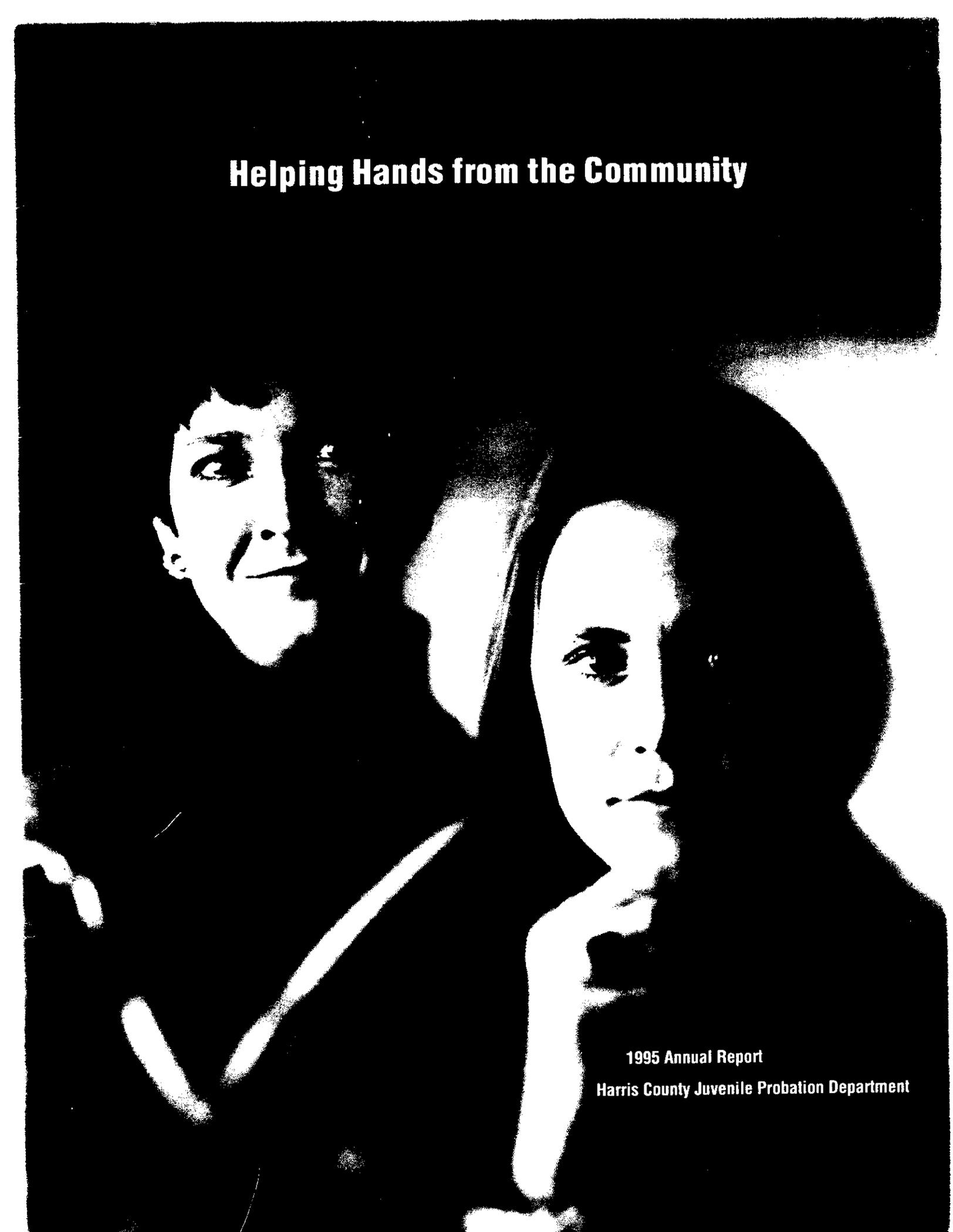


# Helping Hands from the Community



1995 Annual Report  
Harris County Juvenile Probation Department

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**Cover:** Catherine Christofferson (pictured on the left) of the Junior League has counseled hundreds of young people at the Juvenile Probation Department.

## VISION

The vision of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department (HCJPD) is that every employee will provide a service(s), direct or indirect, to help each child that enters the system to become a successful youth and adult.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, as established by Section 152-1072 of the Human Resources Code, shall provide quality juvenile justice services for youth and their families as directed by the family district courts. A youth 10 years or older and under 17 years of age or a 17 year old but under the age of 18 who has committed an offense before age 17 will be provided quality, efficient and effective intake services, court services, probation services, residential placement services, as directed by the courts and the Texas Juvenile Justice Code in order to develop these youth into productive citizens and to enhance the safety of our community.

## PHILOSOPHY

The Harris County Juvenile Probation Department's philosophy reflects Section 51.02 of the Juvenile Justice Code:

To provide for the protection of the public and public safety;

To promote the concept of punishment for criminal acts;

To remove, where appropriate, the taint of criminality from children committing certain unlawful acts;

To provide treatment, training, and rehabilitation that emphasizes the accountability and responsibility of both the parent and the child for the child's conduct;

To provide for the care, protection, and the wholesome moral, mental and physical development of children coming within its provisions;

To protect the welfare of the community and to control the commission of unlawful acts by children;

To achieve the foregoing purposes in a family environment whenever possible, separating the child from the child's parent only when necessary for the child's welfare or in the interest of public safety and when a child is removed from the child's family, to give the child the care that should be provided by parents; and

To provide a simple and judicial procedure through which the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Code are executed and enforced and in which the parties are assured a fair hearing of their constitutional and other legal rights.

## To the Citizens of Harris County

One of my goals in my first year as County Judge was to review and evaluate the needs of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, its clients and staff. Unfortunately, Harris County is part of a national trend of increasing juvenile crime and growing severity of offenses. Programs and facilities that were adequate ten years ago no longer are; not only have the times changed but the children as well. Most of us cannot relate to the pressures our young people face at school and on the streets of their neighborhoods. Most of us grew up in communities where we felt secure and the schools we attended were always safe, too.

The staff of the Juvenile Probation Department continues to work with the growing numbers of youths and families facing the shocking challenges caused by drugs and guns and gangs. We must pull together as a community to salvage all those we can and prevent new generations from encountering the same problems.

Robert Eckels  
County Judge

## Message from the Executive Director

The year began with five new judges on the Juvenile Board and new perspectives about juvenile justice. As the year progressed, Judge Kent Ellis, Judge Mary Craft and Judge Pat Shelton developed effective ways to speed up court processes which moved juveniles through the Detention Center quickly. We expanded facility populations and shortened programs in response. Thankfully, murder rates dropped dramatically in 1995 but overall referral numbers decreased only one per cent from a record-breaking high in 1994.

County Judge Robert Eckels moved quickly to evaluate the budget and facilities of our Department and acknowledged the complexities of the juvenile justice system in Harris County.

As the Texas legislature completed their work in Austin, major changes were mandated for probation departments with tougher laws, new programs and a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program to implement. With these challenges before us, our staff, interns and volunteers continue to inspire with their dedication and commitment. The volunteers from the Junior League of Houston have been at our side for 30 years and we are grateful for their extraordinary interest in the youths and families we serve.

Teresa V. Ramirez  
Executive Director  
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

Helping Hands from the Community

*“I’ll never forget that interview,” said Linda Murphy, “I was a new Junior League volunteer, and the family who came was in turmoil.” (Linda is one of hundreds of women who have volunteered through the Junior League of Houston for 30 years in a remarkable partnership with the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department.) “The boy was about 13 and he looked angry. His parents were frustrated and very disappointed. I asked them to wait in the next room.” Linda said. (In 1966, the Junior League volunteers started tutoring children and doing handicrafts in*

## Helping Hands from the Community

*the Detention Center. Gradually, volunteers asked for more duties and expanded into all areas of the Juvenile Probation Department. In 1971, the Department was chosen by the League as a regular service project.) "I wasn't sure what would happen but I said to the young man, you look like you need to cry," Linda continued; "He looked up at me and*



Dr. Bernard Harris and Dare to Dream students talk about the future.



Rotary Club volunteers David Pybus and Bill Ash mentor children at the Burnett-Bayland Home.

## Helping Hands from the Community

*burst into tears. Later we had a good talk about his problem.” (In 1995, 75 Junior League volunteers worked with juveniles in all areas of the Department representing 3,989 hours of volunteer time and saving taxpayers thousands of dollars.) “It would be good if everyone could spend time at the Juvenile Probation Department and learn what so many children are going through,” Claudia Laswell of Junior League said. Another large group of volunteers from the Rotary Club of Houston began helping abandoned and orphaned children in 1919 long before the Burnett-Bayland Home became a residential placement for the delinquent boys. The men and women of the Rotary Club provide fall and spring outings, Christmas parties, scholarships, books and other special needs. They even rebuilt the gymnasium after a fire and resurfaced the tennis courts. “Our members are filling a void in the lives of these young boys and girls,” said David Pybus of the Rotary Club. “We want them to know that people in the community care.” As juvenile crime has increased, recruiting efforts have brought more people to help the Department. Crossroads Community Partnership for Youth, Inc. (formerly Juvenile Court Volunteers), a United Way agency, has trained mentors for children on probation and in the institutions for 25 years. More mentors came from the professional ranks to join Judge Kent Ellis’ new program VICTORY, meaning “Volunteers Involved and Committed To Rehabilitating Youth.” “Young Blacks Making A Difference,” Y B MAD, meet regularly with juvenile probationers to discuss careers and the need for education. H. T. “Chris” Christman of Seabrook has sponsored Boy Scout Troop 950 at the Youth Village for 35 years and astronaut Dr. Bernard A. Harris, Jr. tells boys and girls to believe in their own ability and make a commitment to succeed.*

## Helping Hands from the Community

*Hundreds of other volunteers quietly come and go, year after year, offering helping hands to youth and families. Why do they continue their work? Claudia Laswell offered an answer: "People who volunteer deeply value the gift of life. They realize it's up to all of us to help children make the right decisions so they will enjoy happy, healthy and productive lives."*



Carlos Barnes knows firsthand how valuable Crossroads representative Wendy Shaw's programs are.



Diane and Jim Tipton open their Main Street Gym to young people referred by Juvenile Probation Officer Henry Gonzales.

## Highlights for 1995

January 1, 1995, a new team of judges began work in the Harris County district courts to deal with many problems juvenile crime brings to our community. The judges are: Judge Pat Shelton, 313th District Court; Judge Mary Craft, 314th District Court; and Judge Kent Ellis, 315th District Court. Associate Judges are Robert Molder, 313th; David Longoria, 314th and Sherry Van Pelt, 315th.

Other new members of the Juvenile Board are County Judge Robert Eckels, Chairman, and Judge Bill Henderson, 311th District Court. Judge Mary Bacon, 338th District Court, remains on the Board. Judge Sharolyn Wood of the 127th District Court served during 1995 prior to her selection as Harris County Civil Administrative Judge. Judge Mark Davidson of the 11th District Court was appointed to replace her.

The 74th Texas Legislature made major reforms in the Texas juvenile justice system under House Bill 327, the Juvenile Justice Code, and Senate Bill 1, the Education Code.

The new Juvenile Justice Code emphasizes public safety and protection, promotes punishment, and provides harsher penalties for violent and habitual offenders. It also provides for treatment, training and rehabilitation, emphasizing the accountability and responsibility of both parent and child while continuing to remove the "taint of criminality" from juveniles committing certain acts when appropriate.

Effective January 1, 1996, the following changes became effective.

Age lowered to 14 for certification of juveniles to adult court for capital felony, aggravated controlled substance felony or felony of first degree.

Mandatory certification to adult court if juvenile has been previously certified and new offense is a felony.

The law expands determinate sentencing to a greatly expanded number of offenses where a youth may have to serve up to 40 years.

The Court can order parents to perform community service restitution with juvenile.

All felony offenses, misdemeanors involving violence to a person or offenses involving the use of a weapon will be referred to the District Attorney, in addition to murder and capital murder.

Juveniles in custody for felony or jailable misdemeanor will be fingerprinted and photographed and information submitted to a state-wide database. An offense may stay on a juvenile's record for life.

Juveniles may be expelled for certain offenses (carrying weapons, selling drugs, etc.) committed on school grounds.

Juveniles may be placed in an alternative school for engaging in felony conduct.

In accordance with Senate Bill 1, the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Plan provides for the creation of a new school where adjudicated youths will be referred by the courts and the juvenile probation department. David Wingard was appointed by County Judge Robert Eckels to develop the school program.

At the annual department awards ceremony, Debbie Williams, Placement Administrator, was chosen "Boss" of the Year; Gregory Grant, Probation Officer of the Year; Joe Cerda, Institutional Worker of the Year; and Betty DeSear, Staff Services Employee of the Year. Runner-ups were Richard Morris for the institutional award and Linda Gutierrez for the probation officer award. Employees nominate fellow workers and supervisors for the annual awards ceremony.

Harris County Juvenile Probation submitted one of ten successful grant proposals to the Department of Justice and will receive a grant of \$1,424,250 to build a permanent boot camp facility in Harris County. The Commissioners' Court agreed to a 25 per cent match asked by the federal government.

## 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 1995, \$23,400,135 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 the Juvenile Probation Department to provide services to thousands of troubled youth and their families in the community each year.

The Commissioners are as follows:

Robert Eckels / 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 1995, the Juvenile Board worked diligently to solve the problems brought about by increasing numbers of juveniles handled by the Department. The members of the Juvenile Board are as follows:

Judge Robert Eckels / County Judge  
Chairman

Judge Pat Shelton / 313th District Court  
Budget and Finance Program

Judge Mary Craft / 314th District Court  
Secretary  
Budget and Finance Program / Tri-Board

Judge Kent Ellis / 315th District Court

Vice Chairman

Program / Budget and Finance / Juvenile Probation  
Liaison and Personnel, Tri-Board

Judge Mary Bacon / 388th District Court

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Judge Bill Henderson / 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. The committee consists of the following:

Joe Bart, Attorney, Chairman

Judge Robert B. Baum

Pat Day, Attorney

W. Randolph Bates, Attorney

Lorraine Cervantes, Attorney

Kay Lentz, Marketing Executive

John G. Garza, Attorney

Betsy Lee Mathis-Crow, Attorney

Shirley Hunter, Attorney

## Harris County Juvenile Probation Department Administrative Staff - 1995

Teresa V. Ramirez, Executive Director,  
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

Jo Ann Jones-Burbridge, Assistant Executive Director

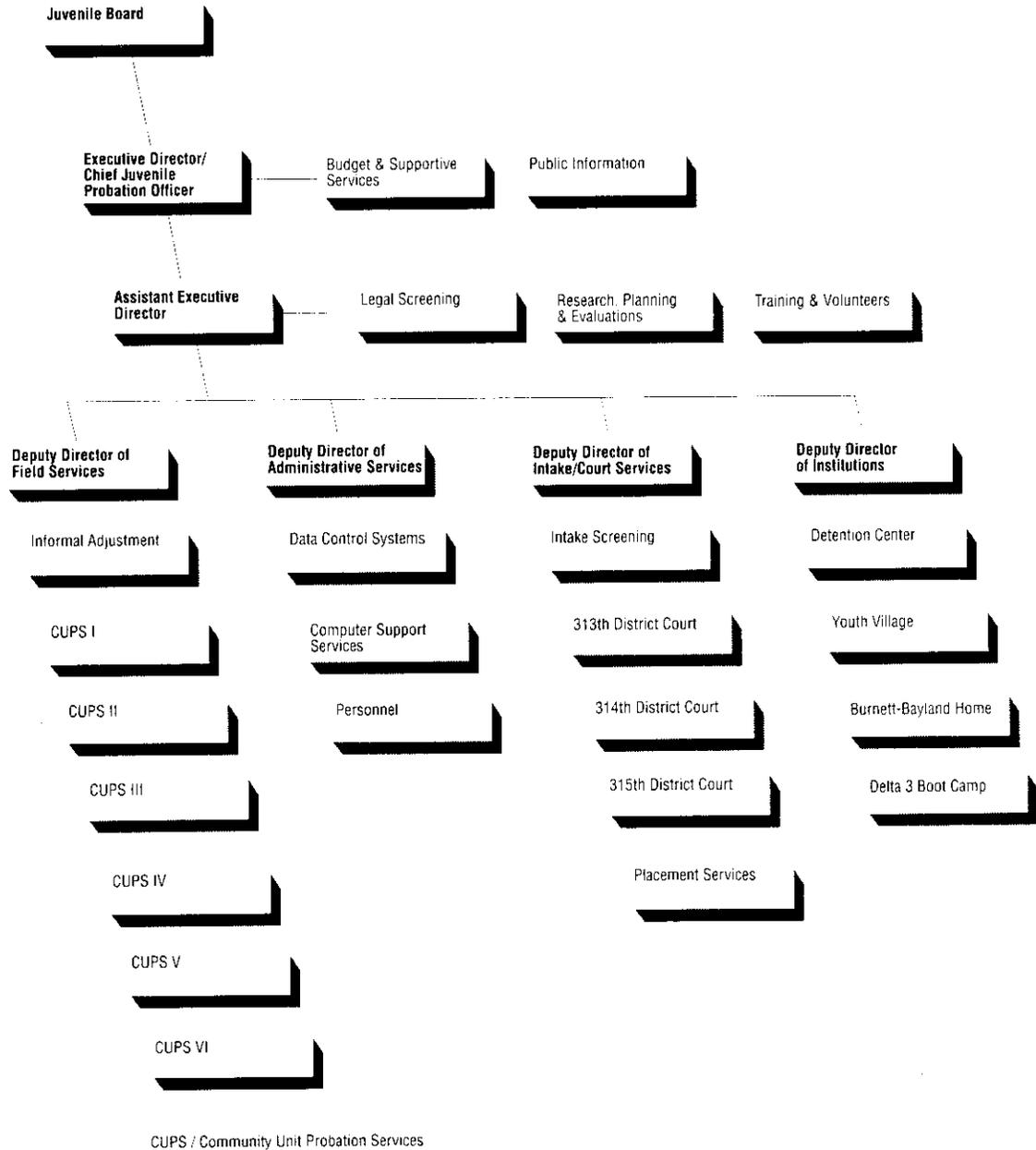
Harvey Hetzel, Administrative Services Deputy Director

Elmer Bailey, Jr., Field Services Deputy Director

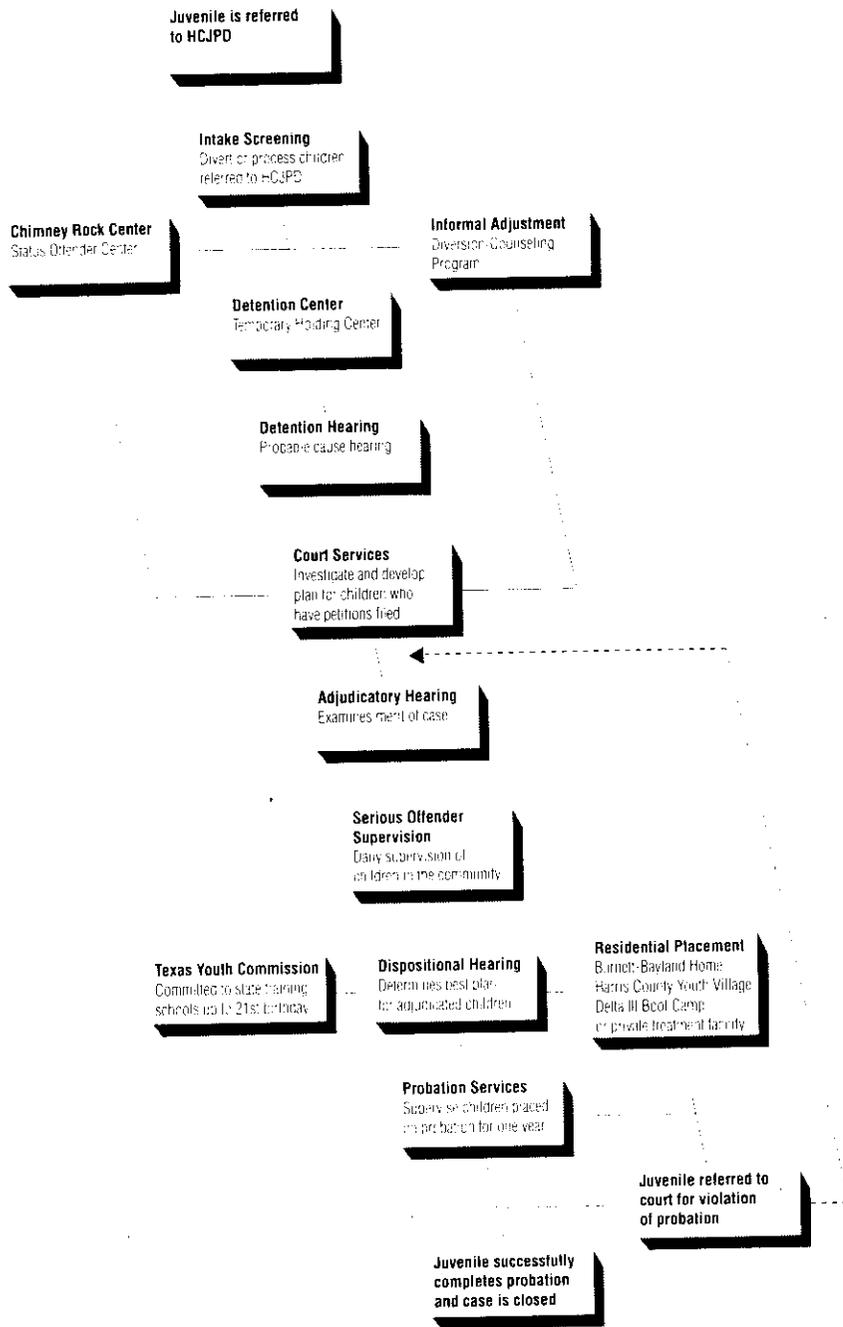
John A. Peters, Institutions Deputy Director

Bernard Hunter, Intake Court Services Deputy Director

# Organizational Chart



# Case Flow Chart



# HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

## INTAKE COURT SERVICES DIVISION

### Intake Screening

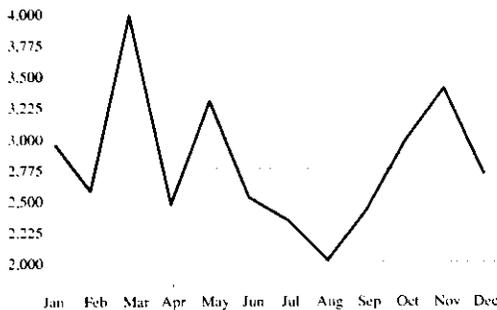
Harris County law enforcement officers may take a juvenile to one of two intake units of the Juvenile Probation Department.

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 Mental Health/Mental Retardation Authority. Several other agencies provide services from the Center.

Last year, juvenile probation intake staff at Chimney Rock Center provided screening, assessment, crisis intervention, counseling and needed

**Number of Referrals by Month, 1995**



services to 3,844 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 youths are thought to present a threat to the community or to themselves, or are thought likely to abscond before going to court, they will be held in detention. To prevent unnecessary detention, the diversion program concentrates on sending youths home when appropriate and often provides transportation.

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

### 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 residential facility.

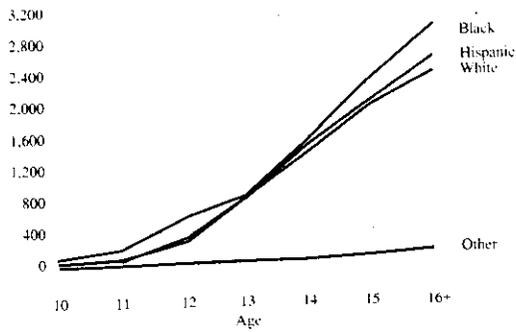
### Court Activity, 1995

Disposition	
Certified to criminal court	152
Committed to Texas Youth Commission	405
Dismissed	33
Early termination of probation	20
Incentive completed	41
Informal adjustment	295
Mental health	0
Non-suit	1,071
Passed	295
Passed-writ issued	211
Probation	3,168
Probation/restitution	406
Other	1,235
Total	7,332

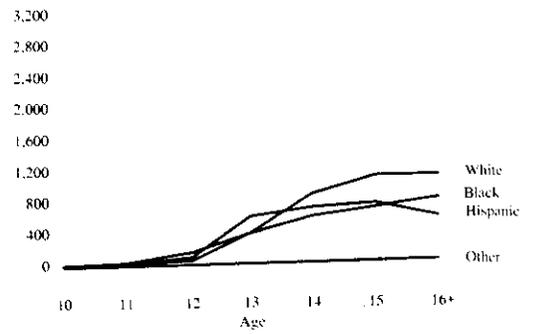
### Referral Source, 1995

Baytown Police Department	916
Constable's Office	2,948
Harris County Sheriff's Department	3,643
Houston Police Department	16,656
Juvenile Probation Officer	1,027
Pasadena Police Department	1,434
Schools	4,338
Other	2,604
Total	33,566

**Referrals by Age and Ethnicity - Males, 1995**



**Referrals by Age and Ethnicity - Females, 1995**



**Most Serious Offense Per Referral, 1993 - 1995**

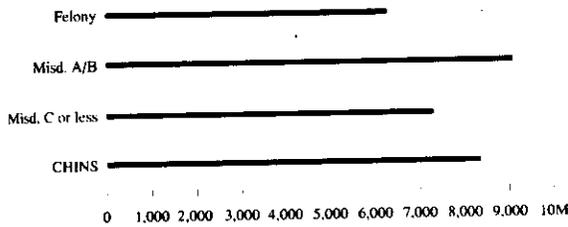
	1993	1994	1995
Murder	75	71	45
Arson	78	137	123
Assault			
Felony	685	666	636
Misd A/B	310	180	1,194
Misd C	2,639	3,073	2,695
Sexual Assault	226	181	152
Robbery	707	800	655
Burglary	1,881	1,966	1,869
Theft			
Felony	198	215	121
Misd A/B	2,343	2,720	2,736
Misd C	864	985	963
Auto Theft	553	517	357
Joyriding	752	774	843
Drugs			
Felony	547	675	752
Misd A/B	603	910	1,268
Misd C	254	384	338
Inhalants	51	44	55
Alcohol Misd C	10	11	13
Other			
Felony	830	902	642
Misd A/B	3,460	4,928	3,904
Disorderly Conduct	388	403	309
City Ordinance	3,231	3,783	3,373
Violation of Probation	209	217	326
Runaway* (CHINS)	6,280	6,921	6,731
Other* (CHINS) Offense	358	371	545
TYC Runaways	202	177	159
Administrative Actions	1,587	2,019	2,762
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,321</b>	<b>34,027</b>	<b>33,566</b>

\*Children in need of supervision (status offenses)

**Referrals by School District and Ethnicity - 1995**

	Black	Hispanic	White	Other	Total
Aldine	809	463	544	40	1,856
Alief	1,002	464	425	104	1,995
Channelview	19	35	153	1	208
Clear Creek	51	46	317	11	425
Crosby	31	4	73	1	109
Cypress-Fairbanks	286	275	1,421	51	2,033
Deer Park	8	47	277	2	334
Galena-Park	183	349	287	3	822
Goose Creek	236	287	527	2	1,052
Houston	5,564	4,266	981	116	10,924
Huffman	6	8	56	6	73
Humble	162	67	673	6	908
Katy	44	73	471	8	596
Klein	198	116	566	25	905
La Porte	28	31	237	6	302
North Forest	467	57	13	2	539
Pasadena	130	1,261	878	29	2,298
Pearland	1	1	2	0	4
Sheldon	38	14	102	1	155
Spring	143	77	442	14	676
Spring Branch	259	675	644	52	1,636
Stafford	0	6	21	1	28
Tomball	9	3	92	0	104
Waller	2	1	17	0	20
Private/Parochial	143	93	228	13	477
College/University	3	3	3	0	9
Out of County	258	194	394	23	869
H C Education Dept	40	56	47	3	146
Not Available	-	-	-	-	4,069
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,120</b>	<b>8,972</b>	<b>9,891</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>33,566</b>

## Types of Referrals, 1995



## Placement Services

When a juvenile must be removed from his home, the Placement Services staff prepares a list of suitable residential institutions for the judge's review. They recommend placements from a list of approved facilities which best meet individual needs.

### Placement Statistics, 1995

Residential Treatment Centers	
Community Correction	3
Depelchin	3
Desert Hills	3
Gulf Coast Trades Center	55
Hope Center for Youth	9
House of Aces	5
Houston Achievement Place	2
Houston Recovery	3
Incentive Boys	4
Los Hermanos	1
Mary Lee Foundation	7
McDuffie's Adolescent Center	14
Nikki Children's Home	2
Northwest Villa	5
PALS	5
Recor-Kerrville Juvenile Detention Facility	8
Reco-Sweetwater Juvenile Detention Facility	24
Renton Renaissance	4
Sheltering Harbour	8
Shoreline, Inc.	20
Tejas Home for Youth	7
Three Bar D Boys Ranch	10
Unity Children's Home	4
Vernon Drug Center	23
<b>Total Numbers of Placed Youth</b>	<b>229</b>

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

## Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County

Evaluation for 1995

Psychologicals	1,130
Psychiatric	460
Family Evaluations	12
<b>Total Evaluations</b>	<b>1,602</b>

## INSTITUTIONS DIVISION

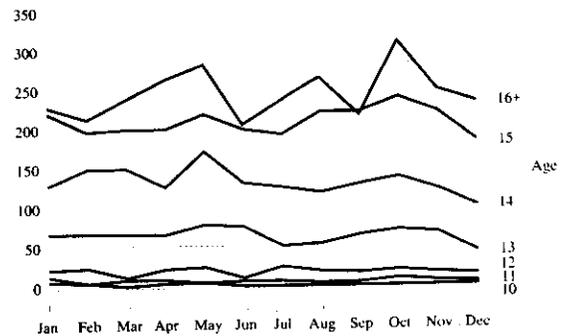
Four institutions are operated by the Probation Department: the Juvenile Detention Center with its satellite at the Westside Command Station where youths remain awaiting placement; Burnett-Bayland Home, a residential facility with a community-based program; the Harris County Youth Village with a complete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

### Juvenile Detention Center

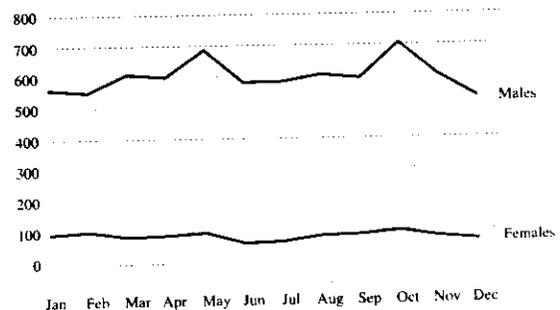
The Juvenile Detention Center is a secure, temporary residential facility for juveniles requiring a restricted environment while awaiting court action.

The Center features private sleeping rooms, multi-purpose activity rooms, gymnasiums, outdoor recreation areas, visitation and counsel-

### Admissions to Detention by month and age, 1995



### Admissions to Detention by month and sex, 1995



ing 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.

**Most Serious Offense Per Referral to Detention, 1993 - 1995**

	1993	1994	1995
Murder	83	94	62
Arson	25	25	54
Assault			
Felony	431	405	511
Misd A/B	93	30	554
Misd C	42	45	50
Sexual Assault	115	78	130
Robbery	579	603	653
Burglary	846	688	999
Theft			
Felony	74	61	45
Misd A/B	446	380	592
Misd C	10	2	21
Auto Theft	292	246	237
Joyriding	459	382	594
Drugs			
Felony	442	467	671
Misd A/B	139	159	327
Misd C	27	21	24
Inhalants	12	11	19
Alcohol Misd C	2	1	2
Other			
Felony	260	316	310
Misd A/B	978	1,072	1,094
Disorderly Conduct	202	181	185
City Ordinance	104	73	127
Violation of Probation	79	88	239
Runaway* (CHINS)	204	179	262
Other* (CHINS) Offense	3	17	29
TYC Runaways	174	115	150
Administrative Actions	136	148	244
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,257</b>	<b>5,887</b>	<b>8,185</b>

\*Children in need of supervision (status offenses)

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 (HISD) provides a complete educational program focusing 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, art and writing classes, tutoring, individual visitation and social activities.

Last year, 8,185 juveniles were held in detention. Their offenses were much more serious and violent than ever before and required closer supervision by the staff. To prevent overcrowding in the Detention Center, the Commissioners' Court funded additional staff for a satellite detention center at the Westside Command Station and the conversion of 14 offices and storage areas to rooms for juveniles. The Detention Center can house 190 youths.

**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 1995, 243 boys lived at Burnett-Bayland. The average length of residence was 5 months. The boys live in home-like cottages on the 40-acre park campus. A grant from the Brown Foundation has funded needed refurbishing of the cottages. Some of the residents attend local public schools and may participate in extracurricular activities off-campus. 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 residents 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 and recreation. The Rotary Club of Houston continued its generous support by sponsoring the annual Christmas Party and several major events for the boys.

### Harris County Youth Village

The Youth Village lake-front campus located in the Clear Lake area provides a secure environment for boys and girls placed there by a court order. In 1995, 389 juveniles stayed at the Youth Village for an average of four months. The program includes therapeutic, recreational, medical and drug counseling services.

An accredited school is operated by HISD on campus with a full academic and vocational curriculum including athletics, guidance and remedial education. With a low student-to-teacher ratio and an accelerated teaching pace, 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, budgeting, household management, parenting and coping skills. Veteran volunteer H. T. "Chris" Christman who has sponsored Boy Scout Troop #950 for 35 years was chosen to receive the first Robert L. Lowry Youth Service Award. Support from nearby communities continues to be a very important to the operation of the Youth Village.

### Delta 3 Boot Camp

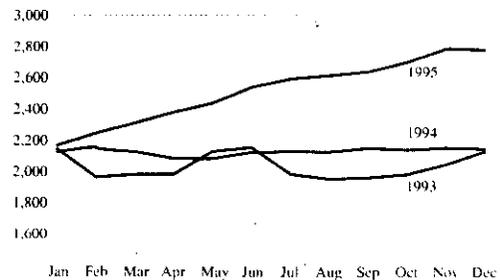
The Delta 3 Boot Camp provides a residential correctional program for adjudicated males, ages 15 and 16, who have been classified as chronic repeat offenders. The trainees participate in a structured basic training program in three 60 day phases beginning with discipline and physical training followed by a stabilization phase. 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. The Juvenile Board approved increasing the population of Phases I and II to 100 in August 1995. Phase III allows the boys to go home and attend school with weekends spent in a camping setting. They participate in community service projects and counseling sessions. After successful completion of the first three phases, the trainees remain on probation in the community for an additional six months. Educational classes at the Westside Command Station are provided by teachers of the Alief School District. During 1995, 258 young men were assigned to the boot camp program.

Continued funding for a two year period was provided by the 74th Texas Legislature. The Office of Justice Programs of the U. S. Department of Justice awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,424,250 for the construction of a juvenile boot camp in Harris County. The Commissioners' Court had previously voted to provide a 25 per cent cash match requested by the federal government.

### PROBATION FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

Most juveniles who go through the court system remain at home under probation supervision. The time period is usually one year but the court may lengthen probation time to age 18. Probation supervision and rehabilitative services for youth and their families are provided by the Field Services Division from 10 offices conveniently located throughout Harris County.

Probation cases under supervision, 1993 - 1995



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 1995, probation officers faced increasing challenges as serious crimes by juveniles increased. Some probation officers carried caseloads of over 80, 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. Almost 3,000 youths were under supervision each month in 1995.

## Field Services Programs for 1995

**Art Program** Youth learn to express themselves through visual arts and creative writing.

**Drug Free Youth Program** 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 those 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.

**LAW** Legal Awareness Workshops are presented by judges and attorneys

**MADD Victim Impact Panel** Workshops for probationers and families intended to show the real consequences of drinking and driving presented by Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

**Mentor Program** Prominent community leaders and professionals provide positive role models for probationers.

**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 agency subcontractors.

**TDCJ Outreach Program** Youth visit the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Sugar Land to learn realities of prison life.

**Therapeutic Counseling** Professional, licensed 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.

**YEES (Youth Education and Employment Services)** Tutorial, remedial, pre-employment training and GED preparation is provided to probationers.

## Informal Adjustment

House Bill 327 approved by the 74th Texas Legislature, changed the name of Informal Adjustment to Deferred Prosecution effective January 1, 1996. 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.

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. In 1995, 491 juveniles participated in the Informal Adjustment program.

## 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. This program is state-funded and 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 courts, each participant is contacted daily by a probation officer.

The "Super Saturday" events demonstrate the flexibility and creativity of the SOS program. Probationers and parents meet with tutors, counselors and other service providers for special sessions and workshops. In 1995, 278 juveniles were placed in the SOS program and a total of 413 juveniles received services during the year.

## 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.

HB 327 established the Juvenile Offense Tracking (JOT) system with law enforcement making computer entries and direct referrals to the District Attorney's office.

### Computer Support Services

Computer Support Services is responsible for operation and maintenance of all personal computers and associated equipment used throughout the department. The Computer Support staff maintains two network systems: the Novell network which has high speed data links installed at 3540 West Dallas and the local area networks (LAN) installed at all field locations. Each network system provides access to the mainframe computer located downtown. The Department's network systems connects approximately 183 computers and 85 printers from all units within the department.

### 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 1995, the department employed 638 persons.

## DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

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

### Budget Office

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

In 1995, the department operated with a combined budget of \$30,166,122. 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.

### 1995 Budget

Harris County Commissioners' Court	\$ 23,400,135
Texas Probation Commission	
State Aid Grant to Counties	1,324,389
WINGS Educational Grant	175,000
Community Corrections Funding	3,389,019
State Funding for Delta III Boot Camp	1,000,000
Criminal Justice Division of Governor's Office	
Purchase of Services Grant	374,767
Other Funding Sources	
Swalm Foundation/Volunteer Coordinator Grant	38,842
Brown Foundation (Sex Offender Counseling)	50,000
Brown Foundation (Pen Power Program)	50,000
Rockwell Fund/BBH Educational Program	25,000
MHMRA of Harris County (Family Preservation)	44,290
Brown Foundation/Burnett-Bayland Home	
Remodeling Grant	200,000
Brown Foundation Visual Arts Program	80,000
Junior League	7,580
Warner Cable for Dare to Dream	5,000
Ralph Williams for BBH Recreational Activities	100
Individual donations for BBH	2,000
Total	\$ 30,166,122

\*This figure represents the allowed amount for the fiscal year March 1, 1995 through February 29, 1996, as of December 31, 1995.

### Legal Screening

Effective October 1, 1995, representatives of the district attorney's office began handling detention hearings as well as reading all cases and deciding when to file petitions. Prior to October 1, the attorneys of the Legal Screening Unit reviewed all incoming felony and some misdemeanor cases to determine if legal grounds existed to file a delinquency

petition. If legal grounds did not exist, the youth in custody was 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 representing the District Attorney's Office in these hearings must show due cause for detaining the individual.

Through periodic training workshops and consultation, Legal Screening provided training to new agency employees and volunteers, updating them on any changes in juvenile law. This unit also answered inquiries from police officers or complainants and helped 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 four years, adult probationers in a community restitution program 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 with 16 hours for support staff.

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

Training topics included legislative update, CPR, gangs, victims' rights, computer proficiency, domestic violence, grief and loss, first aid, HIV/AIDS, management training, multi-cultural awareness and others. In 1995, over 370 workshops provided 4,186 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. In 1995, 203 new volunteers were recruited and placed in all areas of the department. A total of 237 private citizens and members of civic and church organizations volunteered over 9,369 hours in all the institutions and field offices.

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

**Crossroads, Inc.** (formerly Juvenile Court Volunteers, Inc.) a United Way agency, provides long-term mentoring and recreational activities. Crossroads volunteers also bring companionship to detained juveniles through visitation and special events. In 1995, the 213 Crossroads volunteers donated 24,048 hours of service valued at \$11.58 per hour, or \$278,476.

**Junior League of Houston, Inc.** volunteers worked 3,989 hours counseling children and families in 1995. The value of their services is estimated at almost \$69,000. Eighty-three 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, Junior League of Houston, Inc. generously contributed \$7,580 to assist the art program and other specific areas of the department.

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**

A total of 89 students participated in the department's student intern program in 1995. Texas Southern University provided 26 interns with another 15 from the University of Houston School of Social Work. They worked throughout the agency in a variety of positions, receiving training and experience in juvenile corrections. Interns provided 12,836 hours of service.

### **Accreditation**

Staff coordinate the development of written policies and procedures establishing the Department's goals, objectives and standard operating procedures. These are used to maintain the standards set by the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and the American Correctional Association for the operation of the Department and its facilities.

### **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 "Dare to Dream" program coordinated by the Public Information Office brings astronaut Dr. Bernard Harris, Jr. to school children in a volunteer-supported prevention program.

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 office also coordinates various educational presentations and arranges for art exhibits of children's work.

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**HARRIS COUNTY  
JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

**ELMER BAILEY, JR.**  
Executive Director  
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

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**Harris County Juvenile Probation Department Administrative Staff - 1996**

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**Harvey Hetzel, Deputy Director of Administrative Services**

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