

WELLS COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT 1997 ANNUAL REPORT

Agency Description

The Wells County Probation Department is an administrative arm of the courts in regards to criminal matters and juvenile delinquency. The Wells County Probation Department is responsible to the courts for supervising persons placed on probation, preparing presentence investigation reports, conducting preliminary inquiries and completing other administrative tasks as directed by the courts. In the completion of these assignments, the Department provides protection of the community by identifying continued criminal behavior, reinforcing law abiding behavior, and providing appropriate services and programs for offenders to support their rehabilitation.

Agency Team

The following individuals made were part of the Wells County Probation Department in 1997:

David Hanselman, Sr., Circuit Court Judge
Everett E. Goshorn, Superior Court Judge
Stephen A. Jarrell, former Chief Probation Officer
Gregory E. Werich, Chief Probation Officer
Vicki L. Cale, Probation Officer
Marci A. Burch, Probation Officer

Scott N. Ailor, Probation Officer
Phillip W. Grove, Probation Officer,
Dianne E. Schwarzkopf, Secretary
Susan K. Reinhard, Secretary
Jeremy D. Strahm, Intern (Summer 1997)

Adult Services

The Wells County Probation Department provided the following services to adults in the criminal justice system.

➤ Presentence Investigation Report

Prior to rendering a sentence on a person, the court may order a Presentence Investigation Report. The report provides a general biography of the person in question, including a criminal, family, education, military, employment, financial, social, medical, psychological/psychiatric, religious and substance use history.

The report also contains a recommendation by the probation officer for an appropriate sentence for the Courts to consider. The Department prepares this report after interviewing the defendant, reviewing relevant documents (ie. school transcripts, employment records, military records, counseling reports, tax returns, marriage certificates, court records), and consulting with significant individuals.

The Presentence Investigation Report is a confidential document with access available only to the court, the prosecutor, the defense attorney, and the defendant. The report is also used by the Department of Correction and probation department for classification purposes and to determine

appropriate programs. The Wells County Probation Department prepared 122 Presentence Investigation Reports in 1997.

➤ Supervision

The Wells County Probation Department supervises adults who have been convicted of misdemeanor or felony offenses and whose sentences have been suspended. In most cases, the courts place convicted persons on probation for the amount of time that was suspended. Written conditions with which the individual must comply are issued. These conditions normally include: reports to the probation office as directed; probation officer visitations to the probationer at home, office, or collateral; notification to the probation officer of any change in address, telephone number, employment, etc.; payment of probation users fees, orders not to commit any infractions, misdemeanors or felony offenses; and submission to drug testing. When additional measures are believed necessary, the court may impose additional conditions, such as: counseling for violent behavior, substance abuse or other mental health issues; restitution to victim for damages/losses; abstinence from alcohol; payment of court-ordered fees and costs; and any other conditions that will assist in rehabilitation. Offenders are classified as high, medium, or low risks. Those which are considered high risk require a more extensive probation. This would include more conditions the offender would be issued to follow as compared to the low risk status. In 1997 the Wells County Probation Department recorded 252 probation violations. The following information illustrates utilization of as well as the increasing need for the Probation Department's services:

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Felons	151	230
Misdemeanants	794	849

Juvenile Services

The following information provides a brief overview of the Wells County Probation Department's services provided to juveniles in the criminal justice system. The Wells County Probation Department worked with 370 juveniles in 1997.

➤ Intakes/Preliminary Inquiries

The Wells County Probation Department plays an integral role in the administration of juvenile justice. A juvenile, a child less than 18 years of age at the time the offense occurs, may be referred to the Probation Department following an arrest by a law enforcement agency, a referral of another probation department, or an indirect referral of

the school or parent. If the probation officer believes that the child has committed a delinquent act, the officer will conduct a preliminary inquiry to decide if the public's or the child's interests require further attention. The Wells Circuit Court and prosecutor allow the Probation Department to recommend an appropriate disposition if further attention is necessary. Following the referral, the Probation Department conducts an Intake/Preliminary Inquiry which is performed after meeting with the juvenile and his/her legal parent, guardian, or custodian to obtain information and the juvenile's intentions to admit or deny the allegations. The inquiry is an informal investigation into the information presented to the court. It also includes information on the child's background, current status, and school performance. It is during this meeting that the juvenile is read his/her rights in the juvenile system. The probation officer may make one of four recommendations for disposition: file of a delinquency petition, refer to a program of informal adjustment, refer to another agency, or dismiss. The Wells County Probation Department completed 277 Intakes/Preliminary Inquiries in 1997.

➤ Detention

Probation officers recommend to the Court whether or not to detain a juvenile once they have been apprehended for an offense. Two probation officers are on call twenty-four hours a day, in order to determine the appropriateness of detaining a child. Because juveniles may not be detained in custody in the same facility as adults, and Wells County has no separate facility to hold juveniles, juveniles are held in facilities in other counties to accommodate juveniles until the court determines whether to release them back into the community. Five factors are considered in determining when to hold a juvenile: the child is unlikely to appear before the juvenile court for subsequent proceedings; the child has committed an act that would be murder or a Class A or Class B Felony if committed by an adult; detention is essential to protect the child or the community; the parent, guardian, or custodian cannot be located, is unable or unwilling to take custody of the child, or the child has a reasonable basis for requesting that the child not be released. In 1997, 45 juveniles were held for a total of 4121 days.

➤ Predispositional Investigation Reports

Prior to disposition, the court orders the Probation Department to prepare a Predispositional Investigation Report, which is the equivalent of the Presentence Investigation Reports for adults. The Wells County Probation Department prepared 18 reports in 1997. In many cases the Preliminary Inquiries become the Predispositional Investigation Reports.

➤ Placements

The Wells County Probation Department is responsible for recommending and monitoring the status of juveniles in various treatment and detention placements. These placements consist of four major categories: secure non-treatment, secure treatment, non-secure non-treatment and non-secure treatment.

Secure non-treatment facilities are designed to hold juveniles who are a serious threat to the community or themselves. These are facilities where the juvenile is monitored at all times and cannot leave. These facilities are used for preadjudicated juveniles, to hold a juvenile until another placement is available, or to hold a juvenile as dispositional alternative for up to 120 days. The juvenile receives no therapeutic treatment.

Secure treatment programs are dispositional alternatives for juveniles who are at high risk to harm themselves or the community. These programs are secured and use therapeutic programs to modify the juvenile's behavior. Placement in this type of setting will vary, but most programs average approximately 6 to 12 months in duration.

Non-secure non-treatment facilities are designed for juveniles who have demonstrated an ability to function with a structured program and are considered low risks to running

a away. The non-treatment facilities are not secured and are designed to temporarily hold juvenile until an appropriate alternative is located or a disposition is issued in court.

with The treatment-oriented non-secure facilities offer a therapeutic milieu for juveniles who have been adjudicated and require treatment. These programs include large facilities on-ground schools, small residential group homes, independent living homes, and foster homes. In this type of setting, the juvenile is afforded more freedom to make choices regarding his/her behavior.

The Indiana Code set forth the practice of the Wells County Juvenile Court to place juveniles in the least restrictive facility as possible given the circumstances. Not only is the offense committed by the juvenile taken into consideration, but is also the juvenile's home, social history, and environment. In many cases, a juvenile is graduated from a more secure setting to a less secure one as incremental goals are reached.

➤ Supervision

The Wells County Probation Department supervises juveniles who have been convicted of status, misdemeanor, or felony offenses. The supervision of juveniles is the equivalent to the supervision of adult offenders.

Training

The Wells County probation officers are required to obtain a minimum of 12 continuing educational hours. Also, each officer must pass periodic firearms qualifications. These are completed through conferences, workshops, and classes. Four of the Department's officers attended the Indiana Judicial Conference's Annual Probation Officer Conference, and all five officers attended the Indiana Correctional Association's Annual Conference. Behavioral Health Care Center and Charter-Beacon also provided training workshops that were credited toward the required continuing education hours.

Referral Sources for 1997:

While resources are limited in a small community, the Wells County Probation Department still has the benefit of working with outstanding programs. In alphabetical order, the following programs have been used for referral sources:

- C.A.P- 45 Adults and 14 Juveniles referred
- Caylor-Nickel Medical Center
- Center for Non-Violences -10 Clients referred
- Family Centered Services
- Family Service Society
- Indiana State University (Internship)
- Park Center
- Wells County Office, Div. of Family & Children
- Wells County Community Corrections

Overview of 1997 Financials

<u>1997 Summary of Income/Expenses</u>		Income	Expenses
Juvenile Probation Services		\$28,607.00	
Urinalysis Funds		\$11,697.00	
Adult Probation Services		\$53,066.00	
	Total		
Detentions	Delaware County		\$5,320.00
	Henry County		\$39,900.00
	Howard County		\$200.00
	Jay County		\$10,025.00
	Resolute		\$11,275.00
	Wood Youth Center		\$11,480.00
	Total		\$78,200.00
1997 Wards and Institutions	Arizona Boys Ranch		\$43,492.00
	Gateway Woods		\$6,557.00
	Gibault		\$46,014.00
	Henry County		\$9,800.00
	IUMCCH		\$78,870.00
	Lifeline Homes		\$38,178.00
	Oaklawn		\$16,036.00

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Resolute	\$37,929.00
Starr	\$33,288.00
Whites	\$30,690.00
Wood Youth	\$1050.00
Subtotal of Placements	\$341,904.00
Total of Summary Expenses	799,672.00

1997 Summary of Collections

IN Superior Court Adult Fees	\$25,033.00
IN Circuit Court Adult Fees	\$6,509.00
Juvenile Fees	\$5,665.50
Urinalysis Fees	<u>\$4,487.00</u>
Total of Summary Collections	\$41,694.50