

The County of Lehigh Department of Juvenile Probation

www.lehighcounty.org

Mission Statement:

We are dedicated to working with juvenile offenders, their families, victims, and the community by utilizing evidence-based practices, and balanced and restorative justice principles in order to build competencies, reduce risk to reoffend, restore victims, protect the community and assist in promoting long-term behavior change.

Specialty Units:

Intake
Community Based
Continuous Quality Improvement
Low Risk
Aftercare
Mental Health (SPORE)
Fiscal

Lehigh County was one of the initial counties chosen by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be on the forefront of several initiatives to include:

Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ)
Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS)
Evidence Based Practices (EBP)
Pennsylvania Detention Risk Instrument (PaDrai)
Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)
Motivational Interviewing (MI)
Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI – youth risk/need assessment)
Structured and individualized case plans
Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)

2019 Statistics (sampling)

Total referrals	839
Total cases closed	283
Males	71%
Females	29%
Completed without re-offending	84.1%
Community service hours completed	6,290
Restitution collected for victims	\$50,425
Percentage in school or employed at case closing	93.3%
Aggravated assaults	29
Burglaries	22
Possession of Weapon on School Property	31
Possession with Intent to Deliver	6
Robberies	23
Thefts	166

Services provided to juveniles and families include:

Aggression Replacement Training
Alcohol and drug awareness, testing, and treatment programs
Baum School of Art
Collegiate Enrichment Program
Community justice panels
Community service work
~CAWS 1 (accountability)
~CAWS 2 (young offenders)
~CAWS 3 (restitution)
~CAWS 4 (competency development)
Dedicated team meetings for individuals active in multiple systems (complex cases)
Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS)
Electronic monitoring (GPS)
Evidence Based Probation (EBP) interventions (cognitive based)
Family Enrichment Group
Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)
Forward Thinking Journaling
GED/life skills preparation
Individual/family therapy
Motivational Interviewing
Parenting Workbooks
Reintegration planning for youth in residential treatment programs
Residential treatment programs
Retail theft program
Sex offender specific services
School justice panels
Shared case protocol for the Office of Children and Youth families
Thinking for a Change
Truancy panels
Victim awareness program
Victim/offender mediation

We utilize a valid risk/need instrument designed to target individual criminogenic needs. Acknowledging that individuals are at various stages of willingness to change, motivational interviewing is an evidence- based practice that probation officers embrace to increase positive behaviors in our clients. The long-term vision is to facilitate positive, internalized changes that will continue well after a juvenile is released from probation supervision.

In accordance with the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice, the Juvenile Probation Department is charged with integrating the elements of community protection, offender accountability, competency development, and victim restoration at each level of service delivery. Our system is committed to employing evidence-based practices throughout the probation process. 2/2020 (2019 data)

