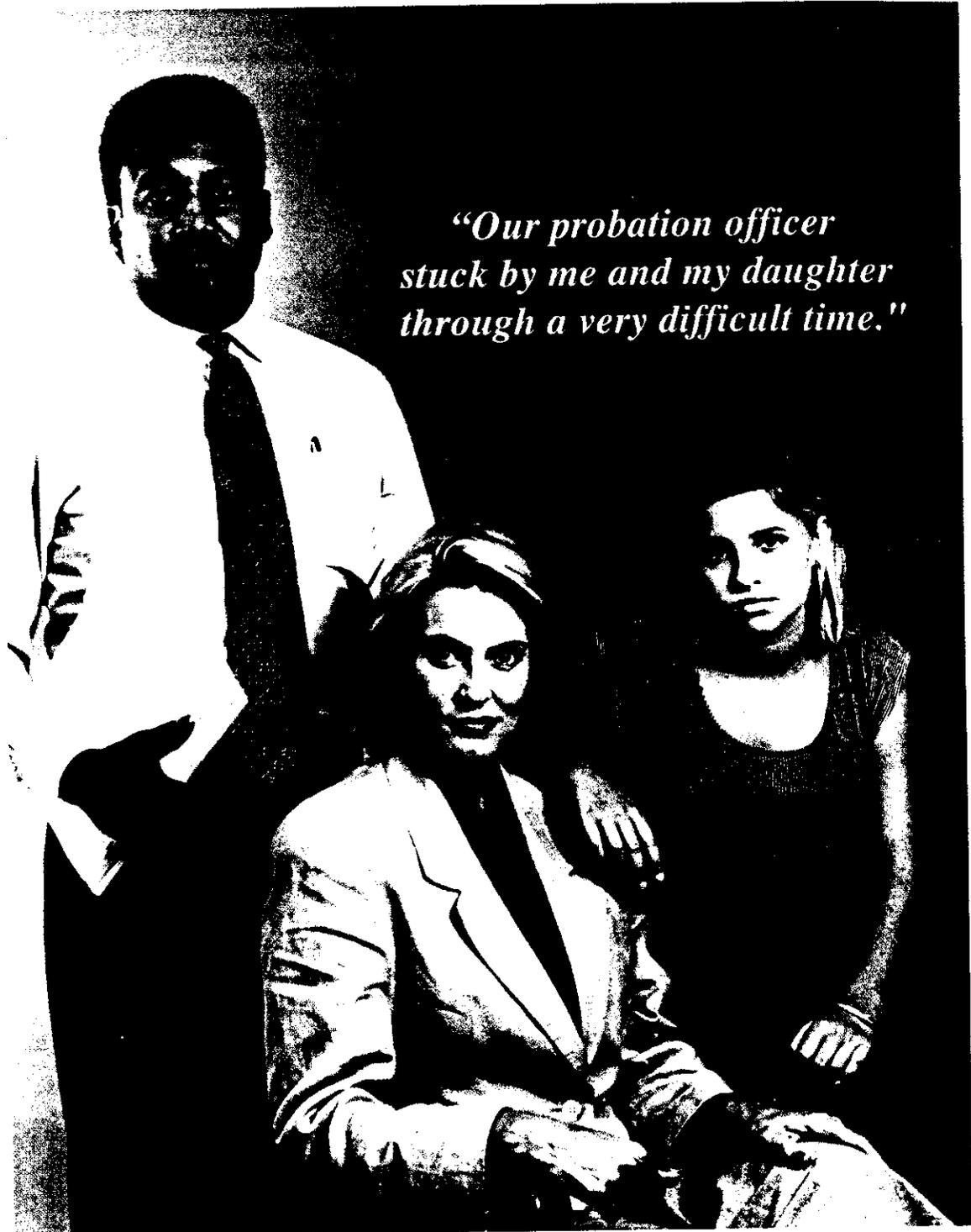


Going the Extra Mile.

Harris County Juvenile Probation Department 1993 Annual Report



*"Our probation officer
stuck by me and my daughter
through a very difficult time."*

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Judge Robert L. Lowry

Great men are measured in different ways, some by what they do in their spare time. Judge Robert L. Lowry is an excellent example. Judge Lowry retired from the bench of the 313th District Court on November 11, 1993, after almost 28 years of dedicated service. When he wasn't in the courtroom during those years, he could often be found looking for volunteers to help children.



As the first Harris County judge to preside solely over juvenile matters, Judge Lowry saw crimes committed by juveniles increase as family structures crumbled.

"I knew there would never be enough probation officers to handle the numbers of children and families with problems," said the judge. "We needed volunteers and a lot of them."

His quiet and persistent efforts on behalf of Juvenile Court Volunteers and Child Advocates, Inc., have resulted in thousands of volunteers helping the neglected, the abused and the delinquent. The annual

Lowry family fish fry brings volunteers together to be recognized and encouraged.

Although Judge Lowry shrinks from the limelight whenever possible, his entire life is a beacon of integrity, dedication and vision. Plans are underway for the Robert Lowry Juvenile Justice Center. From ground-breaking to the mortaring of the last brick and then forevermore, the building will be a magnificent symbol of the strong foundation for juvenile justice Judge Robert Lowry has built in Harris County. To bring hope to children, he has gone the extra mile.

To the Citizens of Harris County

Juvenile crime and violence escalated to become the lead story in the media and captured the attention of the community in 1993. The continuing violence by youth seems to be the single most important issue not only locally but nationally as well. Statistics confirm that crimes to persons by juveniles in Harris County are at an all-time high, and, worst of all, homicide referrals to the Juvenile Probation Department soared 21 per cent.

The ugly lure of gangs attracted young people desperate for recognition, respect and support missing in their homes. The stable, supportive family structure which used to be the norm a generation ago appears to be disappearing - and the children of our county are suffering from this phenomenon. Eventually they unleash their pain on us.

Stretched beyond the limit, the Probation Department sought extra funding from federal, state, local, and private foundation sources for programs to ease crowded placements. Numbers of serious offenders brought to the Detention Center reached crisis levels and commanded attention.

While a worried public clamored for answers, probation officers went quietly about their difficult work with renewed commitment. We salute them all for their dedication and their steady efforts to bring hope and direction to youth and families. Every success for a probation officer is an immeasurable victory for society.

Jon Lindsay
Harris County Judge
Chairman, Harris County Juvenile Board

Message from the Chief

The increase of violence and crime in our community continues to be our priority and concern. While total referrals to the Department were only slightly higher than the year before, homicides and other shocking crimes committed by juveniles increased. Members of the Juvenile Board and the Advisory Committee deliberated complex issues every day while staff members struggled to keep up with unprecedented workloads. Grants from the state and federal governments, local foundations and caring individuals supplemented funds budgeted by the county to meet the growing problems of juveniles and their families.

Judge Robert Baum assumed a senior post on the Juvenile Board as Judge Robert Lowry retired and Judge Eric Andell moved to the Court of Appeals. The transition was complete as Judges Ramona John and Berta Mejia took over the 313th and 315th District Courts, respectively.

When Judge Lowry retired, he advised us to continue the policy of honesty, accountability and hard work helping all children, one child at a time. We are pleased and honored to dedicate our 1993 annual report to Judge Robert Lowry, a remarkable man of integrity, wisdom and vision.

Teresa V. Ramirez
Executive Director
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

Going the Extra Mile

Fortunately for society and for the children of Harris County, many juvenile probation officers perform miracles. They inspire, motivate and correct behaviors that have been unchecked and undirected for years.

Sometimes, they fill vacuums in the lives of children who need boundaries and direction as much as they need love and understanding. And they have just a few months in which to work their magic.

Many probation officers go the extra mile doing whatever it takes to help a young person who has committed an offense. They quickly recognize underlying problems that have negative effects on young people.



Dear Probation Department,



From a mother:

"Henry Gonzales has certainly gone 'beyond the call of duty' with my son and my family. In this fast-changing world, it is good to know that we have men of this quality working for us."

Experienced probation officers point out that we shouldn't be surprised when a juvenile from a destitute family sells cocaine to make quick money. And what about the "latch-key kid" who hasn't been supervised for years and decides to join a gang? Should we be shocked that he turns his back on homework in an empty house? With guns easier to find than role models, should we be surprised that violence has become the problem solver of choice? Scenes of violence once common only in the streets of Los Angeles or New York have come to Houston. Juvenile probation officers must walk those streets every day where they see children who are homeless and hungry, abused and abandoned. Some



From a young man to Judge Robert Baum:

"I'm really not used to writing a judge because I have never written one before. I kind of like it at the Burnett-Bayland Home; it is kind of all right here. When I get out of here, I am going to try to stay out of trouble."



From a father:

"Ms. Gwyn Laird has given 110% of herself to help my son. What she has done for him can't all come from books; it has to come from the heart also."

children have been hurt over and over again by the only people they thought they could trust. Without a constant, strong, loving hand on their shoulders as they grow, children may never know right from wrong. They grow up hurting others to keep from being hurt again.

Retiring Texas Representative Sue Schechter wrote, "How did we get to the point where we value our children so little? Rhetoric on family values and our children's future is cheap and easy."

Juvenile probation officers strive to make a positive impact on every child assigned by the court. They become confidantes of both children and parents; they advocate in the community and at



From parents to Probation Officer Michael Prince:

"Without your aide, our son would still be 'touch and go.' Thank you for your hand in his resurgence to real (normal) life."



From a mother:

"I am grateful that Probation Officer Vance Ratliff has a listening ear and a good heart. He helped a young man *before* he made the mistakes that would have changed his life instead of *after* the damage was done."

school, but they are firm when they have to be.

The miracles that juvenile probation officers perform for children are simple and straightforward, they're about choices and alternatives, accountability and respect, and about growing up with hope for the future. One mother wrote to say thanks when her son finished probation adding that "In time we grow to understand our lives." The juvenile probation officers of Harris County work very hard so children can have that time to grow...they go the extra mile.



From a father:

"Because Donald Clemons got in the trenches emotionally with us and was able to help my son understand the problem, I had something solid to hold on to when I was without direction trying to solve this problem."

Highlights for 1993

Jo Ann Jones-Burbridge, Manager of Training and Volunteers, and a 20 year employee of the Probation Department was appointed Assistant Executive Director and began her duties immediately.

Judge Robert Lowry's retirement from the 313th District Court was followed by the appointment of *Associate Judge Ramona John* to succeed him.

Associate Judge Shirley Hunter was appointed to the 313th District Court.

Judge Eric Andell moved to the First Court of Appeals from the 315th District Court and *Judge Berta Mejia* succeeded him.

The first *Volunteer Fair* for the Department was held on March 27. Information booths covered the front lawn attracting a large crowd and recruiting many new volunteers to work with juveniles and assist probation officers.

Outstanding service awards were given to staff in June:

Flor Munoz, Staff Services

Antonia Garza, Child Care Worker

Naomi Veal, Juvenile Probation Officer

Walter Jackson, "Boss" Award.

The Seventh Annual Achievement Awards Ceremony sponsored by the Juvenile Law Section of the Houston Bar Association, Outstanding Youth Achievement, Inc. and the Department was held in September.

During a re-accreditation audit, the *American Correctional Association* found the Probation Department to be in *100 percent compliance* of 280 mandatory standards.

Representative Dalton Smith's rider on a state criminal justice bill provided \$2,000,000 for a boot camp for Harris County. Supported by *Representatives Mario Gallegos, Garnet Coleman and Talmadge Heflin*, the funds were allocated for the biennium 1993/1995.

Harris County Commissioner's Court approved funding of the *Robert Lowry Juvenile Justice Center*, a second administration and courts building and a new detention tower to provide additional courts and administrative facilities as well as detention beds to ease continued overcrowding.

Harris County Commissioners' Court

The Harris County Commissioners' Court is a five-member elected body responsible for the general administration of county business. As a county agency, the Juvenile Probation Department receives most of its annual budget from the Commissioners' Court. In 1993, \$21,345,072 was allocated for staff salaries, direct client services, private placements, residential services and general operating expenses.

The Commissioners' Court also determines county personnel regulations and sets operational guidelines followed by the Department. Commissioners' Court support enables our Department to provide services to thousands of troubled youth and their families in the community each year.

Jon Lindsay, Harris County Judge

El Franco Lee, Commissioner, Precinct One

Jim Fonteno, Commissioner, Precinct Two

Steve Radack, Commissioner, Precinct Three

Jerry Eversole, Commissioner, Precinct Four

Harris County Juvenile Board

The Harris County Juvenile Board is the governing body of the Juvenile Probation Department. As mandated by state statute, the Juvenile Board monitors all of the Department's programs, institutional services and residential placement facilities. The Board also sets administrative policies and approves the Department's annual budget prior to submission to the Commissioners' Court.

During 1993, the Juvenile Board was faced with problems brought about by increasing numbers of children handled by the Probation Department and

the severity of their crimes. At their direction, sources of funding and new programs were approved to assist children and families in crisis.

Judge Jon Lindsay,

County Judge, Chairman

Judge Robert L. Lowry (Judge Ramona John)

313th District Court, Vice Chairman

Program Committee

Personnel Committee

Tri-Board Committee

Judge Robert B. Baum

314th District Court, Board Secretary

Program Committee

Tri-Board Committee

Budget and Finance Committee

Judge Eric Andell (Judge Berta Mejia)

315th District Court

Program Committee

Judge Mary Bacon

338th District Court

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Judge Bill Elliott

311th District Court

Judge Sharolyn Wood

127th District Court

Juvenile Board Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee provides invaluable citizen participation in the juvenile justice system, making recommendations and providing consultation whenever called upon.

Joe Bart, Attorney, Chairman

Shirley C. Hunter, Attorney

Frances Merritt, Attorney

Pat Day, Attorney

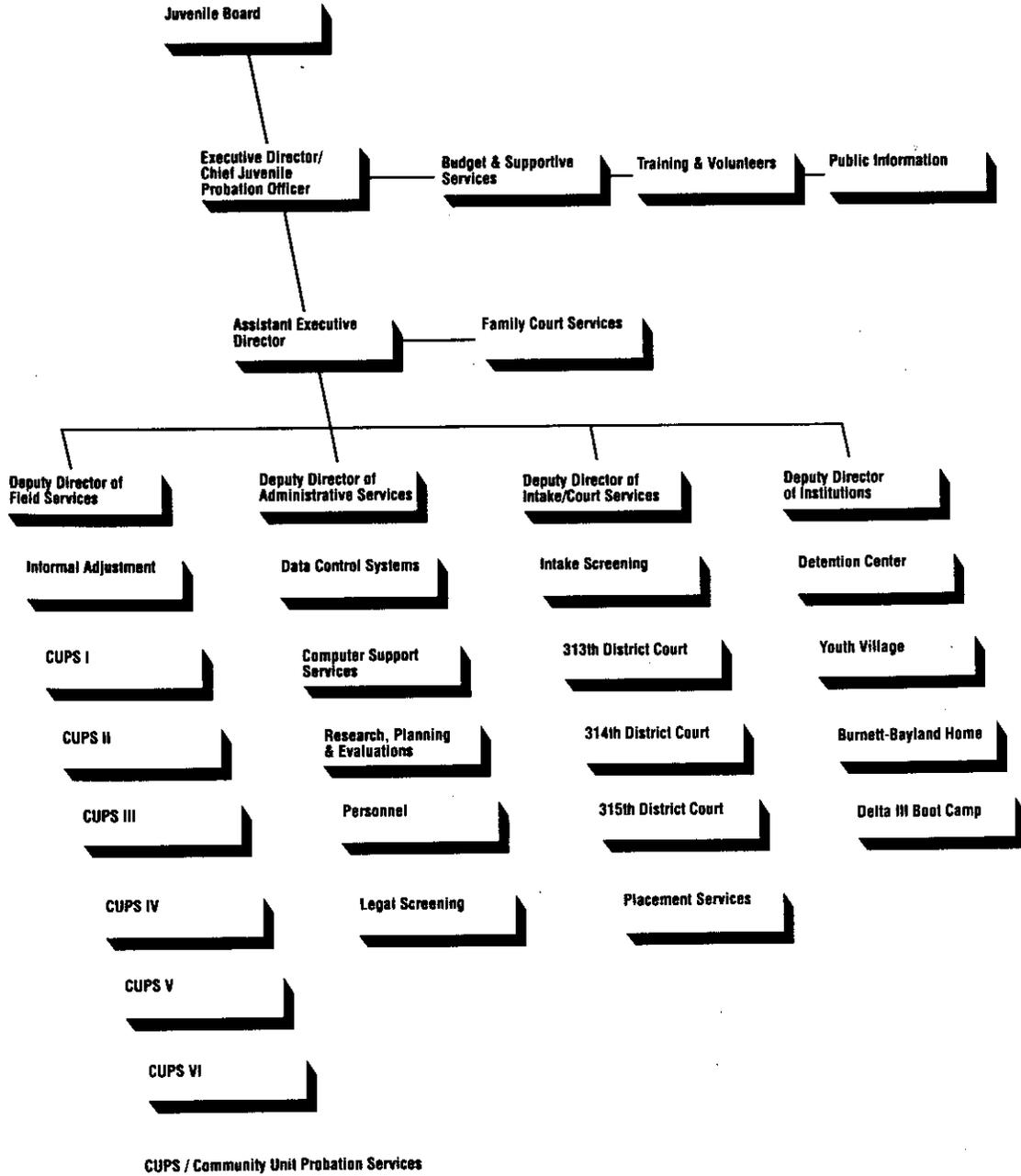
W. Randolph Bates, Attorney

Alice O'Neill, Psychotherapist

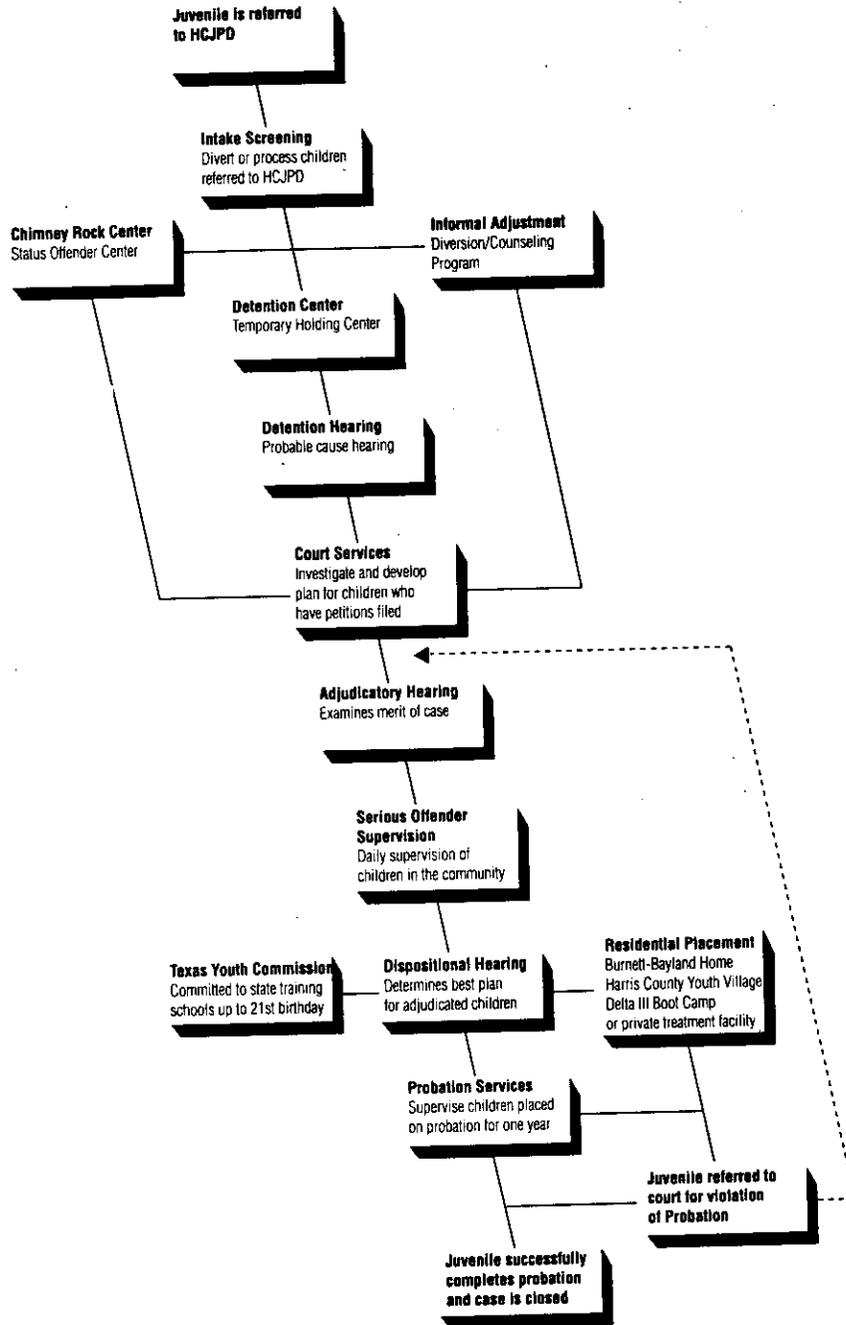
Lorraine Cervantes, Attorney

Kay Lentz, Marketing Executive

Organizational Chart



Case Flow Chart



Harris County Juvenile Probation Department

Intake Court Services Division

Intake Screening

Harris County law enforcement officers may take a child to one of two intake units of the Juvenile Probation Department.

Intake Screening is responsible for assessing immediate circumstances and deciding where the child will stay prior to a court hearing. Two 24-hour intake units, one located in the Juvenile Detention Center and the other at Chimney Rock Center, receive and review incoming cases.

Chimney Rock Center, a children's shelter and crisis facility, is jointly operated by the Juvenile Probation Department, Children's Protective Services and Mental Health/Mental Retardation Authority. Several other agencies provide services from the Center.

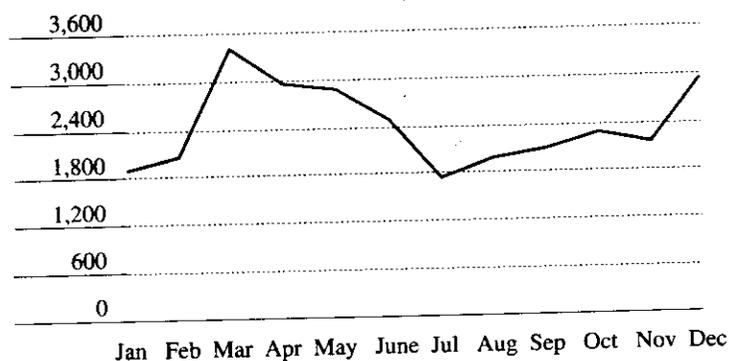
Last year, probation intake staff at Chimney Rock Center provided screening, assessment, crisis intervention, counseling and needed services to 5,430 referrals involving status offenses (such as truancy, runaway and curfew violations) and Class C

misdemeanors (such as alcohol violations). All other cases were reviewed at detention intake.

When a child is thought to present a threat to the community or himself, or is thought likely to abscond before going to court, he will be held in detention. To prevent unnecessary detention, the in-custody diversion program concentrates on sending children home when appropriate and often provides transportation. Last year, this unit diverted 859 children from detention. The population cap set by the Juvenile Board in 1991 to avoid overcrowding in detention continued to be an important consideration in the decision-making process. Since more crimes are being committed by juveniles who might pose a threat to themselves or to the community if released, those held in detention are a more dangerous population than in previous years.

Intake also provides monthly workshops on drug and alcohol abuse and other topics and refers youths and families to other agencies for assistance.

Number of Referrals by Month, 1993



Court Services

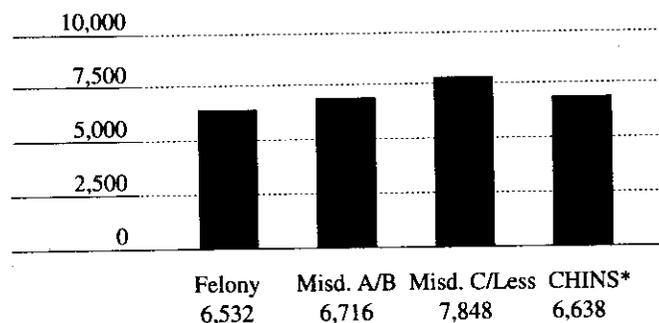
Once the District Attorney's office has filed a petition, the Court Services staff prepares a comprehensive profile of the child and the case. This detailed report aids the judge in determining a suitable disposition by including specifics on the offense, the child's physical and emotional status, and school and family circumstances.

Three judges and three associate judges hear juvenile delinquency cases in three District Courts. For the first time in a number of years, there were several changes. Judge Robert Lowry retired after almost 28 years on the bench of the 313th District Court. Judge Ramona John was appointed to succeed him with Associate Judge Shirley Hunter in her

court. Judge Eric Andell of the 315th District Court was appointed to the Court of Appeals and Judge Berta Mejia was appointed to succeed him with Associate Judge Richard Longoria remaining in her court. Judge Robert Baum with Associate Judge Mary Craft remain in the 314 District Court. Judge Baum became the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Courts when Judge Lowry retired.

If a juvenile is found to have engaged in delinquent conduct or is a child in need of supervision (CHINS), a juvenile may be allowed to live at home under stringent rules of probation or be placed in a residential facility or be committed to the Texas Youth Commission.

Types of Referrals, 1993



* Children in Need of Supervision

Court Activity, 1993

Disposition	
Certified to Criminal Court	32
Committed to Texas Youth Commission	350
Dismissed	43
Early Termination of Probation	21
Incentive Completed	97
Informal Adjustment	236
Mental Health	1
Non-Suit	649
Passed	355
Passed-Writ Issued	305
Probation	2,248
Probation/Restitution	341
Other	896
Total	5,574

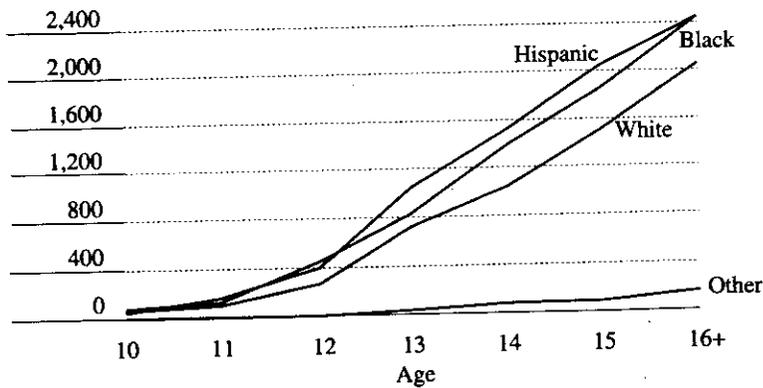
Referral Source, 1993

Baytown Police Department	760
Constable's Office	1,502
Harris County Sheriff's Department	3,355
Houston Police Department	16,410
Juvenile Probation Officer	568
Pasadena Police Department	1,718
Schools	2,939
Other	2,069
Total	29,321

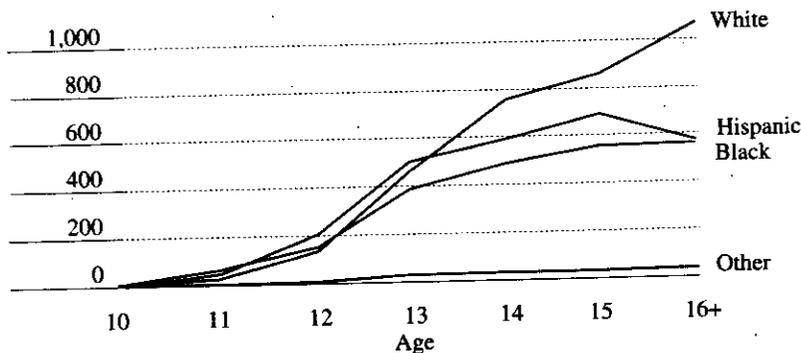
Most Serious Offense Per Referral - 1991, 1992 and 1993

	1991	1992	1993		1991	1992	1993
Murder	57	62	75	Inhalants	58	59	51
Arson	75	89	78	Alcohol	25	15	10
Assault				Other			
Felony	389	560	685	Felony	738	828	830
Misd A/B	203	321	310	Misd A/B	3,182	3,741	3,460
Misd C	1,192	1,961	2,639	Disorderly Conduct	304	379	388
Sexual Assault	160	211	226	City Ordinance	275	3,435	3,231
Robbery	541	592	707	Violation of Probation	249	222	209
Burglary	1,994	1,968	1,881	Runaway (CHINS)*	5,563	6,700	6,280
Theft				Other (CHINS)* Offense	640	404	358
Felony	164	213	198	TYC Runaways	213	276	202
Misd A/B	2,049	2,239	2,343	Administrative Actions	1,255	1,292	1,587
Misd C	1,046	904	864	Total	23,480	29,221	29,321
Auto Theft	894	654	553	* Children in need of supervision.			
Joyriding	918	796	752				
Drugs							
Felony	732	647	547				
Misd A/B	185	313	603				
Misd C	379	340	254				

Number of Male Referrals by Month, 1993



Number of Female Referrals by Month, 1993



**Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority
of Harris County**

Evaluations for 1993

Psychologicals	994
Psychiatrics	443
Family Evaluations	62
Total Evaluations	1,499

Referrals by School District and Ethnicity, 1993

	Black	Hispanic	White	Other	Total
Aldine	676	432	429	71	1,608
Alief	511	366	397	92	1,366
Channelview	8	28	132	1	169
Clear Creek	40	29	366	10	445
Crosby	38	8	44	0	90
Cypress	134	192	717	42	1,085
Deer Park	4	81	328	0	413
Galena Park	106	190	271	6	573
Goose Creek	165	259	327	3	754
Houston	5,136	4,836	917	90	10,979
Huffman	1	3	37	0	41
Humble	48	42	401	7	498
Katy	32	47	318	5	402
Klein	140	73	463	28	704
La Porte	24	21	151	1	197
North Forest	495	44	28	0	567
Pasadena	135	1,261	1,047	16	2,459
Pearland	0	4	8	0	12
Sheldon	20	13	62	2	97
Spring	116	82	344	6	548
Spring Branch	206	628	454	44	1,332
Stafford	2	6	17	0	25
Tomball	6	2	84	0	92
Waller	1	0	10	0	11
Private/parochial	62	126	210	9	407
College/University	0	0	1	0	1
Out of county	317	155	356	37	865
Not available					3,581
Total	8,423	8,928	7,919	470	29,321

Placement Services

When it appears a child must be removed from their home, the Placement Services staff prepares a list of suitable residential placements for the probation officer to present to the judge. From a list of approved facilities, they offer to the probation officer those which best meet the child's specific needs.

Placement Statistics, 1993

Residential Treatment Centers	
AAMA - Casa Phoenix	3
Child & Adolescent Development Center	1
DePelchin Children's Home	2
Desert Hills	1
Devereaux Foundation	1
Florence Crittendon Services	1
Five Oaks	2
Gulf Coast Trades Center	78
Hope Center Wilderness Camp	7
Houston Recovery Center	26
Lena Pope Home	1
Los Hermanos Ranch	1
Mary Lee School	11
McDuffie's Adolescent Center	4
Nacogdoches Boys Ranch	2
Northwest Villa	8
Odyssey House	1
Progressive Adolescent Learning Services (PALS)	11
Renton Renaissance	11
Sheltering Harbor Residential Treatment	9
Shoreline	19
Stafford Meadows	1
Tejas Home for Youth	6
Three Bar D Boys Ranch	4
Trinity Life Center	1
Unity Children's Home	12
Vernon Drug Abuse Center	11
Westwood House	2
Youth Alternatives, Inc.	1
Total Number of Placed Youth	238

*This does not include the Harris County Youth Village nor Burnett-Bayland Home totals.

Institutions Division

Four institutions are operated by the Probation Department: the Juvenile Detention Center where children remain until court hearings are held; Burnett-Bayland Home, a residential facility with a community-based program; Harris County Youth Village with a complete on-campus program and the Delta III Boot Camp Training Program.

Juvenile Detention Center

The Juvenile Detention Center is a secure, temporary residential facility for juveniles requiring a restricted environment while awaiting court action.

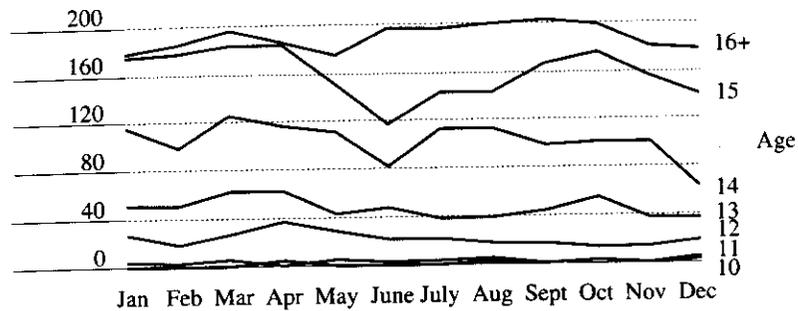
The Center features 145 private sleeping rooms, 26 multi-purpose activity rooms, three gymnasiums, three outdoor playground areas, visitation and counseling areas, facilities for medical, dental, psychological and social services, a separate intake section and a courtroom. Technologically advanced monitoring systems and innovative architectural designs provide security and safety without bars.

During their stay, juveniles undergo physical and psychological assessments, short-term therapy and crisis intervention. Recreation specialists provide daily physical education activities. Highly trained staff and volunteers work to promote feelings of self-worth, establishing trust and teaching them to relate to others through structured unit activities.

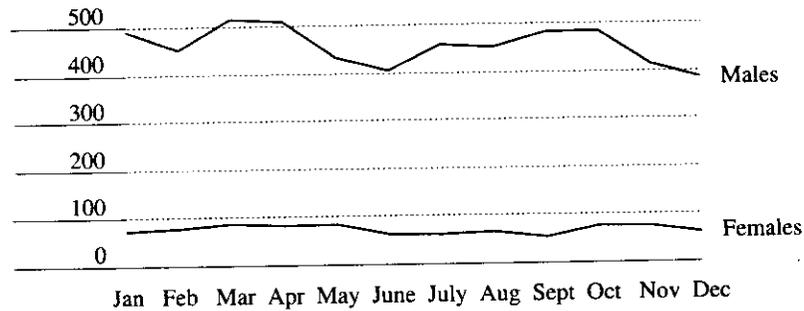
The Houston Independent School District (HISD) provides a complete educational program. The program focuses on remedial reading, language and math skills in which these students are generally deficient.

Volunteers and other agencies provide additional services including health awareness, self-esteem workshops, tutoring, art and creative writing, individual visitation and social activities.

Admissions to Detention by Month and Age, 1993



Admissions to Detention by Month and Sex, 1993



**Most Serious Offense Per Admission to Detention
1991, 1992 and 1993**

	1991	1992	1993		1991	1992	1993
Murder	56	69	83	Inhalants	29	23	12
Arson	31	21	25	Alcohol	11	3	2
Assault				Other			
Felony	251	291	431	Felony	328	260	260
Misd A/B	68	97	93	Misd A/B	1,222	1,167	978
Misd C	71	59	42	Disorderly Conduct	186	215	202
Sexual Assault	61	95	115	City Ordinance	44	150	104
Robbery	446	490	579	Violation of Probation	118	71	79
Burglary	962	849	846	Runaway (CHINS)*	260	217	204
Theft				Other (CHINS)* Offense	20	7	3
Felony	94	75	74	TYC Runaways	170	217	174
Misd A/B	541	481	446	Administrative Actions	274	187	136
Misd C	40	26	10	Total	7,195	6,632	6,257
Auto Theft	575	421	292	* Children in need of supervision.			
Joyriding	614	492	459				
Drugs							
Felony	589	529	442				
Misd A/B	75	74	139				
Misd C	59	46	27				

Last year, 6,257 juveniles were held in detention. Their offenses were of a much more serious and violent nature than ever before and required closer supervision by the staff. Although the population cap set by the Juvenile Board resulted in a lower number of children held in detention at any one time, the severity of their offenses was much greater than ever before often necessitating a longer stay while cases were prepared for court.

Burnett-Bayland Home

Boys who do not require secure confinement, or those who are making a transition from the more restricted Youth Village to community life, may be placed by the court at Burnett-Bayland Home for up to one year. In 1993, 167 boys lived at Burnett-Bayland. The average length of residence was 8 months. The children live in home-like cottages on the 40-acre park campus. Some attend local public schools and may participate in extracurricular activities off-campus. A grant from the Brown Foundation enabled the first on-campus school to begin. HISD teachers are able to work individually with students who have been unable to succeed in public school.

Family involvement is viewed as essential. Parents participate in regular educational meetings and other activities to prepare them for their child's transition back to home life. Family visitation is encouraged and children often enjoy weekends at home.

Civic organizations and citizen volunteers enhance the program with tutoring, counseling, education and recreation. The Rotary Club of Houston continued its generous support by funding a new sound system in the gym and sponsoring the annual Christmas Party.

Harris County Youth Village

The Youth Village is a more restricted facility located in the Clear Lake area. The lake-front campus provides a spacious setting for youth in need of a more secure environment. Boys and girls are placed at the Youth Village for as long as one year by court order. In 1993, 383 juveniles stayed at the Youth Village an average of four months. The program includes therapeutic, recreational, medical and drug counseling services. An innovative summer program of counseling emphasized reduction of aggression.

The Houston Independent School District operates an accredited school on-campus with a full academic and vocational curriculum, including athletics, guidance and remedial education. With a small student-to-teacher ratio and an accelerated teaching pace, many children overcome major scholastic deficiencies during their stay at the Youth Village.

In addition to academic, computer and vocational instruction, children are taught important practical skills such as job hunting, responsible budgeting, household management, parenting and coping skills. Community corrections funding from the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission provided for the expansion of services to accommodate an additional 20 children at the Youth Village. Support from nearby communities continues to be very important to the operation of the Youth Village.

Delta III Boot Camp

The Delta III Boot Camp became a reality in late 1993 providing a community-based residential correctional program for adjudicated males, ages 15 and 16, who have been classified as chronic repeat offenders. The trainees participate in a structured basic training program in three 90-day phases beginning with discipline and physical training, followed by a stabilization phase and then weekend programming. After successful completion of the first three phases, the trainees remain on probation in the community an additional six months. Groups of 18 trainees move from phase to phase before they begin probation in the community.

Probation Field Services Division

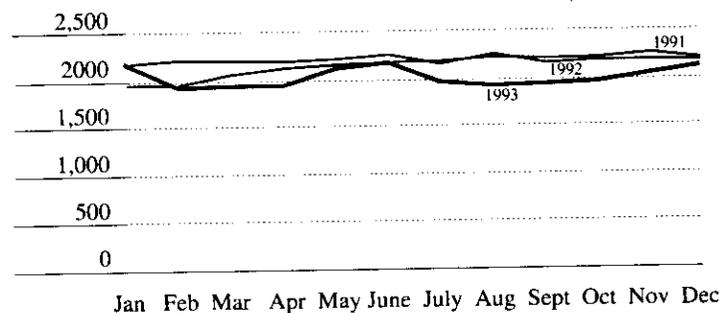
Most children who go through the court system are not placed in a residential facility but remain at home under probation supervision. The time period is usually for one year but a recent change in the law allows the court to lengthen the time to age 18. Probation supervision and rehabilitative services

for children and their families are provided by the Field Services Division from ten offices conveniently located throughout Harris County.

When a child has been declared delinquent and is placed on probation, the court sets rules of probation for the child. General rules include reporting change of address, attending school or holding a job, not leaving the county without the probation officer's permission, curfew hours, restrictions on motor vehicle use and submitting to drug testing upon request. In addition, special rules may be imposed requiring the child to attend counseling or educational programs, or to pay monetary and/or community service restitution.

In 1993, probation officers faced increasing challenges as serious crimes by juveniles increased. Some probation officers carried caseloads of over 70, nearly double the national recommended number. Officers were challenged to provide supervision to more and more children from dysfunctional families with problems ranging from alcohol and drug abuse, to domestic violence and neglect. Over 2,000 children were on probation each month in 1993.

Probation Case Load - 1991, 1992 and 1993



Field Services Programs for 1993 Program

	Description
Art Program	Youths learn to express themselves through visual arts and creative writing.
Drug Free Youth Programs	Certified alcohol and drug abuse counselors are stationed in all satellite offices by the Houston Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. They provide an assortment of interventions to children with substance abuse problems.
Educational Workshops	Workshops for youths and families on various topics.
Incentive Program	A voluntary program that may shorten the probationary period.
L.A.W.	Legal Awareness Workshops presented by judges and attorneys.
MADD Victim Impact Panel	Mothers Against Drunk Driving present workshops for probationers and families intended to show the real consequences of drinking and driving.
Mentor Program	Prominent community leaders and professionals provide positive role models for children on probation.
MODELS	Making Our Daily Environment Less Stressful by providing role models from the immediate surroundings of young offenders in a community-based volunteer program.
Parent Training	Workshops in which parents are taught parenting skills.
Peer Pressure Workshops	Workshops presented by the Houston Police Department on positive and negative effects of peer pressure.
Prohibited Weapons Workshops	Houston Police Department workshops which teach consequences of possession of illegal weapons.
Restitution	Community service work by probationers coordinated by the American Red Cross.
T.D.C.J. Program	Youths visit the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Sugar Land to learn realities of prison life.
Therapeutic Counseling	Professional, certified therapists provide counseling to probationers and their families.
Vision Care	University of Houston, School of Optometry screens and examines youth, providing glasses and treatment.
WINGS	Educational specialists advocate for juveniles to keep them in school, to reinstate them if expelled or to arrange completion of GED requirements and career planning.
Y.E.E.S. (Youth Education and Employment Services)	Children on probation receive tutorial, remedial, pre-employment training and G.E.D. preparation.

Informal Adjustment

In some cases, the court or the Legal Screening Unit defers a child from the court system into the Informal Adjustment program. Generally, this is a younger, non-violent offender who may be offered the option of voluntary participation. In 1993, 569 children participated in the Informal Adjustment program.

Informal Adjustment guides children through six months of specialized programs, intensive counseling and supervision aimed at diverting them from the juvenile justice system. Drug-dependent children are referred for therapy and education. Other services include parent-training workshops, AIDS education and peer pressure programs designed to teach children to act responsibly. Upon successful completion of Informal Adjustment, the child's case is dismissed and juvenile adjudication is avoided.

Serious Offender Supervision

The Serious Offender Supervision (SOS) program is intended to divert high-risk youth from the state institutions of the Texas Youth Commission while redirecting their lives through a program of close supervision and rehabilitation.

Made possible by a grant from the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, SOS is a pilot program administered by probation practitioners and human services professionals who work with trained volunteers and student interns, as well as community and civic groups. Each SOS participant must have a home, adequate supervision by parents or significant adults, and he or she must agree in court to abide by the terms of an SOS contract on a voluntary basis.

After placement in the program by one of the District Courts, each participant is contacted daily by a probation officer. During 1993, 240 youth participated in the SOS program.

An extremely successful component of SOS which demonstrates the flexibility and creativity of the program is "Super Saturday," regular weekly workshops for children, their parents, tutors, counselors and other service providers.

Administrative Services Division

The Administrative Services Division oversees data control, research, computer support, personnel and legal screening services.

Data Control Systems

As children move through the justice system, the Data Control Systems Unit keeps the master file on each case, maintaining the Department's automated juvenile tracking system and entering the initial information about the juvenile's demographic information and alleged offense. From this point, staff throughout the agency update case information to keep records current and complete.

Research, Planning and Evaluation

The Research, Planning and Evaluation Unit maintains and analyzes data to ensure responsiveness to the needs of juveniles referred to the Department. This information is used to monitor trends, develop special programs and services, and identify staff and funding needs. In addition, this unit reviews and reports on research inquiries from other agencies to ensure a functional coordination of services throughout the community.

Computer Support Services

Computer Support Services is responsible for all personal computers used throughout the Department. Personal computer applications are designed, programmed and maintained by the Computer Support staff. The staff maintains the Novell network which has high speed data links to all field locations and provides access to the mainframe computer located downtown. This wide area network connects 175 personal computers from all units within the Department.

Computer Support staff provides maintenance for all personal computers and associated equipment within the Department, as well as providing user training on personal computer applications and various commercial software packages.

Personnel

The Personnel Unit provides staffing for the Department and ensures that county hiring guidelines are followed throughout the agency. This unit posts available positions, processes employment applications and supervises screening and hiring. The personnel unit also maintains employment records for all Department staff. At the end of 1993, the Department employed 577 persons.

Legal Screening

The attorneys of the Legal Screening Unit review all incoming felony and some misdemeanor cases to determine if legal grounds exist to file a delinquency petition. If legal grounds do not exist, the child in custody is released to a parent or guardian.

By law, children who are detained receive a detention hearing within two working days of admission and every ten days thereafter until released. Attorneys from the Legal Screening unit

represent the District Attorney's office in these hearings and must show due cause for detaining the child.

Through periodic training workshops and consultation, Legal Screening provides training to new agency employees and volunteers, updating them on any changes in juvenile law. This unit also answers inquiries from police officers or complainants and helps to increase community awareness of juvenile issues through public speaking engagements.

Ancillary Services

Several agency units report directly to the Executive Director and provide services to the family courts or to other areas of the Department.

Family Court Services

Although administered by the Juvenile Probation Department, Family Court Services handles cases of adoption and disputed child custody rather than delinquency cases.

Family Court officers investigate cases and prepare comprehensive social histories through home visits, interviews with relatives, neighbors, employers, law enforcement and school officials and other relevant sources. This history aids the judge in determining whether to grant adoption or determine custody. In 1993, this unit researched 843 child custody cases and 578 adoption cases for twelve district courts which hear such cases.

A child who cannot stay in his home during the family court investigation is temporarily placed in a residential facility. Such arrangements are made by the Family Court Services staff.

Budget and Supportive Services

The Budget Office oversees the Department's fiscal operations including preparation and management of the annual budget, and regulating receipts and expenditures.

1993 Budget

Harris County Commissioners' Court \$21,345,072

Texas Probation Commission

State Aid Grant to Counties	1,324,389
Intensive Supervision Grant	2,009,547
WINGS Program	295,476
Automated Integrated Project/ Computer Hardware Grant	160,050

Criminal Justice Division of Governor's Office

Purchase of Services Grant	406,235
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State Funded Juvenile Boot Camp Program* 1,000,000

(*Additional \$1,000,000 for 1994)

Other Funding Sources

Swalm Foundation/Volunteer Coordinator Grant	36,009
Brown Foundation (Sex Offender Counseling)	50,000
Brown Foundation (Pen Power Program)	50,000
Junior League of Houston, Inc.	4,500
MHMRA of Harris County (Family Preservation)	40,000
Brown Foundation/Burnett-Bayland Home Remodeling Grant	40,000
Brown Foundation/HISD School Program at Burnet-Bayland Home	261,952
MHMRA Placement Grant	144,862
Boeing Grant for CUPS Unit	1,000
United Way Grant/Comet (WINGS) Program	75,837
Brown Foundation Visual Arts Program	75,000

Total \$27,319,929

In 1993, the Department operated with a combined budget of \$27,319,929. The funds were received from four primary sources: Harris County Commissioners' Court, Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office and grants from private sources.

Supportive Services

The Supportive Services Unit handles payroll, insurance benefits, staff identification, office inventories, general supplies, mail and courier services and the print shop. Building and grounds maintenance are also provided by Supportive Services. This year, adult probationers in a community restitution program assisted with grounds maintenance.

Training and Staff Development

The Training and Staff Development Unit provides in-service training to enhance staff skills and meet the state training standards for probation officers. To maintain state certification, probation officers are required to attend 40 hours of accredited training per year.

The Training Unit researches and coordinates training programs for child care workers, secretaries, computer personnel, administrative staff and all probation officers.

Training topics included cultural diversity, gang activity, sexual harassment, beginning Spanish and a drug-free workplace. In 1993, over 529 workshops provided 6,426 training hours.

Volunteers

In 1993, volunteers donated their time and invaluable talents. Carefully screened and trained, these volunteers enabled the Department to provide highly specialized, personal attention to children.

Many of the Department's volunteers are

recruited, trained and coordinated by the Juvenile Court Volunteers and the Junior League of Houston.

Juvenile Court Volunteers, Inc., a United Way agency, provides mentoring and recreational activities. Court Volunteers also bring companionship to detained children through visitation and special events. In 1993, the 207 Juvenile Court Volunteers donated 23,205 hours of service valued at \$11.58 per hour, or nearly \$268,749.

Junior League of Houston volunteers worked 4,100 hours with children and families in 1993. The value of their services is estimated at almost \$50,000. The 85 volunteers provided their skills and support to programs and services such as individual counseling, intake counseling, educational/vocational counseling, parent education, tutoring and drug counseling.

Many other private citizens and members of civic and church organizations are recruited by the Probation Department. They volunteered over 6,800 hours to Harris County children and families in our juvenile justice system this year. A grant from the Swalm Foundation provided a new Assistant Volunteer Coordinator to expand the program.

These volunteer programs integrate the community with the agency - a partnership which enables the Department to meet mutual goals of providing quality services to redirect the lives of many youths in Harris County.

Student Interns

Seventy-two students participated in the Department's student intern program in 1993. Ten of these were from the University of Houston's Graduate School of Social Work and 23 from Texas Southern University, with the others attending various local and state colleges and universities. They worked

throughout the agency in a variety of positions, receiving training and experience in juvenile corrections. Interns provided 14,000 hours of service to 4,300 children and their families.

Public Information Office

The Public Information Office is responsible for providing meaningful and accurate information to the news media, other agencies, public officials, academic institutions and interested citizens.

The office provides 24-hour, immediate response to media inquiries, maintains video and news clipping reference files, produces the annual report and other publications; briefs administration on developing news situations; and works to maximize public and media access to the juvenile justice system within legal constraints.

The goals of the Public Information Office are to increase public understanding of juvenile corrections and to build community support for the agency's mission. This office coordinates agency arts programs acting as the interface with artists and writers and providing public exhibitions and performances of the children's works.

Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, 1993

Administrative Staff

Teresa V. Ramirez Executive Director, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
Jo Ann Jones-Burbridge Assistant Executive Director

Administrative Services

Harvey Hetzel Deputy Director, Administrative Services
Kay Hayes Administrator, Data Control Systems
Frank Dear Administrator, Computer Support Services
Phyllis Kisor Administrator, Research, Planning and Evaluation
Charles Phipps Supervisor, Personnel
Rick Valadez Senior Attorney, Legal Screening

Intake Court Services

Bernard Hunter Deputy Director, Intake Court Services
Bob Husbands Administrator, Intake Screening
Ron Perren Administrator, 313th District Court
Alice Sweeney-Herd Administrator, 314th District Court
Joe Hardy Administrator, 315th District Court
Debbie Williams Administrator, Placement Services

Field Services

Elmer Bailey, Jr. Deputy Director, Field Services
Beth Perez Administrator, Field Services

Supervisors of CUPS (Community Unit Probation Services)

Walter Jackson CUPS I
Terry Snow CUPS II
M. Julia Ramirez CUPS III
Cheryl Keating CUPS IV
Charlie Faires CUPS V
A. Kinney Garcia CUPS VI (Serious Offender Supervision)
Cindy Jones Informal Adjustment

Institutional Services

John A. Peters Deputy Director, Institutions
James K. Martins Superintendent, Juvenile Detention Center
Ronald Niksich Superintendent, Harris County Youth Village
Larry Smith Superintendent, Burnett-Bayland Home
Manny Fontanez Superintendent, Delta III Boot Camp

Ancillary Services

Joseph H. Funches Court Systems Manager
Mary Craft Associate Judge
Shirley Hunter Associate Judge
David Longoria Associate Judge
Jo Ann Jones-Burbridge Administrator, Training & Volunteers
Carole H. Allen Public Information Officer
Veronica Morgan-Price Juvenile Court Referee/Master
Betty Cossey Director, Family Court Services
John W. Sukols Administrator, Budget & Supportive Services

Credits

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Quotes are from a child on probation and parents of children on probation.