

GWINNETT JUVENILE COURT 2010

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Juvenile Court of Gwinnett County is:

- To enhance the likelihood of rehabilitation and behavior reform of delinquent children so that they shall be restored, if possible, as secure law-abiding members of society.
- To provide the forum, personnel and facilities required for the fair, impartial and efficient administration of justice.
- That each child coming before the court shall receive the care, guidance, and control that is in the best interest of the child and the safety of the citizens of Gwinnett County and the State of Georgia.
- To promote the healing and recovery of abused and neglected children and to promote permanency for those that have been removed from their home.

WE ARE A LIMITED JURISDICTION TRIAL COURT

- **DELINQUENT CASES**
- **UNRULY CASES**
- **DEPRIVATION CASE**
- **CHILD CUSTODY**
- **TERMINATION OF RIGHTS**
- **LEGITAMATIONS**
- **PARENTAL NOTIFICATIONS**
- **JUVENILE TRAFFIC**

MANDATES AND TIME LIMITS

MANDATES

THE JUVENILE COURT OF GWINNETT IS A CONSTITUTIONAL COURT. WE ARE GOVERNED BY STATE AND FEDERAL STATUTORY LAWS AND RULES. THESE LAWS AND RULES MANDATE OUR EXISTENCE AND THE FUNCTIONS OF EVERY DIVISION OF OUR COURT.

MANDATES AND TIME LIMITS

MANDATES

THESE MANDATES GOVERN EVERY STEP IN OUR PROCESS FROM THE TIME A CASE IS ENTERED INTO OUR CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (WHICH IS OUR OFFICIAL DOCKET) TO DISPOSITION AND APPEAL. ANY STEPS WE TAKE OVER AND ABOVE THESE MANDATES HELP TO MAKE US MORE COST EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE FOR THE CITIZENS AND AGENCIES THAT ARE IN NEED OF OUR SERVICES.

MANDATES AND TIME LIMITS

TIME LIMITS

- **72 HOURS TO HAVE AN EMERGENCY HEARING**
- **48 OR 72 HOURS TO HAVE A DETENTIONAL HEARING**
- **72 HOURS TO PETITION UNRULY OR DELINQUENT CASES AFTER HEARING**
- **5 DAYS TO PETITION DEPRIVATION CASES AFTER HEARING**
- **FINIAL HEARINGS MUST BE SCHEDULED WITHIN 10 DAYS**

MANDATES AND TIME LIMITS

TIME LIMITS

- **PETITIONS MUST BE FILED IF A CHILD IS RELEASED WITHIN 30 DAYS**
- **PETITIONS MUST BE HEARD WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THEIR FILED-IN DATE**
- **DISPOSITION ORDER MUST BE MADE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF FINAL HEARING**
- **COURT MUST REVIEW CASE PLAN WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A CHILD BEING PLACED WITH DFACS, AND ISSUE AN ORDER**
- **IF CASE PLAN DOES NOT INCLUDE REUNIFICATION, COURT MUST HOLD A HEARING WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIVING CASE PLAN**

MANDATES AND TIME LIMITS

TIME LIMITS

- **IF A CHILD IS IN FOSTER CARE CASE MUST BE REVIEWED WITHIN 6 MONTHS AND AN ORDER ENTERED**
- **IF PARENTS OBJECT TO THE REVIEW A HEARING MUST BE HELD WITHIN 5 DAYS**
- **IF AT ANYTIME A CASE PLAN IS PRESENTED TO THE COURT FOR NON-REUNIFICATION A HEARING MUST BE HELD WITHIN 30 DAYS**
- **AND THE COURT MUST HOLD A PERMANENCY HEARING EVERY 12 MONTHS THEREAFTER**
- **IF A CHILD IS PLACED WITH A NON-RELATIVE THE COURT MUST HAVE A HEARING WITHIN 12 MONTHS AND EVERY 12 MONTHS THEREAFTER**

MANDATES AND TIME LIMITS

TIME LIMITS

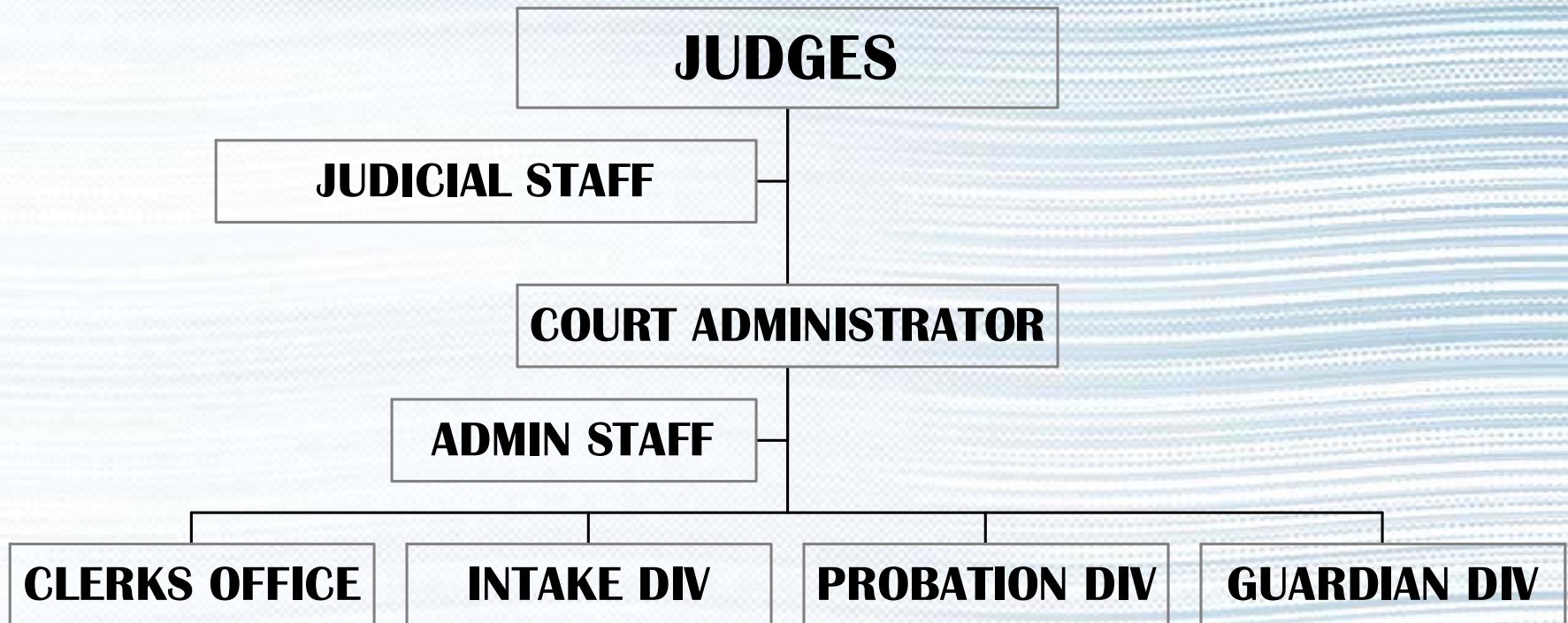
- **IF A CHILD IS PLACED WITH A RELATIVE THE COURT MUST REVIEW THE CASE WITHIN 36 MONTHS AND EVERY 36 MONTHS THEREAFTER**
- **IF A CHILD IS COMMITTED TO THE STATE OF GEORGIA A COMMITMENT PACKAGE HAS TO BE FORWARDED TO THE STATE AND A SCREENING HELD WITHIN 10 DAYS**

MANDATES AND TIME LIMITS

TIME LIMITS

- **TO PUT THESE TIME LIMITS INTO PERSPECTIVE, OUR COURT MAINTAINS JURISDICTION ON CHILDREN UP TO 18 YEARS**
- **IN THE LAST 10 YEARS WE HAD OVER 50,000 CHILDREN COME BEFORE THE COURT ON OVER 110,000 NEW REFERERALS**
- **OF THESE 50,000 THERE ARE TODAY 2668 CHILDREN THAT HAVE A PENDING REVIEW OR HEARING**
- **MANAGING THESE CHILDREN IS IN ADDITION TO HANDLING THE OVER 10,000 NEW CASES RECEIVED ON 6500 CHILDREN THAT THE COURT RECEIVES EVERY YEAR**

OUR ORGANIZATION



JUVENILE COURT CASELOADS

HEARINGS

- **WE CALENDARED 11,000 IN 2008**
- **45 HEARINGS A DAY**
- **AVERAGE HEARING TIME 25 MIN**
- **AVERAGE 6.25 HRS A DAY
PER JUDGE AND STAFF**

JUVENILE COURT CASELOADS

CLERKS OFFICE

8 STAFF MEMBERS

- **ENTERED OVER 10,000 CASES IN 2008**
- **ENTERED DISPOSITION IN OVER 11,000 CASES IN 2008**
- **FILED-IN AND SCANNED OVER 40,000 DOCUMENTS IN LAST 12 MONTHS**
- **HANDLED OVER 12,600 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS IN 2008**
- **THIS UNIT ALSO STAFFS THE RECEPTION WINDOWS FOR OUR COURT**

JUVENILE COURT CASELOADS

PROBATION

16 STAFF MEMBERS

- **CURRENT CASELOAD PER OFFICER 52**
- **OJJDP AND THE NCJJ AVERAGE CASELOAD PER OFFICER 41**
- **OJJDP AND THE NCJJ OPTIMAL CASELOAD PER OFFICER 30**
- **OJJDP AND THE NCJJ OPTIMAL CASELOAD FOR VIOLENT OR EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED YOUTH PER OFFICER 15**

JUVENILE COURT CASELOADS

INTAKE

8 STAFF MEMBERS

- **OPEN CASES PER OFFICER 130**
- **EACH OFFICER PETITIONS APPROX 600 CHARGES PER YEAR**
- **EACH OFFICER INFORMALY HANDLES 500 CHARGES PER YEAR**
- **OFFICERS MEET WITH OVER 2500 WALK-IN CITIZENS A YEAR**
- **HANDLE OVER 2200 AFTER-HOURS INTAKE CALLS A YEAR**
- **MANAGES AN AVERAGE DAILY DETENTION POPULATION OF OVER 40 DELINQUENT YOUTH WHICH INCLUDES TIME LIMITS, TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS, DOCTOR /HOSPITAL VISITS AND ALL OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS**

JUVENILE COURT CASELOADS

GUARDIAN AD LITEM

10 STAFF MEMBERS

- **OPEN CASES PER ATTORNEY 1000+**
- **OUR 6 ATTORNEYS HANDLE OVER 645 COURT HEARINGS EACH PER YEAR**
- **OUR 3 CASE COORDINATORS INTERVIEWED 631 NEW CHILDREN IN 2008 AND HAD OVER 1200 FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEWS WITH THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

JUVENILE COURT CASELOADS

ADMINISTRATION

6 STAFF MEMBERS

- **SUPERVISES THE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS OF THE COURT**
- **MANAGES THE COURT'S INDIGENT DEFENSE SYSTEM**
- **MANAGES THE COURT'S BAILIFF SYSTEM**
- **PROCESSED OVER 7300 INVOICES FOR THE COURT IN 2008**
- **HANDLES ALL PERSONNEL ACTIONS, TIMESHEETS, SUPPLY ORDERS, ITS REQUEST, PRINTING ORDERS, FACILITY REQUEST AND MAIL DISTRIBUTION**
- **MANAGES THE COURT'S MAIN SWITCHBOARD**
- **MANAGES THE COURTS FISCAL BUDGET AND RECONCILES THE COURTS FOUR BANK ACCOUNTS**

JUVENILE COURT AND THE COMMUNITY

CHILDREN

- **IN 2010 THE COURT WILL RECEIVE 10,000 NEW CASES ON 6,500 CHILDREN**
- **WE ARE THE LAST RESORT FOR THE MAJORITY OF CHILDREN THAT COME BEFORE THE COURT**
- **THE RESOURCES IN THE COMMUNITY THAT EXIST ARE OVERWHELMED AND UNDER FUNDED**
- **WE USE THE AUTHORITY OF THE COURT TO REVIEW, ORDER AND ENFORCE THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES AND TREATMENT TO AT-RISK CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**
- **ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS 63,000 PEOPLE LIVE UNDER THE POVERTY LEVEL IN GWINNETT**

JUVENILE COURT AND THE COMMUNITY

FAMILIES

- **PARENTS, TRYING TO GET HELP, FILED OVER 1400 RUNAWAYS IN 2008**
 - **784 WERE TEENAGE GIRLS**
 - **791 WERE PLACED UNDER SUPERVISION**
- **WE HAVE PARENTS IN GWINNETT THAT PADLOCK THEMSELVES IN THEIR BEDROOM AT NIGHT FOR FEAR OF THEIR OWN CHILD**
- **WE HAVE FAMILIES THAT HAVE NO ELECTRICITY, WATER, OR FOOD, LIVE IN THEIR CARS OR MOVE INTO EXTENDED STAY MOTELS**
- **JUVENILE COURT INVESTIGATES THESE CASES AND ADVOCATES FOR THESE FAMILIES TO RECEIVE RESOURCES AND MONITORS THE OUTCOMES**

JUVENILE COURT AND THE COMMUNITY

NEIGHBORHOODS

- **THE MAJORITY OF JUVENILE RELATED PROPERTY CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS ARE COMMITTED WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THEIR RESIDENCE**
- **ONE UNSUPERVISED INCORRIGIBLE CHILD CAN THREATEN THE PEACE OF THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD**
- **JUVENILE COURT INTAKE STAFF WORK WITH THESE VICTIMS/NEIGHBORS TO BRING THE YOUTH UNDER THE COURT'S SUPERVISION**
- **JUVENILE COURT PROBATION STAFF GO INTO THESE NEIGHBORHOODS AND WORK WITH THESE FAMILIES AND SUPERVISE THESE YOUTH IN THEIR HOMES**

JUVENILE COURT AND THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

- **GWINNETT COUNTY HAS THE LARGEST SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE STATE AND THE LARGEST JUVENILE COURT AT-RISK POPULATION**
- **THE GWINNETT SCHOOL SYSTEM WAS 2ND ONLY TO THE GWINNETT POLICE DEPARTMENT IN FILING CHARGES IN JUVENILE COURT**
- **JUVENILE COURT INTAKE AND PROBATION STAFF WORK WITH SCHOOL OFFICERS, TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND COUNSELORS TO PROVIDE INTERVENTION AND RESOURCES**
- **WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE SCHOOL SYSTEM TO ASSURE A SAFE AND POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR STUDENTS**

GWINNETT JUVENILE COURT STAFF COMPARISON

	DEKALB	COBB	GWINNETT
YOUTH AT RISK	177,589	182,219	229,744
COURT STAFF	108	75	61

JUVENILE COURT 2010 BUDGET

- **ANY FURTHER CUTS TO THE JUVENILE COURT WILL SEVERELY IMPACT THE COURTS ABILITY TO CARRY OUT ITS MANDATED FUNCTIONS**
- **WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN UNDER STAFFED AND UNABLE TO PROVIDE NON-MANDATED SERVICES, THEREFORE WE HAVE NONE TO CUT**
- **MORE DUTIES HAVE DEVOLVED TO THE COURT AS FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS HAVE BEEN CUT BACK OR DISAPPEARED**
- **WE DO NOT HAVE THE OPTION TO REDUCE THE HOURS WE ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
- **WE CANNOT SHIFT OR TRANSFER OUR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHER COURTS**

JUVENILE COURT 2010 BUDGET

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

- **WE HAVE CANCELLED OR MOVED ALL OF OUR NIGHT AND WEEKEND CLASSES TO GJAC TO HELP ELIMINATE OVERTIME FOR DEPUTIES AT THE ANNEX**
- **WE HAVE AGREED TO COME OFF THE BENCH BY 6PM IN ORDER FOR THE DEPUTIES TO CLOSE THE ANNEX**
- **WE PARTICIPATED IN THE 2009 HIRING FREEZE AND RETURNED \$107,740.00 TO THE GENERAL FUND**
- **WE RETURNED \$108,574.00 AT MID-YEAR AS REQUESTED IN 2009**
- **WE HAVE NOT FILLED TWO POSITIONS AND HAVE OFFERED THAT AS A REDUCTION FOR 2010. \$138,025.00**
- **WE HAVE CARRIED OVER THE \$108,574.00 2009 MID-YEAR REDUCTION FOR 2010**
- **\$1,271,800.00 HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE COURTS CAPITAL PROJECT BUDGET**

JUVENILE COURT 2010 BUDGET

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

THESE REDUCTIONS TOTAL

\$1,734,713.00

**THE JUVENILE COURT HAS ALWAYS
TAKEN PRIDE IN BEING GOOD
STEWARDS OF THE TAXPAYER'S
MONEY AND GOOD SERVANTS TO
THE TAXPAYER'S CHILDREN.**

JUVENILE COURT 2010 BUDGET

PUBLIC SAFETY

**THE JUVENILE COURT IS A KEY
STAKEHOLDER IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY
SYSTEM IN GWINNETT. 25% OF ALL
PROPERTY CRIMES AND 17% OF ALL
VIOLENT CRIMES ARE COMMITTED BY
JUVENILES**

“No other single budget item will reap as many long-term benefits for the state. After all, juvenile courts not only remove dangerous young people from society, but they are the last protectors of abused and neglected children, too, deciding crucial placement issues, making determinations about parental rights and providing for the safety of children who have no other advocate.”

Georgia Chief Justice Robert Benham

Feb 18th 2000, AJC