

Cincinnati Bar Association Juvenile Law Group

August 9, 2017

Hamilton County Juvenile Court
800 Broadway, 16th Floor
12:00 p.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Agenda

- I. **Welcome and Introductions, Committee Chairs**
 - Introduction of Michael Finnegan, new Vice-Chair to the Juvenile Law Group. Michael is a private practice attorney who handles custody, dependency, and delinquency matters in Juvenile Court, as well as a variety of other practice areas.

- II. **Juvenile Court Update, Hamilton County Juvenile Court**
 - **Legal Clinic:** On September 25, 2017, the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Custody and Visitation Clinic will be opening. Please see the attached letter from Judge Williams and the brochure. The Juvenile Court is seeking volunteer attorneys to staff the clinic, and a free CLE training will be provided. The first training will be September 20, 2017 at 1 pm at 800 Broadway on the 16th floor. Please contact Shannon Brocker at 513 946 9346 or by email at Sbrocker@juvcourt.hamilton-co.org.
 - **Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI):** The juvenile court has been working on a risk assessment instrument to provide objective screening guidelines for detention center staff. This will ensure the right children are being released or held in detention.

- III. **Presentation: Diversion, Unofficial Court, and other Delinquency Court Specialty Dockets Hamilton County Juvenile Court**
 - Magistrate Carla Guenther provided an overview of the delinquency programming in the Hamilton County Juvenile Court, including diversion programs.
 - **LIVE Cincinnati Program:** Due to the uptick in gun-related cases (while other delinquency cases have dropped significantly, the Court has created an education program for parents and children with local partners. For more information: <http://livecincinnati.org>
 - The **Hamilton County Juvenile Court Department of Behavioral Services** provides services to families, do not require a formal case being filed. They are located at 2020 Auburn at the detention center.
 - **Informal/unofficial dockets**
 - **Community Dockets:** About 18 local jurisdictions hold informal dockets with hearing officers. The police or the court can divert low level first time offenses (usually when there is no victim), to the community docket for informal handling.
 - **Juvenile Court Unofficial Docket:** the Court has a similar unofficial docket that is held at the detention center or at the juvenile court. If a child missed their court date for unofficial docket, you can ask the

magistrate or prosecutor to send back to unofficial. Magistrates can also choose to hear a case unofficially, and attorneys can request this.

- **Northwest Local Schools** have a diversion program in partnership with the court and Legal Aid for school-based offenses such as truancy, failure to send, and minor delinquency cases. The program also allow for the family to be connected to social services and treatment if needed. Cincinnati Public Schools also working on similar program.
- **Price Hill** currently working on an informal docket.
- **CALL Class project Youth Court** is an informal docket that allows youth to assume the various roles of players in the court and handle peer cases. This is held at the detention center.

<http://www.cincybar.org/groups/CALL/YouthCourt.php>

○ **Diversion programs**

- **Drug and Alcohol Diversion:** must admit, complete 30 hours of community service, 6 months with no new offenses, and participate in substance abuse screening. \$350 fee, but can be waived.
- **Traffic Diversion:** similar to Drug and Alcohol Diversion but fee usually cannot be waived
- **Pretrial Diversion Docket (PDD):** mental health court for youth with lower level offenses, must have 5 or fewer adjudications. The child must admit and the adjudication is taken under advisement. If program is completed the underlying charges will be dismissed. Serves 24 youth.

○ **DYS Diversion placements (post adjudication)**

- Probation has trauma treatment placement providers on contract
- **Individualized Disposition Docket (IDD):** Traditional mental health court in partnership with Lighthouse Youth Services for youth with diagnoses of serious emotional disturbance, but does not accept youth with sexually based offenses or children in JFS custody. This is an intensive probation that requires a dedicated adult. Can provide a quick mental health assessment pending acceptance and interim services if needed. The program uses Functional Family Therapy (FFT). Only accepts about 30 youth.
- **OASIS (Outpatient Alternative to Specialized Individual Services):** This is an intensive individual and group therapy program for more severe emotional disturbances, using Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Only accepts 10 youth at a time.
- **Alternative to Placement (APP):** this is a collaboration with Lighthouse Youth Services, provides home based and agency-based services. Typically for youth who have emotional disturbances co-occurring with substance abuse programs. Provides full case management and uses Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

IV. Announcements & Upcoming Events

- The next committee meeting will tentatively be scheduled for November 8, 2017. If we are able to schedule the fall CLE then we will not hold the meeting in November. Stay tuned!

- V. **Fall CLE:** The Juvenile Practice Group is hoping to hold a 5-6 hour CLE on the basics of practicing in Hamilton County Juvenile Court. We expect to have a morning presentation on dependency/custody and an afternoon presentation on delinquency practice. Ideas and suggestions are welcome.

The Juvenile Law Group promotes the care, protection, and mental and physical development of children involved with the Hamilton County Juvenile Court through quality legal representation. The Committee strives to ensure outcomes that are in the best interest in children by providing support to attorneys practicing juvenile law through law updates, continuing legal education, relevant and current resources, and a forum to connect with other legal professionals in the field.