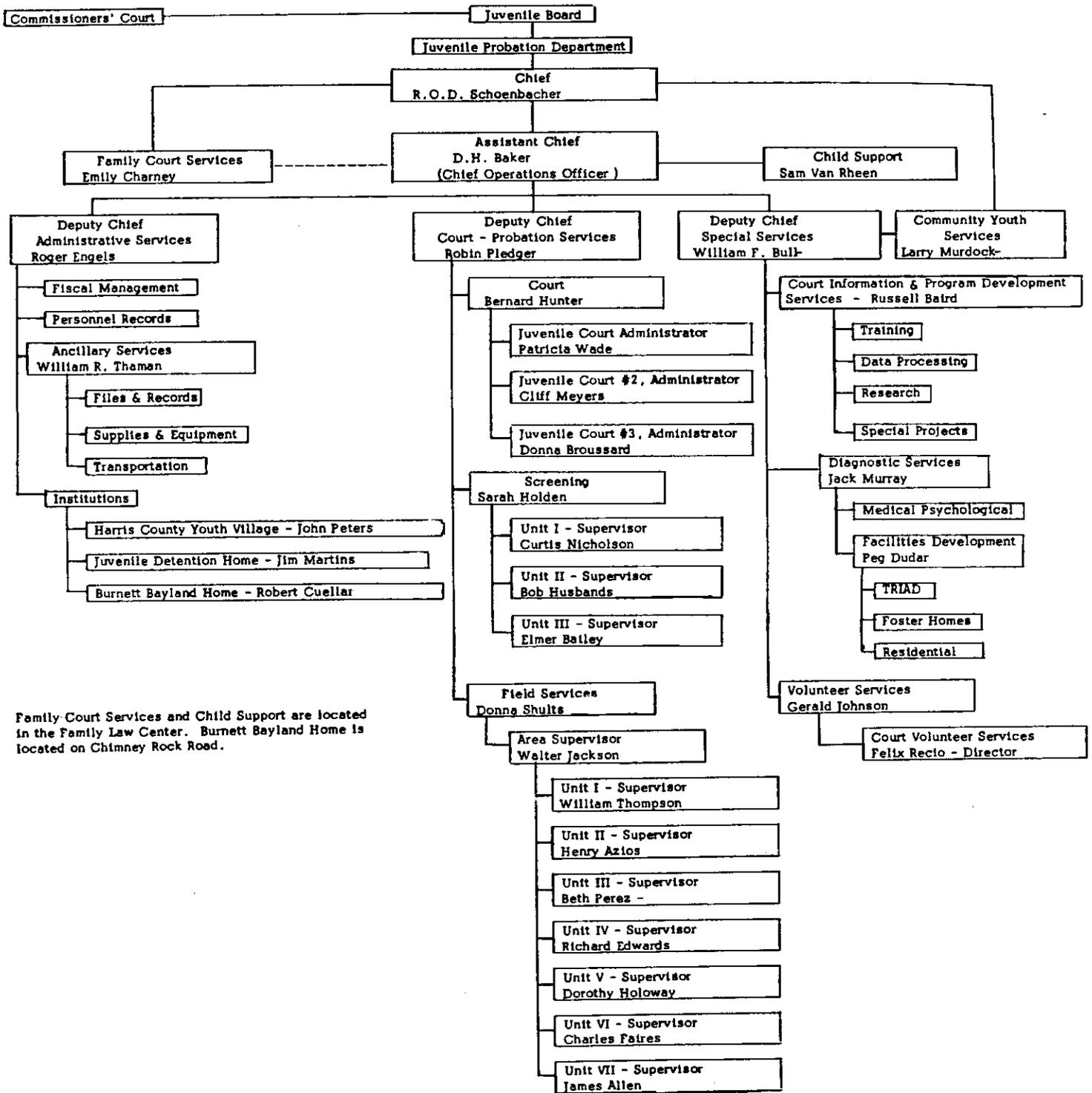


Serving the Youth of Harris County

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HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 1976



Family Court Services and Child Support are located in the Family Law Center. Burnett Bayland Home is located on Chimney Rock Road.



JUVENILE COURT
JUDGE ROBERT L. LOWRY



COUNTY JUDGE
HONORABLE JON LINDSAY



151st DISTRICT COURT
JUDGE JOHN L. COMPTON



JUVENILE COURT # 2
JUDGE W. H. MILLER

HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE BOARD

[Through the powers enacted by State law (Empowered by State Law Article 5139V), this board formulates policy and procedures for the employees of the probation department and the county institutions for the care of neglected, dependent and delinquent children.]



176th DISTRICT COURT
JUDGE WILLIAM M. HATTEN



JUVENILE COURT # 3
JUDGE CRISS COLE



CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER
R.O.D. SCHOENBACHER



DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT
JUDGE RUBY SONDOCK



TO: The Harris County Commissioners' Court and
Harris County Citizens

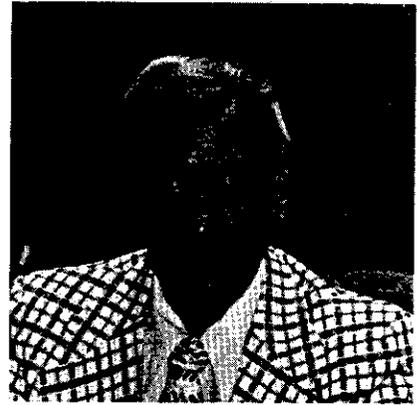
On behalf of the Harris County Commissioners' Court, the Harris County Juvenile Board, and the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, I wish to present this 1976 Annual Report to the Harris County citizenry for their scrutiny. The last five years of County growth have been almost unbelievable. When our nation slumped into economic decline, this area surged ahead.

I am pleased to submit this report to you as a factual growth record of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department. By studying the statistical comparison of the year 1972 with 1976, it can be noted that juvenile problems have increased and that the County and the Board have met these growing youth problems with a strong, capable Juvenile Probation Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon Lindsay". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Jon Lindsay, County Judge
Chairman, Harris County Juvenile Board



The 1976 Harris County Juvenile Probation Department Annual Report was developed to contrast 1972's statistical data with that of 1976. In 1973, the State Legislature approved a new criminal code. Within that law, a new Family Code directly affected the department and its clients. This Annual Report, by contrasting the period before and after the new law took effect, will provide the reader with a better grasp of our Department and its scope of responsibility.

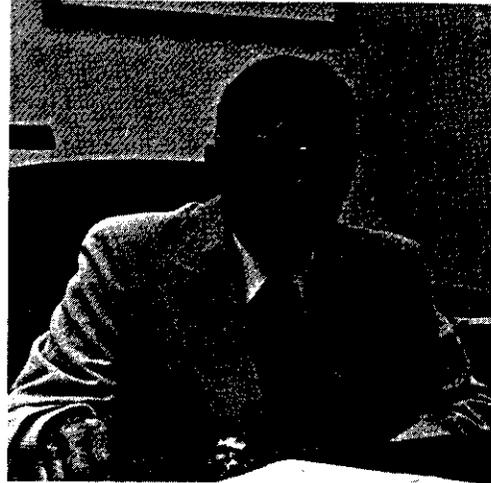
A rapidly growing economy coupled with new juvenile laws and a gradual decline in the family unit, has produced profound changes in the Juvenile Probation Department. This report will provide some insight into our youth problems and the department's efforts to seek resolutions.

Respectfully,

R. O. D. Schoenbacher

R. O. D. Schoenbacher, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
Chief Executive Officer, Harris County Juvenile Board

FOREWORD



D. H. Baker
Assistant Chief of Operations

I appreciate the opportunity to express a few thoughts relative to the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department.

During the past twenty-five years of my association with this Agency and after serving under four Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, I find that more has been accomplished in the last six years, than in all other years combined.

We would be remiss if we did not at this time analyze and acknowledge the reasons for these highly progressive years for Juvenile Probation Services.

Unquestionably, we owe a debt of gratitude to the Harris County Commissioners' Court for its trust and willingness to supply the necessary funds for our multitude of services.

Secondly, without the leadership, dedication, and guidance of our seven Judges, who sit as the Juvenile Board

and who formulate policy and procedure for all Juvenile Probation Services, progress would have been minimal.

Thirdly, the recommendation, presentation, and implementation for planning and development, as well as utilization of Federal and State funding, have been prime motivating factors in the last six years. For this we are indebted to the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer.

Furthermore, we are grateful to the four hundred dedicated men and women employees of our Department who have consistently given of their time and talents in serving the troubled youth of our community.

We cannot forget that without mutual trust and cooperative spirit among law enforcement, social service, and community agencies, the task would have been almost impossible.

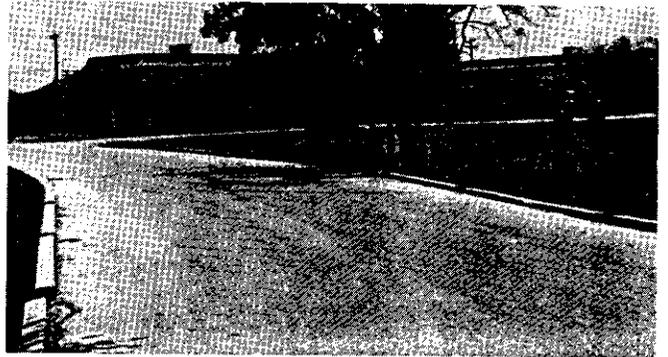


Companionship.....

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, we owe a large debt of gratitude to the enlightened citizens of Harris County.

We tend to forget that laws governing our Agency emanate from our State and Federal legislators through the will of our citizens. The creation of agencies, passage of bond issues, and the deep, abiding interest of citizens as volunteers within the Juvenile Probation Department mean, in the final analysis, more and better help for juveniles in trouble.

On behalf of all those mentioned, we sincerely dedicate this 1976 Annual Report.



Campus Setting.....

JUVENILE COURT SERVICES



Robin Pledger, Deputy Chief
Probation Services

Juvenile Court Services, designed to assist the Juvenile Courts in working with juvenile offenders who come within the authority of the Family Code, has been innovative, flexible and productive in order to fulfill its function.

I feel this responsibility has never been more keenly felt than during the past five years from 1972 through 1976. The staff of Intake Screening, Court Services, and Field Services has met the challenge of these years.

Intake Screening has been challenged more in the past five years than in any other time in our history. This was especially true with the inception of the Family Code in 1973. At that time

we were designated Central Index of Harris County. This doubled our Intake referrals.

Our Intake staff has expanded from a small group of JPOs in 1972 to include a considerably larger professional staff by 1976. In addition, the Department now can boast resident staff from the Child Welfare Unit (CWU), the Palmer Drug Abuse Program (PDAP), the Community Youth Services (CYS), the Big Brothers, and numerous other volunteers. These strides have been achieved in an attempt to interface with community service agencies.

Our Court Services Unit operates as an investigative adjunct of the Juvenile Courts. It is charged with



Intake Operations

investigating all cases which come within the authority of the Family Code and where Court action is required. Utilizing Court-related programs, Court Officers compile a factual and concise report for presentation to the Juvenile Court Judge for determination of a course -- preferably the home -- which is in the best interest of the child.

During the past five years we have reorganized toward effective and economical use of staff and at the same time to expedite court hearings through automatic docketing so juvenile offenders can receive court attention in ten days if in detention; or twenty days if not in detention.



Guidance & Help

The new code provides an alternative informal course of action for the young, immature, and not so serious first offender felons. With the use of staff and volunteers we have used "Informal Adjustment" as an alternative to formal action of 4,683 cases since 1973.

As a result, recidivism has been reduced to a rate of 6.25 percent in 1976, and our caseloads are maintained at workable levels.

SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION



William Bull, Deputy Chief
Special Services

A juvenile probation department in a large urban community is required to render a host of services to its community and courts.

Paramount in this concept is the need to develop "treatment services" required by law and good practice. The Special Services Division has been charged with this function, and created Child Care Services to cover all areas of children's needs.

From small budgets and contracts; this unit, by generous action of the Commissioners' Court and Juvenile Board, was able to meet the influx of delinquent and Status Offender/CHINS cases which inundated the Department. Medical services, psychometric testing, optical, and other health care services were structured through Federal grants and the regular budget. Our unit nurse has been able to meet the requirements of pediatric nurse practitioner and offers greater services at Intake. All this was added since the 1972's report.

Further placement for children was developed for 61 children through funding with the Texas Youth Council community assistance grant. A new thrust for the Department in delinquent conduct treatment was the development of private foster homes — never before used by Harris County Juvenile Probation Department for delinquent children. Group foster homes, through TRIAD and by Department contract, serve further needs. These homes and services did not exist in 1972.

The TRIAD emerged from an inchoate state in 1972 to a functional cooperative effort by 1976 — one incorporating significant services through a consortium of the Child Welfare Unit, the Mental Health-Mental Retardation Authority, and the Juvenile Probation Department. County bond monies have enabled TRIAD to purchase property and buildings in which specialized child treatment can be developed and jointly coordinated by the three agencies.

Illustrations of these are —

"Family Focus" for psychological services was developed through Child Welfare; The Urban Home, for children leaving the Harris County Youth Village was developed by Harris County Juvenile Probation Department; A Residential program for Mentally Retarded Juvenile Offenders was established by Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority.

Training and Professional Development

Although the Department and its needs have expanded greatly, the Training Unit has been able to keep pace through staff coordination and grants. These resources have allowed for technical consultation and added training, as well as new employees' orientation. Training of volunteers and interns is also the responsibility of this unit. The unit members additionally serve as training representatives to outside agencies, e.g., police departments, school administration personnel, and others.

Special institutes and selected training courses are held throughout the year to improve our officers' abilities to serve the courts and the children.

Grant Development and Programs

Much of the thrust of the Department has continued to be service to the status offender and monitoring of grants and contracts. This unit assumes responsibility for pursuing funding information and maintaining liaison with governmental funding agencies.

Volunteer Development

The citizens of Harris County are responding to our children's needs in impressive numbers. Court Volunteer Services, a one-to-one program, averaged 153 assignments per month of citizen to client.

In addition, their members are manning the Media Center in the Detention Home. This Center was created with funding from the Texas Criminal Justice Council with supplementary funding from Exxon, U.S.A. The Federal grant was a cooperative effort sought by Harris County, City of Houston and our volunteers. In the first ten months of operation, 4,719 children used the Center. A total of 6,476 books were checked out by the children.

Volunteers and interns also work in the same job description as probation officers. They represent 22.012 percent of our professional staff. They are represented by the Junior League of Houston, Voluntary Action Center, and twelve colleges and universities, as well as other sources.

Court Volunteer Services

Trained men and women increasingly are being assigned to juveniles whose behavior and emotional needs have called them to the attention of the Juvenile Court. This program has grown in size and expertise and has enabled the Juvenile Probation Department to considerably enlarge its scope in conjunction with the Court and other legal guidelines.

Community Youth Services

This status offender oriented program works in local school districts to prevent truants, dropouts, and other children with school-related problems from entering the Juvenile Justice System. CYS successfully has created a major delinquency prevention program in Harris County.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE



Roger Engels, Deputy Chief
Administrative Services

In 1972 the Administrative Services Division was confronted with a much smaller operation than that of 1976. Our statistics show that the Department had approximately 287 employees, compared to 387 in 1976. The annual budget was one-third smaller than the 1976 allocation. Certainly, the new Family Code and its influences on the Department caused drastic changes in the day-to-day business operations of the Department. New and unique programs created by the Special Services Division to cope with the influx of clients moved the administrative philosophy of the Department into a "big business" vein.

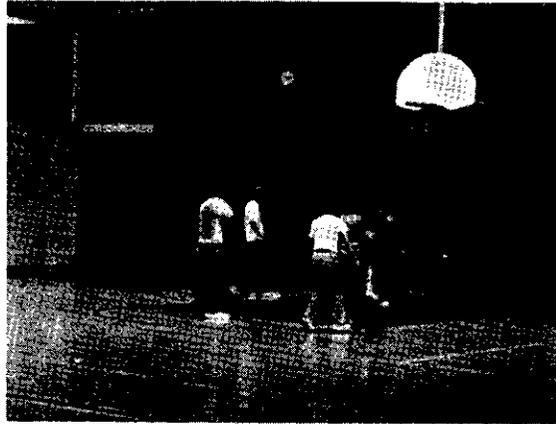
Planning by objectives, modern budgeting philosophy, and the turn to practical uses of electronic data processing for the administration of this Department were conceived and brought forward during this five-year period. The 1976 budget amounted to \$5.9 million of County general revenue money

and an additional \$500,000 of grant funds, compared to a budget of \$1,598,777.32 in 1972.

The Administrative Services Division was moved from the Family Law Center in downtown Houston to the Department's main building at 3540 West Dallas. This change was based on the necessity of having this unit centrally located for staff accessibility and to further merge the Administrative Services Division into the total planning process of the Department. Prior to 1976, logistics did not allow for this to happen.

Presently, this division is seeking to modernize and streamline its operations. Controlling paper flow, analyzing business procedures, automated process, microfilming, and records dissemination and storage are all being evaluated. Administrative Services continues to search for better methods to use for the benefit of both staff and client.

INSTITUTIONS



Recreation

Our Department utilizes three County-financed institutions to care for troubled children. The Detention Home provides custodial care for youth awaiting Court. The Burnett-Bayland Home primarily cares for status offenders and children in need of supervision in a cottage program atmosphere. The Youth Village, located in south Harris County, provides for adjudicated offenders. Further information on these three facilities is stated below.

When making a comparison between the years 1972 and 1976 and the number of children who entered these facilities, we submit the following figures:

	Detention Home	Burnett-Bayland	Youth Village
1972	3297	194	127
1976	6651	548**	215*

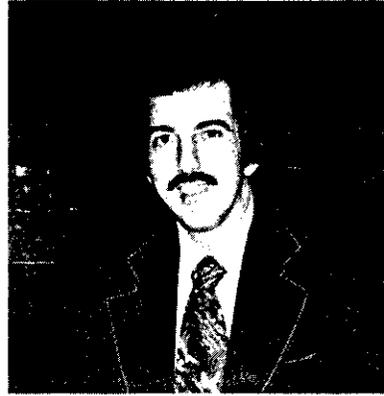
*The large increase is due to the new, enlarged facility that was completed in 1974.

**Increase due to short-term and status offender type children.

Operating budget comparison:

	Detention Home	Burnett-Bayland	Youth Village
1972	\$ 572,091.00	\$621,188.00	\$ 378,923.00
1976	\$1,034,148.00	\$946,632.00	\$1,133,744.00

BURNETT-BAYLAND HOME



Robert Cuellar, Ph.D., Superintendent

Burnett-Bayland Home presently serves children who are in the junior and senior high school grades. This age student requires a more individualized program and the staff at Burnett-Bayland Home endeavors to provide for the individual needs of each student in an institutional setting.

Community awareness and involvement is necessary for the complete success of any program such as ours. Not only is the community entitled to know what our program is like but that it is also responsible for providing the support needed to insure that children in care will receive the full benefit of the resources available in the community.

HARRIS COUNTY YOUTH VILLAGE



John Peters, Superintendent

We at the HCYV feel that tremendous strides have been made since those bleak, dark days back in 1973 when we were still struggling with the now defunct Harris County Boys' School that was built in 1925. Those indeed were trying times, ... the roof leaking, ceiling plaster falling down, plumbing malfunctions, no air conditioning, and when in season, the greatest threat of all, the dangerous erratic and unpredictable hurricanes. Even with hurricane evacuation plans, we still are vulnerable to dangerous situations. Hopefully and God-willing, we shall never have to put those plans into effect.

Now that several years have gone by since the initial opening of the Youth Village complex, we find that with each passing year our facilities are being expanded. As a result, the Youth Village and staff have watched the progress of these developments with gratification and I personally am looking forward to an even brighter future for the children of Harris County in the approaching year.

DETENTION HOME



James K. Martins, Superintendent

The Harris County Juvenile Home is operational to provide safe and secure custody for children in Harris County between the ages of 10 and 17. Children referred to the Probation Department are detained for a variety of reasons, as defined by the Texas Juvenile Code. A variety of program components help meet each child's particular needs in a residential program, organized recreational programs, and arts and crafts. Volunteer groups

also conduct other activities such as the Media Center or library program, a chartered Boy Scout Troop, and coordinated religious activities. Emphasis is placed upon the child and his/her unique problem through group and individual counseling during his/her stay in the Juvenile Home. A primary goal of our institution is to make the child's experience positive, reducing the negative aspects as much as possible.

CHILD SUPPORT SECTION/ FAMILY COURT SERVICES

CHILD SUPPORT

This unit receives and disburses Court-ordered support payments for Harris County. It maintains files on over 25,000 case records, receives child support payments and disburses same, verifies each and every transaction, keeps accurate auditable cashier accounts and furnishes Courts with case accountings, as requested.

The service required by the Courts over the last five years has been immense. The County population increase, coupled with the rising divorce rate, has meant a proportionately greater increase in child support payments and related services. Last year this unit received and disbursed over 28 million dollars of Court-ordered support payments.

FAMILY COURT SERVICES

This unit started to deliver its service to the Courts in 1973. It was developed to provide investigation reports and casework services for the Courts of Domestic Relations, Juvenile and Probate Courts in disputed child custody cases, and to make social studies as required by statute for adoption hearings.

Since 1973 referrals have soared. The first full year of service (1973) notes 137 custody referrals followed by yearly increases of 192 in 1974, 316 in 1975, and in 1976, 368 custody investigations were completed. Though adoption hearing services decreased, the increased divorce rate accounted for this upward surge of service. Future growth predictions reflect even greater demands on this unit.

DETENTION HEARINGS



Geraldine B. Tennant, Referee
for the Juvenile Courts

After four years experience as Referee for the Juvenile Courts of Harris County, and having heard thousands of detention hearings, I am convinced that the present system provided by Texas law for handling juveniles separately from adult criminals is appropriate.

Texas law requires a hearing before a juvenile can be detained, and does not provide for bail. After a hearing at which probable cause must be first determined, a juvenile must be released unless certain factors exist. A detention hearing in lieu of bond insures that release of a juvenile does not depend on a family's economic position, but upon more basic factors.

The presence of an attorney representing a juvenile in the detention hearing assures one of the most important rights a juvenile can have. Other constitutional benefits provided by the Texas Family Code result in a suitable balancing of the individual's rights along with the welfare of the community.

The question I am most often asked by concerned persons outside the Juvenile Justice System is "How can you bear

to hear the facts relating to the sufferings of people involved?"

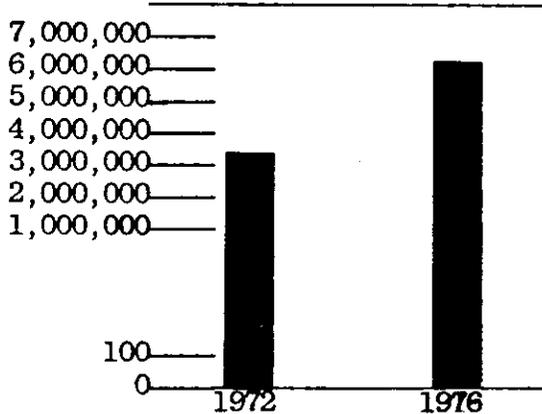
The conduct of a juvenile closely relates to family life. Since there is likely to be suffering in the family, some of that suffering may come out in the informality of a hearing. The answer to the question raised is that any judge or hearing officer must sublimate personal feelings so as to carry out the law. As Referee, I try to administer the law fairly for all concerned and thereby bring some balance to this community.

Our volume of work has increased by approximately 40% since the office of Referee was created approximately four years ago. Facilities for detention hearings at that time were squeezed into the detention home. We have been able to handle the increased work expeditiously with the same staff, due in part to dramatic improvement in our physical facilities. These new facilities were provided through the assistance of the Harris County voters and the Harris County Commissioners' Court.

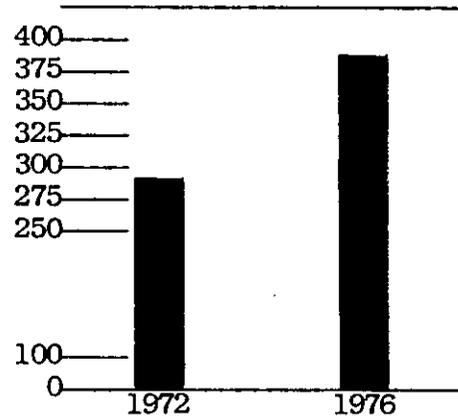
**COMPARATIVE
STATISTICS
1972 & 1976**

BUDGET/STAFF

These two graphs portray the growth in the Department's budget and employees over a five-year period. These increases are directly attributable to the growth of referrals following the new Family Code, enacted in September, 1973.



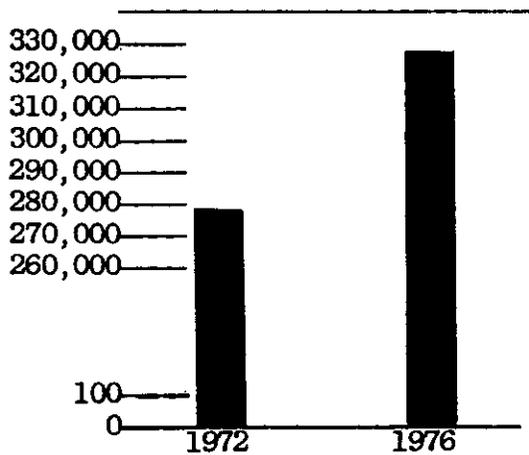
GENERAL REVENUE BUDGET
An increase of 84.72 Percent



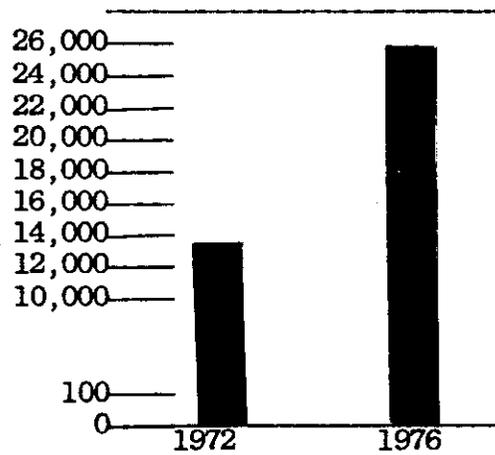
TOTAL DEPARTMENT STAFF
An increase of 35.34 Percent

POPULATION/REFERRALS

The increase in the total number of referrals cannot be attributed solely to the increase in potential juvenile population. A good portion of the responsibility for this increase must be attributed to the changes in the law.



TOTAL CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR SERVICES IN HARRIS COUNTY
An increase of 16.26 Percent

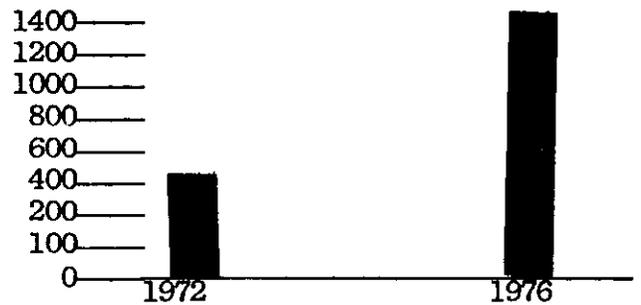


TOTAL REFERRALS RECEIVED
An increase of 80.57 Percent

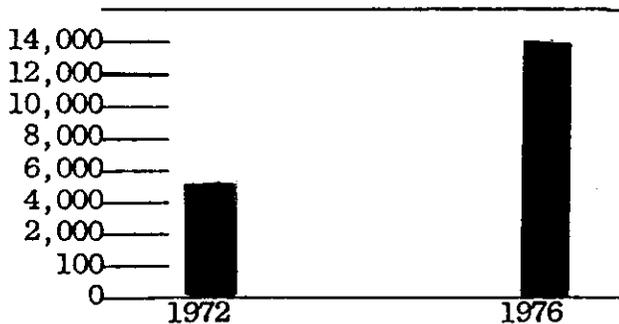
OFFENSE GROUPS



Although all crime has increased, crime against person and status crimes (acts that would not be against the law if committed by an adult) show a disproportionate increase. Probably the one factor for the increase in status crimes is the language of the law itself which tends to broaden this category. It is impossible to say which, if any of the current theories

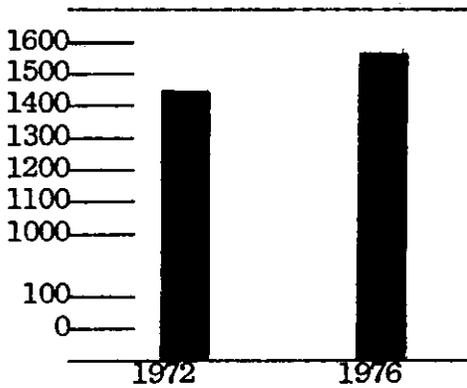


CRIMES AGAINST PERSON
An increase of 226.30 Percent

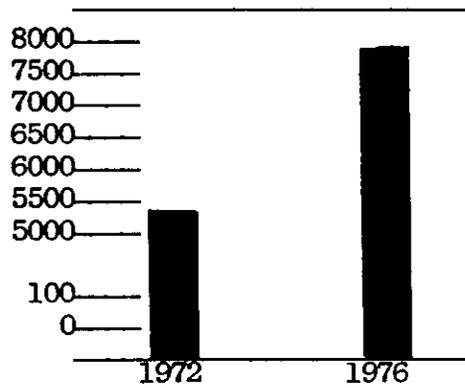


STATUS CRIMES
An increase of 190.14 Percent

(i.e., violence on television, acceptance of violence as a viable alternative problem-solution, survival of the fittest, poverty and social ills breed violence, etc.) are responsible for the increase in crimes against person. The increase in potential juvenile population might indicate a slowing down or a decrease in this area.



DRUG-RELATED CRIMES
An increase of 7.27 Percent

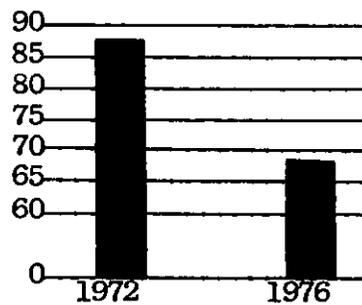


CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY
An increase of 44.71 Percent

DETENTION

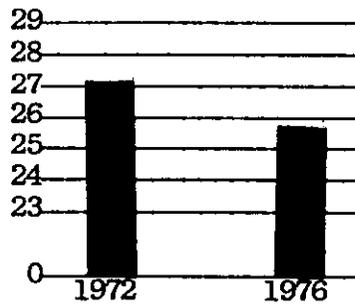
The decrease in both the number of juveniles detained and in the length of detention is a clear indication of the "diversion philosophy" in action.

AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER DETAINED



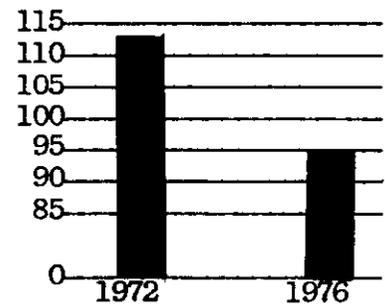
BOYS

A decrease of
17.76 Percent



GIRLS

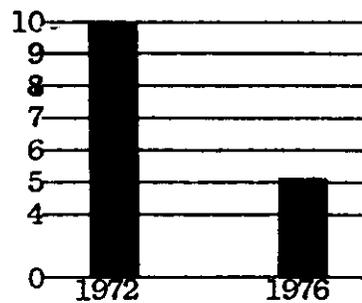
A decrease of
3.38 Percent



OVERALL

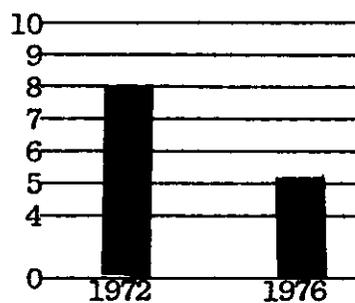
A decrease of
14.31 Percent

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS IN DETENTION



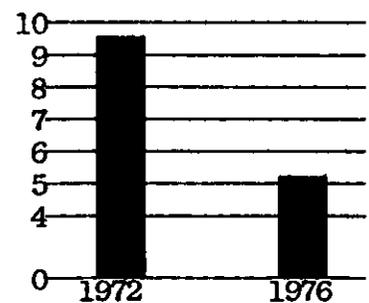
BOYS

A decrease of
47.06 Percent



GIRLS

A decrease of
32.27 Percent



OVERALL (WEIGHTED)

A decrease of
44.99 Percent

SEQUEL

Our 1977 Annual Report will portray this Department's efforts to divert children from further ingress into the criminal justice system. Only 247 juveniles were adjudicated and placed with the State. With a juvenile population of 323,000 between the ages of 10 and 17 in Harris County, less than 1 percent required incarceration. The many facets of diversion utilized by the Juvenile Probation Department will be highlighted in next year's report.

