

The Rules Start Here



HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

1994 Annual Report

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A TRIBUTE TO TWO JUDGES

The past year marked the retirement of two judges who have had great impact on the juvenile justice system in Harris County. Judge Jon Lindsay was County Judge and Chair of the Juvenile Board for 20 years, and Judge Robert B. Baum served as Presiding Judge of the 314th State District Court since 1979.



Judge Baum faced the dilemma of rising juvenile crime in his courtroom on a daily basis. He helped develop the innovative program in which juvenile offenders are taken to a state prison to see the consequences of criminal behavior. Judge Baum was instrumental in creating a monetary and community restitution program to compensate victims of juvenile crime and introduced the concept of associate judges to assist with court dockets.



Judge Lindsay served as County Judge and Chairman of the Juvenile Board for 20 years and witnessed an astounding increase in juvenile crime in the county. He reviewed annual budget presentations for the Juvenile Probation Department and saw resources stretched thinner and thinner. In his last year before retiring, Judge Lindsay spoke often about his concerns for the needs of the Department.

We thank both Judge Lindsay and Judge Baum for their years of dedication to juvenile justice and concern for the welfare of the community.

TO THE CITIZENS OF HARRIS COUNTY

It is incredible to me, as I reflect upon my years of public service as County Judge, that crime committed by teenagers in 1994 was often more serious, vicious and frequent than crime committed by adults. When I first assumed office in 1974, the Juvenile Probation Department dealt with kids who stole their school-mate's bicycle, skipped school or maybe even broke into a neighbor's house. Incredibly, during 1994, the Department handled 71 youths accused of homicide, and 666 youths arrested for felony assault, as juvenile crime in Harris County out-paced adult crime.

The Westside Command Station, with an additional 44 detention beds, was opened in 1994 in order to relieve the overcrowding within the West Dallas Detention Center. As new beds opened, they were quickly filled up, and the end of the year saw both facilities running at capacity. My goal, during my last year in office, was to place as much emphasis on the juvenile justice system and its facilities, as has been placed on the adult criminal justice system over the past twenty years. Federal court rulings and the backlog of state prisoners in our county jail facilities forced the Commissioners' Court to spend a great deal of the county's resources on the adult criminal justice system. During 1994, and as I passed the reins on to my successor, I advocated shifting some of these resources into the juvenile system.

In order to begin to turn this horrible trend, we, as a society, must begin to insist upon accountability and abiding by the rules. When children are raised without rules, oftentimes the government must step in to instill them, usually at a very costly price. The earlier destructive behavior can be identified and rehabilitated, the less costly it becomes in the long run in terms of dollars and lives.

I have greatly enjoyed my tenure as County Judge and Chair of the Juvenile Board. I wish only the best for the hardworking and dedicated employees of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department who perform very difficult tasks with little thanks for a job well done. I leave feeling confident that the new County Judge, Robert Eckels, will share my deep concern for the youth and families of our county.

Jon Lindsay

County Judge, Chairman, Harris County Juvenile Board

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Referrals to the Juvenile Probation Department increased 16 per cent between 1993 and 1994 for a total of 34,027. Since some of these youth were referred to the department more than once during the year, the actual count of all activities handled by the Department totalled a staggering 47,393. Realizing the problem, the Commissioners' Court and Juvenile Board worked to ease the overcrowding in the Detention Center by approving a satellite facility at the Westside Command Station of the Houston Police Department. They also funded the conversion of several office spaces to secure rooms at the West Dallas Detention Center. Commissioners' Court approved expansion of the Detention Center and supported building projects.

As Judge Robert Baum retired from the 314th State District Court and County Judge Jon Lindsay from the Commissioners' Court, our Department expresses its deepest gratitude to them and also to Judge Ramona John, Judge Berta Mejia and Judge John Peavy of the 313th, 315th and 246th District Courts, respectively.

Our best retirement wishes to Judge Bill Elliott of the 311th District Court who also served on the Juvenile Board. We look forward to the ideas, energy and creativity of the new judges as they look for solutions to remedy the problems of youth and families.

Teresa V. Ramirez

Executive Director, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

THE RULES START HERE

Raising children and making rules go hand in hand. First, there are simple rules about toys, food and bedtime hours. Next, are friends, homework, dating and driving.

Children who grow up with rules learn respect and responsibility. Those who don't may eventually spend time at the Harris County Juvenile Detention Center and the Delta 3 Boot Camp. And the rules start here.

A stay in the Detention Center can be a shock and is often a turning point in a young life. It means losing freedom and facing the consequences of a bad decision. Personal possessions are locked away and every move is under the watchful eyes of detention workers.



Leave your possessions here.



Please step inside.

The Detention Center is the place for thorough assessments by a team of caseworkers, psychologists and medical staff who listen and observe very carefully. Although each case is different, familiar themes of abuse, neglect and family violence are heard over and over again. Before decisions are made in court, the judges need complete case histories and thorough background information. If a boy is 15 or 16 and has had prior offenses, he may be assigned to the Delta 3 Boot Camp at the Westside Command Station.

Boot camp has many strict rules — no phone calls, no television and no radio. Calls and visits are allowed after three months if a trainee's behavior has been satisfactory.



Detention Center instructor



Delta 3 Boot Camp educator



We see everybody, all the time



Listen up

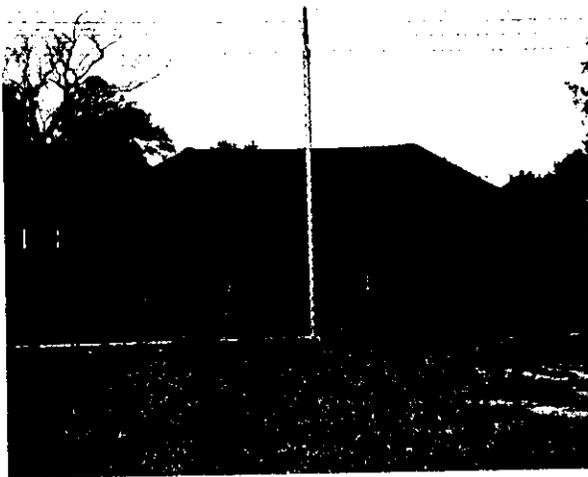
A boot camp day starts before dawn with warm-up drills and marching. After breakfast, the school teachers arrive for classes. Following that, more drills and marching and time for chores.

Most trainees understand the need for rules very quickly. Many realize for the first time that if there had been rules at home, their lives would be different. They learn that simple rules to respect others and their property have a very positive effect in the home, the school, the workplace and the world. Rules bring order and opportunities. They open doors to productive lives that contribute to society.

And the rules start here.



Orders of the day



Rain or shine, hot or cold, this is home this weekend

HIGHLIGHTS 1994

THE HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT funded the conversion of offices and storage areas in the Juvenile Detention Center providing 14 additional beds with required staff. A private grant from the Brown Foundation funded refurbishing of the Burnett-Bayland Home and expanded counseling for all clients.

FEDERAL AND STATE APPROVALS were obtained so youth could be housed on the fourth floor of the Houston Police Department's Westside Command Station. Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff facilitated the leasing of the Command Station from the City of Houston. The Delta 3 Boot Camp with 44 boys moved there at the end of August, followed by the transfer of another 44 boys to the Westside Command Station satellite detention facility to await court hearings.

THE JUVENILE PROBATION VICTIMS' liaison officer, Sylvia Gonzalez, was recognized as the first such representative in the area by Mayor Bob Lanier's Victims' Crime Assistance Office. Community Education Representative Vance Ratliff has doubled the number of presentations to students in the community.

THE COMMUNITY UNIT PROBATION SERVICE (CUPS) V Office, formerly located on Harwin Drive, moved to 6000 Chimney Rock in the Southwest Courthouse Annex building.

AT THE ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY, Julia Ramirez of the Pasadena Field Office was chosen "Boss of the Year;" Diane Johnson, Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year; Virgil Gunner, Institutional Worker of the Year and Jennifer Ballard, Staff Services of the Year award recipient.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TERESA RAMIREZ was appointed to the City/County Commission on Children. She was also chosen in a national election to serve as a Commissioner for the American Corrections Association (ACA) for six years.

JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER Val Jones completed training for the Title IV-E Federal Foster Care Reimbursement Program enabling the Department to pursue the recovery of placement funds from the federal government.

THE NOVEMBER ELECTION and JUDGE LINDSEY'S RETIREMENT changed five of the seven members of the Juvenile Board. Beginning January 1, 1995, the Juvenile Board is chaired by Judge Robert Eckels with Judge Kent Ellis, 315th District Court; Judge Mary Craft, 314th District Court; Judge Pat Shelton, 313th District Court; Judge Mary Bacon, 338th District Court; Judge Sharolyn Wood, 127th District Court; and Judge Bill Henderson, 311th District Court. Associate Judges are Robert Molder, 313th; David Longoria, 314th, and Sherry Van Pelt, 315th. Veronica Morgan-Price is the Associate Judge at the Detention Center at 3540 West Dallas.

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 1994, \$22,368,842 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 1994, the Juvenile Board worked diligently to solve the problems brought about by increasing numbers of juveniles handled by the Department.

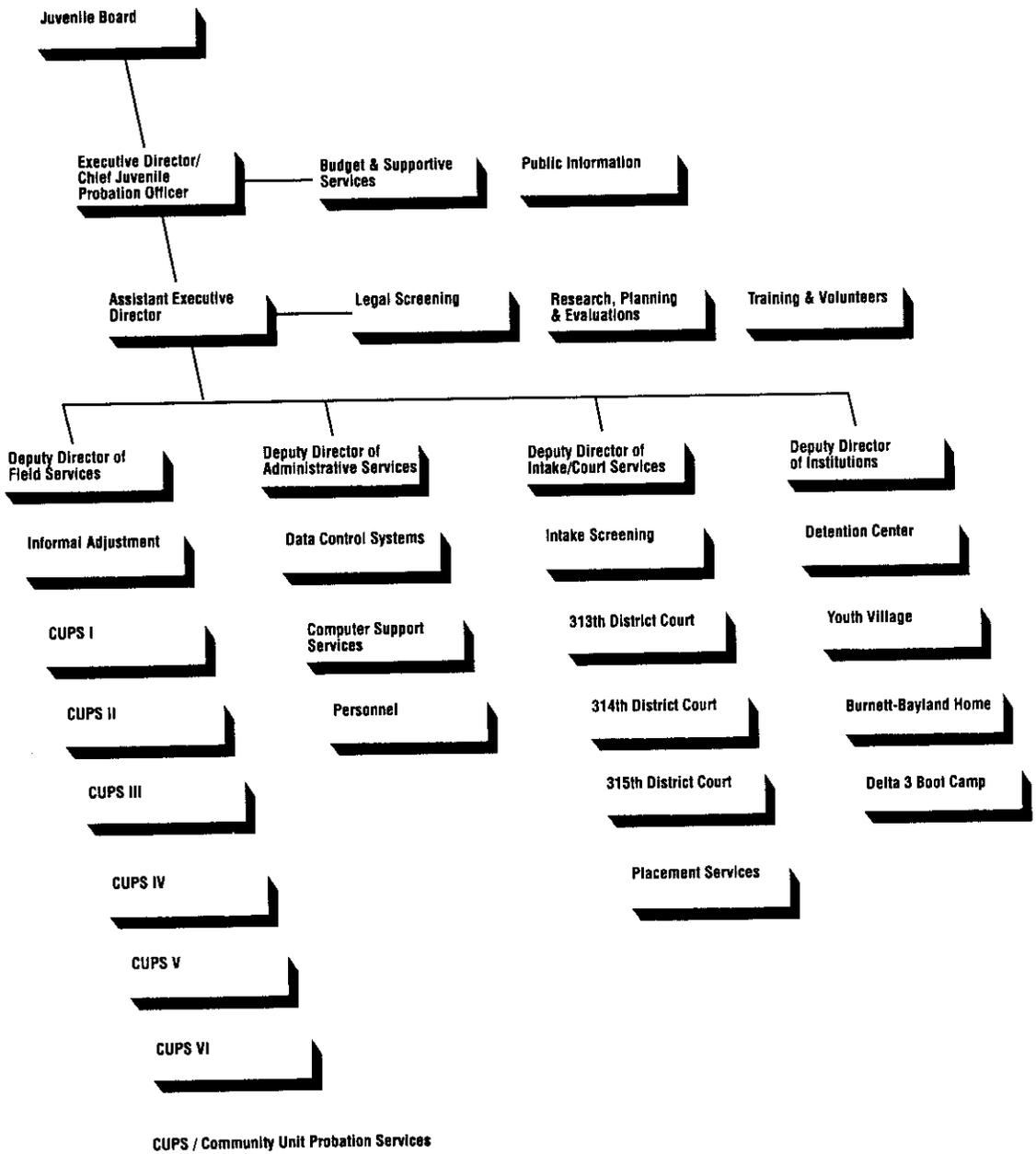
Judge Jon Lindsay, County Judge, Chairman
Judge Ramona John, 313th District Court, Secretary
Program Committee
Judge Robert B. Baum, 314th District Court, Vice-Chairman
Program Committee
Tri-Board Committee
Budget and Finance Committee
Juvenile Probation Liaison and Personnel
Judge Berta Mejia, 315th District Court
Program Committee
Budget and Finance Committee
Juvenile Probation Liaison and Personnel
Judge Mary Bacon, 338th District Court
Buildings and Grounds Committee
Judge John Peavy, 246th District Court
Judge Sharolyn Wood, 127th District Court

JUVENILE BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

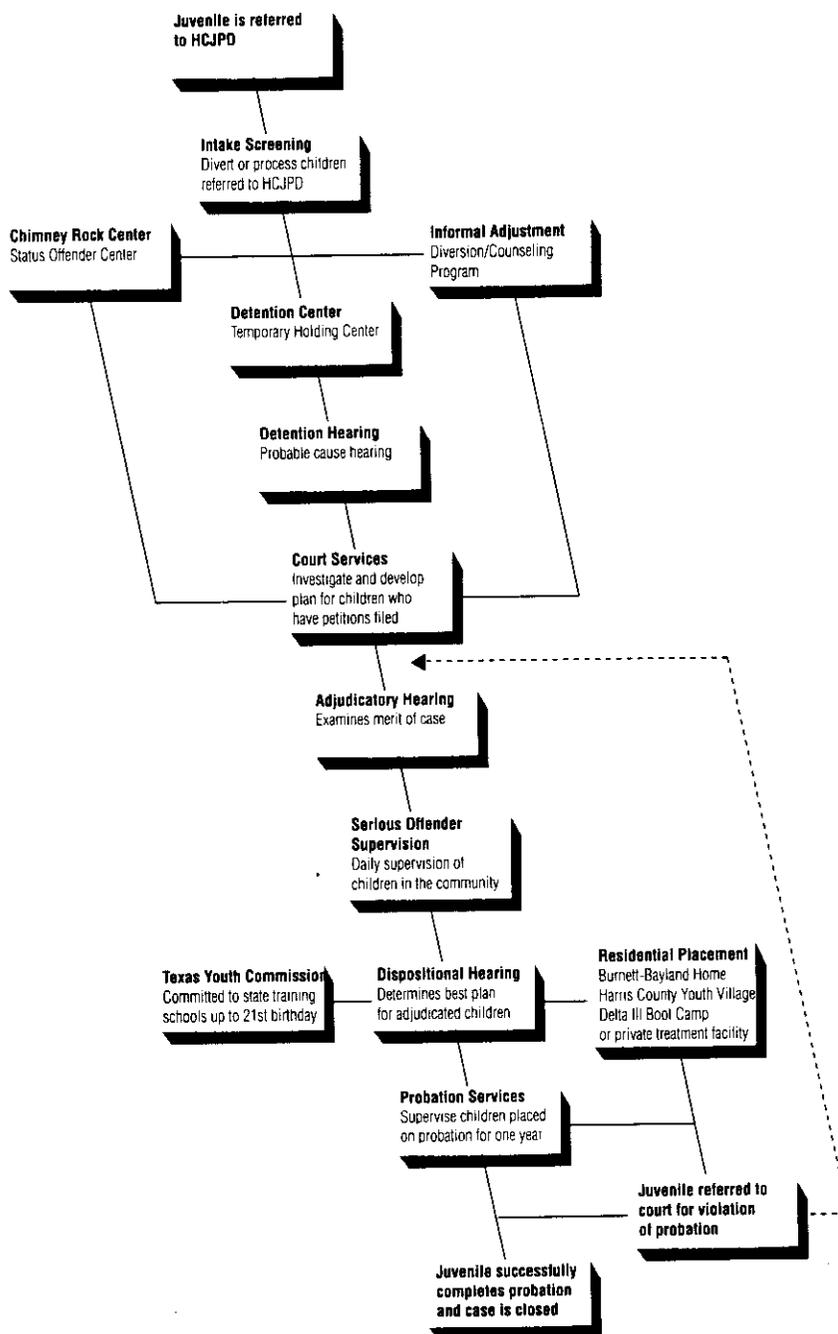
The Advisory Committee provides invaluable citizen participation in the juvenile justice system, making recommendations and providing consultation whenever called upon.

Joe Bart, Attorney, Chairman
Pat Day, Attorney
W. Randolph Bates, Attorney
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 juvenile to one of two intake units of the Juvenile Probation Department.

Intake Screening is responsible for assessing immediate circumstances and deciding where the youth 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.

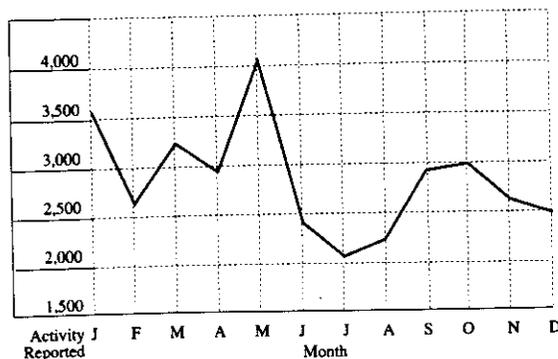
Chimney Rock Center, a shelter and crisis facility, is jointly operated by the Juvenile Probation Department, Children's Protective Services and the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Authority. Several other agencies provide services from the Center.

Last year, intake staff at Chimney Rock Center provided screening, assessment, crisis intervention, counseling and needed services to 5,942 referrals involving status offenses (such as truancy, runaway and curfew violation) and Class C misdemeanors (such as alcohol violations). All other cases were reviewed at detention intake.

When a youth 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 youths home, when appropriate, and often provides transportation. The population cap set by the Juvenile Board in 1991 to avoid overcrowding in detention was 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 appear to be 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, 1994



COURT SERVICES

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

If a juvenile is found to be delinquent or a "child in need of supervision" (CHINS), he or she may be allowed to live at home under stringent rules of probation or be placed in a county institution or residential facility.

MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE PER REFERRAL

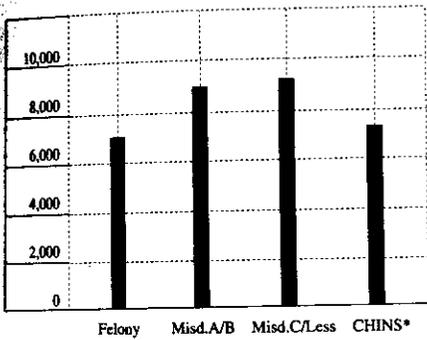
| | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Murder | 62 | 75 | 71 |
| Arson | 89 | 78 | 137 |
| Assault | | | |
| Felony | 560 | 685 | 666 |
| Misd A/B | 321 | 310 | 180 |
| Misd C | 1,961 | 2,639 | 3,073 |
| Sexual Assault | 211 | 226 | 181 |
| Robbery | 592 | 707 | 800 |
| Burglary | 1,968 | 1,881 | 1,966 |
| Theft | | | |
| Felony | 213 | 198 | 215 |
| Misd A/B | 2,239 | 2,343 | 2,720 |
| Misd C | 904 | 864 | 985 |
| Auto Theft | 654 | 553 | 517 |
| Joyriding | 796 | 752 | 774 |
| Drugs | | | |
| Felony | 647 | 547 | 675 |
| Misd A/B | 313 | 603 | 910 |
| Misd C | 340 | 254 | 381 |
| Inhalants | 59 | 51 | 44 |
| Alcohol | 15 | 10 | 11 |
| Other | | | |
| Felony | 828 | 830 | 902 |
| Misd A/B | 3,741 | 3,460 | 4,928 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 379 | 388 | 403 |
| City Ordinance | 3,435 | 3,435 | 3,783 |
| Violation of Probation | 222 | 209 | 217 |
| Runaway (CHINS)* | 6,700 | 6,280 | 6,921 |
| Other (CHINS)* Offense | 404 | 358 | 371 |
| TYC Runaways | 276 | 202 | 177 |
| Administrative Actions | 1,292 | 1,587 | 2,019 |
| Total | 29,221 | 29,321 | 34,027 |

REFERRALS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND ETHNICITY-1994

| | Black | Hispanic | White | Other | Total |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| Aldine | 929 | 582 | 577 | 75 | 2,163 |
| Alief | 665 | 374 | 376 | 133 | 1,548 |
| Channelview | 18 | 32 | 160 | 0 | 210 |
| Clear Creek | 29 | 29 | 336 | 20 | 414 |
| Crosby | 31 | 8 | 40 | 0 | 79 |
| Cypress-Fairbanks | 205 | 270 | 1,029 | 49 | 1,553 |
| Deer Park | 13 | 49 | 348 | 0 | 410 |
| Galena Park | 105 | 206 | 262 | 5 | 578 |
| Goose Creek | 174 | 259 | 358 | 0 | 791 |
| Houston | 6,264 | 4,961 | 1,091 | 89 | 12,405 |
| Huffman | 8 | 2 | 31 | 0 | 41 |
| Humble | 112 | 53 | 605 | 10 | 780 |
| Katy | 36 | 69 | 290 | 8 | 403 |
| Klein | 201 | 92 | 491 | 27 | 811 |
| La Porte | 20 | 34 | 173 | 1 | 228 |
| North Forest | 576 | 89 | 30 | 1 | 696 |
| Pasadena | 156 | 1,371 | 1,051 | 30 | 2,608 |
| Pearland | 1 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 11 |
| Sheldon | 24 | 11 | 96 | 1 | 132 |
| Spring | 148 | 79 | 499 | 6 | 732 |
| Spring Branch | 286 | 560 | 537 | 32 | 1,415 |
| Stafford | 5 | 12 | 137 | 0 | 154 |
| Tomball | 3 | 3 | 11 | 1 | 18 |
| Waller | 2 | 1 | 18 | 0 | 21 |
| Private/parochial | 125 | 125 | 211 | 9 | 470 |
| College/University | 0 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 9 |
| Out of county | 264 | 168 | 340 | 33 | 805 |
| H C Education Dept. | 8 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 17 |
| Not available | - | - | - | - | 4,525 |
| Total | 10,408 | 9,445 | 9,119 | 530 | 34,027 |

* Children in need of supervision.

TYPES OF REFERRALS, 1994

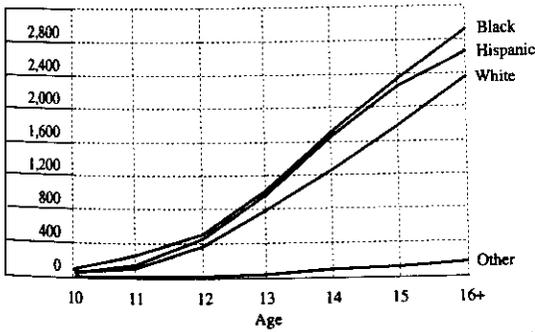


**MENTAL HEALTH MENTAL RETARDATION
AUTHORITY OF HARRIS COUNTY**

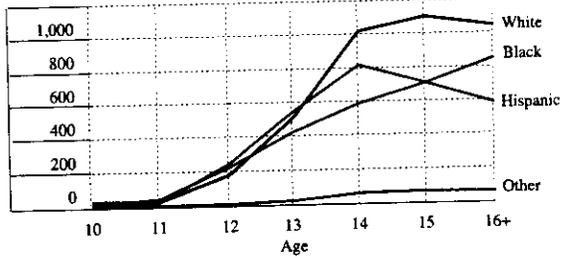
Evaluations for 1994

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Psychologicals | 984 |
| Psychiatrics | 561 |
| Family Evaluations | 43 |
| Total Evaluations | 1,588 |

NUMBER OF MALE REFERRALS BY AGE, 1994



NUMBER OF FEMALE REFERRALS BY AGE, 1994



COURT ACTIVITY, 1994

| Disposition | Count |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Certified to Criminal Court | 125 |
| Committed to Texas Youth Commission | 460 |
| Dismissed | 30 |
| Early Termination of Probation | 28 |
| Incentive Completed | 92 |
| Informal Adjustment | 235 |
| Mental Health | 1 |
| Non-Suit | 730 |
| Passed | 320 |
| Passed-Writ Issued | 224 |
| Probation | 2,095 |
| Probation/Restitution | 262 |
| Other | 1,525 |
| Total | 6,127 |

REFERRAL SOURCE, 1994

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Baytown Police Department | 760 |
| Constable's Office | 2,385 |
| Harris County Sheriff's Department | 3,834 |
| Houston Police Department | 19,207 |
| Juvenile Probation Officer | 635 |
| Pasadena Police Department | 1,627 |
| Schools | 3,207 |
| Other | 2,372 |
| Total | 34,027 |

PLACEMENT SERVICES

When placement services are needed, the placement staff confers with the juvenile probation officers about options. They may include the home, county institutions or private placements. The following is a list of private placement facilities approved for use in 1994.

PLACEMENT STATISTICS, 1994

| Residential Treatment Centers | |
|---|------|
| DePelchin/Cullen Bayou | 2 |
| Gulf Coast Trades Center | 23 |
| Hope Center for Youth | 3 |
| Houston Achievement Place | 1 |
| Houston Recovery campus | 43 |
| Mary Lee Foundation | 4 |
| Willie C. McDuffie's Adolescent Center | 2 |
| Nikki Children's Home | 2 |
| Northwest Villa | 3 |
| Progressive Adolescent Learning Services (PALS) | 4 |
| Recor-Sweetwater Juvenile Detention Facility | 8 |
| Renton Renaissance | 8 |
| Sheltering Harbor | 7 |
| Shoreline, Inc. | 2 |
| Tejas Home for Youth | 5 |
| Three Bar D Boys Ranch | 1 |
| Unity Children's Home | 12 |
| Vernon Drug Center | 11 |
| Total Number of Placed Youth | 139* |

*This does not include the Harris County Youth Village, Burnett-Bayland Home or the Delta 3 Boot Camp.

INSTITUTIONS DIVISION

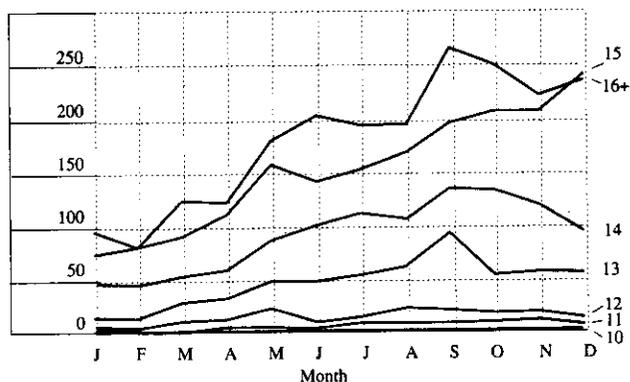
Four institutions are operated by the Probation Department: Burnett-Bayland Home, a residential facility with a community-based program; the Delta 3 Boot Camp Program; Harris County Youth Village, with a complete on-campus program; and the Juvenile Detention Center with its satellite facility at the Westside Command Station where youths remain until court hearings are held.

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

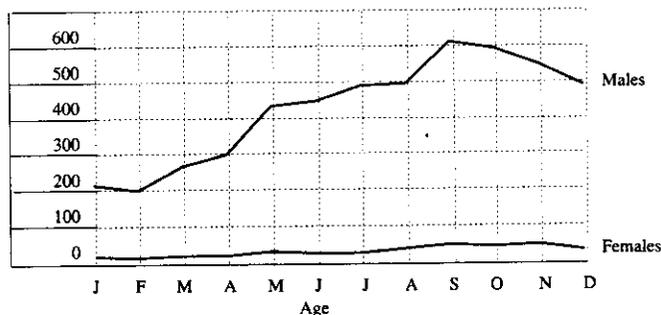
The Juvenile Detention Center is a secure, temporary residential facility for juveniles requiring a restricted environment while awaiting court action.

The Center features private sleeping rooms, multi-purpose activity rooms, three gymnasiums,

ADMISSIONS TO DETENTION BY MONTH AND AGE, 1994



ADMISSIONS TO DETENTION BY MONTH AND SEX, 1994



MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE PER ADMISSION TO DETENTION

| | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Murder | 69 | 83 | 94 | Inhalants | 23 | 12 | 1 |
| Arson | 21 | 25 | 25 | Alcohol Misd C | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Assault | | | | Other | | | |
| Felony | 291 | 431 | 405 | Felony | 260 | 260 | 316 |
| Misd A/B | 97 | 93 | 30 | Misd A/B | 1,167 | 978 | 1,072 |
| Misd C | 59 | 42 | 45 | Disorderly Conduct | 215 | 202 | 181 |
| Sexual Assault | 95 | 115 | 78 | City Ordinance | 150 | 104 | 73 |
| Robbery | 490 | 579 | 603 | Violation of Probation | 71 | 79 | 88 |
| Burglary | 849 | 846 | 688 | Runaway (CHINS)* | 217 | 204 | 179 |
| Theft | | | | Other (CHINS)* Offense | 7 | 3 | 17 |
| Felony | 75 | 74 | 61 | TYC Runaways | 217 | 174 | 115 |
| Misd A/B | 481 | 446 | 380 | Administrative Actions | 187 | 136 | 148 |
| Misd C | 26 | 10 | 2 | | | | |
| Auto Theft | 421 | 292 | 246 | Total | 6,632 | 6,257 | 5,887 |
| Joyriding | 492 | 459 | 382 | | | | |
| Drugs | | | | | | | |
| Felony | 529 | 442 | 467 | | | | |
| Misd A/B | 74 | 139 | 159 | | | | |
| Misd C | 46 | 27 | 11 | | | | |

* Children in need of supervision (status offenses)

three outdoor recreation areas, visitation and counseling areas, facilities for medical, dental, psychological and social services, a separate intake section and a courtroom. Advanced monitoring systems and architectural designs provide security and safety without bars. In 1994, the Commissioners Court funded the conversion of 14 offices and storage rooms to secure areas and provided the needed staff. With this addition, the Detention Center now houses 190 juveniles.

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 juveniles to relate to others through structured unit activities.

The Houston Independent School District provides a complete educational program. The program focuses on remedial reading, language and math skills in which these juveniles are generally deficient. Volunteers and other agencies provide additional services including health awareness, self-esteem workshops, art and writing classes, tutoring, individual visitation and social activities.

Last year, 5,887 juveniles were held in detention. Their offenses were much more serious and violent than ever before and required closer supervision by the staff. Although the population cap set by the Juvenile Board controlled the number of juveniles held in detention at any one time, the severity of many offenses was much greater which necessitated a longer stay while cases were prepared for court. To prevent overcrowding in the Detention Center, the Commissioners' Court funded additional staff for a satellite detention center at the Westside Command Station. The facility accommodates 44 boys pending court who receive the same services and programs as those held at the West Dallas site.

BURNETT-BAYLAND HOME

Delinquent 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 1994, 212 boys lived at Burnett-Bayland. The average length of residence was five months. The boys live in home-like cottages on the 40-acre park campus. Some attend local public schools and may participate in extracurricular activities off-campus. Grants from the Brown Foundation and the Swalm Foundation enabled the first on-campus school to continue. HISD teachers are able to work individually with students who have been unable to succeed in public school.

Parents participate in regular educational meetings and other activities to prepare them for their son's transition back to home life. Family visitation is encouraged and boys are allowed to enjoy weekends at home depending on their behavior during the week.

Civic organizations and citizen volunteers enhance the program with tutoring, counseling,

education, a basketball team and other recreational activities. The Rotary Club of Houston continued its generous support by sponsoring the annual Christmas Party and other activities such as a spring and fall outing, annual softball game, pool party, basketball games and pizza parties.

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 those 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 1994, 374 juveniles stayed at the Youth Village for an average of four months. The program includes therapeutic, recreational, medical and drug counseling services.

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 low student-to-teacher ratio, many students overcome major scholastic deficiencies during their stay.

In addition to academic, computer and vocational instruction, residents are taught important practical skills such as job hunting, responsible budgeting, household management, parenting and coping skills. Volunteer Chris Christman has sponsored Boy Scout Troop #950 for over 30 years and planned camping trips and other positive scouting activities. Community corrections funding from the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission provides funding and staff for 20 juveniles at the Youth Village.

Support from nearby communities continues to be very important to the operation of the Youth Village.

DELTA 3 BOOT CAMP

The Delta 3 Boot Camp which became a reality in late 1993 provides 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. The third phase allows the boys to go home and attend school with weekends spent in a camping setting. Their time is spent completing community service projects and in counseling sessions. After successful completion of the first three phases, the trainees remain on probation in the community for an additional six months. The first two phases of the Delta 3 Boot Camp are located on the fourth floor of the Houston Police Department's Westside Command Station. Teachers from the Alief Independent School District conduct daily classes. Eighty-six young men have been assigned to the boot camp through December 31, 1994.

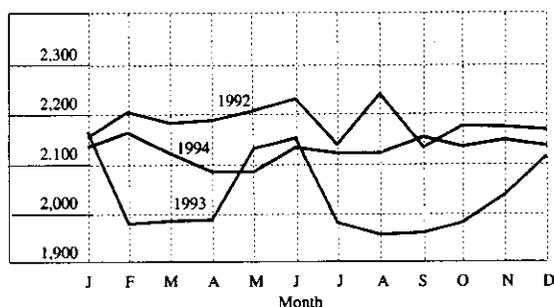
PROBATION FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

Most juveniles 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 probation time to age 18. Probation supervision and rehabilitative services for youth and their families are provided by the Field Services Division from ten offices conveniently located throughout Harris County.

When a juvenile has been declared delinquent and is placed on probation, the court sets rules of probation for him or her. 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 juvenile to attend counseling or educational programs, or to pay monetary and/or community service restitution.

In 1994, probation officers faced increasing challenges as serious crimes by juveniles increased. Some probation officers carried caseloads of over 60, exceeding national recommendations. Officers were challenged to provide supervision to more and more youths from dysfunctional families with problems ranging from alcohol and drug abuse, to domestic violence and neglect. Over 2,000 youths were on probation each month in 1994.

PROBATION CASES UNDER SUPERVISION, 1994



INFORMAL ADJUSTMENT

In some cases, the court or the Legal Screening Unit defers a juvenile 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.

Informal Adjustment guides youth through six months of specialized programs, intensive counseling and supervision aimed at diverting them from the juvenile justice system. In 1994, 561 juveniles participated in the Informal Adjustment program.

Drug-dependent youth are referred for therapy and education. Other services include parent-training workshops, AIDS education and peer pressure programs designed to teach juveniles to act responsibly. Upon successful completion of Informal Adjustment, the case is dismissed and adjudication is avoided.

FIELD SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR 1994

| Program | Description |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Art Program</i> | Youths learn to express themselves through visual arts and creative writing. |
| <i>Drug Free</i> | 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. |
| <i>Educational Workshops</i> | Workshops for youths and families on various topics. |
| <i>Incentive Program</i> | A voluntary program that may shorten the probationary period. |
| <i>LAW</i> | Legal Awareness Workshops presented by judges and attorneys. |
| <i>MADD</i> | Mothers Against Drunk Driving present workshops for probationers and families intended to show the real consequences of drinking and driving. |
| <i>Victim Impact Panel</i> | |
| <i>Mentor Program</i> | Prominent community leaders and professionals provide positive role models for children on probation. |
| <i>Parent Training</i> | Workshops in which parents are taught parenting skills. |
| <i>Peer Pressure Workshops</i> | Workshops presented by the Houston Police Department on positive and negative effects of peer pressure. |
| <i>Prohibited Weapons Workshops</i> | Houston Police Department workshops which teach consequences of possession of illegal weapons. |
| <i>Restitution</i> | Community service work by probationers coordinated by the American Red Cross. |
| <i>TDCJ Program</i> | Youths visit the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Sugar Land to learn realities of prison life. |
| <i>Therapeutic Counseling</i> | Professional, certified therapists provide counseling to probationers and their families. |
| <i>Vision Care</i> | University of Houston, School of Optometry screens and examines youth, providing glasses and treatment. |
| <i>WINGS</i> | 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. |
| <i>YEES</i> | Children on probation receive tutorial, remedial, pre-employment training and G.E.D. preparation. |

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 service 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 the juvenile courts, each participant is contacted daily by a probation officer.

An extremely successful component of SOS which demonstrates the flexibility and creativity of the program is "Super Saturday," regular weekly workshops for probationers, their parents, tutors, counselors and other service providers. In 1994, 280 juveniles were placed on the SOS program.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Administrative Services Division oversees data control, computer support and personnel.

DATA CONTROL SYSTEMS

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

COMPUTER SUPPORT SERVICES

Computer Support Services is responsible for the maintenance and operation of all personal computers and networks used throughout the Department. The Unit is responsible for the management and maintenance of all eight local area networks (LAN) installed throughout the county. Computer Support Services maintains the main Novell network located at our main building which has high speed data links to all of the Department's remote locations. In addition to traditional software applications, LANs provide access to the central mainframe computer located downtown along with access to other state and local computer systems. The Department's area-wide network connects 181 personal computers and 84 printers from all units within the Department.

Computer Support staff provides 24-hour maintenance of 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 1994, the Department employed 628 persons.

DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

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

BUDGET AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The Budget Office oversees the Department's fiscal operations including preparation and management of the annual budget, and regulation of receipts and expenditures. The 1994 budget was as follows:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Harris County Commissioners' Court | \$22,368,842 |
| Texas Probation Commission | |
| State Aid Grant to Counties | 1,324,389 |
| Intensive Supervision Grant | 2,556,961 |
| WINGS Educational Grant | 175,000 |
| State Funding for Delta 3 Boot Camp | 1,000,000 |
| Criminal Justice Division of Governor's Office | |
| Purchase of Services Grant | 407,859 |
| Other Funding Sources | |
| Swalm Foundation (Volunteer Coordinator Grant) | 36,009 |
| Brown Foundation (Sex Offender Counseling) | 50,000 |
| Brown Foundation (Pen Power Program) | 50,000 |
| MHMRA of Harris County (Family Preservation) | 43,000 |
| Brown Foundation/Burnett-Bayland | |
| Home Remodeling Grant | 220,000 |
| Swalm Foundation (HISD School Program) | |
| at Burnett-Bayland Home | 90,000 |
| Child Care Council of Greater Houston | |
| Comet Educational Program | 94,796 |
| Brown Foundation Visual Arts Program | 75,000 |
| Junior League | 6,050 |
| Individual donations for use in programs | 700 |
| Individual donations for use in Detention | 1,337 |
| Total | \$28,499,943 |

In 1994, the Department operated with a combined budget of \$28,499,943. The funds were received from four primary sources: Harris County Commissioners' Court, Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office and grants from private sources.

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 youth in custody is released to a parent or guardian.

By law, juveniles 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 individual.

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.

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. For the past three years, adult probationers in a community restitution program have assisted with grounds maintenance.

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, write grant proposals, 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.

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 detention workers, secretaries, computer personnel, administrative staff and all probation officers.

Training topics included CPR, gangs, victims' rights, computer proficiency, first aid, HIV/AIDS, management training and multi-cultural awareness. In 1994, over 463 workshops provided 4,421 training hours.

VOLUNTEERS

The Department is grateful for the many volunteers who donate their time and valuable talents. Carefully screened and trained, these volunteers enabled the Department to provide highly specialized, personal attention to juveniles. The second annual Volunteer Fair was held in March to educate the public and recruit new volunteers.

Two organizations recruit, train and coordinate many of the Department's volunteers:

JUVENILE COURT VOLUNTEERS, INC., a United Way agency, provides long-term mentoring and recreational activities. Court Volunteers also bring companionship to detained juveniles through visitation and special events. In 1994, the 209 Juvenile Court Volunteers donated 24,984 hours of service valued at \$11.58 per hour, or \$289,315.

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HOUSTON volunteers worked 4,119 hours counseling children and families in 1994. The value of their services is estimated at almost \$72,000. Eighty-one well-trained volunteers provided their skills and support to programs and services including intake and individual counseling, parent education, educational/vocational counseling, tutoring and drug counseling.

In addition, the Junior League generously contributed \$6,050 to assist the art program and other specific areas of the Department.

Additional assistance was given by 243 private citizens and members of civic and church organizations who volunteered over 9,197 hours in all the institutions and field offices. Mrs. Jill Parker, a volunteer herself, recruits and coordinates volunteer activities for the Field Services Division.

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

STUDENT INTERNS

Seventy-six students participated in the Department's student intern program in 1994. Texas Southern University provided 30 interns with another 20 from the University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work and the UH Downtown Campus. They worked throughout the agency in a variety of positions, receiving training and experience in juvenile corrections. Interns provided 12,373 hours of service.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

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. 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, quick response to media inquiries, maintains video and news clipping reference files, produces the annual report, community and staff newsletter, 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 Community Education and Public Relations Officer coordinates educational presentations in the community and arranges for art exhibits of children's work. In addition, in 1994, 69 presentations were made by probation officers of the Public Speakers' Bureau to thousands of Harris County school children.

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HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT - 1994

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