
1985 ANNUAL REPORT

**HARRIS COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION
DEPARTMENT**



Honorable Criss Cole
Judge, 315th District Court
1918-1985

JUDGE CRISS COLE—A TRIBUTE

**"Why am I concerned about you?
Because I care for you as an individual
human being. All of us have mental
and physical deficiencies. The key to
success is not to be discouraged. The
burden you are now facing is the very
reason you should accept the challenge
to build a better life for yourself."**

*Judge Criss Cole, 1982
from *An Open Letter to the
Troubled Youth of Harris County**

The man who wrote these words of encouragement to young people was, in the truest sense, a friend to the thousands who appeared in his court. He knew what it took to struggle with life's most stubborn obstacles and overcome them.

The son of an Oklahoma sharecropper and one of 10 children, Criss worked hard helping his father in the fields until, at age 18, he left to join the Civilian Conservation Corps, sending money home to help the family survive. In World War II, his outstanding service with the Marines ended when he was blinded by a Japanese hand grenade.

While recovering in a hospital, he met Joanne Spica, the woman who would become his wife and mother of their two sons. They moved to Houston and together began a family and a life of dedicated public service.

"The key to success is not to be discouraged."

Determined to be successful, Cole entered business school and became an expert typist. He then went on to college and law school. Nightly, Joanne read to him the volumes of text books required of law students, while friends on campus read to him each day.

Soon after passing his bar exams, Cole was elected to the Texas legislature where he served eight years in the House and eight in the Senate. He became known as an effective advocate for the environment, the handicapped, youth and education.

Criss Cole was one of Texas' most prolific legislators. He authored and sponsored hundreds of bills. He promoted legislation protecting children's rights and improving services for delinquent, disadvantaged, neglected and abused children.

"All of this has been available to me because I accepted certain personal and public responsibilities; the same and more is available to you."

Cole's achievements did not go unrecognized by his colleagues. During his legislative career, he was elected President Pro Tempore of the Senate, inaugurated Governor for a Day and appointed to head the legislature's most important committees. Having secured establishment of a state rehabilitation center for the blind, the legislature appropriately voted to name it the Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center for the Blind.

While serving in Austin, Cole's impact on Harris County was significant. He was instrumental in improving working conditions and benefits for municipal and county employees. Under his leadership, new residential treatment facilities were established for the county's retarded juvenile offenders, new courts were created and the Juvenile Board, on which he later would serve, was reorganized.

In 1971, Criss Cole returned to Houston when the Governor appointed him to the bench of the 315th District Court to hear juvenile cases. As always, he brought tireless energy and commitment to his new role. He demonstrated special sensitivity and insight in dealing with troubled youth and their families. He often told them, "Blindness has not been a handicap to me; it has been an inspiration." He understood these young people were facing difficult obstacles and he wanted them to see these as challenges and opportunities. He told them, by word and example, that whatever their problems, they could achieve success and become good citizens.

"Blindness has not been a handicap to me; it has been an inspiration."

Criss Cole was an inspiration to his colleagues as well. Just as blindness gave inspiration to his life, his life gave inspiration to our work. His daily presence is missed by the staff of the Juvenile Probation Department, but his dedicated service to troubled youth is being carried on.

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



Jon Lindsay
COUNTY JUDGE

April 10, 1986

TO: Harris County Commissioners' Court
Citizens of Harris County

RE: Transmittal of 1985 Annual Report

As Chairman of the Juvenile Board and County Judge, I proudly transmit the Juvenile Probation Department's 1985 Annual Report to the Commissioner's Court and citizens of Harris County.

This year was one of sad endings and positive beginning for the Probation Department. On a sad note, Texas lost one of its most influential advocates for troubled youth. Judge Criss Cole passed away in June after a long illness. As a member of the Juvenile Board, Judge Cole was instrumental in the development of treatment programs for Harris County youth. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him and benefited by the contributions he made to our juvenile justice system.

In May, the Juvenile Board officially dedicated the new Detention Center, marking a new beginning in detention services. The 200-bed Center is complete with recreation, education, diagnostic treatment, kitchen and medical facilities. This model facility's design, security and programming is setting new trends in detention services across the country.

The leadership and staff of the Juvenile Probation Department are to be commended for their outstanding efforts in providing Harris County with the best possible services for troubled youth and their families. In coming years, I look for continued growth and progressive programs to meet the County's changing needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon Lindsay".

JON LINDSAY
County Judge and
Chairman
Harris County Juvenile Board

JL/rhl

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

At the close of each year, we prepare our Annual Report, a summary and accounting of what this agency has provided to the citizens of Harris County in exchange for the tax dollars we received. It gives us an opportunity to reflect back over the year, to measure the effectiveness of our efforts and to rededicate ourselves to our goals.

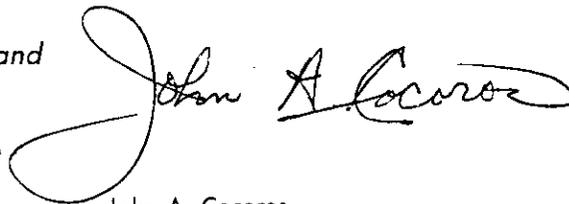
As a public agency, we are guided by certain principles and legal mandates:

- *We are committed to the value and potential of every child. We believe young people can be influenced toward positive change and that they are worthy of our best efforts on their behalf.*
- *We are mandated to protect the welfare of the community as well as that of the child. At no time will we compromise the public safety.*
- *We believe in the sanctity and potency of the family as the child's primary source of nurturance and guidance. We work to support and educate families, not to replace them.*

- *We are committed to community involvement. We work with citizen volunteers and community organizations to build a better network of care for all children.*

This Department provides services to youths, ages 10 to 17, in the 1,777 square miles that include and surround Houston. In 1985, we received 18,761 referrals. It was a busy year to say the least!

Fortunately, this community's historical commitment to children is being preserved and we continue to enjoy support from both the public and private sectors. I am personally indebted to the hundreds of employees and volunteers who are the Juvenile Probation Department. Their dedication to professional excellence continues to inspire and motivate all who work with them. Together, we look forward to a successful and rewarding 1986.



John A. Cocoros
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer



HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

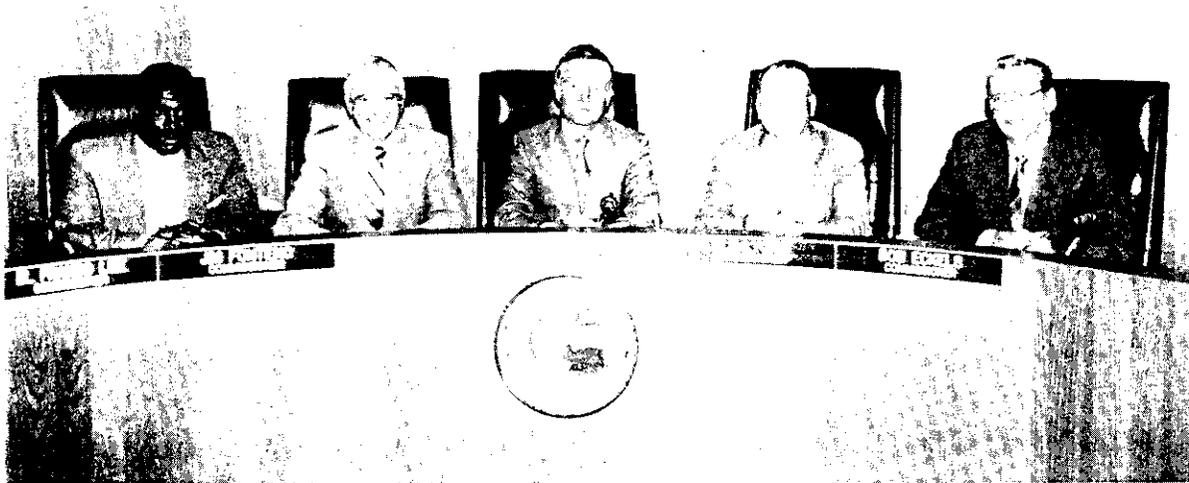
As the elected administrative body of county government, the Harris County Commissioners' Court is responsible for the general administration of county affairs. It determines county personnel regulations, maintains county buildings, builds and repairs roads and provides a variety of county health and social services. It also allocates and monitors funds to county agencies. The

county budget consists of county tax dollars, bond funds and federal revenue sharing dollars.

The Commissioners' Court sets the Department's annual county budget. It meets weekly to approve line item expenditures. The County Judge, elected at large, presides over these meetings with four Commissioners, each elected to represent a geographical section of the

county or precinct. Each member serves a four-year term.

The majority of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department budget comes from the county through the Commissioners' Court. These funds are used for staff salaries, operating expenses, residential placements, treatment programs and detention services.



Jon Lindsay
County Judge

El Franco Lee
Precinct 1

Jim Fonteno
Precinct 2

E. A. "Squatty"
Lyons, Jr.
Precinct 4

Bob Eckels
Precinct 3

HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE BOARD

The Harris County Juvenile Board is the policy-setting body for the Juvenile Probation Department. In compliance with state statute, The Board is comprised of the County Judge and six District Judges representing family, civil and criminal courts. These seven judges approve the Department's annual budget prior to its submission to Commissioners' Court. The Board also sets all Departmental policy, approves and monitors all programs and oversees institutional services.

Throughout 1985, the Board actively supervised the construction and renovation of the new Harris County Juvenile Detention Center. In May ceremonies, the new Center was officially dedicated, paying special tribute to the hundreds of volunteers who donate their time and talent to the Department.

The Board also supervised the design and construction of special rooms in the Family Law Center for juveniles awaiting court hearings. The unique design of these holdover rooms provides safety and security in a comfortable setting.

This year, the Board initiated an extensive study of the Department's Child Support Office, considering a proposal that it be transferred to the District Clerk's Office. This decision is pending.

With the untimely death of Judge Criss Cole, Governor Mark White appointed Houston attorney Eric Andell to preside as Judge of the 315th District Court. Judge Andell joined the Juvenile Board upon his appointment in August.



Jon Lindsay
County Judge
Chairman of Juvenile Board



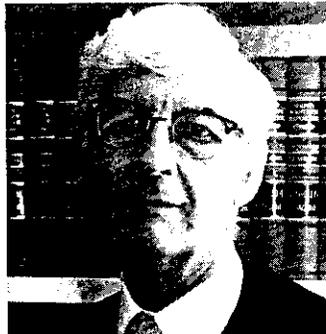
Robert Lowry
313th District Court
Vice Chairman of Juvenile Board
Chairman of Personnel Committee



Robert B. Baum
Secretary, 314th District Court
Chairman,
Budget/Finance Committee



Eric Andell
315th District Court



William M. Hatten
176th District Court
Chairman,
Building and Grounds Committee



Bill Elliott
311th District Court



William H. Heard
190th District Court

INTAKE COURT SERVICES

The Division of Intake Court Services operates under the leadership of Deputy Chief Bernard Hunter. It processes all incoming cases referred to the Department and provides a variety of services to the three District Courts designated to hear juvenile matters. This Division operates 24 hours daily.

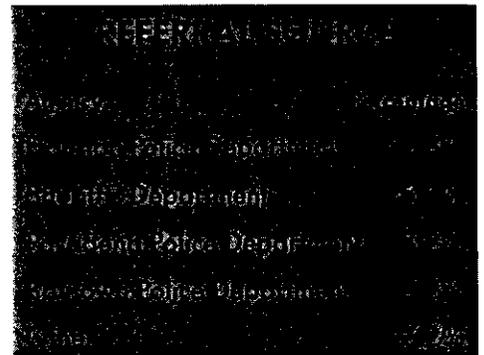
INTAKE SCREENING

The Intake Screening Unit processes all cases referred to the Department by police, schools, parents or other agencies. This entry point is the most crucial stage in the juvenile justice process. Here, the child's total circumstances are evaluated and important decisions are made as to the initial placement of the child pending a court hearing. Many children are diverted or "screened out" of the juvenile justice system at this point.

In the two Intake Screening Units, decisions are made to release a youth to a responsible adult guardian or to detain the child in an appropriate facility pending court action. Always, the goal of the Intake staff is to take the least restrictive and intrusive measures of providing for the welfare of the child while protecting the public safety.

The Intake Screening Unit at 3540 West Dallas processes all referrals to the Department in which delinquent conduct is alleged. The Unit at 6425 Chimney Rock serves status offenders and their families. (Status offenses include runaway, truancy, public intoxication and other Class C misdemeanors.)

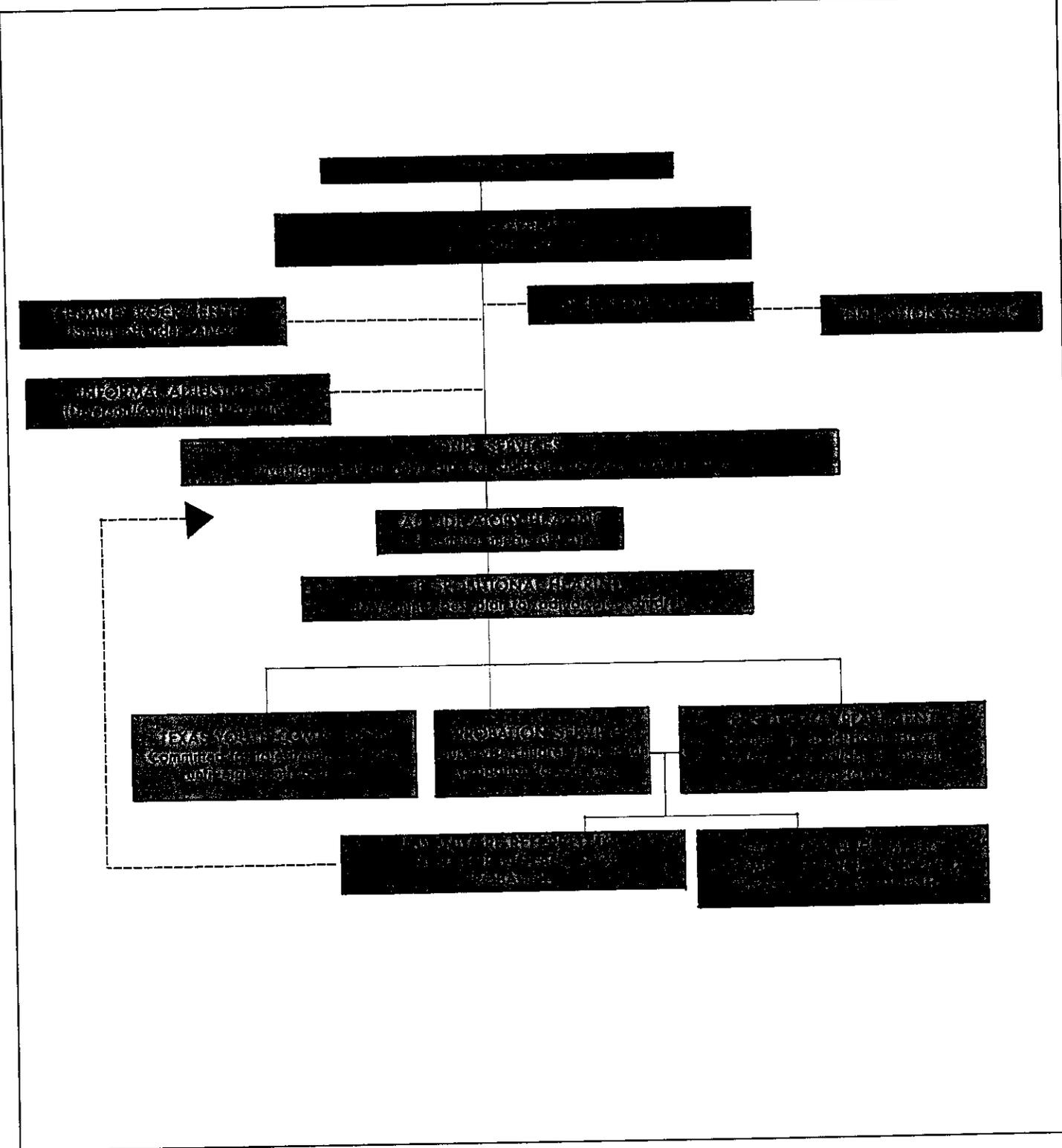
In 1985, 18,761 youth were processed through the Intake Screening Unit.



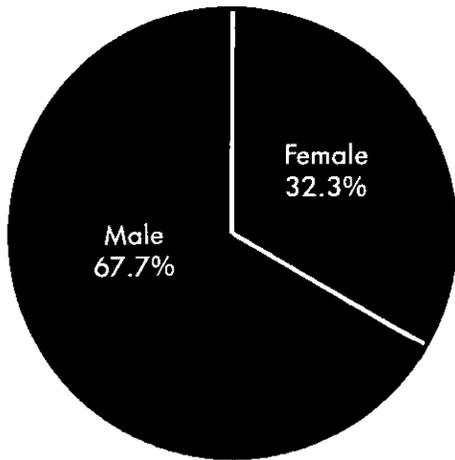
REFERRALS 1984-1985

Offense	Frequency 1984	Frequency 1985
Murder	32	23
Arson	59	55
Assault		
Felony	171	180
Misdemeanor A/B	26	57
Misdemeanor C	551	652
Sexual Assault	109	101
Robbery	184	209
Burglary	1418	1674
Theft		
Felony	159	195
Misdemeanor A/B	1357	1555
Misdemeanor C	932	1075
Auto Theft	299	269
Joyriding	180	200
Drugs Offense		
Felony	60	96
Misdemeanor A/B	530	645
Misdemeanor C	562	653
Inhalants	96	120
Alcohol (MC)	35	30
Other		
Felony	389	475
Misdemeanor A/B	1651	1927
Disorderly Conduct	131	119
City Ordinance	190	200
Violation of Probation	324	351
Runaway	5963	6016
Other Status Offenses	174	872
TYC Runaways	129	263
Administrative Actions	398	465
Other Administrative Actions	260	284
TOTAL	16369	18761

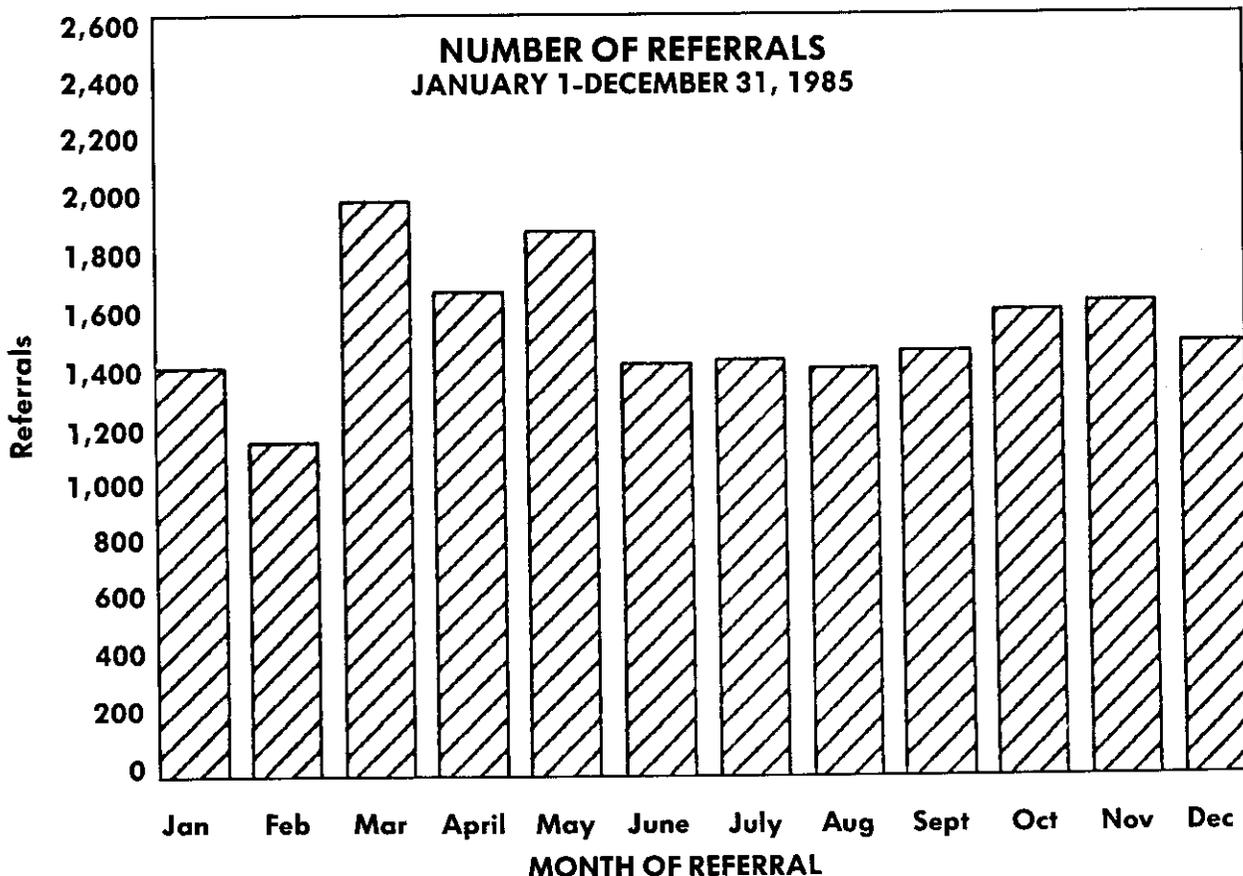
CASE FLOW CHART

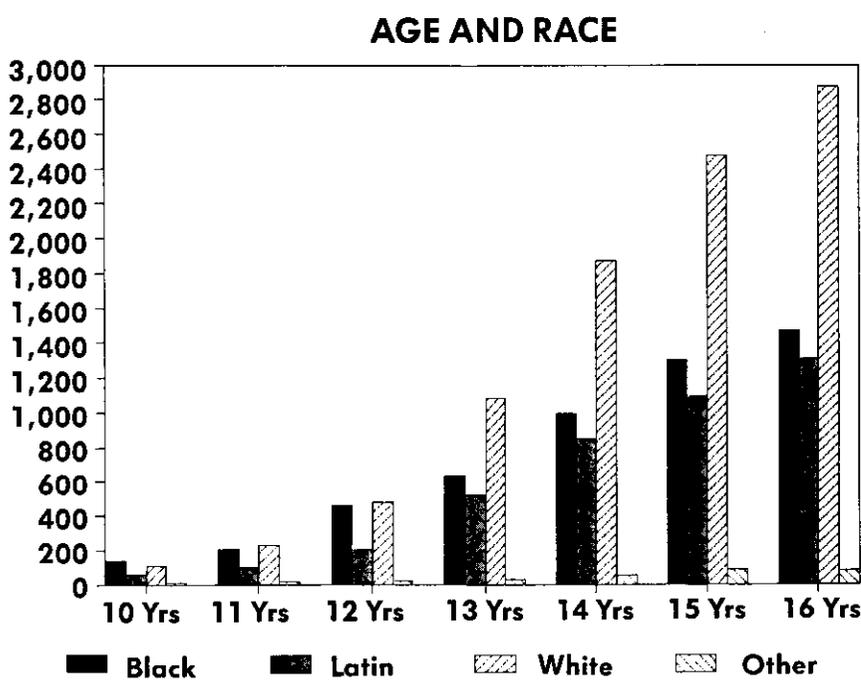
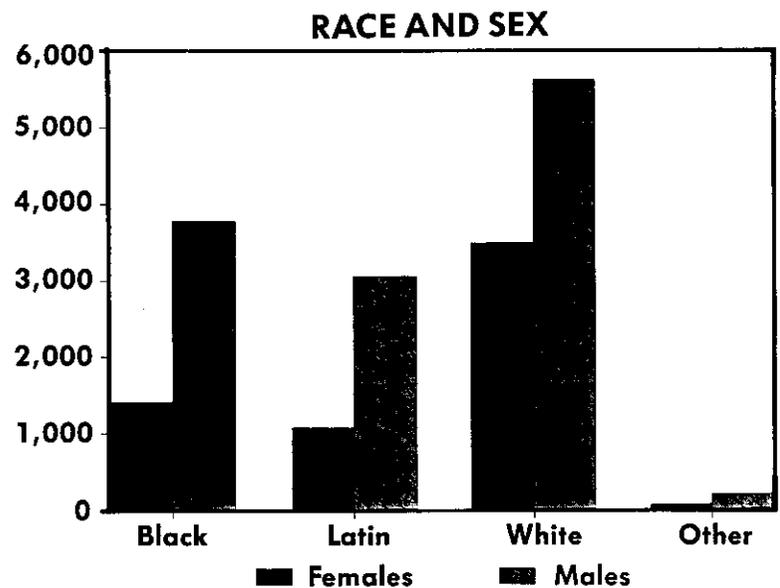
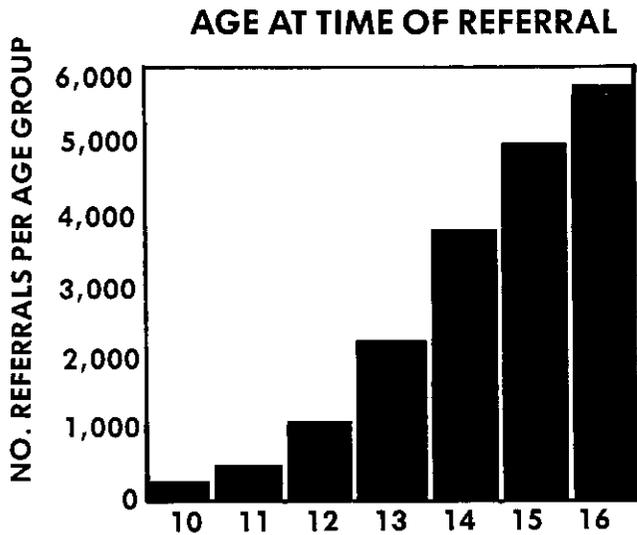


STATISTICAL PROFILE OF REFERRAL

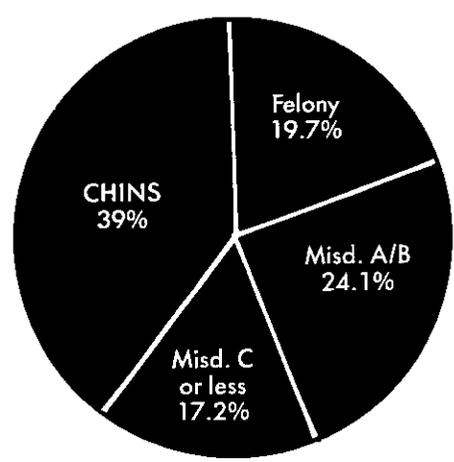


SCHOOL DISTRICT BY RACE						
	Black	Hispanic	Oriental	White	Other	Total
Not Available	634	799	35	1446	12	2926
Aldine	183	166	14	499	0	862
Alief	120	56	14	469	10	669
Channelview	7	16	1	78	0	102
Clear Creek	12	9	4	239	1	265
Crosby	18	5	0	60	0	83
Cypress-Fairbanks	34	47	12	501	5	599
Deer Park	0	24	0	298	0	322
Galena Park	40	46	4	237	0	327
Goose Creek	87	134	2	344	0	567
Houston	3280	2243	65	1805	16	7409
Huffman	2	4	0	31	0	37
Humble	8	6	0	220	0	234
Katy	10	14	10	215	1	250
Klein	34	34	10	419	0	497
La Porte	6	11	0	75	0	92
North Forest	363	12	0	35	0	410
Pasadena	46	210	38	667	1	962
Sheldon	5	5	0	87	0	97
Spring	10	18	2	297	1	328
Spring Branch	85	108	24	522	14	753
Tomball	18	1	0	40	0	59
Private/Parochial	79	86	4	303	0	472
Out of County	112	86	9	232	0	439
TOTAL	5193	4140	248	9119	61	18761





TYPE OF REFERRALS JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31, 1985



LEGAL SCREENING

Following the intake process, all referrals go to the Legal Screening Unit. Here, attorneys review all felony and some misdemeanor cases to determine if legal grounds exist for further court action. In detention hearings, Legal Screening attorneys act as special prosecutors for the District Attorney's Office to determine probable cause to detain a child.

In 1985, 5,637 cases were reviewed, resulting in 3,069 petitions being filed or reopened in the district courts.

COURT ACTIVITY

Dispositions	Number
Probation	1669
Probation and Restitution . . .	235
Informal Adjustment	50
Committed to Texas	
Youth Commission	425
Certified to Criminal Court . .	26
Passed — Writ Issued	17
Passed	92
Non-Suit	142
Dismissed	215
Early Termination of	
Probation	8
Other	219
Pending	2
TOTAL	3100

COURT SERVICES

Once through the intake screening processes, the Court Services Unit takes over the case. After the District Attorney files a petition, a court date is set.

Court services staff collect, verify and combine all pertinent information on the case into a concise but comprehensive report for presentation at the child's

court hearing. This report assists the judge in making a decision in the best interest of the child and community.

While preparing the report, clues may suggest mental illness or retardation, physical or learning disabilities, serious family problems or child abuse. When this happens, the child is referred to the Forensic Unit of the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Authority or to the Harris County Department of Education for the appropriate tests or evaluations.

The Court Services Unit also conducts investigations and prepares reports for probation violation cases, detention hearings, and certification hearings in which the court determines if a youth must stand trial as an adult. In 1985, 26 youths were certified and transferred to district courts that hear adult cases.

MHMRA ACTIVITY

Referrals	435
Intake Screenings	414
Mental Retardation Screenings	15
Mental Health Screenings	3
Psychological Evaluations	289
Psychiatric Evaluations	264
Family Evaluations	110

PLACEMENT SERVICES

When the courts decide that a youth should be removed from his or her own home, the Placement Unit researches and develops a list of appropriate residential facilities for the judge's consideration.

The range of placements includes, but is not limited to basic child care facilities, therapeutic camps, and drug and alcohol treatment centers. All contractual placements used by the Department are licensed by the Department of Human Resources and are monitored and evaluated by probation staff.

Placement is recommended only after it is evident that a child can not remain in the home under probation supervision.

In 1985, 530 placement requests were made to the Placement Unit. Of these, 389 youths were placed in a private, county or state institution.



Listening to parents helps the probation officer better understand the child and his family.

PLACEMENT ACTIVITY

Facility	Number Placed
Burnett-Bayland Home	77
DePelchin Faith Home	2
Devereux Foundation	2
Edgemeade of Texas	2
Girlstown U.S.A.	2
Gulf Coast Trade Center	24
High Frontier	1
Harris County Youth Village	203
Houston Marine Institute	15
Hope Center for Youth	18
Houston Achievement Center	1
Lena Pope Home	1
Meridell Achievement Center	3
New Horizon	1
Odyssey Harbor	3
Summit Oaks Center	15
Vernon	16
Youth Alternatives	3
TOTAL PLACED IN 1985	389

INSTITUTIONS

The Juvenile Probation Department operates three institutions. The Division is headed by John A. Peters, Deputy Chief of Institutions. Each institution is administered by a Director.

The three institutions serve different functions but all are mandated by law to protect the

safety and welfare of the child and community, and to provide an environment which facilitates the wholesome moral, mental and physical development of children.

The primary goals of all three institutions are:

- To provide the finest child care possible
- To offer programs and services to meet the needs of each child
- To promote the successful reintegration of the child back into home and community
- To impact the child and family in a positive way, helping them to build a happy, law-abiding future for the child

DETENTION CENTER

The Harris County Juvenile Detention Center is a secure, multi-purpose facility providing a variety of services to youth awaiting court disposition or other administrative action.

The Center was dedicated this year following an \$11 million construction/renovation project. It is one of the most modern and innovative detention facilities in the United States and has become a model for other such centers.

In addition to providing top quality child care in a high security setting, the Center offers a non-threatening environment for children in which staff can administer physical and psychosocial assessment, short-term therapy, educational and recreational programs and crisis intervention.

The Center has sections for secure detention, an Assessment Unit, and temporary, non-secure shelter. Small, self-contained living units consist of 10 single-occupancy rooms and a multi-purpose activity room. These small units assure a low staff-to-child ratio, allowing greater individualized child care.

Children come to the Center at all hours. Most are brought in by law enforcement officials throughout Harris County. Little, if anything, is known about these youths when they arrive. Many are in need of immediate physical or psychological attention.



Located at 3540 West Dallas, this short-term care facility has the capacity to house up to 200 youths in individual rooms.

On admission, each child receives a professional medical and psychological screening. If indicated, appropriate therapeutic intervention will be undertaken at once.

Each incoming child receives an orientation from a case worker and is placed in the Assessment Unit. Here, the child can be observed by staff and a more thorough physical and psychological assessment made. Based on this information, the child will be assigned to the most appropriate ten-bed living unit.

Shortly after admission, a child must have a detention hearing before a Referee of the Juvenile Court. These hearings are conducted in the Center's courtroom in accordance with the Texas Family Code. The child is represented by an attorney.

In a detention hearing, the Court Referee decides if the child must remain in detention. Only those who might harm themselves or others, or who might not voluntarily return to court as ordered are detained.

The Center's professionally diverse staff, psychologists, case workers, therapists, registered nurses, child care workers, a physician and a recreation specialist provide direct services to children.

The Psychological and Social Services Unit conducts assessment, group and individual counseling and crisis intervention. They provide professional training and consultation services to staff.

HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION HOME OFFENSE TYPE INFORMATION 1984-1985

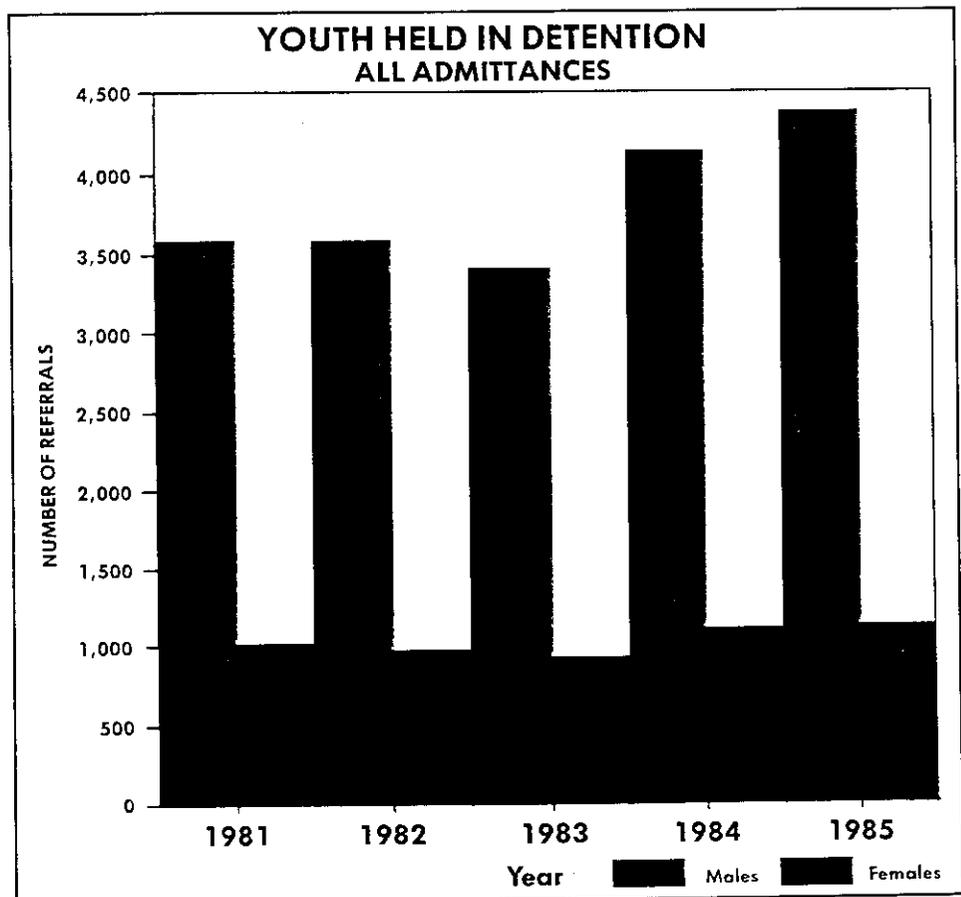
Offense Type	1985
Murder	24
Arson	27
Assaults — Felony	121
Misdemeanor A/B	24
Misdemeanor C	169
Sexual Assault	66
Robbery	147
Burglary	875
Theft — Felony	101
Misdemeanor A/B	514
Misdemeanor C	119
Car Theft	195
Joyriding	119
Drugs — Felony	72
Misdemeanor A/B	271
Misdemeanor C	174
Inhalants	49
Alcohol	16
Other — Felony	191
Misdemeanor A/B	717
Disorderly Conduct	65
City Ordinance Violations	40
Violation of Probation	172
Status Offenses	
Runaway	578
Other	40
TYC Runaways	200
Administrative Actions	10
Other Authorities	362
TOTAL**	5458

**includes diversion cases

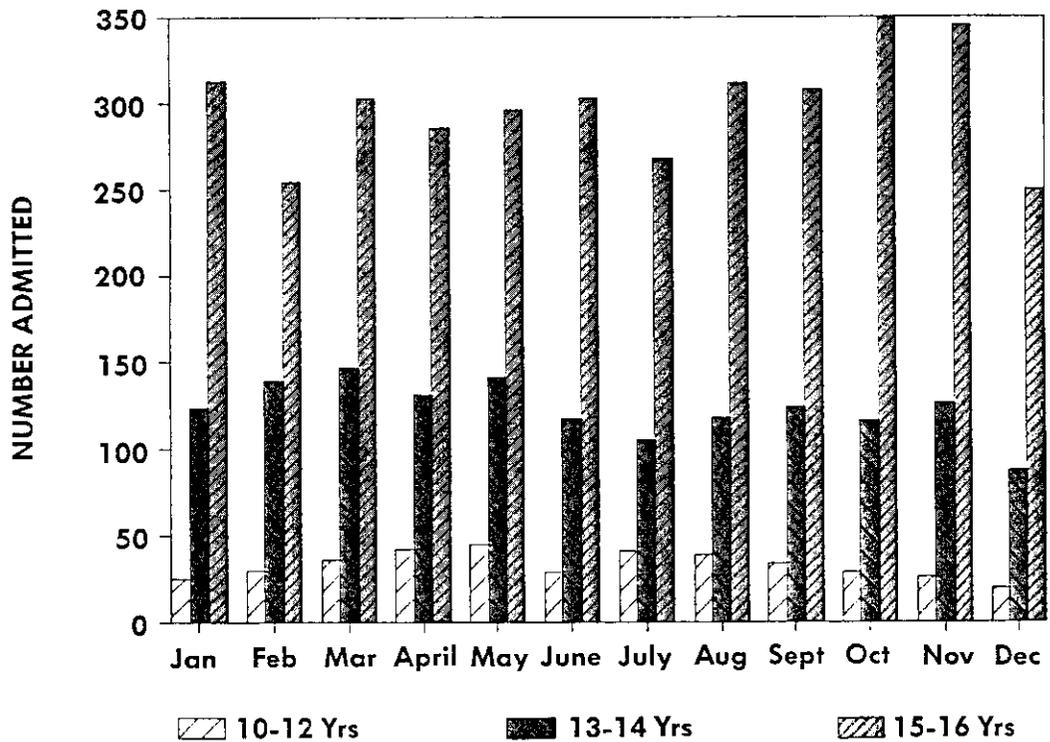
LENGTH OF STAY

Time	1984	1985
24 Hours or Less	2342	2603
1 Day	745	804
2 Days	385	372
3-5 Days	355	435
6-10 Days	351	253
11-30 Days	735	695
31-44 Days	136	141
Over 44 Days	153	154
TOTAL	5202	5457**

*Includes Diversion Cases
**One Case Pending



ADMISSIONS BY MONTH AND AGE



Art classes are a part of the Detention Center's residential treatment program.

Citizen volunteers and contract professionals offer individualized education, tutoring, arts and crafts, social and recreational activities, religious services, scouting, field trips and regular visitation.

Two gymnasiums, 13 multi-purpose activity rooms, family visitation rooms, a separate intake section and courtroom provide the specialized spaces required for the Center's wide range of programs. State-of-the-art electronic monitoring systems and innovative architectural features provide safety and security without bars.

With the Center's physical facilities now complete, the 1986 focus will be on greater development of programs for children in custody.

BURNETT-BAYLAND

Burnett-Bayland Home, 6500 Chimney Rock, is a community-based residential treatment center. Delinquent children, ages 10 to 17, are sent here by the courts. They attend neighborhood schools, enjoy community activities and home visits. Although they have engaged in some form of delinquent conduct, the court has determined these children do not require a more secure environment.

Every staff member is considered an integral part of the treatment team at Burnett-Bayland Home. This important team concept is used to develop and implement an individual treatment plan for each child. Child care staff, caseworkers, administrators, ancillary staff and volunteers all work together to build a broad, coordinated base of support and resources for the child and family.

Treatment services are provided by community resources such as Juvenile Firesetters Prevention Program, Juvenile Alcohol Awareness Program, Chicano Family Center, Planned Parenthood and Drug Abuse Programs of America.

Group, family and individual counseling continue to be key elements of the therapeutic program. A second family therapist was added to the treatment team this year. Special group therapy was offered to high school age students, while a communication group was available to the younger ones. Monthly parent meetings provide needed group support and new parenting skills. Two staff members

were trained and certified as Parent Effectiveness Trainers and all staff completed First Aid and CPR training.

Recreation is an important treatment component at Burnett-Bayland. A Summer Olympics enabled every child to participate. Most youth enjoy summer swimming lessons at the Home's pool. Some sporting events featured team T-shirts donated by a local merchant.



Burnett-Bayland is a community-based treatment facility where children live in small cottages and attend neighborhood schools.



Community involvement and support, the mainstays of the Burnett-Bayland program, were expanded in 1985.



By fostering a positive self image and teaching new ways of behavior, children learn to function more successfully within the family, school and in society as a whole.

YOUTH VILLAGE

The Harris County Youth Village is a residential child care facility. Its 75-acre, lake-front campus in Seabrook provides a serene harbor from the urban bustle of neighboring Houston. Here, delinquent youth, ages 10 to 17, receive a wide range of educational and therapeutic services aimed at preparing them to successfully meet life's challenges.

Some of the many community programs offered at Burnett-Bayland in 1985 included a Houston Rotary Club luncheon at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel, as well as three other Rotary-sponsored outings. The Ex-N.F.L. Players Association also sponsored an outing. The Junior League, American Red Cross, Houston Independent School District and Juvenile Court Volunteers provided tutors and counselors, remedial education, computer education, and

companion visitation for Burnett-Bayland children.

During 1985, 121 children were in residence at Burnett-Bayland. The average length of stay was nine months. The racial breakdown was 32% white, 48% black and 20% Hispanic.

Burnett-Bayland is a dynamic, developing residential facility offering excellence in services and resources to Harris County's delinquent children and their families.

The holistic treatment philosophy is reflected in the wide range of programs and services offered the child. Behavioral and educational techniques are the mainstays of the treatment program.

Through the Positive Monetary Release system, children earn hypothetical dollar credits for responsible behavior and

achievement. A limited number of credits may be spent on treats or privileges, but the rest are "banked." When an account reaches \$25,000 credit, the child is automatically considered for early release.

The Youth Village is an accredited school in the Houston Independent School District. It offers a full curriculum of

The Youth Village, located near the Johnson Space Center, provides a serene environment conducive to self discovery and healthy personal growth.



academic and vocational classes, athletics, guidance counseling, remedial and special education. School attendance is mandatory and the program is accelerated. Most children enter the Youth Village with school problems. Some will gain as many as three grade levels during their brief stay here. Learning to be "successful" is a key element of the program.

Recreational facilities include a swimming pool, tennis courts, gymnasium, ball fields and basketball courts. Canoeing on the lake, a Scout troop, athletic and table games, arts and crafts all provide opportunities for children to develop social, creative and physical skills.

A child entering the Youth Village undergoes an observation and assessment process. Staff evaluate educational, social and psychological functioning as well as health, appearance, and family situation. From this assessment, an individual treatment plan is developed.

The Youth Village seeks to provide a turning point in the child's life, enabling a successful return to his or her own family, school and community.

In 1985, the Youth Village served 317 residents. The average daily population was 120 and the average length of stay was 8.9 months. The racial breakdown was 43% black, 34% white, and 23% Hispanic. The sex ratio was 73% male and 27% female.



In academic and vocational classes, children learn to experience the joys of success in any endeavor.



Canoeing on the lake requires team work.

FIELD SERVICES

The Probation Field Services Division, under the supervision of Deputy Chief Teresa V. Ramirez, provides up to one year of supervision to children adjudicated delinquent and placed on probation by the courts. The Informal Adjustment Program provides up to six months of supervision to non-adjudicated children referred to the Juvenile Probation Department.

The services of this Division aim to prevent and reduce unlawful behavior by children, thus protecting the safety and welfare of the community while serving the best interest of the child.

PROBATION

A variety of services is provided to address the total needs of each child and family: intervention, supervision, counseling and utilization of community resources. This holistic approach has proven the most effective method for turning young lives around.

The Field Services Division maintains extensive interaction with the community. Networking with other service agencies and using citizen volunteers expands the variety and quality of resources for all the community's children. Such collaborative efforts demonstrate the Department's philosophy that the problem of delinquency is a total community responsibility.

A strong neighborhood presence and convenient access are

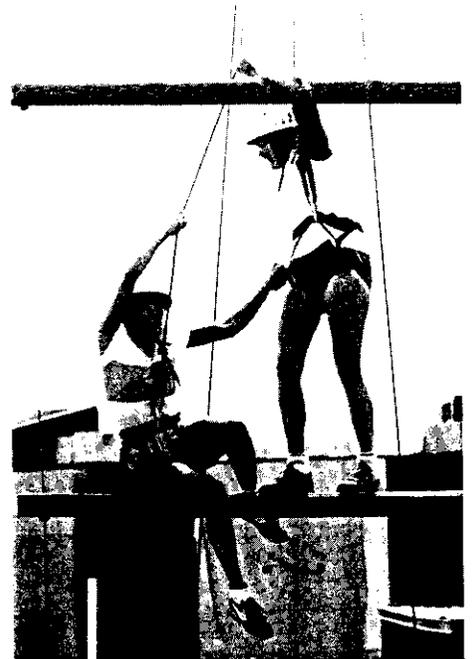
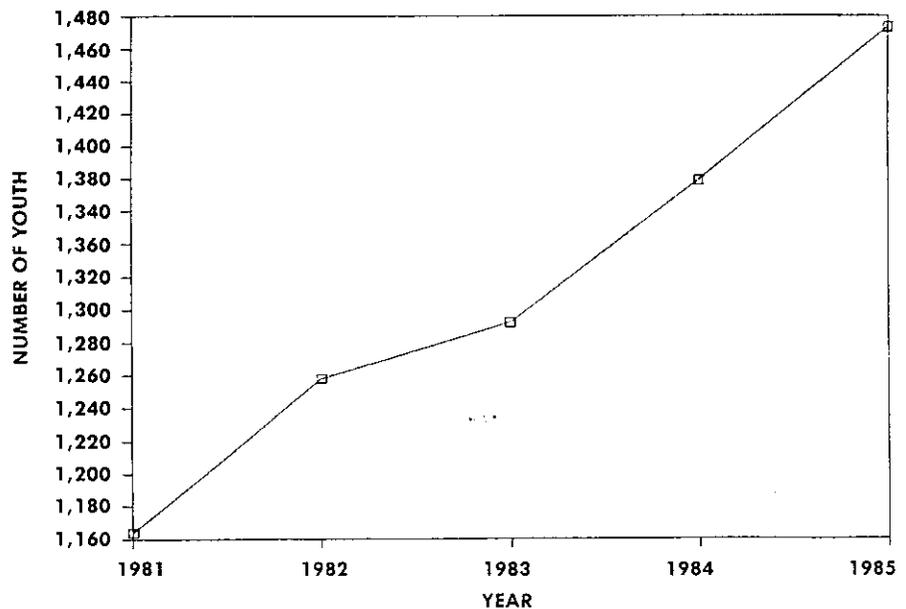
maintained by six field probation offices located throughout Harris County. From here, highly trained juvenile probation officers make home and school visits, provide direct supervision and counseling to youth, and give educational and moral support to concerned parents.

During 1985, 1,476 new cases were assigned to the Division for formal probation, representing an increase of 15.9 per month over 1984.

Collectively, the number of youth on formal and informal probation supervision averaged 1,831 per month. The greatest percentage in both programs were males between the ages of 15 to 17.

PROBATION CASES

1981-1985

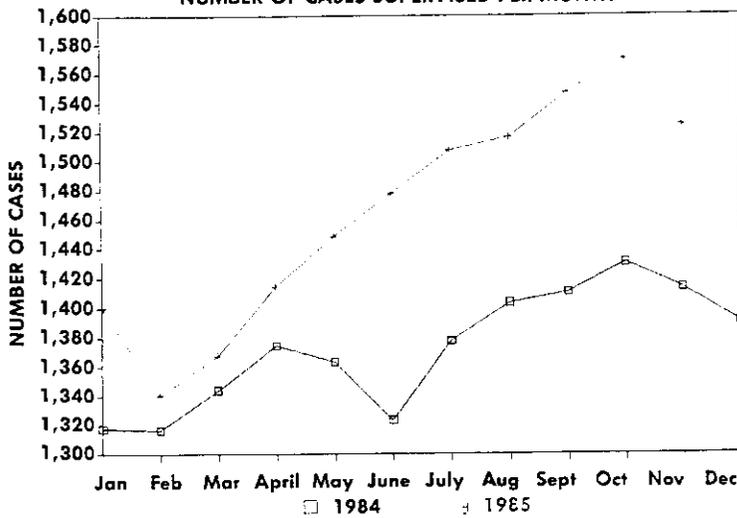


The R.O.P.E.S. Program at West Oaks Hospital helps develop trust between participants.

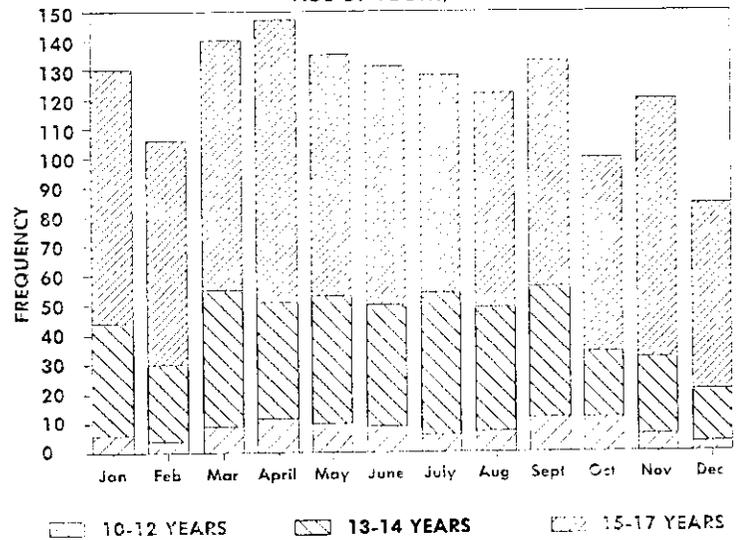


By developing creative talents and new skills like silk screening, children improve their self image and behavior.

PROBATION CASES
NUMBER OF CASES SUPERVISED PER MONTH

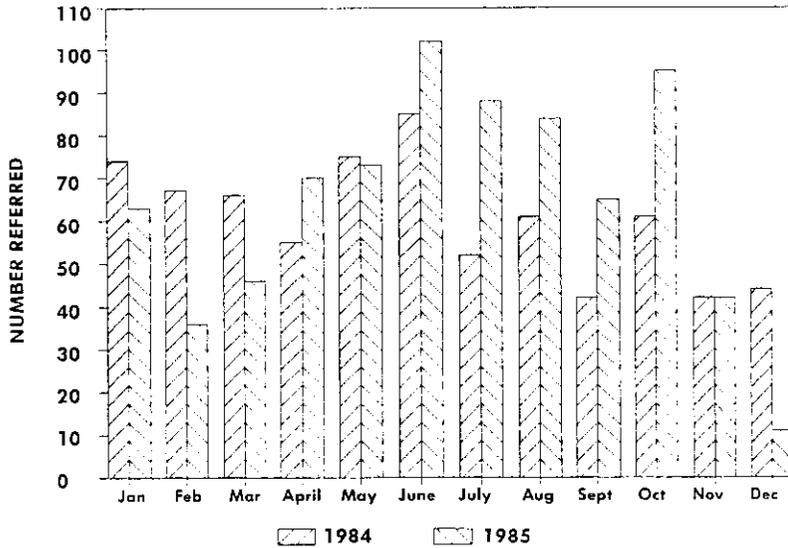


PROBATION CASES
AGE OF YOUTH, 1985

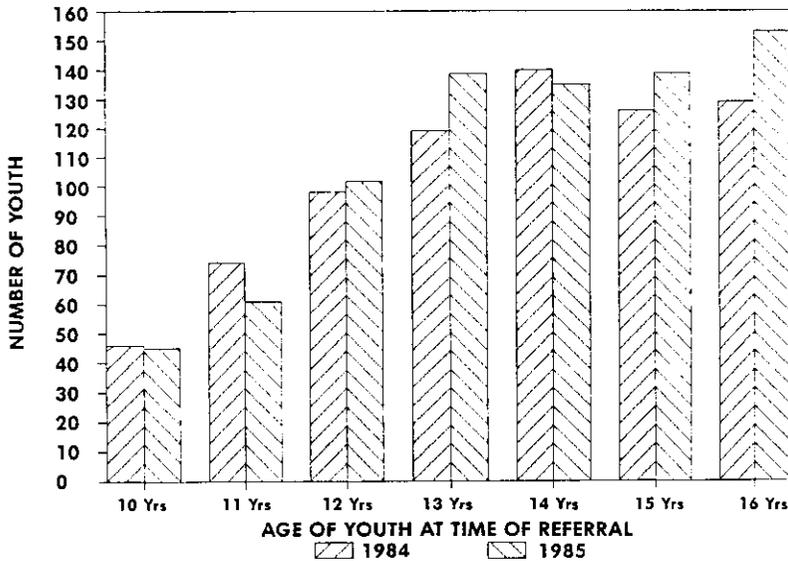


INFORMAL ADJUSTMENT

REFERRALS BY MONTH



AGE OF REFERRALS
JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31, 1985



Informal Adjustment is a prevention and diversion program to keep children from further involvement in the juvenile justice system. Authorized by the Texas Family Code, it provides a non-judicial alternative for those youths who, with special attention, might be spared a juvenile record and diverted from future unlawful behavior.

Those who qualify for Informal Adjustment are usually young, first-time offenders. They voluntarily commit to this six-month program where they receive one-to-one supervision, counseling and participate in group activities. A full range of educational and therapeutic resources are provided for these children and their families.

The professional staff of the Informal Adjustment Program is augmented by many carefully screened volunteers and student interns. Intensive training and supervision is provided by the staff.

In 1985, 10,616 hours of service were provided to Harris County children and their families in the Probation Field Services Division by Interns and Volunteers.

Special programs continue to be added to the already long list of those provided by the Probation Field Services Division. New in 1985 are the ROPES program (a challenging physical adventure course being used with substance abusers), silk screening and dance therapy classes.

FIELD SERVICES PROGRAMS

Program	Description	Activity
Therapeutic Counseling	Provided by Houston Child Guidance and Hope Center for Youth.	Individual 553 Hours Group 300 Family 2,063
Project Y.E.S.	Job training and placement; paid salary up to 250 hours as incentive to employers.	133 youths referred
Restitution (Financial)	Repayment of damages to victims by the juvenile offender.	281 Court Orders Totaling \$60,663 Payments
Restitution (Community Services)	American Red Cross places youths in non-profit community agencies.	102 youths provided 2,001 hours of community service
Incentive Program	A voluntary program that may result in early termination of probation.	216 youths referred; 84 successfully completed program (a number are carried over into 1986)
Rotary Boys Club	Educational and recreational activities include summer camp.	35 youths referred; 12 attended summer camp
Inhalant Abuse Program	Crisis intervention in cooperation with AAMA and the Chicano Family Center.	150 referrals
Vision Screening Program	University of Houston School of Optometry, screens and treats youth for vision impairments; glasses provided.	318 youths screened, 78 follow-up examinations
Outward Bound	In cooperation with Court Volunteer Services, youth attend a Colorado wilderness camp after weeks of pre-training.	8 youths participated 7 youths went on program
Educational Workshops	Monthly workshops for youth and families on parenting, drug abuse, etc.	4,990 attended these in 1985
Y.E.E.S.	Tutorial, remedial, job training and G.E.D. classes through agencies providing certified teachers.	Program initiated in December, 1985 and will provide services for up to 300
Dance Therapy	Youths develop self-esteem, motor and social skills.	17 participated
Art Therapy	Youths learn silk screening and display their art.	3 classes with 18 participants
Modeling Program	Boys and girls learn the modeling fundamentals and model for parents and groups.	9 youths provided training and presented programs
R.O.P.E.S.	Problem solving experiences through physical and emotional demanding experiences.	Two groups of 15 youths each with inhalant abuse problems participated in 1985. Program to be expanded to serve 145 youths in 1986.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Administrative Services Division, under the direction of Deputy Chief Emily Charney, administers the Department's Research and Systems Development Unit and Family Court Services.

This Division also serves as the Department's official liaison with the Harris County Commissioners' Court, state legislature and the Juvenile Probation Commission.

FAMILY COURT SERVICES

Family Court Services investigates and prepares social histories for adoption and disputed child custody cases referred by the 12 district courts that handle domestic matters.

Each case is screened by a special intake unit, then forwarded to a court investigator for preparation of a comprehensive social history.

Information is gathered through home visits, contact with relatives, schools and other available resources. This report helps the judge develop a plan in the child's best interest.

During 1985, 19,228 divorces were granted in Harris County. Many of these families received services from Family Court Services. Disputed child custody

cases numbering 673, and 820 adoption cases were handled by this service throughout 1985. Most children remain with the family during custody investigations. In 1985, 21 children were removed from their homes and placed in the custody of the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for placement in a private child care facility.



Caseworker interviews children as part of the social investigation for adoption proceedings.

RESEARCH AND SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

The Research and Systems Development Unit is the central point at which all information is collected, analyzed, processed and distributed. This Unit is responsible for facilitating the flow of information and access to data for the entire Department. This is done through meticulous record keeping, the maintenance of an up-to-date statistical base, the development of office automation systems, and through the preparation, publication and distribution of regular reports.

It is through this Unit's ongoing program of research that our knowledge and understanding of juvenile crime and our young clients is continually expanded. Research projects enable the Department's decision makers to evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs as they apply to the constantly changing profile of the youth and families we serve.

Research and Systems Development maintains an automated information system which tracks all activity and services pertinent to the case of each juvenile referred to the Department. This on-line system, consisting of 44 terminals and 22 printers, is used throughout the Department. It is supported by the county's Data Processing Department and is tied into the county mainframe. As the Department's information needs change, this system is expanded and modified by design specialists working closely with county programmers.

Research and Systems Development also administers the agency's dedicated word

processing system. This sophisticated system, offering many software features, is decentralized with work stations in several areas of the Department. The system is available to all the agency's support staff.

The staff of this Unit trains other Department employees on the use of the automated information system and the word processing system. It also assists in the research and preparation of staff presentations to community and professional organizations and helps prepare official agency publications. It prepares grant applications and monitors the agency's compliance with the guidelines of funding agencies.

This Unit is in the planning stages of providing microcomputers into key administrative areas for automation and access to budget, personnel and payroll information.



The Department's sophisticated computer system allows immediate up-to-date access on each client's status.

ANCILLARY SERVICES

A number of ancillary divisions of the Department provide primary areas of support to enhance the quality of services.

PERSONNEL

The Personnel Unit, in conjunction with the Harris County Personnel Office, coordinates all personnel services for the Department's 468 staff. This Unit is responsible for posting all open positions, processing applications for employment, coordinating screening committees, maintaining personnel records, and ensuring that the Department follows all county personnel guidelines.

In 1985, 133 positions were opened and filled from the 3,478 applications received by the Department. With an overall average of more than 26 applicants per job opening, the Department enjoys the luxury of selectivity in hiring, assuring highly qualified staffing of all positions.

CHILD SUPPORT

Court-ordered child support payments are received and disbursed through the Harris County Child Support Office, located in the Family Law Center.

Through 1985, approximately \$61 million was collected and disbursed. A sophisticated computer system processes all

incoming support payments, checks for accuracy in dollar amounts, records the payments and mails the support check to the appropriate individual. Due to an increase in wage garnishment cases, it is projected that approximately \$110 million will be collected and disbursed in 1986.

To offset the County's expense in providing this service, payers are charged an annual fee. In 1985, approximately \$43,000 in fees was collected and deposited in the County's General Fund.

The Child Support Office also processes some court-ordered restitution payments by juveniles and payments for placements.

PERSONNEL CHART

Personnel Activity	Entry Level	Upward Mobility	Total
Positions opened and filled	133	20	133
Applications received	3,397	81	3,478
Applicants interviewed	1,193	79	1,278
Average number of applicants interviewed per position			9.6

TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Department supports and follows the professional training guidelines of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission. This state agency requires that every new juvenile probation officer receive a minimum of 40 hours of Commission-approved pre-service training within the first six months of employment.

After completing pre-service, the officer is certified by the State. Thereafter, 40 hours of approved in-service training must be completed each year to maintain certification.

Commission guidelines also recommend 40 hours of in-service training for other staff involved in therapeutic, supervisory, recreational or other direct services to children. It is the responsibility of this Unit to develop and provide an ongoing staff education program which enables all departmental personnel to meet the training guidelines of the Commission.

In 1985, the Training and Staff Development Unit offered a variety of training workshops and seminars for staff. Just a few of the over 75 topics from which

to choose were: Improving Children's Perceptions of Themselves, Motivation and Excellence, Non-Violent Restraint Techniques, and Breaking the Cycle of Family Violence.

Through in-service education, the Department continues to upgrade skills, enhance professionalism and expand areas of specialization.

The Unit also provides educational opportunities for youths and their families. The Juvenile Alcohol Awareness Program is a six-week course

offering nine hours of intensive education to the nearly 500 juveniles referred to the program each year. Parents attend with their children. The program is co-sponsored by the Houston Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

The Texas Council on Crime and Delinquency and Sam Houston State University's Training Academy work with the Training Unit to provide training for staff at all levels. They provide classes for line officers, supervisors, secretaries and child care workers.



The Training Unit also provides training for parents.

INTERNS

Seventeen colleges and universities from Texas and across the United States participate in the Department's Intern Program. Each area of the Department provides supervised on-the-job-training for undergraduate and graduate students. During 1985, 63 students participated in either a semester or a year-long program.

The following colleges and universities participate in the Intern Program:

Grambling State University
Houston Baptist University
Lamar University
Penn State University
Prairie View A & M University
Rutgers University
Sam Houston State University
Southwest Texas State University

Stephen F. Austin University
Texas A & M University
Texas Southern University
Texas Women's University
University of Houston —
Clear Lake Campus
University of Houston —
Downtown Campus
University of Houston —
University Park
University of Oklahoma
University of St. Thomas

VOLUNTEERS

Each year, hundreds of volunteers donate their time and talents to youth through the Juvenile Probation Department. Their countless hours and specialized services greatly enhance the scope and quality of our programs. Perhaps most important, they provide that extra dimension of personal attention and friendship so important to children.

Many private citizens volunteer with the Department through community service organizations and local churches. Other volunteers serve through the Junior League of Houston and Juvenile Court Volunteers, Inc.

Our volunteers are carefully screened and intensively trained. Then, they are assigned to the division of the Department most appropriate to their skills and interests.

The Junior League is an educational and charitable organization of women whose purpose is to promote volunteerism, to develop the potential of its members for voluntary participation in community affairs, and to demonstrate the effectiveness of trained volunteers.

The Junior League placed approximately 200 volunteers with the Department in 1985. They have participated in a unique training process designed to sharpen their skills for effective participation in various programs. They worked directly under the supervision of probation officers providing individual counseling, supervision and companionship to children. The Junior League

has been active with the Probation Department since 1966 and provides a great deal of community support for its programs.

Juvenile Court Volunteers is a non-profit, United Way agency housed at the Department. This agency specializes in developing and implementing a variety of unique programs for youth on probation and in institutions.

One-to-one assignment is a basic element of the program. Volunteers are assigned to individual children, providing a positive role model by demonstrating responsible behavior and mature decision-making. Their goals are to improve the child's self esteem and self control.

Personal Enrichment Programs provide group activities including educational classes, and therapeutic and recreational activities in the Detention Center and at Chimney Rock Center. A new program at the Youth Village, "Project Re-Entry," assists children in making the transition from the institutional environment back into their homes and communities. The success of this program will result in its expansion in 1986.

During 1985, Juvenile Court Volunteers placed volunteers in the Detention Center, Chimney Rock Center, Burnett-Bayland Home, Harris County Youth Village and all Field Service Units. In 1985, 1,333 youth benefited from volunteer programs, representing over 27,000 hours of volunteer service.



Youths play a special role with our youths' treatment plan.

FUNDING

The Department receives funding from three sources: Harris County Commissioners' Court, Texas Juvenile Probation

Commission and the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office. These dollars are used for direct youth services, staff salaries and operational

expenses to ensure the best possible services to the youth we serve. The combined annual budget is \$18,993,064.

HARRIS COUNTY

The majority of Juvenile Probation Department funds are appropriated through the Harris County Commissioners' Court. The Department received approximately 5.6% of the county's General Fund budget. The \$16,838,904 was for staff salaries and benefits, services for youth and the Department's daily operation.

Eight separate Departmental programs receive funds based on need.

PROBATION ACCOUNTS	
Program	1985 Allowed Budget
Family Court Services	\$ 1,120,459
Juvenile Probation Administration	\$ 6,046,984
Child Support	\$ 903,129
Juvenile Detention	\$ 3,424,371
Burnett-Bayland Home	\$ 1,496,515
Youth Village	\$ 2,406,228
Informal Adjustment	\$ 16,500
Comprehensive Child Care Services	\$ 1,424,718
TOTAL DEPARTMENT	\$16,838,904

TEXAS JUVENILE PROBATION COMMISSION

The Juvenile Board receives state funds through the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, a state agency created in 1981 by the Texas Legislature. These funds are for direct youth services, personnel and staff training.

Aside from distributing funds, the Commission sets standards for

juvenile probation officers and detention centers. Commission-allocated dollars allow the Department to provide 40 hours of training mandated for each child care worker, probation officer and supervisor. Services to youth are upgraded through more specialized treatment programs, outside placements

and the hiring of additional staff. Training, treatment programs and qualified personnel allow the Department to maintain staff certification and compliance with all standards.

Funds allocated for the 1985-1986 state fiscal year are \$1,463,920.

STATE GRANTS

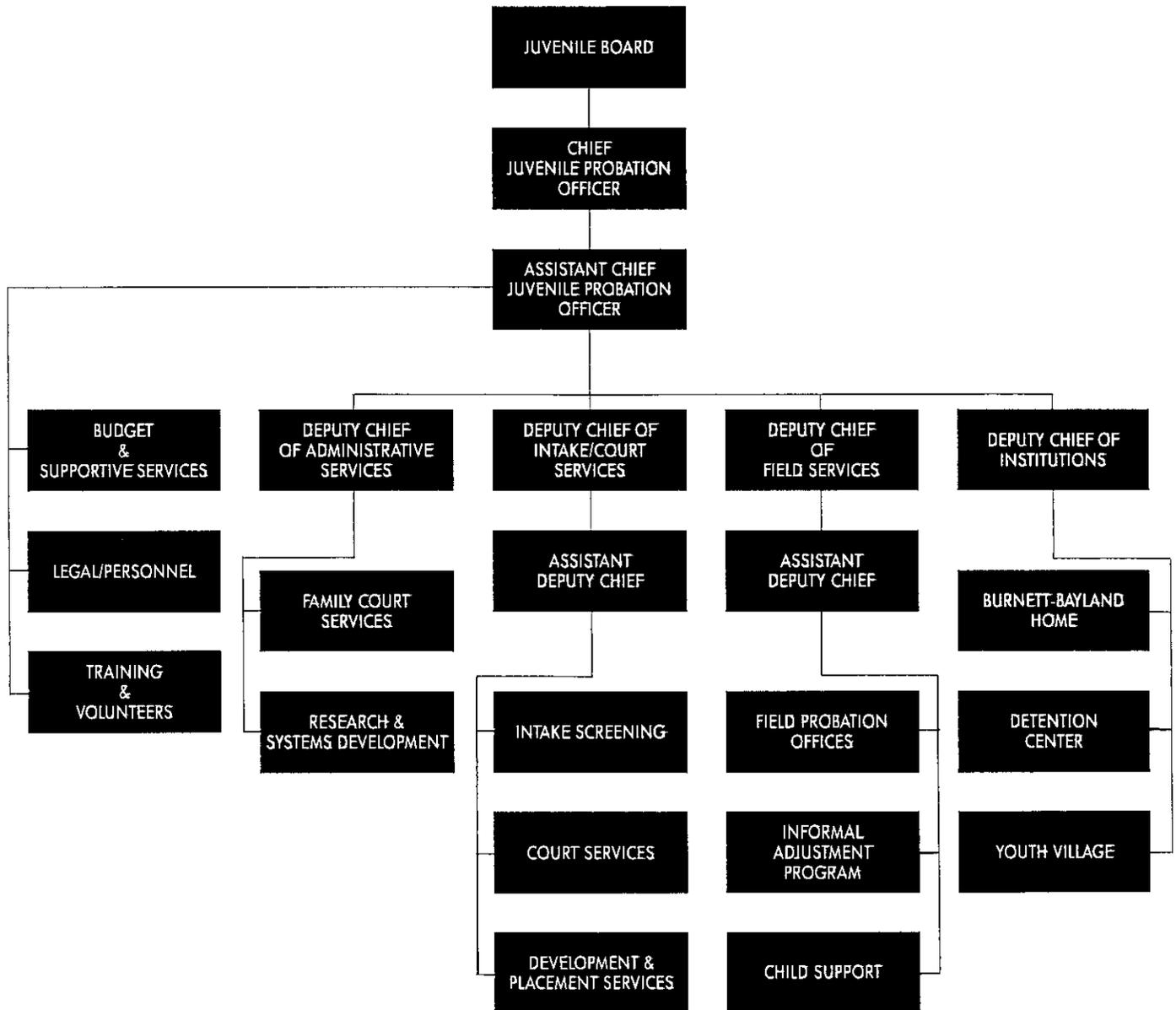
The Texas Criminal Justice Division provides funding for numerous grant programs to local units of government. These grants are submitted to regional planning units for review. The Houston-Galveston Area Council is the planning unit for Harris County. In 1985, the Department received two such grants totaling \$690,240.

Purchase of Services Grant — \$506,075. This grant provides support services to clients through contracts administered by qualified individuals and/or agencies. The services include individual and group counseling, family therapy, emergency transportation of runaways, placements in residential treatment programs and supplementary educational services.

Juvenile Detention Center Staffing Program Grant — \$184,165. This grant provides funding for 10 staff positions in the Juvenile Detention Center. The facility provides 24-hour supervision of juveniles referred by police authorities. The additional personnel assist in maintaining a ten-to-one child/staff ratio for improved supervision.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 1985

HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

John A. Cocoros Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
Robin Pledger Assistant Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

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Emily Charney Deputy Chief, Administrative Services
Sue Suber Director, Family Court Services
Jeanne Cyriaque Administrator, Research & Systems Development

INTAKE COURT SERVICES

Bernard Hunter Deputy Chief, Intake Court Services
Elmer Bailey Assistant Deputy Chief

FIELD SERVICES

Teresa Ramirez Deputy Chief, Field Services
Jack Murray Assistant Deputy Chief
Sam Van Rheen Director, Child Support

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

John Peters Deputy Chief, Institutions
James K. Martins Director, Detention Center
Ronald Nicksich, Ph.D. Director, Youth Village
Robert Waller Director, Burnett-Bayland Home

ANCILLARY SERVICES

John Sukols Administrator, Budget & Supportive
Harvey Hetzel Administrator, Legal/Personnel Services
JoAnn Jones Administrator, Training & Volunteers

The Juvenile Probation Department wishes to acknowledge the following
for their contributions with the photography:

West Psychiatric Hospital, Houston, Texas
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