



**1978**

**Harris County  
Juvenile Probation Department**

**Annual Report**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Transmittal of Report By Chairman, Harris County Juvenile Board . . . . .	3
II.	Harris County Juvenile Board and Referee Photographs . . . . .	4
III.	Biographical Sketch of Juvenile Board Members and Referee . . . . .	5
IV.	Transmittal Letter From Chief Juvenile Probation Officer . . . . .	7
V.	Biographical Sketch of Chief Juvenile Probation Officer . . . . .	8
VI.	Statement of Accomplishments in 1978 . . . . .	9
VII.	Organizational Statement . . . . .	11
VIII.	Organizational Chart . . . . .	12
IX.	Description of Accounts	
	A. Juvenile Court and Probation Services . . . . .	13
	B. Harris County Juvenile Detention Home . . . . .	14
	C. Burnett-Bayland Home . . . . .	15
	D. Harris County Youth Village . . . . .	16
	E. Comprehensive Child Care Services . . . . .	17
	F. Child Support . . . . .	18
	G. Child Support Enforcement . . . . .	19
	H. Family Court Services . . . . .	20
	I. Federal and State Grants . . . . .	21
X.	Summary of 1978 Expenditures . . . . .	23
XI.	Acknowledgement. . . . .	24

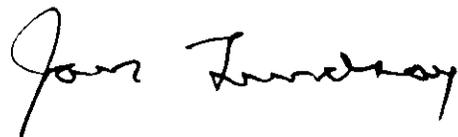
TO: Harris County Commissioners Court  
Harris County Citizens

RE: Transmittal of 1978 Annual Report

Pursuant to Article 5139VV, Section 5 (b), of the Texas Civil Statutes, the 1978 Annual Report is hereby transmitted to the Commissioners Court. This document provides an overview of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department as governed by the Juvenile Board.

As Chairman of the Harris County Juvenile Board and County Judge, I would like to acknowledge the debt owed the citizens of Harris County for their continued support and interest in the services we provide troubled children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Lindsay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jon Lindsay, County Judge  
Chairman, Harris County Juvenile Board



**313TH DISTRICT COURT  
JUDGE ROBERT L. LOWRY**



**COUNTY JUDGE  
HONORABLE JON LINDSAY**



**151ST DISTRICT COURT  
JUDGE JOHN L. COMPTON**



**314TH DISTRICT COURT  
JUDGE W.H. MILLER**

**HARRIS COUNTY  
JUVENILE BOARD  
AND REFEREE**



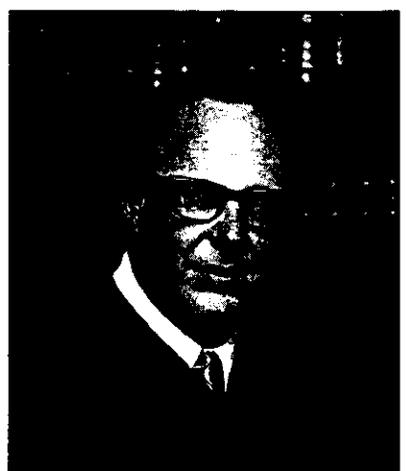
**176TH DISTRICT COURT  
JUDGE WILLIAM M. HATTEN**



**315TH DISTRICT COURT  
JUDGE CRISS COLE**



**REFEREE  
GERALDINE B. TENNANT**



**308TH DISTRICT COURT  
JUDGE WELLS STEWART**

# Biographical Sketches of the Juvenile Board and Referee\*

## Judge Criss Cole

315th District Court of Harris County

Judge Cole was appointed to the Bench in 1971. He received his bachelor's degree and law degree from the University of Houston. Judge Cole served in the Texas Legislature as a State Representative from 1955 to 1962 and as a State Senator for the State's most heavily populated senatorial district from 1962 to 1970. He is State General Chairman of the Texas Society for the Prevention of Blindness, a member of the Advisory Board of the Texas Treatment Center for Autism, Chairman of the Mental Retardation Section of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and a member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Lions Club, Houston Bar Association, and State Bar Association.

## Judge John L. Compton

District Court of Harris County

Judge Compton was appointed to the 151st Civil District Court on January 6, 1961. He received his bachelors degree from the University of Florida and received his law degree from the Houston Law School in 1931. Prior to World War II Judge Compton was special attorney for the Federal Land Bank and he also conducted a general practice. He worked in the Liberty County Attorney's Office in the early forties and after World War II he resumed his law practice in Houston. Two years before his appointment to the 151st Civil District Court, Judge Compton was appointed to the Court of Domestic Relations by Governor Price Daniel. Judge Compton is a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor and belongs to numerous civic, fraternal, and religious organizations.

## Judge William M. Hatten

176th District Court of Harris County

Judge Hatten has presided over the 176th Criminal District Court since 1971. From 1964 to 1971 he was a domestic relations court judge. Judge Hatten was actively engaged in the practice of law in both State and Federal court from 1935 to 1964. He was a member of the Harris County-Houston Ship Channel Navigation District from 1960 to 1964. Judge Hatten is presently active in many civic, fraternal, and religious organizations.

## Judge Jon Lindsay

County Judge of Harris County

Judge Lindsay has been Chairman of the Juvenile Board since 1975. He is presently serving his second term as County Judge and presiding officer of Commissioners Court. Judge Lindsay graduated from New Mexico State University and was a civil engineer before beginning his public service career. He believes that his greatest challenge is to balance the needs of troubled youth with the ability of the taxpayers to support expanded services.

## Judge Robert L. Lowry

313th District Court of Harris County

Judge Lowry was appointed Judge of the Juvenile Court of Harris County in 1965 by Governor John Connally and took office January 1, 1966. In 1977 he was appointed Judge of the 313th District Court by Governor Dolph Briscoe. He attended Southern Methodist University, Delta State College, and received his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree at the University of Houston Law School. Judge Lowry also attended the National College of Juvenile Court Judges in 1967, the Juvenile Judges Court Institute in 1968, and the National College of State Trial Judges in 1971. He was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 1951. Judge Lowry is a former Mayor of Hilshire Village (two terms), City Attorney of Hilshire Village for six years, and former member of Harris County Mayors

\*Biographical sketches are arranged in alphabetical order.

and Councilmen Association. He is a former executive board member of the Community Council and is presently a member of the Mental Health Services - Advisory Council of St. Joseph's Hospital. Judge Lowry was the Chairman for the Continuing Education Committee for Juvenile Court Judges in the State of Texas for two years and Chief Justice of the Task Force for Court Improvement. He was also chairman of the Governor's Juvenile Justice Conference Committee. Judge Lowry was selected to appear in Who's Who in Texas 1973-74; selected to appear in Outstanding Americans in the South in 1975; and selected to appear in Who's Who in American Law in 1977.

### **Judge W.H. Miller**

314th District Court of Harris County

Judge Miller has been a presiding judge in Juvenile Court since 1969. He attended Mississippi State College in 1942 and 1943 and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston in 1946. He received his law degree in 1950 from the University of Houston. Judge Miller served as a member of the House of Representatives from 1960 to 1966 (57th, 58th, 59th Legislature) and was Chairman of the Harris County Delegation for the 58th Legislature. He was also a delegate in the National Conference of Legislative Leaders during the 58th Legislature and served as the Chairman of the Interim Committee on Psychological Testing in the Public Schools. During the 59th Legislature, he was the Chairman of the Committee on Mental Health and Mental Retardation. Judge Miller was selected to appear in Who's Who in American Colleges in 1947 and is a charter member of the Order of the Barons.

### **Judge Wells Stewart**

308th District Court of Harris County

Judge Stewart has presided over the 308th Civil District Court of Domestic Relations since 1970. He received his B.B.A. from Princeton University in 1954, his L.L.B. from the University of Texas Law School in 1958, and his P.M.D. from Harvard University in 1962. From 1958 to 1959, 1961 to 1963 and 1966 to 1968, Judge Stewart served as an Assistant District Attorney in Harris County. He was in private practice from 1960 to 1964. In 1969 and 1970 he served as a County Criminal Court Judge. In 1957 he was the Director at the University of Texas Law School. He was Chairman of the Board at Stewart Title Guaranty Company from 1957 to 1963; Director of the Houston Junior Bar Association in 1959; Director of Goodwill Industries from 1960 through 1970; Director of Home Savings and Loan Association from 1963 through 1966; Director of Community Savings and Loan Association from 1964 through 1965; Director of the Board of Regents at Texas Southern University from 1966 through 1977; Director of the Houston Association of Big Brothers from 1971 to 1974; and Vice-President of the Houston Youth Symphony and Ballet from 1970 through 1974 and currently active through 1979.

### **Geraldine B. Tennant**

Referee

Mrs. Tennant began conducting detention hearings for those children detained in Harris County on September 1, 1973. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas Christian University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Texas Law School. Mrs. Tennant also completed the summer college program sponsored by the University of Nevada and the National Association of Juvenile Court Judges. Prior to becoming Referee she worked as Executive Assistant to the County Judge of Harris County for seven years, dealing mainly with wills and guardianships. Before that she engaged in the private practice of law in Houston for several years, which practice included handling family law matters. Her memberships include: the State Bar of Texas, the Houston Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the National Association of Juvenile Court Judges. Mrs. Tennant has been active in community organizations in Houston, especially in those which seek to provide services to children. She is listed in Who's Who in the Southwest and Who's Who Among Lawyers.

TO: The Citizens of Harris County

RE: Transmittal of 1978 Annual Report

The primary objective of the Juvenile Court, the Juvenile Board, and the Juvenile Probation Department has been to assist children by providing social, moral, and legal services that enhance the quality of life for children and ultimately the entire Harris County community. We have been fortunate to receive the support, assistance, and cooperation of both private and public agencies, volunteer groups, and individual citizens who have worked diligently with our Department to provide services for our clients.

I wish to thank everyone involved for their contribution.

Respectfully,



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



**R.O.D. Schoenbacher**  
CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER

Mr. Schoenbacher has been Chief Juvenile Probation Officer and Director of County Institutions in Harris County since January of 1970. He received his bachelors degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology, completed two years of postgraduate education at the Dallas Theological Seminary, and earned an M.S.W. from the School of Social Work at Columbia University in New York. Mr. Schoenbacher was employed as a probation officer and Supervisor with the Harris County Probation Department in November of 1949. He served as Assistant Chief Probation Officer in Harris County from 1954 until March of 1968. In January of 1968, Mr. Schoenbacher was appointed director of the Hawaii Council on Crime and Delinquency. He remained at that post until he returned to Harris County as Chief Probation Officer. In addition to his role as Chief Probation Officer, Mr. Schoenbacher is Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry (special faculty) at Baylor University College of Medicine. He is a faculty member in the School of Social Work at the University of Houston and a faculty member (special faculty) in the Institute of Contemporary Corrections at Sam Houston State University. Mr. Schoenbacher is also a faculty member in the National College of Juvenile Justice at the University of Nevada. He has served as a consultant with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and is presently a consultant with the following organizations: American University Law Institute; American Institute for Character Education; and "Impact" Project, National Junior League. Mr. Schoenbacher is a respondent for the National Center for Juvenile Justice and a member of the Juvenile Jurisprudence Major Works Review Board. He belongs to numerous professional organizations and has held numerous positions of leadership. Mr. Schoenbacher is the past president of the Texas Corrections Association, the past president of the Southern States Corrections Conference, the past president of the Board of Directors for the National Juvenile Court Services Association, the past Chairman of the Texas Institute on Children and Youth, the past chairman of the Harris County Conference of Agency Executives, and a charter member of the National Association of Social Workers. Mr. Schoenbacher was recognized for his outstanding leadership and individual contribution to the Juvenile Justice System by the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges in August of 1976. He was also recognized as an outstanding youth worker and received the Clayton Morrison Award from the Texas Institute on Children and Youth in August of 1977. Most recently Mr. Schoenbacher was selected for the Corrections Hall of Honor by the Texas Corrections Association in June of 1979.

# Statement of Accomplishments in 1978

Many factors served to make fiscal year 1978 one of the most exciting ever for this Department. As such, we are highlighting some of our major accomplishments in 1978.

## **Salary Equalization for Harris County Juvenile Probation Department Employees:**

The Commissioners Court approved a plan to end salary inequities among those employees performing similar duties. In fact, one-fourth of the funds required to fully equalize all appropriate personnel was allocated this year with the balance to be made available in subsequent years.

## **Harris County Juvenile Detention Home Expansion Project:**

Sanction was granted by officials of County government for the Department to perform a needs assessment related to growth trends of its juvenile holding facility. Two benefits emerged as a result of this study: 1) it confirmed beliefs already held by staff members that over-population in the juvenile holding facility was fast becoming a major problem; and 2) it predicted specific population growth characteristics. As a result, plans are underway to expand the capacity of the Detention Home with a late 1979 groundbreaking date.

## **Data Processing Enhancements Within the Department:**

In order to expeditiously and efficiently perform various Child Support account responsibilities (high volume tasks that lend themselves to standardized procedures) this Department contacted staff at the Harris County Data Processing Department. Design efforts were begun on the Child Support data system in 1974 and on January 17, 1977, approximately one-fourth of this division's work efforts were fully automated. As a result the staff can now handle over a 33.5% active case increase from 1977 to 1978. It is noteworthy to mention that this account was the first in the County to be totally committed to Data Processing services.

## **Grant Dollars Receipt:**

Approximately 1½ million dollars were made available by State and Federal sources for the purpose of funding many unique and innovative projects such as the Department's status offender diversion projects, a specialized foster care program, comprehensive health care services, and a residential treatment program for inhalent abusers.

## **Research and Planning Unit:**

Official endorsement and recognition of this unit this year allows greater emphasis to be placed upon systematic planning, programmatic development, and evaluation of services. Members of this unit will also analyze data contained in the Department's management information data system to isolate needs pertinent to training, grant writing, and other matters of operational concern to the Department.

## **Triad:**

The Juvenile Probation Department, Harris County Child Welfare Unit, and the Mental Health-Mental Retardation Authority have formed a relationship known as "Triad." Members of "Triad" develop programs that address the needs of emotionally disturbed, mentally retarded, dependent and neglected and/or delinquent children of Harris County. Chimney Rock Center (CRC), which epitomizes the major focus of "Triad" (i.e. the development of centralized coordinated services at the intake level), officially began operations this summer.

**Family Court Services Expansion:**

Effective September 1, 1977, the Texas legislature added four additional Family District Courts to handle the increased volume of divorces and disputed child custody cases filed in Harris County. Thus, the Family Court Services Staff increased proportionately to handle this increased caseload. Although these new positions were created in 1977, the effects became most obvious during 1978.

**Child Support Enforcement Expansion:**

The staff in this division increased from 17 in 1977, to 38 in 1978, in order to better serve the community and perform the activities involved in child non-support legal matters.

**Community Youth Services:**

Community Youth Services' major focus is to work in conjunction with Harris County School Districts in order to provide counseling and appropriate referral services for pre-delinquent youth so that they might remain out of the formal juvenile justice system. Plans are presently being made to transfer administrative responsibility of these services to Child Welfare in 1979, as part of an overall emphasis on removing the non-delinquent child from juvenile justice processing.

**Volunteer/Intern Services:**

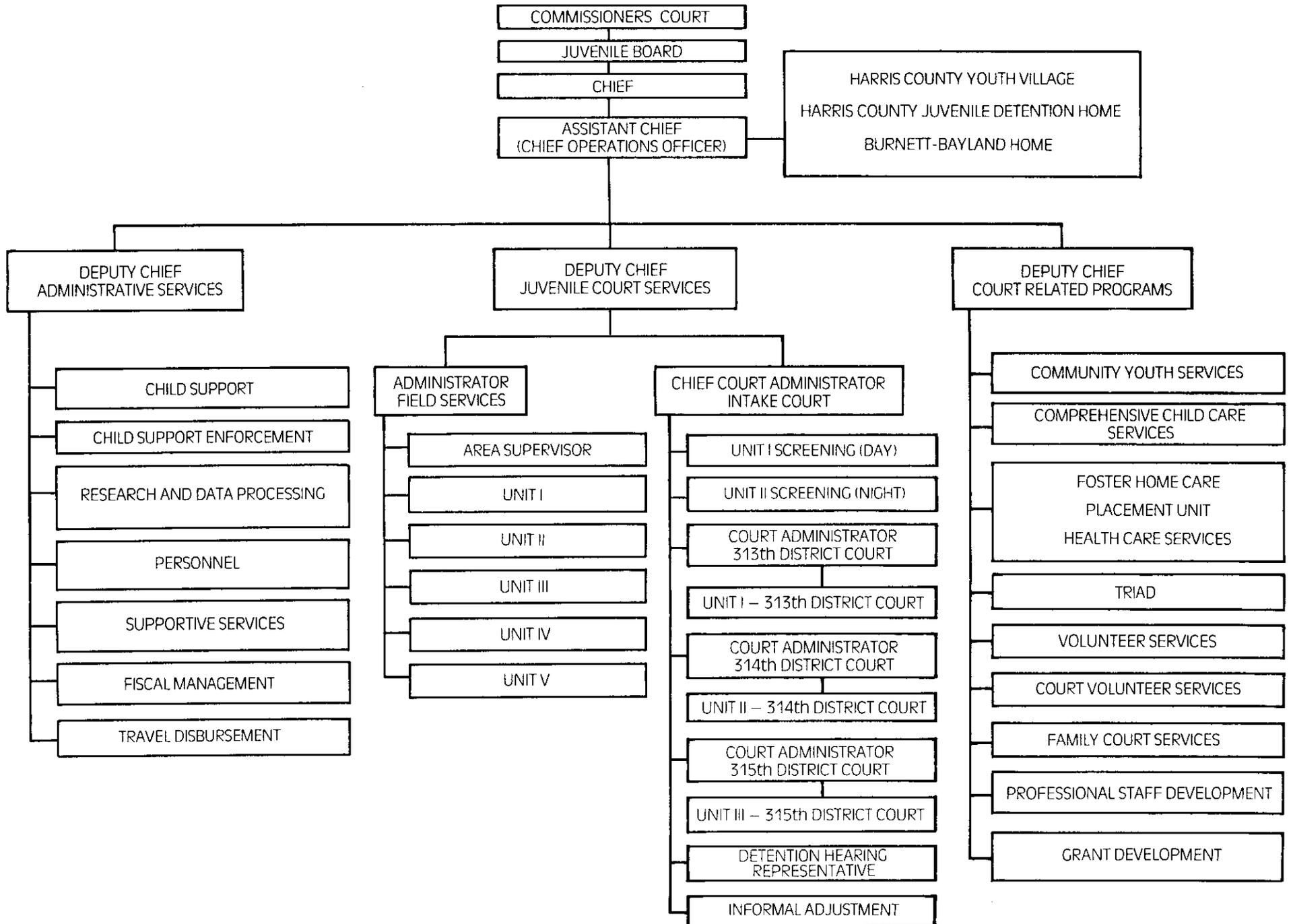
Volunteers and interns contribute greatly to the service system of our Department. Interns alone contribute in time and effort the equivalent of 12 full-time positions. Volunteers contribute another 14 positions with their labors. This equals over 22% of our case work staff. Members from the Department's staff seek to recruit, screen, and train community constituents who in turn befriend troubled youth who have been referred to this Department. Volunteers from groups such as Court Volunteer Services, the Junior League and the Voluntary Action Center have contributed many valuable hours of service.

## **Organizational Statement**

The Harris County Juvenile Probation Department is a diverse human resource agency providing services to children and families residing in Harris County. The Department's direction and policy are formulated by the Harris County Juvenile Board (comprised of six District Court Judges and the County Judge) and by the Harris County Commissioners Court.

The Chief Juvenile Probation Officer has the expressed responsibility for all functions of the eight accounts within the Department. The Assistant Chief Juvenile Probation Officer has the task of supervising the daily operations of the Department through the Deputy Chief for Juvenile Court Services, the Deputy Chief for Administrative Services, and the Deputy Chief for Court Related Programs. With an annual budget of \$9,758,684 and 450 personnel, the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department has been responsible for thousands of children and families in Harris County receiving social, moral, and legal benefits that enhance their quality of life and ultimately that of the entire community.

# HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# DESCRIPTION OF ACCOUNTS

## Juvenile Court and Probation Services

In 1978, 22,343 juvenile offenders who came within the authority of the Family Code, Title III, were referred to the Juvenile Probation Department. The majority of these referrals (20,017) were new referrals. The spectrum of referrals included children between the ages of 10 and 17 and of all race and ethnic backgrounds, who had committed felonies, misdemeanors, or status offenses.

The majority of the referrals came directly from the law enforcement agencies of Harris County. Felonies represented 22% of all referrals while misdemeanors and status offenses represented 34% and 44% respectively. All referrals are screened by Intake Court Services, which is in operation twenty-four (24) hours a day. Eighty-three percent of the new referrals were closed at this level as a need for further action was not indicated.

All felony referrals are forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for filing or rejecting of a petition. First offender felonies are considered for informal adjustment. This procedure provided a viable alternative to Court action for 1,365 children in 1978. Intake Court Services prepared court reports on 2,366 cases in which dispositions were entered. The dispositions entered were as follows: dismissed or denied, 726 (30.78%); delinquent conduct, 1,040 (43.96%); committed to a State juvenile institution, 255 (10.78%); child in need of supervision, 70 (2.96%); mentally handicapped/mentally retarded, 27 (1.14%); adult certifications, 14 (9.59%); and all others, 234 (9.89%).

Field Services supervises children on informal adjustment and those children adjudicated to have engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision. In 1978, an average of 1,056 children per month received probation supervision.

All administrative services for the eight accounts are within this service area. These responsibilities include data processing, fiscal management, personnel, and matters relating to purchasing, building and grounds maintenance, and vehicle maintenance.

There are 167 staff members (including administrators, juvenile probation officers, and staff services personnel) providing court, probation, and administrative services in this section of the Department.

Expenditures:

Salaries & Fringe	\$2,620,748	89.94%
Equipment & Buildings	36,714	1.26%
Material & Supplies	47,118	1.62%
Travel	39,723	1.36%
Services & Other	169,463	5.82%
	\$2,913,766	100.00%

# Harris County Juvenile Detention Home

The Juvenile Detention Home provides safe and secure custody while accentuating socially acceptable behavior and reducing the potentially negative effects inherent when children are held in secure detention. Children are separated from their parents only when necessary for their welfare and/or the public's safety. When a child is placed in the Detention Home he receives a prompt detention hearing. After the initial detention hearing before a judge or referee, subsequent hearings are held every 10 days until the child is released. The referee is a licensed attorney appointed by the Juvenile Board to conduct detention hearings.

Last year 5,292\* children were held in the detention home; 74.02% (3,917) males and 25.98% (1,375) females. The daily average was 109 children. The racial breakdown of those detained was as follows: Whites constituted 46.30% (2,450) of those detained; 64.45% (1,579) male and 35.55% (871) female. Blacks accounted for 33.37% (1,766) of those detained; 82.45% (1,456) male and 17.55% (310) female. Those with Spanish surnames were 20.33% (1,076) of those detained; 81.97% (882) male and 18.03% (194) female.

The majority (52.75%) of those detained in 1978 were released in less than 24 hours. Our data indicate that 79.03% of those detained were released in less than 3 days; 84.87% were released in less than 5 days; and 89.41% were released in less than 10 days.

Expenditures:

Salaries & Fringe	\$ 859,869	79.05%
Equipment & Buildings	1,318	.13%
Material & Supplies	154,075	14.16%
Travel & Transportation	3,840	.36%
Services & Other	68,526	6.30%
	\$1,087,628	100.00%

\*This figure does not include Texas Youth Council parolees held in the Detention Home in 1978.



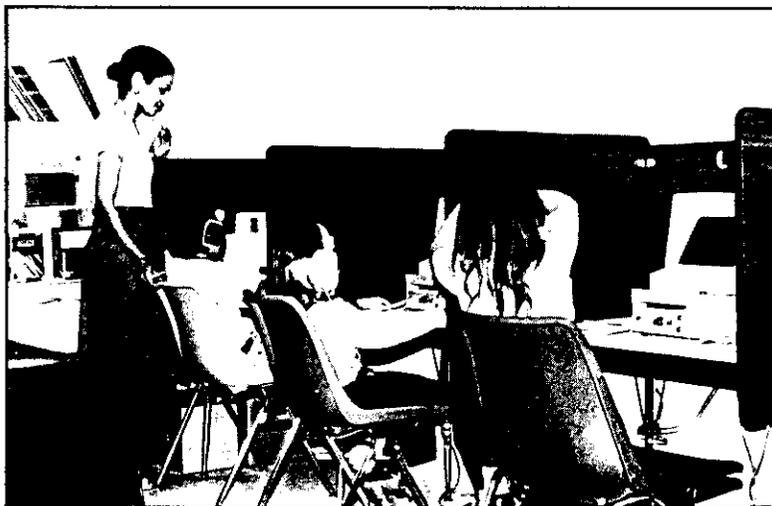
# Burnett-Bayland Home

Burnett-Bayland Home is a residential child care facility for dependent and neglected children, and for children needing care and supervision. Children between the ages of 6 and 17 are referred by both the Harris County Child Welfare Unit and the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department. In 1978 the average age of a child residing at Burnett-Bayland Home was 14 years.

The Burnett-Bayland Home provides a wholesome home-like environment for children while attempting to reintegrate the children with their families. In addition to providing the basic necessities of child care, an atmosphere most conducive to maturation and future development of the child is pursued through numerous diversified programs. Last year 336 children (189 males and 137 females) received residential care at Burnett-Bayland Home. The average daily population was 119 children.

## Expenditures:

Salaries & Fringe	\$ 623,609	56.90%
Equipment & Buildings	8,907	.82%
Material & Supplies	340,446	31.06%
Travel & Transportation	10,883	1.00%
Services & Other	<u>111,995</u>	<u>10.22%</u>
	\$1,095,840	100.00%



# Harris County Youth Village

The Harris County Youth Village is a twenty-four hour residential child care facility operated by the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department. The residents/students have all been adjudicated as having engaged in delinquent conduct and have been placed in the custody of the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for a period of up to one year.

The Harris County Youth Village strives to achieve remediation and modification of adverse behavioral patterns which are contrary to social norms. The attainment of this mission hinges upon the completion of multi-intrdependent objectives. The holistic approach is emphasized at the Harris County Youth Village and the following areas of care are emphasized: residential, medical, educational and social-recreational. Last year 192 children were admitted to the Youth Village. The average daily population in 1978 was 102.

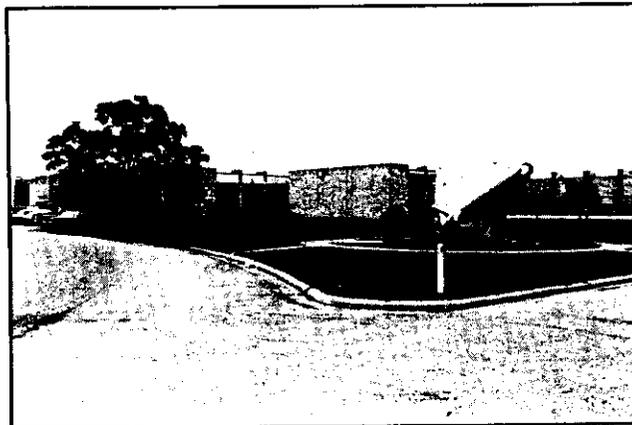
The program was redesigned in 1978 to change the average length of stay from approximately six months to an average of nine to twelve months. This change has required some redesign in all areas of operation; however, the basic operation has remained the same.

In 1978, the Houston Independent School District implemented a weekly "Group Guidance Program" for the purpose of enhancing student awareness relative to educational, social, and career exploration. Last year class schedules were changed from 80 minute classes to 55 minute classes, and students now have seven class periods per day instead of five.

Planning was initiated in 1978 to increase service areas to include improved therapy programs for 1979 by contracting additional psychological services.

## Expenditures:

Salaries & Fringe	\$ 741,958	64.62%
Equipment & Buildings	32,000	2.79%
Material & Supplies	224,005	19.51%
Travel & Transportation	7,255	.63%
Services & Other	<u>143,009</u>	<u>12.45%</u>
	\$1,148,227	100.00%



# Comprehensive Child Care Services

Comprehensive Child Care Services is comprised of three service areas, Health Care Services, Placement Services, and Foster Home Development. This account diverts children from the juvenile justice system when appropriate and provides a variety of supportive and developmental services that meet the needs of the courts, probation officers, and children referred to the Juvenile Probation Department. The goal is to prevent or reduce the recurrence of delinquent behavior, neglect, or abuse of children.

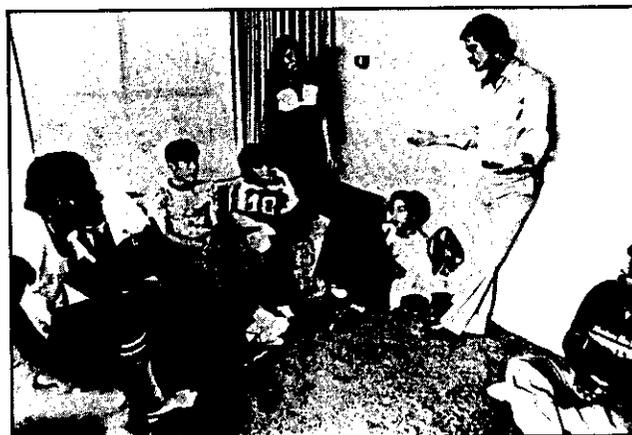
Health Care Services provides, through the purchase of services, quality health care for children who are under the jurisdiction of the Courts, supplying the child's medical, dental, psychological, and psychiatric needs. Health care services were provided for 643 children in 1978.

The role of Placement Services is to identify, purchase, and utilize appropriate placement opportunities (local, state, and out-of-state) for those children on probation who cannot be returned home and are in need of residential care. Three hundred and fifty-seven children were placed in out of the home residential placements in 1978.

Foster Home Development was created as a separate service in 1977. This unit is responsible for recruiting foster families (single family or group homes) that will provide 24 hour residential care for children. In this regard, home studies are performed and training sessions for foster parents are conducted.

## Expenditures:

Salaries & Fringe	\$ 223,586	34.98%
Equipment & Buildings	191	.03%
Material & Supplies	332,730	52.05%
Travel & Transportation	1,895	.30%
Services & Other	<u>80,820</u>	<u>12.64%</u>
	\$ 639,222	100.00%



# Child Support

The Child Support Division insures the timely receipt and disbursement of all court ordered child support payments. In 1978 Harris County received child support payments in connection with 41,820 divorce and separation cases. Payments received amounted to \$33,868,399.87 in 1978. Records of these payments were kept for the courts and payments were disbursed to the recipients.

## Historical and projected support collections:

Year	Active Cases	Annual Support Collections
1935	360	\$ 18,563.63
1945	1,673	\$ 358,293.79
1955	3,551	\$ 2,111,715.55
1965	10,837	\$ 8,031,345.16
1975	18,761	\$25,551,819.38
1977	31,336	\$29,887,245.97
1978	41,820	\$33,868,399.87
1983 (Projected)	60,000	\$50-\$60 Million

## Expenditures:

Salaries & Fringe	\$ 349,545	80.52%
Equipment & Buildings	7,326	1.69%
Material & Supplies	64,510	14.86%
Services & Other	12,720	2.93%
	<u>\$ 434,101</u>	<u>100.00%</u>



# Child Support Enforcement

Child Support Enforcement establishes parent-child relationships in order to provide dependent children with financial support in lieu of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (A.F.D.C.) support. This division then enforces the financial support obligations established. Child Support Enforcement is mandated by federal regulation, Section IV-D under the Social Security Act.

## 1978 Summary of Activities

A.F.D.C. Referrals	7,090
Non-Welfare Referrals	74
A.F.D.C. Cases Filed	1,020
Non-Welfare Cases Filed	71
A.F.D.C. Court Hearings	1,528
Non-Welfare Court Hearings	74
Citations Served	675
Citations to be Served	1,128

Collections: \$564,277.65

Collections exceeded the expenditure level of this division making it totally self supporting in 1978.

### Expenditures:

Salaries & Fringe	\$ 430,411	88.83%
Equipment & Buildings	6,440	1.33%
Material & Supplies	12,460	2.58%
Travel & Transportation	10,920	2.25%
Services & Other	24,313	5.01%
	<u>\$ 484,544</u>	<u>100.00%</u>



# Family Court Services

Family Court Services is primarily concerned with preparing accurate and timely written and verbal reports related to adoption and custody investigations for the Family District Courts. Family Court Services also procures emergency placement (long and short term) for those children who have been remanded to the Court's custody.

Although the large majority of referrals come from the nine Family District Courts who hear divorce cases, a number of referrals are received from the Probate Courts as well as the Juvenile Courts. Home investigations are also conducted for out-of-County agencies on a reciprocal basis.

## Adoption and Custody Investigations Performed by the Family Court Services

	Adoption Investigations	Custody Investigations
1978	1190	621
1977	1101	516
1976	1036	368

### Expenditures:

Salaries & Fringe	\$ 537,094	97.54%
Equipment & Buildings	3,455	.63%
Material & Supplies	3,768	.69%
Services & Other	6,309	1.14%
	<hr/>	
	\$ 550,626	100.00%



# Federal and State Grants

Federal and State juvenile justice funding sources contribute to many innovative and unique programs operated by the Department. In 1978, over \$1.4 million was received from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and the State of Texas for the following projects:

## **1. Community Youth Services—Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders**

This is a personnel staffing project that provides funds for eighteen professional staff who deliver comprehensive diversion services to status offenders. Many of these youth will be diverted from the criminal justice system and some will be provided intervention services to reduce the likelihood of placing them in a secure juvenile holding facility.

## **2. Community Youth Services—Phase II**

This project provides for the purchase of alternatives to detention for status offenders. Through contracts with private agencies for emergency and long-term residential care, four hundred youth are provided services outside the juvenile justice system.

## **3. Diversion Impact Project**

This project is designed to divert status offenders from unnecessary entrance into or continuation in the juvenile justice system. Family counseling, long-term housing, crisis hot-line, psychological testing, and foster home placement are available for these youth through contracts with private agencies.

## **4. Comprehensive Health Care Services**

This project provides comprehensive medical, dental, and psychological care to youth in the custody of the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer. Children receive these essential services from providers such as the Texas Research Institute of Mental Sciences, the Harris County Department of Education, and many others.

## **5. Specialized Foster Care**

This project provides training for 12 foster parent couples. It also maintains 10 children in trained foster parents' homes. In addition, this project provides weekly group therapy for 24 foster families, and individual therapy for 10 adolescent foster children.

## **6. Harris County Department of Education—Juvenile Justice Project**

By contract the Harris County Board of Education has designed a curriculum representing a public education effort to prevent youths from entering the criminal justice system through truancy. More than 4,850 students will participate in a Mock Trial program addressing criminal justice system problems and needs.

## **7. Delinquency Prevention Training Project**

Designed to provide a comprehensive in-service training program for the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department staff, more than 200 personnel were provided 500 hours of professional training. Focus was given to caseworkers and allied professionals in the areas of treatment and intervention strategies.

## **8. Texas Youth Council Community Assistance Program**

This program provides funds for the development of services which will reduce the number of children committed by the Juvenile Courts of Harris County to the Texas Youth Council. Services in the community provide alternative dispositions to commitment. These services include a residential treatment program for inhalent abusers, drug consultation services for casework staff, intake services for status offenders, and a volunteer program.

### Expenditures:

1. Community Youth Services Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders	\$ 334,182.00
2. Community Youth Services—Phase II	\$ 177,925.00
3. Diversion Impact Project	\$ 312,918.00
4. Comprehensive Health Care Services	\$ 50,000.00
5. Specialized Foster Care	\$ 104,767.00
6. Harris County Department of Education Juvenile Justice Project	\$ 87,069.00
7. Delinquency Prevention Training Project	\$ 41,409.00
8. Texas Youth Council Community Assistance Program	<u>\$ 296,041.00</u>
	\$1,404,311.00

# Summary of 1978 Expenditures

In 1978, the Harris County Commissioners Court authorized expenditures from the General Tax Revenue Fund amounting to \$8,354,373 for the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department. The expenditure level for each account was as follows:

Accounts	Expenditures	Percentage of Expenditure
1. Juvenile Court & Probation Services	\$2,913,766	34.8%
2. Juvenile Detention Home	\$1,087,628	13.0%
3. Burnett-Bayland Home	\$1,095,840	13.1%
4. Harris County Youth Village	\$1,148,197	13.7%
5. Comprehensive Child Care Services	\$ 639,222	7.6%
6. Child Support	\$ 434,550	5.5%
7. Child Support Enforcement	\$ 484,544	5.7%
8. Family Court Services	\$ 550,626	6.6%
	<u>\$8,354,373</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

In 1978, the Department applied for and received grant awards from the following sponsors:

1. Law Enforcement Assistance Administration	\$1,108,270
2. State of Texas – Texas Youth Council	<u>\$ 296,041</u>
	\$1,404,311

**Total 1978 Expenditures:** \$9,758,684

## **Acknowledgement**

We are pleased that so much constructive growth and change transpired during 1978. We are especially pleased with the support given us by members of the Commissioners Court, the Juvenile Board, and our local constituents. Thus, we are more confident than ever that this Department's mission will be more effectively and efficiently performed in the future.

**Harris County Juvenile Probation Department**

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