct drug awareness classes and the Greene County Health Department has been essential in educating our youth about sex education and healthy relationships. Additionally, even though one Title II grant ceased, another Title II grant has provided an opportunity for Functional Family Therapy.

The ERC continues to strive for program excellence and enhance services that promote youth success and maintain community safety.

RADAR

September 2012 became a turning point for the juvenile office regarding substance abuse programming for youth served by this office. The Reclaiming Futures grant, which previously funded the Greene County Juvenile Drug Court, ended and the juvenile office was unable to continue the Juvenile Drug Court at that time. However, there was a desire from the juvenile office to redesign a program to meet the specific needs of youth whose lives are affected

by a substance abuse history. Thus the RADAR program was formed....

R.A.D.A.R. stands for Responding Appropriately to Drug and Alcohol Referrals. The mission for RADAR is to “Equip and Empower Youth for Positive Change.” If a youth has a petition pending and upcoming formal court action and it has been determined they could benefit from RADAR services, due to a substance abuse history, specific programming has been designed to work with these youth. The programming that has been developed for these youth focuses on four areas in the youth’s life: substance abuse treatment, community and family improvements, education, and probation. Each youth placed in the RADAR program will adhere to the following requirements outside of the typical probation conditions: the youth will be placed on Conditions of Probation-RADAR, they will be required to attend and successfully complete substance abuse treatment, youth will participate and successfully complete Moral Recognition Therapy, the youth and their family will participate in weekly team meetings. The weekly team meetings, consisting of youth, family, probation officer, and treatment provider, will review the youth’s progress in each of the four focus areas, continued struggles, and goal setting for the following week. The team meetings are set on a level system, requiring the youth to petition for advancement through the levels, decreasing the number of team meetings per month. The youth are also required to participate in a speaker’s bureau, hosted by the juvenile office and through partnership with outside agencies. Presentations relate to substance abuse.

RADAR has served as an office wide revitalization of current policies and practices regarding how the juvenile office is working to meet the needs of youth at each level of the juvenile justice system: intake, informal probation, Alternatives to Detention pending court hearing, formal probation, Greene County Youth Academy and Detention. This continues to be an initiative in the Greene County Juvenile Office and in the next year will work to formalize practice and update services to serve youth and families affected by substance use better.



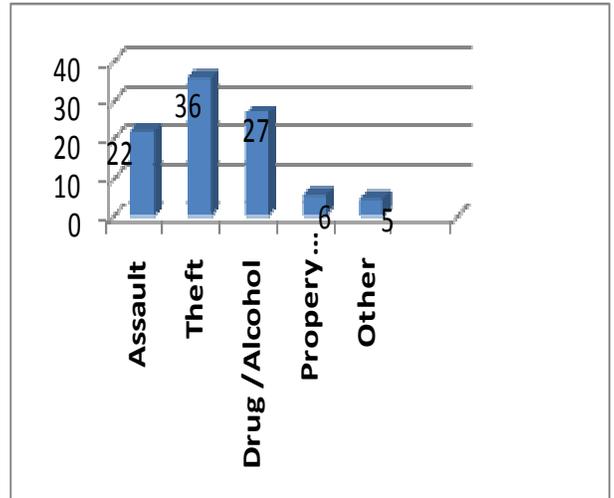
Greene County Teen Court is an informal alternative sentencing program

for juveniles. Teen Court is for youth between the ages of 12 and 16, who have committed a misdemeanor offense. In Teen Court, youth face a jury of their peers. The jury hands down constructive and meaningful “sentencing” for their behavior. This includes volunteering in the Teen Court process and volunteering and helping within their community. Defendants must accept responsibility for their actions to participate in Teen Court as the jury does not determine innocence or guilt. In 2012, 96 youth had their cases heard by Teen Court and served in this alternative sentencing program.

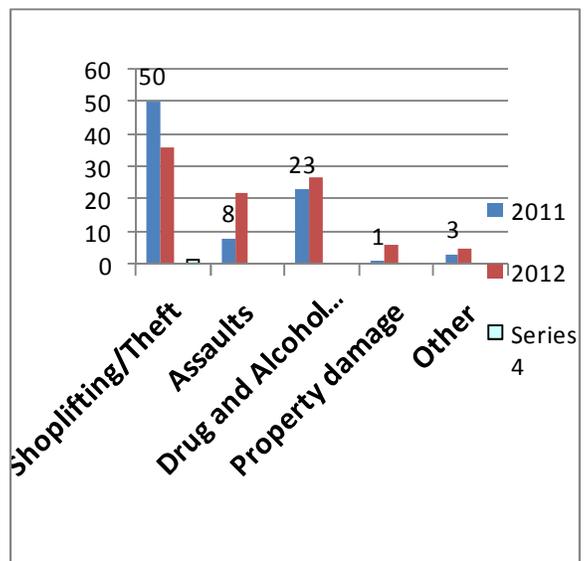
There are five judges that volunteer their time to officiate at Teen Court, including the Chief Judge of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Southern District, two Missouri Court of Appeals judges from the Southern District, one Associate Circuit Court judge from Greene County and the Chief Municipal Court judge for Springfield. Assistant prosecuting attorneys from Greene County volunteer and observe court to offer feedback for youth attorneys. Many of the youth attorneys have ambitions of becoming an attorney in the future.

In 2012, Teen Court jurors assigned 616 community service hours and 446 jury duties. An additional 1,059 adult and youth volunteer hours were logged in the operations of Teen Court. This informal alternative has proven to be successful and effective in providing families and youth with the resources to assist with their self-improvement. A five year review of those who completed the Teen Court program resulted in a 10% recidivism rate.

Teen Court



Breakdown of charges seen in the 96 cases in 2012



Comparison of 2011 cases (85 referrals) and 2012 cases (96 referrals)

Teen Court

Youth participants' responses to Teen Court:

“I have learned not to get in trouble because I will pay for it.”

“I am very glad I got a second chance. Don't know what I would have been into if I couldn't have gone through Teen Court.”

“It was a positive learning experience.”

Teen Court's Facebook page can be viewed at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Greene-County-Teen-Court/257475797601341>. And the Teen Court video can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjYCNX2dXw8>.

Parents' responses to Teen Court:

“I am so thankful there is a program like this one.”

“The kids do work hard in the program and learn more positive ways to contribute to society and their families.”

GCYA

On January 1, 2012, the Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA) moved from a residential treatment program for boys, temporarily housed at the detention center, to a day treatment program for boys and girls located on Booneville Ave. in Springfield. On March 27, 2012, an open house celebration commemorated the move as well as honored the county commissioners and other county employees for their dedication and assistance in making the move possible. Also recognized was the regional director of the Missouri Division of Youth Services, the agency that continues to fund the program with Juvenile Court Diversion grant dollars.



During the 2011 – 2012 grant period, the Greene County Youth Academy diverted 21 out of 30 participants from the Division of Youth Services for a 70% success rate. In the calendar year 2012, GCYA provided services to a total of 37 youth, 33 of them being male and 4 female participants.

Open House

GCYA

On-site academic education is a service that had always been a part of the GCYA residential program and continues as a day treatment program. In the 2011-2012 school year, the GCYA classroom enrolled 28 students. Of these, 71% tested below grade level in reading and 82% were below grade level in math. When tested 30 days later 100% showed improvement by at least one grade level in reading and 89% in math.

Springfield Public Schools provided one full-time on-site teacher and a part-time Title I instructor. Fortunately, an additional teacher was funded in 2012 through a continuing grant from the Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA). This same OSCA grant provided for GPS monitoring services and group counseling hours. The grant funded groups included: cultural awareness, substance abuse support and processing, and an art therapy group that processes relevant topics such as anger management.



Teachers: Sunday Wildschuetz
& Audrey Dillard

Other services provided at GCYA in 2012 include

Moral Recognition Therapy

Functional Family Therapy, funded with a Title II grant

Gender responsive substance abuse treatment for girls through Alternative Opportunities

Home and school visits and support

Individual counseling

The Greene County Youth Academy is continuing to develop programming that improves outcomes for the youth it serves. In particular, is the on-going development of gender responsive services that meet the needs of both the boys and girls in the program.

FACEBOOK page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Greene-County-Youth-Academy> and on web at http://www.greencountymo.org/juvenile/ya_index.php

Detention

In 2012, the secure Juvenile Detention Center admitted a total of 265 juveniles. This number includes youth held for other counties and for the Division of Youth Services. If those youth were to be excluded from the total number of admissions the resulting total would be 142 Greene County youth admitted and held pending a hearing. The average daily population was 8, and the average length of stay was 11 days.

The Detention Center operated throughout 2012 at the restored capacity of 24. Capacity increased from 16 to 24 due to the transition of the Greene County Youth Academy on January 1, 2012, from a residential program, temporarily housed in the detention facility, to a day treatment program, housed in a different location.



A detention admission assessment is completed on each youth admitted to secure detention to assist in evaluating risk and the need to detain. This procedure is in compliance with Missouri Operating Rule 28 and is a part of the system reform efforts currently in place at the juvenile office. The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) is an effort supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation that is being used at the juvenile office to ensure only youth who are at risk of committing another offense, or who may flee the jurisdiction of the court, are held in secure detention. JDAI promotes the creation and utilization of alternatives to detention. With the creation and utilization of alternatives, such as the evening reporting center, pre-adjudication supervision and electronic monitoring, lowered detention admissions is a trend that has continued over the last five years, including this last year in which the number of Greene County youth held pending a hearing decreased by just over 3%.

The Juvenile Detention Center collects revenue from partnering agencies in exchange for holding youth. In addition, the Detention Center collects a small daily amount from the State of Missouri for each youth held. Finally, the Detention Center participates in the federal school lunch program and collects a subsidy to offset the cost of breakfasts and lunches. In 2012, all revenue collected amounted to \$95,768.65. Though allowable by Missouri Statute, in 2012 Greene County did not bill families whose children were securely held for the cost of care.

The Juvenile Detention operation budget for 2012 was \$705,461. This budget includes the cost of 14 full-time and 5 part-time professional staff that provided services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They conducted intakes and releases; supervised and transported youth; responded to medical, behavioral, and environmental emergencies; assisted in filing 469 after hours Orders of Protection; and conducted all Juvenile Division after-hours business. In 2012 the Detention Center welcomed a new Assistant Detention Superintendent, Mr. Joel Woodward.



Joel Woodward

Detention

Meaningful programming is a mainstay of high quality conditions of confinement, per the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). In Greene County high quality programming is continuously pursued as detention is viewed as a process, linked to the juvenile justice system, rather than a warehouse for youth. The most significant detention program in 2012 continues to be academic education. Springfield Public Schools has a classroom in secure detention that enrolled 176 for the 2011-2012 school year. The results of academic testing showed that 81% performed below grade level in reading and 84% performed below grade level in math. Students who remained in the program for 30 days were reassessed and 72% of these students showed improvement of at least one full grade level in reading and 61% showed improvement of at least one full grade level in math. The teacher, for the 2011-2012 school year was Mr. Neil Adams and Ms. Barbie Mooneyham.



Neal Adams

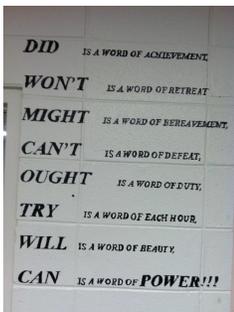


Barbie Mooneyham

Other detention programs offered in 2012 included:



- * Health class
- *Crossroads and Freeway Ministries
- *Art
- *Recreational games and fitness instruction
- *Staff led special topic groups
- *Moral recognition therapy
- *Cognitive Behavior approach to behavior management



Legal



In 2012, the legal unit of the Greene County Juvenile Division consisted of two full time attorneys, one part-time attorney and a victim/witness coordinator. The legal unit provides representation, both in and out of court, to each of the other units of the Greene County Juvenile Division. Additionally, the legal unit keeps the office informed of current and proposed legislation as well as new appellate court decisions to ensure that the practices in place at the office are current, relevant and legally accurate.

Unit Hearing Statistics

In 2012, the legal unit Attorneys appeared before the court in over 2700 hearings. These hearings break down as follows: 422 delinquency hearings; 2162 abuse and neglect hearings; and 178 termination of parental rights hearings. In addition, the legal unit responded to 12 appeals before the Southern District of The Missouri Court of Appeals.



Role & Responsibilities

Juvenile Office attorneys:

- Prepare pleadings associated with all cases and any and all appeals that stem from those cases.
- Provide legal advice to Juvenile Division staff
- Assist the Juvenile Division with any issues that may arise by having an attorney on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Offer information and resources to the community including: providing training in juvenile law to law enforcement academies, presenting at various seminars, and updating the legal community on new developments in juvenile law.



Victim-Witness

Victim Services

The role of the Victim-Witness Coordinator is to maintain a professional relationship with victims to assist them as their case progresses as well as escorting victims to court. Also, the Victim-Witness Coordinator is responsible for facilitating to arrivals of witnesses for Delinquency and Abuse and Neglect cases. Sometimes Delinquency cases involve restitution; in 2012 over \$11,000 was collected from juveniles and transferred to their victims.



**Diversity artwork
provided by
Chloe, 11th grade.**

Victim Offender Mediation (VOM) & Victim Impact Panels (VIP)

The Greene County Juvenile office referred 33 juveniles to the VOM program. These mediations gave the victim the ability to be involved in the justice process and help decide along with the juvenile in face to face meeting how the juvenile should be held accountable for their actions. There were 55 juveniles referred to the VIP Program which gave juveniles the opportunity to hear firsthand how their actions affect victims within our community.

Support

Greene County Juvenile Office
2012 Support Staff



Jill Randolph, Karen Mcilravy, Karen Woodward, Lisa Loftis, Susie Schenck, Kim Williams, Debbie Baltzell , Shirley Speers, Laura Burke, Michelle Blood, Carrie Bottoms Not pictured: Nicole Price and Cheryl Blakemore

In 2012 the Support Staff had the privilege of helping with 2 Community projects:



Salvation Army Christmas served as "personal shoppers" for Christmas gifts for needy children and families.



Back to School Volunteers helped sort school supplies, packed backpacks, and assisted as personal "shopping buddies" for children and families.



**Greene County Family Court: Juvenile & Domestic Relations
Division 2012 Annual Report**

Grants & Revenue

GRANT	2012 UTILIZED AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education- Getting Involved for Today's Students (GIFTS)	\$30,000.00	Probation & Greene County Youth Academy
Division of Youth Services (DYS) Juvenile Court Diver- sion Funds (JCD)	\$201,192.15	Evening Reporting Center, Pro- bation, Youth Academy
Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)	\$46,137.18	Law/Status
Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)	\$3,000.00	Probation
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$6,425.00	Abuse/Neglect
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$1,200.00	Domestic Relations
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$25,000.00	Greene County Youth Acad- emy
Title II	\$37,447.81	Law/Status & Probation
Total Grant Amounts	\$350,402.14	

OTHER REVENUE	2012 AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT
Department of Health and Senior Services	\$6,171.18	Evening Reporting Center
Division of Youth Services (DYS)	\$35,984.00	Secure Detention
Out of Circuit & Drug Court Reimbursement	\$9,675.00	Secure Detention
Per Diem State Reimbursement	\$37,198.00	Secure Detention
USDA Subsidy	\$17,545.00	Secure Detention & Youth Academy
Total Revenue Amounts	\$106,573.18	

Total Grant & Revenue Amounts **\$456,975.32**



Special thanks to Nick Pleshka and Anton Pleshka for creating the DAP logo!!!

2012 was a wonderful and busy year for the Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP). In January, Perry Epperly and Zach Adams were honored to speak at the NAACP general meeting. In February, Lee Mun Wah from Stir Fry Seminars was the keynote speaker at MSU. Mun Wah is world renowned advocate for the fight to stop racism and has created movies such as “The Last Chance for Eden.” Multiple people from the Juvenile Office were in attendance.

In April, the Blend Newsletter printed a spot created by DAP entitled, The DAP Corner. This was an opportunity for DAP to advertise for one of our Lunch Time Learning Series in which Dr. Ken Coopwood was the speaker.

In October, the Chamber of Commerce and the Springfield Area Human Resources Association (SAHRA) hosted the 2012 Springfield Community Event. Toni Riccardi was the keynote speaker. She is the senior vice-president of human resources and the chief diversity officer for The Conference Board. Members of DAP were able to attend the event.

DAP

Facing Racism

Zach Adams, Jeremy Trapp and Marie Swope were selected to attend the Facing Racism Training in 2012. This training was hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. It was a great opportunity for the Juvenile Office to sit with members of the community to discuss the important topic of racism in our area.

Diversity Discussions

In 2012, DAP began hosting diversity discussions with the youth at the ERC, GCYA and Detention. We use the Diversity Wheel that was so graciously given to the Juvenile Office by Lela Panagides. With this tool, we talk about what diversity and inclusion really is and what we can all do to improve the lives of those around us.

Lunch Time Learning Series

In 2012, we were fortunate to have four Lunch Time Learning Series (LTLS) presentations. They started in January with Dr. Nate Quinn and Gwen Marshall from the Springfield Public Schools Office of Cultural Diversity.

They informed the community as to what their role was within the school district. In April, Dr. Ken Coopwood, MSU Vice-President for Diversity and Inclusion spoke on the topic “Diversity Leadership: What to Know, What to Do!”

Then in July, LTLS showed the documentary, “The Shadow of Hate.” Finally, in October, Dr. Michael Stout from MSU’s Sociology Department presented his updated study on human social capital.

JDAI



Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

In 2006, the Greene County Juvenile Office was one of four Missouri sites selected to participate in a system reform effort supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation that utilized 8 core strategies to improve services for youth and their families referred to the Juvenile Office for a law violation. Those 8 strategies are: Collaboration, Use of Data, Objective Screening Tools, Alternatives to Secure Detention, Expedited

Case Processing, Special Cases, Eliminate Disproportionality, and Improve Conditions of Confinement.

In 2012, Justice Patricia Breckenridge, on behalf of the Missouri Supreme Court and the Office of State Court Administrator, presented the Greene County Juvenile Office with an award in recognition of successful Juvenile Justice Reform through the implementation of the Missouri Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives and the eight core strategies.

2012 marked the sixth year that the Juvenile Office actively participated in JDAI and continued engaged efforts related to the core strategies. There are many programs and services offered at the Greene County Juvenile Office that have their roots in JDAI and one or more of the core strategies. Examples of such programs and services are: the Diversity Awareness Partnership, Girls Empowering Minds & Spirit, and the Evening Reporting Center. All these efforts are supported by the Community Collaborative that continued to meet quarterly in 2012.



Glossary of Terms

Abuse: Any physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse inflicted on a child other than by accidental means by those responsible for the child's care, custody, and control, except that discipline including spanking, administered in a reasonable manner, shall not be construed as abuse.

Alternative Care (AC): When a child has been placed into protective custody.

Action: A proceeding taken in a court of law. Term is synonymous with a case, suit, and lawsuit.

Affidavit: A written statement of fact prepared and signed by the DJO and Children's Division investigative worker and sworn before a person having authority to administer and oath.

Adjudication: Decision by a juvenile court judge that the juvenile committed the delinquent act.

Adjudication Hearing: A hearing to determine whether there is evidence beyond a reasonable doubt to support the allegations against the juvenile.

Aftercare: Supervision of a juvenile after release from an institution.

Allegations: The assertion, declaration, or statement of a party to an action made in a pleading, stating what he/she expects to prove.

Answer: A written statement of the respondent's case made in response to the plaintiff's complaint.

Appeal: The process by which a case is brought from one court to a higher court for review for a reversal or modification of the judgment of the lower court.

Bailiff: A court officer who opens and closes the court and keeps peace in the courtroom.

Clerk of the Court: An officer of the court whose duty is to maintain court records.

Commitment: Decision by a juvenile court judge to send the adjudicated juvenile to an institution.

Contempt of Court: An act that is meant to embarrass, ender, or obstruct a court in the administration of justice. Direct contempt is committed in the presence of the court. Indirect contempt is when a lawful court order is not carried out or is refused by the party against whom the order was issued.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA): A volunteer that is a trained citizen who is appointed by a judge to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in court.

Court Summary: A document prepared by the Children's Division or DJO and offered to the court for review.

Continuance: A delay or postponement of a court hearing.

Criminal Non-Support: A person who commits the crime of non-support when he/she knowingly fails to provide, without good cause, adequate support for the parent and/or minor children when legally obligated to do so. Criminal non-support is a Class A Misdemeanor in Missouri. If the violator leaves the state for purposes of avoiding obligation to support, then it is a Class D Felony.

Default: A judgment entered against a defendant who does not plead within the allowable time or does not appear at the trial.

Delinquent Act: A behavior committed by a juvenile that would have been a crime if committed by an adult.

Deposition: Testimony taken under oath outside the courtroom concerning the facts and circumstances surrounding an incident. It may be introduced as evidence in a court hearing at a later time.

Detention: Short-Term secure confinement of a juvenile for the purpose of ensuring the juvenile will appear for court and/or for the protection of the community.

Detention Center: A facility designed for short-term secure confinement of a juvenile prior to court disposition or execution of a court order.

Discovery: A pre-trial procedure that allows each party to get written or oral information from the other party.

Disposition Hearing in Delinquency Cases: A hearing held after a juvenile has been adjudicated to determine what sanction should be imposed on the juvenile.

Disposition hearing in Abuse/Neglect Cases: This is a hearing that occurs after the jurisdictional hearing. The court will review and discuss progression and make any changes accordingly. Dispositional hearings are held every 90 to 120 days.

DJO: Deputy Juvenile Officer

Docket: The order in which cases will be heard or tried on a given day. The list is often posted outside the courtroom with cases listed by the petitioner's name.

Evidence: Any form of proof legally presented at a trial through witnesses, records, documents, or other material.

Family Support Team (FST): A team that ensures that the necessary services and support are provided to all parties of the case. The team would include the mother/Father, DJO, Children's Division, CASA, guardian ad litem, parent's attorney, and any other individuals working toward the goal of reunifying the child back into the parental home.

Family Support Team Meetings (FSTM): The initial meeting is scheduled 72 hours after the child is taken into alternative care, as well as 30 days, 60 days, 90 days, and 120 days later. Later meetings are scheduled at six months and every six months thereafter. Additional meetings can be scheduled as needed or at the request of the team. Many decisions and recommendations are made by this team.

Finding: The court's or jury's decision on issues of fact. In almost all court orders, the findings of facts precede the actual order of the court.

Guardian ad Litem (GAL): An attorney or special advocate appointed by the court to represent the interests of a child in a civil or criminal proceeding involving that child. A GAL must be appointed if there is an allegation that the child has been neglected or abuse. The GAL is charged with promoting the best interests of the child in that proceeding.

Glossary of Terms

Hearing: A legal proceeding wherein attorneys and interested parties in a case appear before a judge in a court of law.

Interlocutory: Provisional; temporary; not final; refers to an order of the court.

Interrogatories: Written questions developed by one party's attorney for the adversary in a case who must respond in writing and under oath.

Judgment: A determination by a court of the rights and claims of the parties in an action.

Judicial Notice: An act in which a judge conducting a trial or framing a decision recognizes the existence and truth of certain facts having a bearing on the controversy without the production of evidence. Taking judicial notice is the awareness of certain facts that judges may act upon without proof or argument, because they already know them to be true.

Jurisdictional Hearing: A court proceeding in which the court decides whether the statements or allegations the juvenile officer made in the petition are true and whether the child will remain under the supervision of the court.

Minor: Any person under the age of 18.

Mediation: A non-binding process involving a neutral mediator who acts as a facilitator to assist the parties in crafting a mutually acceptable resolution.

Motion: An oral or written request for an action made by a party before, during, or after a trial, upon which a court issues a ruling or order.

Neglect: Failure to provide, by those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child, the proper or necessary support, education as required by law, nutrition, medical, surgical, or any other care necessary for the child's well-being.

Notice: A written order to appear in court at a certain time and place.

Parties: The persons who take part in the performance of any act, or who are directly interested in any affair, or who are actively concerned in the prosecution and defense of any legal proceeding; commonly referred to as the petitioner and respondent.

Permanency Hearing (PH): This hearing occurs within one year after the child came into care. The court is required by federal law to have a hearing to determine what the permanent plan is for the child. Types of permanency include: reunification with the parent, guardianship with a third party, independent living, termination of parental rights – adoption, and long-term foster care.

Permissive Placement: Judge with authorize that a child can be placed back into the parental home. This step routinely occurs after the parents have made substantial progress on their treatment plan.

Petition: A legal document that states the allegations which are pled to the court.

Petitioner: A person who brings an action seeking relief; the party who complains or sues in a personal action; also referred to as the plaintiff.

Pleading: The formal written allegations by the parties in a lawsuit of their respective claims and defense presented for the judgment of the court.

Pro Bono: When an attorney agrees to represent the party for free.

Pro Se: A person who represents himself in court, without the aid of an attorney.

Protective Custody (PC): A police officer, law enforcement official, or a physician who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering from illness or injury or is in danger of personal harm by reason of his surroundings and that a case of child abuse or neglect exists, may request that the juvenile office take the child into protective custody.

Protective Custody Hearing (PCH): The primary purpose of this hearing is for the court to decide whether or not the child can safely be returned home. This hearing must be held within 3 business days of protective custody.

Record: A copy of the pleadings, exhibits, orders, or decrees filed in a case in the trial court and a transcript of the testimony taken in the case.

Respondent: The person defending or denying an action; the person against whom the relief or recovery is sought.

Reunification: The court gives the child back to the parents based on substantial compliance with the court ordered treatment plan. This can also be referred to as permissive placement.

Service: Notification of an action or of some proceeding given to the person affected in person, or by sending it to him or her in the mail, or by publication in the newspaper; the delivery or communication of a legal document in a suit to the opposite party.

Statute: State law as enacted by the Missouri General Assembly.

Subpoena: A written order issued by the court to require a witness to appear and give testimony or produce documentary evidence in a legal proceeding.

Taken into custody: The action on the part of a police officer to obtain custody of a juvenile accused of committing a delinquent act.

Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Hearing: Sometimes referred to as TPR. The court may find that it is in the best interest of the child for parental rights to be terminated and for the child to be adopted by a third party. The third party may be the foster parents, another family member, or a relative.

Testimony: Any statement made by a witness under oath in a legal proceeding.

Treatment Plan: The plan is formally presented to the judge at the jurisdictional hearing for approval. It is a list of what is needed in order to reunify the child with the parents. It contains the responsibilities of both the parents and Children's Division.

Witness: Any person called to testify under oath in a criminal or civil proceeding regarding what that person has seen, heard or otherwise observed. This might include the victim, the defendant, eyewitnesses, and police officers, medical or other professionals.

Greene County Family Court: Juvenile & Domestic Relations Division 2012 Annual Report

Community Partners

It is with profound appreciation that the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Division, recognizes its community partners who have contributed time and services to various efforts that uphold our vision of: "Safe Communities, Healthy families." It is the mission of the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Division to promote collaborative partnerships with private and public entities in an ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Greene County. In 2012, those community partners were:

Alternative Opportunities	Greene County Children's Division
Ambassadors for Children	Greene County Park Board
Andy's Foundation	Greene County Prosecutor's Office
Area Law Enforcement	Harmony House Family Violence Prevention Center
Art Museum	IMAX Theatres
Association of Women in Communication (AWC) Springfield Chapter	Japanese Stroll Garden
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Jordan Valley Park
Boys and Girls Club	Lakeland Hospital
Boys and Girls Town	Legal Services of Southern Missouri
Boy Scouts	Missouri Department of Conservation
Burrell Behavioral Health	Missouri State University
Care to Learn	NAACP
Carol Jones	Ozarks Counseling Center
Center for Dispute Resolution	Ozark Psychological Associates
Central Assembly of God	Palace Theater
Child Advocacy Center	Programs for Youth
Community Foundation of the Ozarks	Shapes Mentoring
Community Partnership of the Ozarks	Silver Dollar City
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	Solution Based Choices, LLC
Cox Hospital	Sporting Chance
C-Star Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment	Springfield Bar Association
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	Springfield Fire Department
Dickerson Park Zoo	Springfield Nature Center
Discovery Center	Springfield Parks and Recreation
Division of Youth Services	Springfield Public Schools
Drury University	Springfield Skate Park
Evangel University	Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE)
EXCEL School	Swift Steps Counseling Services
Forrest Institute of Professional Psychology	Teach to Inspire
Friends Against Hunger	Temple Israel
	The Victim Center
	Tynes and Associates



Greene County Juvenile Office
1111 N. Robberson
Springfield, MO 65802
Phone: (417) 868-4008
Fax: (417) 868-4119
www.greenecountymo.org/juvenile/



Diversity artwork provided by
Carson, 7th grade.