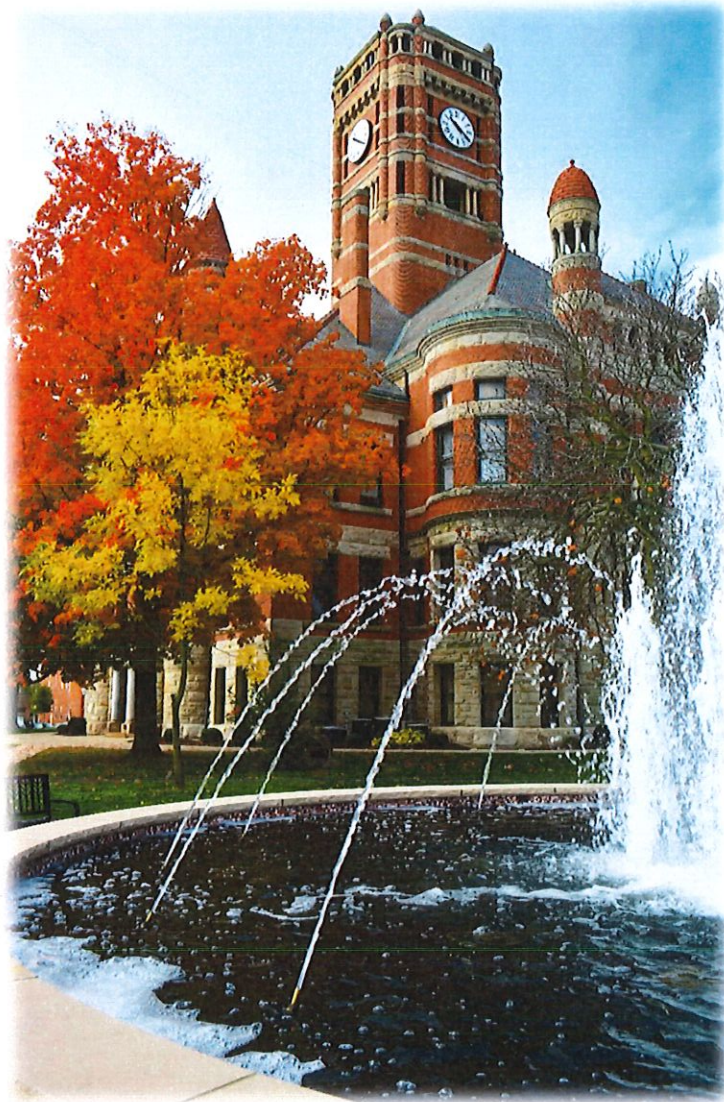


WILLIAMS COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT JUVENILE DIVISION



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Karen K. Gallagher, Judge



KAREN K. GALLAGHER
Judge

WILLIAMS COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
PROBATE AND JUVENILE DIVISIONS

TAMARA S. RENOLLET
Magistrate

SUSAN SHEETS
Juvenile Court Administrator

RONDA MUEHLFELD
Probate Court Administrator

March 13, 2023

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Amy L. Ast, Director

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In compliance with section 2151.18 of the Ohio Revised Code, I submit the 2022 Annual Report of the Williams County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile Division. We hope that you will find this Report informative as to the work of the Court in assisting youth and families while striving to protect the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen K. Gallagher, Judge

WILLIAMS COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT JUVENILE DIVISION



The Honorable Karen K. Gallagher
Juvenile & Probate Judge

Melissa Short, Deputy Clerk
Krista Wright, Deputy Clerk
Camilla Miller, Deputy Clerk
Megan Grimm, Deputy Clerk
Gary Mohre, Diversion Officer
Michael Polley, Probation Officer
John Karacson, Probation Officer
Annie Zervos, Administrative Assistant
Susan Sheets, Juvenile Court Administrator
Ronda Muehlfeld, Probate Court Administrator

A Message from Judge Gallagher

As the masks were put away and social distancing was no longer enforced, we had hoped that 2022 would bring a return to normalcy for the Court's operations and the youth and families we served. What we saw instead was the emerging impact that the pandemic had on our youth and the families in our community. Our caseload increased substantially and the behaviors and family dynamics presented to the Court required more intensive involvement and creative solutions.

In 2022 the Court continued its fiscal responsibility by actively seeking out grants that would assist our operations but not have an increase in our general fund budget needs. We applied for and we were awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,094.00 which was used to update and add to our technology equipment. We also were awarded a grant in the amount of \$376,556.00 over a two year period. We are very proud of this grant as we do not believe that our division of the Court has ever received a grant award this significant in value. The grant has permitted us to hire a much needed full time Diversion officer and a staff member to assist with the increased caseload.

We have continued our two specialized dockets which are certified through the Ohio Supreme Court. Those intensive therapeutic dockets have created special success stories for our juveniles and families. We began a partnership with The Ohio State University Extension, Williams County office to provide a pilot program to teach life and work skills to our youth. The program is called STARS (Students Taking Action and Responsibility for Success). We have also brought career based speakers for our youth to educate them on career options. These programs have been impactful.

We continue to focus on efficiency, collaboration and positive outcomes. We work closely with each school district, superintendent and school staff; clinical services and mental health providers in our community; Dr. Diane Peters; Dr. Laura Eckhardt; Williams County Job and Family Services; the Sheriff's Office and all local law enforcement agencies, Williams County Prosecutor; the Juvenile Detention, Training and Rehabilitation Center; the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Residential Center; the Ohio Department of Youth Services; Northwest Ohio

CASA, Richard Altman of Maumee Valley Dispute Resolution, LLC; and The Ohio State University Extension office. We thank each of these agencies and individuals for their services and collaboration with the Court.

A special thank you to the community individuals and agencies that comprise our 2022 specialized docket treatment team. Those individuals are: Aaron Cook, attorney for delinquency docket; Kerry Beck, Shalom Mediation and Counseling Services; Michelle Kannel, School representative/social worker; Fred Lord, Director of Job and Family Services; Roberta Mack, Director of the Center for Child and Family Advocacy; Taylor Schooley/Alexis Flores, Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio; Rachael Sostoi, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney; and Kylee Towne, attorney for dependency docket. These individuals and our Court staff are dedicated in their service to the Court and to the youth and families in our community.

In addition the Court staff has worked effectively to manage the increased caseload and has been dedicated in providing friendly and positive service to the community. I thank them for their assistance. They are a special group of individuals.

We continue to work hard with our youth and families hoping we are making positive changes that have identifiable impact on each of them and in our community. We are prepared for the challenges that 2023 will bring.

- Karen K. Gallagher

WILLIAMS COUNTY JUVENILE DIVISION

SUMMARY OF CASES FILED IN 2022

Williams County Juvenile Court has the responsibility to hear and determine all cases concerning children in Williams County. In **2022**, there were **622** complaints and/or new cases filed. This total includes: **171** delinquent child complaints; **15** unruly child complaints; **124** juvenile traffic complaints; **101** abuse, neglect, or dependency cases; **0** permanent custody cases; **15** adult contributing cases; **34** adult failure to send cases; **6** habitually truant cases; and **158** cases involving the allocation of parental rights/parenting time, support, paternity, and legal custody cases.

DELINQUENCY CASES: Any child under the age of 18 who violates any state or federal law or any local ordinance or regulation, which violation would be a crime if committed by an adult, or any child who violates any lawful Court order is a delinquent child. In **2022**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **171** delinquency complaints filed. Of the **171** complaints filed, **20** were felony charges and **151** were misdemeanors or probation violations.

Ages	Male	Female	Total
10	4	3	7
11	7	3	10
12	9	2	11
13	8	6	14
14	8	11	19
15	28	13	41
16	16	15	31
17	30	4	34
18	3	1	4

Residency	Total
Bryan	69
Edgerton	13
Edon	12
Montpelier	45
Pioneer	6
Stryker	3
West Unity	8
Other	15

Charges	Total	Charges	Total
Aggravated Poss. of Drugs	1	Felonious Assault	1
Aggravated Menacing	1	Gr. Sex. Imposition	2
Animal Cruelty	2	Habitual truant	6
Arson	1	Harassment by Inmate	1
Assault	16	Inducing Panic	3
Assault Police Officer	1	Interfere with Custody	1
Complicity to Escape	1	Menacing	1
Criminal Damaging	10	Obst. Business	2
Criminal Mischief	2	Off. Involving Minors	3
Criminal Trespass	2	Open Container	1
Delinquent Child	5	Probation Violation	41
Disorderly Conduct	25	Rape	1
Domestic Violence	4	Resisting Arrest	1
Drug Abuse/MJ	6	Sexual Imposition	2
Eluding an Officer	1	Theft	6
Escape	2	Unruly	15
		Vandalism	4

UNRULY CASES: Any child who violates a law applicable only to a child; which includes a child who is habitually truant from school and who previously has not been adjudicated an unruly child for being a habitual truant; a child who is not under the reasonable control of the child's parents, guardian, or custodian by reason of being habitually disobedient; or a child who engages in other conduct defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.022 is an unruly child. In **2022**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **15** unruly complaints filed.

Ages	Male	Female	Total
13	1	1	2
14	0	2	2
15	3	2	5
16	0	3	3
17	3	0	3

Residency	Total
Bryan	4
Edgerton	1
Edon	0
Montpelier	8
Pioneer	1
Stryker	0
West Unity	1
Other	0

JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES: A child who violates any traffic law, traffic ordinance or traffic regulation of the state or local political subdivision is a juvenile traffic offender. The Williams County Juvenile Court has exclusive jurisdiction over all juvenile traffic cases. In **2022**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **124** juvenile traffic citations filed.

Ages	Male	Female	Total
13	1	0	1
14	0	0	0
15	2	0	2
16	26	14	40
17	57	24	81

Residency	Total
Alvordton	1
Bryan	42
Edgerton	11
Edon	5
Montpelier	18
Pioneer	5
Stryker	4
West Unity	8
Other	30

FAILURE TO SEND: No parent, guardian, or other person having care of a child of compulsory school age shall violate any provision of the Ohio Revised Code regarding school attendance. The Juvenile Court may require a person convicted of violating this provision to give bond in a sum of not more than five hundred dollars, conditioned that the person will cause the child under the person's authority to attend school as provided by the law, and remain as a student in the school during the term prescribed by law. In **2022**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **34** adult failure to send charges filed.

TRUANCY CASES: Williams County, in collaboration with the school districts, has a Countywide Truancy Officer. With the assistance of each school within the district, juveniles and their families were provided alternatives to adjudication options including truancy mediation. In the **2021-2022** school year, **41** students/families successfully completed truancy mediation and resolved the truancy issues. Truancy mediation was not successful in **16** cases and students/parents were required to appear in Court. The Court has seen a significant decrease in truancy cases from the 2020-2021 school year.

CONTRIBUTING TO UNRULINESS OR DELINQUENCY OF A CHILD: No person, including a parent, guardian, or other custodian of a child, shall violate any provision of the Ohio Revised Code regarding contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of a child. In **2022**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **15** adult contributing cases filed.

ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND DEPENDENCY: Cases of abuse, neglect, and dependency are filed by the Williams County Department of Job and Family Services. The Williams County Juvenile Court appoints a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), or an attorney, as the Guardian Ad Litem for the child(ren) in these cases. In **2022**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **101** abuse, neglect, and/or dependency complaints filed.

PERMANENT CUSTODY: The Williams County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction to determine motions for permanent custody that requests the permanent termination of parental rights and placement of a child in the permanent custody of the Williams County Department of Job and Family Services for adoptive placement of the child. There were **0** motions for permanent custody filed in the Court in **2022**.

ALLOCATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS/PARENTING TIME/PARENTAGE CASES: The Williams County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction to hear the allocation of parental rights/custody/visitation cases involving children who are born to unmarried parents and not under another Ohio Court's jurisdiction. In **2022**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **87** allocation of parental rights/custody/visitation/parentage cases filed.

SUPPORT CASES: The Williams County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction to hear a motion for an order of child support/health insurance coverage of any child, if the child is not a ward of another Court of this state. In **2022**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **71** support cases filed.

**TRENDS
FOR THE WILLIAMS COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT,
JUVENILE DIVISION**

	2020	2021	2022
Youth Charged with Delinquency	105	144	157
Youth Charged with Unruliness	20	4	15
Juvenile Traffic Violations	99	113	124
Bed Days Used at NWOJDT&R Center	563	2207	2051
Youth Detained at Juvenile Detention Center	27	71	79
Abuse, Neglect, or Dependent Cases	62	38	101
Permanent Custody Cases	1	0	0
Adult Contributing Cases	2	32	15
Failure to Send	32	39	34
Habitual Truant	0	32	6

2022 PROGRAMS & SERVICES FOR WILLIAMS COUNTY

YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT: The Williams County Juvenile Probation Department is the primary service provider for the Juvenile Court. The department strives to hold juvenile offenders accountable for delinquent and unruly activity, while providing referrals to resources that reduce criminal behavior, and increase the ability of youth to live productively and responsibly in the community. It is the duty of the department to carry out the orders of the Court and serve to protect the interest of the community. Probation Officers are responsible for utilizing all suitable methods to aid juveniles on probation in order to bring about improvement to their conduct. The department recognizes the importance the role the family plays in each youth's response to supervision and therefore requires parents and/or guardians to participate in a youth's treatment plan, as well as other programs to which the youth and family are referred.

The Williams County Juvenile Probation Department is staffed by the Court's Administrator, two Probation Officers, a Family Intervention Court Coordinator, and two Probation Clerks. Williams County Juvenile Probation Officers each manage a caseload of juvenile offenders and are responsible for ensuring compliance with Court orders, assessing juvenile's needs, initiating referrals to appropriate agencies, and maintaining related documentation.

Every youth who is placed on probation is required to follow the conditions of probation. These conditions establish the parameters of acceptable behavior for the probationer. Probation Officers enforce the conditions of probation, and if necessary, can file complaints with the Court for probation violations. Each probationer is seen by his/her Probation Officer at least once per month either at the probation department, at school, or at home.

In **2022**, there were **51** juveniles (**35** males and **16** females) placed on official probation. In addition there were **19** juveniles carried over from the year **2021**. As of **12/31/2022** there were **16** juveniles released from probation.

DRUG TESTING: Urinalysis testing is consistently used by the Williams County Juvenile Court to screen youths for drug use. All juveniles placed on probation are subject to random drug and alcohol testing as a condition of their probation. Testing helps to keep youth substance-free and guides the Court on appropriate recommendations for treatment. The Probation Department used a twelve panel instant cup during **2022** testing for cocaine, oxycodone, marijuana, phencyclidine (PCP), methylenedioxymethamphetamine (ecstasy), opiate, benzodiazepine, barbiturate, methadone, amphetamine, methamphetamine, and buprenorphine. The Court continues to use a web-based program called Sentry Automated Medical Management, otherwise known as S.A.M.M., to assist in the randomization of drug screens for youth. The youth are required to call the S.A.M.M. line every day to determine if they are to complete a drug screen.

LIFE WITHOUT DRUGS: The Life Without Drugs program is a 90-day rehabilitation program provided at the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention, Training, and Rehabilitation Center to juveniles who are experiencing alcohol or drug related problems. This program was provided by Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio. The program was not in operation for a part of 2022 but began again with a new service provider, Maumee Valley Guidance Center. The Life Without Drugs program educates youth on the disease concept, 12 step support groups, as well as relapse prevention, family origin issues, anger management, coping/decision making skills, and leisure/recreational activities. The on-site counselor conducts in-depth assessments, substance abuse education, group therapy, and individual counseling with the youths placed in the program as well as family engagement sessions. In **2022**, Williams County Juvenile Court referred **3** juveniles to the program and **2** juveniles continued from the previous year. **2** juveniles successfully completed The Life Without Drugs program in **2022** with **2** juveniles continuing the program into **2023**.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING: The Court contracts with the Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio (CCNO) for electronic monitoring services. Electronic Monitored House Arrest is used as an alternative to placing juveniles in a secure detention facility. The equipment used is designed to track an offender's movement in the community providing juveniles the opportunity to experience a structured setting within their home. In **2022**, there were **28** youth placed on Electronic Monitored House Arrest.

ON-CALL: The Probation Department has a Probation Officer on-call at all times. This allows for a Probation Officer to be available to law enforcement officials when juvenile related matters occur in the county. Probation officers have the authority to detain a juvenile or determine an alternative placement, pending a hearing before the Court on the next business day.

FAMILY INTERVENTION COURT: The Juvenile Court operates two specialized dockets with its Family Intervention Court (FIC). The Court is certified for a Dependency Docket and a Juvenile Treatment Docket. Cases are taken out of the traditional docket and placed in a specialized docket. The purpose is to bring more intense services to cases with mental health issues, substance abuse issues, or family systems issues. Cases may be referred to the specialized docket from either delinquency cases, or abuse, neglect, dependency cases. Each case is reviewed by a treatment team which consists of individuals from organizations and service providers in Williams County. FIC may accept a maximum of **10** cases for each docket. To successfully complete the process, participants must successfully complete four phases. It is a voluntary program and all members of the household must consent to being involved in the process. In **2022**, the Juvenile Treatment Court served **16** youth/families while the Dependency Treatment Court served **10** families.

DIVERSION: Referrals to the Diversion program for Williams County youth come from a number of entities including the Prosecuting Attorney's office, law enforcement, school administration/staff, Williams County Job and Family Services, Community Agencies, and parents/guardians of juveniles. Diversion uses programming, supervision, and support as ways to redirect youth. The program reduces recidivism rates, reduces Court costs, and provides necessary services and resources to youth and their families. The Williams County Juvenile Court has three Diversion Programs. One Program is Providing Accountability Through Honor and Education, or PATHE. The purpose of this program is to provide a one-time visit with the Diversion Officer that is educational and involves the entire family to assist in finding solutions to the presenting issues. Another program is simply Diversion. The purpose of this program is to provide more in depth and structured assistance. The Diversion Officer completes screens, refers the juvenile/family to treatment, and completes monthly visits. This program can last up to six (6) months. The Court also has a Pre-Adjudication Diversion. This program is Court Ordered by the Judge. All filings associated with any case referred to Diversion will be sealed and expunged upon successful completion of the program. **In 2022, 21 juveniles completed the program successfully, 30 juveniles continued into 2023, and 5 juveniles were referred back to the prosecutor's office for formal prosecution.**

Ages	Male	Female	Total
6	1	0	1
7	0	0	0
8	2	0	2
9	1	0	1
10	2	1	3
11	3	2	5
12	2	4	6
13	3	2	5
14	5	9	14
15	7	4	11
16	3	3	6
17	1	1	2

Residency	Total
Bryan	18
Edgerton	1
Edon	6
Montpelier	16
Pioneer	4
Stryker	5
West Unity	6

CARTEENS: CARTEENS is a traffic safety program that educates teen drivers in an attempt to reduce the number of repeat juvenile traffic offenders, decrease the number of teen traffic offenders, and increase teen awareness of traffic/vehicle safety. The "Car" in CARTEENS stands for "Cautions and Responsibility", and the "Teens" refers to the teenagers who help prepare and present the program. In the CARTEENS program, teen and adult leaders teach traffic education safety programs to first-time teen traffic offenders, while also building offenders' self-esteem and interpersonal skills. Program topics include excessive speed, driving under the influence, seat belt safety use, consequences of unsafe decisions, dealing with peer pressure, understanding traffic laws, and recognizing and reacting to traffic signs and signals. This program presented to Williams County youth through a collaborative effort of the Northwest Ohio OSU Extension 4-H Office, the Williams County Juvenile Court, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The Court allows many first time juvenile traffic offenders the opportunity to have their traffic violation dismissed by completing the CARTEENS program. Juvenile traffic offenders that are ordered into the program must successfully complete the program and pay all Court costs prior to their traffic violation being dismissed. **In 2022, 36 juveniles were referred to the CARTEENS program.**

MENTORING PROGRAM: Mentors for Williams County is a nonprofit agency, providing mentors for the youth in Williams County. With the goal of inspiring our youth to make positive changes in their life and end the repeating pattern of harmful or otherwise negative behavior. In **2022**, the Court referred **14** juveniles to the Mentors for Williams County program.

FAMILY SERVICES: In 2022 the Court used Shalom Counseling and Mediation Services, Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio, and Maumee Valley Dispute Resolution, LLC to bring family services to those involved in the Court system. These services include psychosocial assessments, mental health and behavioral health assessments, diagnosis and recommended treatment plans that include but are not limited to, mental health treatment plans, parenting education, supervised visitation, parent coaching, Parent Project, a Strengthening Families program, conflict management skills training, anger management, alcohol and substance use awareness and treatment services and mediation and skills training. The family services allow parties to be given tools and new skills that will enable them to improve communication, strengthen relationships, emotional modulation, parenting skills and strategies to solve problems, offer safety, provide structure, positive discipline, celebrate success and build trust within the family system. In **2022**, over **50** families were referred to these services.

CLINICAL SERVICES: Services and Agencies utilized by the Williams County Juvenile Court include Maumee Valley Guidance Center, Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio, Williams County Health Department, Shalom Counseling and Mediation Services, Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP), OhioGuidestone, Harbor Behavior Health, Court Diagnostic and Treatment Centers, Dr. Diane Peters, and Dr. Mark Babula with Central Behavioral Healthcare.

VICTIM OFFENDER RECONCILIATION PROGRAM (VORP): VORP began in 1997 and was administered through Shalom Counseling and Mediation Services. They used specially trained individuals to bring the victim and the offender together to mutually agree on a Plan of Restitution. Due to decrease funding VORP was discontinued. We began a new program late in **2022** with Maumee Valley Dispute Resolution, LLC to continue bringing victims and juvenile offenders together to resolve restitution issues.

STARS: In 2022 the Court initiated a collaboration with The Ohio State University Extension 4-H youth Development program to bring STARS (Students Taking Action and Responsibility for Success) to the Court. The goal of this program is to set up our youth for success after high school by teaching life and work skills. The program began in January, 2023.

CO-PARENTING IN TODAY'S WORLD: Ohio law requires the Court to provide a parenting education class for parents going through the Court process to establish paternity and to allocate parental rights. In 2022 the Juvenile Court worked in collaboration with former Magistrate, Richard Altman to develop a program that would met the law's requirements. The program has become a dynamic, interactive program for parents.

"WHAT ABOUT ME" PROGRAM: The Court continues to provide an educational and compassionate program for children between the ages of 5 and 17 to assist them in the transition when their parents separate or when they become the focus of a custody action. The Court's program uses trained volunteers to assist the children. The Juvenile Court is one of two Court's in the state of Ohio that provide this program to children.

CONFINEMENT, REHABILITATION, AND PLACEMENT FOR WILLIAMS COUNTY YOUTH IN 2022

NORTHWEST OHIO JUVENILE DETENTION, TRAINING, AND REHABILITATION CENTER: The Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention, Training, and Rehabilitation Center (JDC), which is located in Williams County, Ohio, became operational in February of 2000 as a regional Juvenile Detention and Rehabilitation Center. The Detention Center provides secure detention to juveniles within the jurisdictions primarily of Defiance, Henry, Fulton, and Williams Counties. The Center consists of approximately 17,000 square feet and has 32 individual detention cells, a control room, multi-purpose room, two classrooms, intake area, nurse, medical clinic, gymnasium, library, administrative offices, and a secure outdoor recreation area. The Northwest Ohio Juvenile Center is governed by a Board of Trustees where each member has a vote. The Juvenile Court Judges in the four counties are Ex Officio members of the Board. In **2022**, Williams County detained **79** youth both for detention and/or rehabilitation at the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention, Training and Rehabilitation Center for a total length of stay of **2051** days.

JUVENILE RESIDENTIAL CENTER OF NORTHWEST OHIO: The Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio (JRC) operates a 42 bed facility located in Wood County, Bowling Green, Ohio that houses male delinquent offenders with an underlying felony charge. The mission of the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio is to assist youth and their families in making positive changes that contribute to an improved functioning in the home environment while protecting the community. In collaboration with Courts, families, and other outside service providers, the facility seeks to individualize each youth's treatment and enhance their pro-social development. JRC is governed by the following counties: Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood. In **2022**, Williams County Juvenile Court placed **4** juveniles with delinquency adjudications of a felony charge into the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES: The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) is the juvenile correction system for the State of Ohio. DYS is statutorily mandated to confine felony offenders, ages 10-21, who have been adjudicated and committed by one of Ohio's 88 county Juvenile Courts. The mission of the Ohio Department of Youth Services is to improve Ohio's future by habilitating youth and empowering family and communities. DYS also provides parole services to youth upon release from a DYS facility to assist in the transition from the institution back into the community. In **2022**, Williams County Juvenile Court placed **3** juveniles into the Department of Youth Services.