

Allegan County Board of Commissioners



County Services Building
3283 – 122nd Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-0203 Main Office
269-686-5331 Main Fax
<http://www.allegancounty.org>

Jim Storey, Chair
Dean Kapenga, Vice Chair

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING – AGENDA

Thursday, June 6, 2024 – 1 PM

County Services Building – Board Room
Virtual Connectivity Options Attached

DISTRICT 1

Jim Storey
616-848-9767
jstorey@
allegancounty.org

1 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

OPENING PRAYER: Commissioner Jim Storey

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC HEARING:

COMMUNICATIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 9, 2024

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

PRESENTATIONS:

PROCLAMATIONS:

INFORMATIONAL SESSION:

48th Circuit Court—Jennifer Brink, Administrator

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

DISTRICT 2

Mark DeYoung
616-318-9612
mdeyoung@
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 3

Dean Kapenga
616-218-2599
dkapenga@
allegancounty.org

CONSENT ITEMS:

DISTRICT 4

Scott Beltman
616-292-1414
sbeltman@
allegancounty.org

1. Motion to approve of claims paid and to incorporate into proceedings of the Board (5/17/24 & 5/24/24 & 5/31/24 & 6/7/24)
-

ACTION ITEMS:

1. 2024 Millage Levy—set County Millage Rates (239-792)
-

DISTRICT 5

Gale Dugan
269-694-5276
gdugan@
allegancounty.org

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Shoreline Erosion and Flooding (Commissioner Storey)
-

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENTS & ELECTIONS:

1. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (A)—term expires 12/31/24

ELECTIONS:

1. Economic Development Commission
 - a. Healthcare Representative—term expires 12/31/23

Mission Statement

“The Allegan County Board of Commissioners shall plan, develop, and evaluate the necessary policies and resources to ensure our county continues to progress and prosper”

APPOINTMENTS:

1. Community Corrections Advisory Board
 - a. Business Community Representative—term expires 12/31/23
2. Local Emergency Planning Committee
 - a. Media Representative—term expired 12/31/22
 - b. Facilities Representative—term expires 12/31/25
 - c. Firefighter Representative—term expires 12/31/25
3. Tourist Council
 - a. One Representative—term expires 12/31/23
4. Jury Board (Circuit Judge recommends/Board appoints)
 - a. One Representative—term expired 8/31/23
 - b. One Representative—term expires 3/31/25

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. OPENING PRAYER: Commissioner Dean Kapenga
2. CONSENT: Motion to approve of claims paid and to incorporate into proceedings of the Board (6/14/24 & 6/21/24 & 6/28/24)
3. ACTION: Human Services Building Chiller
4. ACTION: AAAWM—AIP 2024
5. ACTION: Public Health—approve Plan of Organization

REQUEST FOR MILEAGE:

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REPORTS:

ROUND TABLE:

CLOSED SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT: Next Meeting – Thursday, June 27, 2024, 1 PM @ **BOARD ROOM – COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING, COUNTY SERVICES COMPLEX.**

Please note that Regular and Special Meetings of the Board of Commissioners held in the Board Room are streamed live and recorded in accordance with the County's Live Stream & Publishing Recordings of Meetings Policy, which can be viewed on the County's website.

Your attendance constitutes your consent to audio/visual streaming and/or recording and to permit the County to broadcast your name/voice/image/content to a broader audience.



Allegan County Board of Commissioners

STEP 1: Connect to the Meeting

- OPTION 1: Zoom over Telephone

- Call (929) 205-6099 -or- (312) 626-6799 -or- (253) 215-8782
- Type in Meeting ID: 891 6032 7098, then #, then # again
- Type in Meeting Password: **471420**, then #

- To raise your hand to speak, press *9

- To Mute and Unmute, press 6*

<STOP here>

You do not have to continue reading the rest of the instructions.

- OPTION 2: Youtube

- Open Internet Explorer or Chrome
- Navigate to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQliZQstN2Pa57QAItAWdKA>
- Click on image of “Live” video

<STOP here>

You do not have to continue reading the rest of the instructions.

- OPTION 3: Zoom over Web browser

- Open Internet Explorer or Chrome
- Navigate to <https://zoom.us/j/89160327098>
- Meeting Password: **Board**

<Continue with the rest of the instructions>

STEP 2: Enter registration information

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YneHxuk_SjqfnMwchbtUEg`. The page title is "Webinar Registration".

Registration details:

- Topic: BOC Meeting - 4/9/2020
- Time: Apr 9, 2020 01:00 PM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Registration form fields (marked as required with an asterisk):

- First Name *
- Last Name *
- Email Address *
- Confirm Email Address *

Below the form is a reCAPTCHA challenge with the text "I'm not a robot" and a "reCAPTCHA Privacy - Terms" link. A blue arrow labeled "3. Answer challenge question" points to the reCAPTCHA images.

At the bottom of the form is a blue button labeled "Join Webinar in Progress". A blue arrow labeled "4. Click when done." points to this button.

At the bottom of the page is a footer with navigation links:

- About: Zoom Blog, Customers, Our Team, Why Zoom, Features, Careers, Integrations, Partners, Investors
- Download: Meetings Client, Zoom Rooms Client, Browser Extension, Outlook Plug-in, Lync Plug-in, iPhone/iPad App, Android App
- Sales: 1.888.799.9666, Contact Sales, Plans & Pricing, Request a Demo, Webinars and Events
- Support: Test Zoom, Account, Support Center, Live Training, Feedback, Contact Us, Accessibility

On the right side, there is a language selector (Language), a currency selector (Current), and a "VERIFY" button.

1. Enter name and email

2. Click this box

4. Click when done.

3. Answer challenge question

STEP 3: This Window will appear when connected.



STEP 4: Adjust audio settings (if needed)

The image shows a Zoom meeting interface with the 'Settings' window open to the 'Audio' tab. A vertical black bar on the left side of the meeting window has a blue arrow labeled '1' pointing to it. A blue arrow labeled '2' points from the 'Audio' tab in the settings window to the meeting content area. The meeting content area displays the name 'Economic Development - Greg King, Director' and 'ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:'. Below this, it says 'CONSENT ITEMS:' followed by a list item: '1. Motion to approve of claims paid and to incorporate into proceedings of the Board (3/20/20 & 3/27/20)'. The 'Settings' window shows the 'Speaker' section with 'Test Speaker' selected and 'Remote Audio' in a dropdown menu. The 'Volume' slider is set to approximately 80%. The 'Microphone' section has 'Test Mic' selected. The 'Volume' slider is also set to approximately 80%. There are several checkboxes: 'Automatically adjust volume' (checked), 'Use separate audio device to play ringtone simultaneously' (unchecked), 'Automatically join audio by computer when joining a meeting' (unchecked), 'Mute my microphone when joining a meeting' (unchecked), 'Press and hold SPACE key to temporarily unmute yourself' (checked), and 'Sync buttons on headset' (checked). An 'Advanced' button is visible at the bottom right of the settings window. At the bottom of the meeting window, there are icons for 'Chat', 'Raise Hand', and 'Q&A'.

Settings

General

Video

Audio

Share Screen

Virtual Background

Recording

Statistics

Feedback

Keyboard Shortcuts

Accessibility

Speaker

Test Speaker Remote Audio

Output Level:

Volume:

Microphone

Test Mic

Input Level:

Volume:

Automatically adjust volume

Use separate audio device to play ringtone simultaneously

Automatically join audio by computer when joining a meeting

Mute my microphone when joining a meeting

Press and hold SPACE key to temporarily unmute yourself

Sync buttons on headset

Advanced

269-673-4514
mthiele@allegancounty.org

Economic Development — Greg King, Director
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

CONSENT ITEMS:

1. Motion to approve of claims paid and to incorporate into proceedings of the Board (3/20/20 & 3/27/20)

DISTRICT 4
Mark DeYoung
616-318-9612
mdeyoung@allegancounty.org

Audio Settings

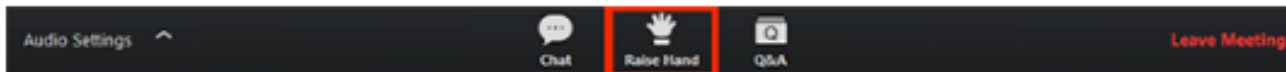
Chat Raise Hand Q&A

STEP 5: Raise hand to be recognized to speak.

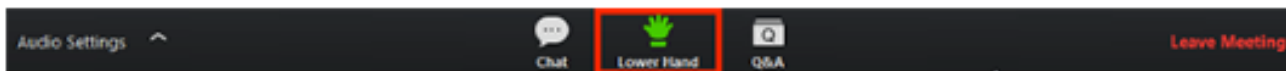
- Once “Raise Hand” is clicked, the Board Chairperson will receive notice and may UNMUTE your microphone when ready and verbally recognize you to speak.

On bottom of screen.

1. Click **Raise Hand** in the Webinar Controls.



2. The host will be notified that you've raised your hand.
3. Click **Lower Hand** to lower it if needed.



STEP 6: To leave the meeting

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, a green banner reads "You are viewing Allegan County Administration's screen" with a "View Options" dropdown. In the top right corner, there is an "Enter Full Screen" button. The main content is a document viewer displaying a Microsoft Word document titled "BOC20200409_agenda [Compatibility Mode] - Word". The document header includes the "Allegan County Board of Commissioners" logo and contact information for County Services Building, including address, phone, fax, and website. Below the header, the document title is "BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING – AGENDA". The agenda items are listed by district: DISTRICT 1 (Dean Kasperge), DISTRICT 2 (Jim Storey), DISTRICT 3 (Max R. Thiele), and DISTRICT 4 (Mick DeYoung). The agenda items include "Virtual Meeting – Connectivity Instructions Attached", "1PM CALL TO ORDER:", "ROLL CALL:", "OPENING PRAYER:", "PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:", "COMMUNICATIONS: Attached", "APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Attached", "PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:", "ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:", "APPROVAL OF AGENDA:", "PRESENTATIONS:", "PROCLAMATIONS:", "INFORMATIONAL SESSION: Attached", and "ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:". At the bottom of the document viewer, it shows "PAGE 1 OF 2" and "251 WORDS". Below the document viewer is a Zoom meeting control bar with icons for "Audio Settings", "Chat", "Raise Hand", and "Q&A". A red "Leave Meeting" button is located in the bottom right corner of the control bar. A large blue arrow points to this "Leave Meeting" button.

ALLEGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

INDEX

MAY 9, 2024 SESSION

JOURNAL 72

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT MATTER</u>
149	1	MAY 9, 2024 SESSION - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL
149	2	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -NO COMMENTS
149	3	AGENDA - ADOPTED AS
149	4	2023 ANNUAL AND 1 ST QUARTER 2024 WELLNESS REPORT
149	5	1 ST QUARTER 2024 CAPITAL REPORT
149	6	ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE
150	7	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NO COMMENTS
150	8	CLOSED SESSION: LITIGATION
150	9	RECONVENE/ROLL CALL FROM CLOSED SESSION
150	10	BOUMA V. ALLEGAN COUNTY, CASE NO., 1:22-CV-01187-JMB-SJB
150	11	NUNEZ V. ALLEGAN COUNTY, ET AL, CASE NO. 23-67321-NI
150	12	NUNEZ ESTATE OF V. ALLEGAN COUNTY, ET AL, CASE NO. 23-66723-NI,
150	13	AJOURNMENT UNTIL MAY 23, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M.
151	14	MAY 9, 2024 SESSION- INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL
151	15	APRIL 23, 2024 SESSION MINUTES - ADOPTED
151	16	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - COMMENTS
151	17	AGENDA - ADDITIONS
151	18	AGENDA - ADOPTED AS AMMENDED

152	19	INFORMATIONAL SESSION
152-153	20	FINANCE COMMITTEE - CLAIMS & INTERFUND TRANSFERS
153-154	21	LEGAL RESEARCH REGARDING ELECTION PROCESS
155	22	ELECTIONS/ROAD COMMISSION
155	23	APPOINTMENTS/TOURIST COUNCIL
155	24	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NO COMMENTS
155	25	AJOURNMENT UNTIL MAY 23, 2024 AT 1:00 P.M

DRAFT

MAY 9, 2024 SESSION - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

1/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Allegan, State of Michigan, met in the Board Room of the County Services Building in the Township of Allegan on May 9, 2024 at 9:03 A.M. in accordance with the motion for adjournment of April 25, 2024, and rules of this board; Chair Storey presiding.

The Chief Deputy Clerk led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Upon roll call the following members answered as Commissioners for the respective Districts:

DIST #1	JIM STOREY
DIST #2	MARK DEYOUNG
DIST #3	DEAN KAPENGA
DIST #4	SCOTT BELTMAN
DIST #5	GALE DUGAN

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NO COMMENTS

2/ Chair Storey opened the meeting to public participation and as there were no comments from the public, he closed the meeting to public participation.

AGENDA - ADOPTED AS PRESENTED

3/ Moved by Commissioner Beltman, seconded by Commissioner Dugan to adopt the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: votes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:**2023 ANNUAL AND 1ST QUARTER 2024 WELLNESS REPORT**

4/ Bruce Fetzner Vice President and Mary Werme Account Manager for Holtyn & Associations presented an update of the Wellness program of Allegan to the commission.

1ST QUARTER 2024 CAPITAL REPORT

5/ Valdis Kalnins, Project Manager for Allegan County updated the commission with the 2024 capital projects.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

6/ Administrator Sarro noted his written report was submitted to Commissioners. Highlights included the Animal Shelter transition with a renewal contract with Wishbone and coordination with other area shelters. The Disc Golf Course at Littlejohn Lake Park completed with an open house being planned.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NO COMMENTS

7/ Chair Storey opened the meeting to public participation and as there were no comments from the public, he closed the meeting to public participation.

CLOSED SESSION: LITIGATION

8/ Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to recess to closed session to discuss litigation and trial strategy in the matters of Bouma v. Allegan County, Case No., 1:22-cv-01187-JMB-SJB Bouma v. Allegan, County of et al, pending in the Western District of Michigan, and Nunez v. Allegan County, et al, Case No. 23-67321-NI, and Nunez, Estate of v. Allegan County, et al, Case No. 23-66723-NI, both pending in the Allegan County Circuit Court, as discussion in the open session regarding all three of these matters would be detrimental to the financial, settlement, and trial strategy of the County. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

RECONVENE/ROLL CALL FROM CLOSED SESSION

9/ Moved by Commissioner Beltman, seconded by Commissioner Dugan that the Board come out of closed session at 11:49 A.M. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: votes.

BOUMA V. ALLEGAN COUNTY, CASE NO., 1:22-CV-01187-JMB-SJB

10/ Moved by Commissioner Kapenga, seconded by Commissioner Beltman that we follow the advice and recommendation of counsel discussed in closed session with regard to the Bouma matter. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: votes.

NUNEZ V. ALLEGAN COUNTY, ET AL, CASE NO. 23-67321-NI

11/ Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner DeYoung that we follow the advice and recommendation of counsel discussed in closed session with regard to the Jose Nunez matter. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: votes.

NUNEZ ESTATE OF V. ALLEGAN COUNTY, ET AL, CASE NO. 23-66723-NI,

12/ Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga that we follow the advice and recommendation of counsel discussed in closed session with regard to the Nunez Estate of matter. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: votes.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MAY 23, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M.

13/ Moved by Commissioner DeYoung, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to adjourn until May 23, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. The motion carried by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 11:54 A.M. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: votes.

AFTERNOON SESSION

MAY 9, 2024 SESSION - INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

14/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Allegan, State of Michigan, met in the Board Room of the County Services Building in the Township of Allegan May 9, 2024 at 1:07 P.M. in accordance with the motion for adjournment of April 25, 2024, and rules of this Board; Chair Storey presiding.

The invocation was offered by District #5 Commissioner Dugan.

The Chief Deputy County Clerk led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Upon roll call the following members answered as Commissioners for the respective Districts:

DIST #1 JIM STOREY
DIST #2 MARK DEYOUNG
DIST #3 DEAN KAPENGA
DIST #4 SCOTT BELTMAN
DIST #5 GALE DUGAN

APRIL 25, 2024 SESSION MINUTES - ADOPTED

15/ Moved by Commissioner Kapenga, seconded by Commissioner Beltman to approve the minutes for the April 25, 2024 session as distributed. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - COMMENTS

16/ Chair Storey opened the meeting to public participation and the following individual offered comment:

1. Jerry Polonowski from Otsego Township regarding road conditions and the culvert on 110th Ave and who is responsible for repairs.

AGENDA - ADDITIONS

17/ Chair Storey asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. Commissioner Beltman asked to add Legal Research Regarding Election Process be added to the Action Item agenda.

Moved by Commissioner Beltman, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to adopt the changes to the meeting agenda as requested.

Moved by Commissioner Beltman, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to Amend the request to add Legal Research Regarding Election Process to the Discussion Item agenda. Motion amendment carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

AGENDA - ADOPTED AS AMMENDED

18/ Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to adopt the meeting agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

INFORMATIONAL SESSION

19/ Sheriff Frank Baker presented the Sheriff's Office & Correction Center 2023 annual report to the board.

CONSENT ITEMS:

FINANCE COMMITTEE - CLAIMS & INTERFUND TRANSFERS

20/ **WHEREAS**, Administration has compiled the following claims for May 3, 2024 and May 10, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the following claims, which are chargeable against the County, were audited in accordance with Section 46.61 to 46.63, inclusive, M.C.L. 1970 as amended and resolutions of the Board; and

WHEREAS, said claims are listed in the 2024 Claims folder of the Commissioners' Record of Claims.

May 3, 2024

	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	AMOUNT ALLOWED	AMOUNT DISALLOWED
General Fund – 101	210,057.70	210,057.70	
Parks/Recreation Fund – 208	535.18	535.18	
Friend of the Court – Cooperative Reimb – 215	85.00	85.00	
Health Department Fund – 221	33,782.37	33,782.37	
Solid Waste/Recycling – 226	10,670.71	10,670.71	
Animal Shelter – 254	1,191.66	1,191.66	
Register of Deeds Automation Fund – 256	336.48	336.48	
Central Dispatch Fund – 261	2,058.70	2,058.70	
Concealed Pistol Licensing Fund – 263	524.90	524.90	
Local Corrections Officers Training Fund – 264	357.00	357.00	
Justice Training Fund – 266	4,580.99	4,580.99	
Grants – 279	7,095.32	7,095.32	
Crime Victims Rights Grant – 280	291.59	291.59	
Sheriffs Contracts – 287	3,391.54	3,391.54	
Transportation Fund – 288	854.01	854.01	
Child Care Fund – 292	17,687.03	17,687.03	
Veterans Relief Fund – 293	36,304.73	36,304.73	
Senior Services Fund – 298	1,053.79	1,053.79	
American Rescue Plan Act – ARPA – 299	354,819.71	354,819.71	
Public Works Project Debt Fund – 365	125.00	125.00	
Jail Building Debt Fund – 366	125.00	125.00	
Fillmore: Re-Funding 2013 Bund Debt – 379	125.00	125.00	
Capital Improvement Fund – 401	902,049.79	902,049.79	
Property Tax Adjustments – 516	30,503.13	30,503.13	
Self-Insurance Fund – 677	351,306.50	351,306.50	
Drain Fund – 801	73,731.93	73,731.93	
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIMS	\$2,043,644.76	\$2,043,644.76	

MAY 10, 2024

	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	AMOUNT ALLOWED	AMOUNT DISALLOWED
General Fund – 101	137,254.40	137,254.40	
Parks/Recreation Fund – 208	1,993.01	1,993.01	
Friend of the Court – Cooperative Reimb – 215	1,011.50	1,011.50	
Health Department Fund – 221	44,984.84	44,984.84	
Solid Waste/Recycling – 226	10,227.17	10,227.17	
Animal Shelter – 254	11,584.20	11,584.20	
Indigent Defense Fund – 260	3,579.86	3,579.86	
Central Dispatch Fund – 261	840.77	840.77	
Concealed Pistol Licensing Fund – 263	21.99	21.99	
Local Corrections Officers Training Fund – 264	33.64	33.64	
Law Library Fund – 269	2,152.50	2,152.50	
Grants – 279	4,435.67	4,435.67	
Crime Victims Rights Grant – 280	155.44	155.44	
Sheriffs Contracts – 287	325.68	325.68	
Transportation Fund – 288	22,606.84	22,606.84	
Child Care Fund – 292	46,495.58	46,495.58	
Senior Services Fund – 298	475.75	475.75	
American Rescue Plan Act – ARPA – 299	11,587.20	11,587.20	
Property Tax Adjustments – 516	830.18	830.18	
Revolving Drain Maintenance Fund – 639	473.45	473.45	
Fleet Management/Motor Pool – 661	180.73	180.73	
Self-Insurance Fund – 677	460,569.68	460,569.68	
Drain Fund – 801	45,787.76	45,787.76	
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIMS	\$807,607.84	\$807,607.84	

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners adopts the report of claims for May 3, 2024 and May 10, 2024.

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to adopt the report of claims for May 3, 2024 and May 10, 2024. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

DISCUSSION:

Prior to the Board taking up the proposed resolution, Chair Storey advised the Commission that as the matter involved him, he relinquished the chair to Vice Chair Kapenga and left the Board meeting room for the balance of the Board's consideration of the proposed resolution and the roll call vote. Chair Storey did not return to the meeting room until the vote was completed and thereupon resumed the chair.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – LEGAL RESEARCH REGARDING ELECTION PROCESS

21/ WHEREAS, the Board believes the election management process must demonstrate complete objectivity, due process, and compliance with explicit law. The process should fare to the interpretation that favors democratic process and the opportunity for the people to exercise their power to vote on candidates and questions; and

WHEREAS, an incumbent candidate’s eligibility has come into question; and

WHEREAS, the incumbent candidate sought review by the County Elections Commission, a public body within Allegan County Government, because the Elections Commission must approve an election ballot; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2024, the County Elections Commission held a limited meeting, which was approximately 30 minutes, to hear input as to their role and authority pertaining to the matter; and

WHEREAS, election processes have become a significant topic of debate and the County may have an obligation to provide representation stemming from the actions or inactions of the County Clerk, County Elections Commission, and Board of Canvassers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Allegan County Board of Commissioners directs the County Administrator to engage legal resources to:

- provide an opinion on the standing or authority of the County Elections Commission to approve a ballot and consider the propriety of any items placed upon or withheld from the ballot,
- provide an opinion as to any conflicts or incompatibility in the event there is litigation between the County Elections Commission members and a ballot candidate, and
- provide an assessment as to the County’s potential liability or obligation to provide representation stemming from the actions or inactions of the County Clerk, County Elections Commission, and Board of Canvassers, including review of any determinations of ineligibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Allegan County Board of Commissioners authorizes up to \$10,000 for outside counsel services should in-house counsel determine such services to be necessary.

Moved by Commissioner Beltman, seconded by Commissioner Dugan to approve resolution as presented.

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner DeYoung to amend the resolution to include to include authorization of funds up to \$20,000.

Moved by Commissioner Beltman, seconded by Commissioner Dugan to amend the authorization of funds up to \$10,000.

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner DeYoung to approve the resolution as amended with the authorization of funds up to \$10,000. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 4 votes. Nays: 0 votes. Abstained: Storey.

ELECTIONS**22/ ROAD COMMISSION BOARD**

Chair Storey opened nominations to fill the remainder of the 6-year term on the Road Commission Board; term to expire 12/31/2026.

Commissioner Dugan nominated Harold Hamlin, 6664 111th Ave, South Haven
Commissioner Beltman nominated Aaron Brenner, 3072 30th Street, Hopkins

Moved by Commissioner Kapenga, seconded by Commissioner Dugan to close the nominations and distribute ballots to all Commissioners. Results were tallied and Harold Hamlin received 5 votes (Storey, DeYoung, Kapenga and Beltman and Dugan). Harold Hamlin was elected to the Allegan Road Commission.

APPOINTMENTS**23/ TOURIST COUNCIL**

Chair Storey announced the appointment of the following individual to the Tourist Council to fill the remainder of a 3-year term; term to expire December 31,2026.

Rebecca Bodnar, 2598 118th Avenue, Allegan MI 49010

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Beltman to approve the appointment as made. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NO COMMENTS

24/ Chair Storey opened the meeting to public participation and as there were no comments from the public, he closed the meeting to public participation.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MAY 23, 2024 AT 1:00 P.M.

25/ Moved by Commissioner Beltman, seconded by Commissioner Dugan to adjourn until May 23, 2024 at 1:00 P.M. The motion carried by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 3:22 P.M. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

Chief Deputy Clerk

Board Chair

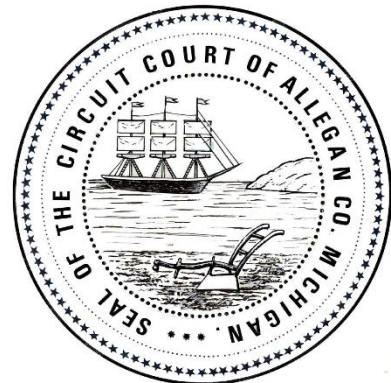
Minutes approved during the 00/00/2024 Session

48th Circuit Court

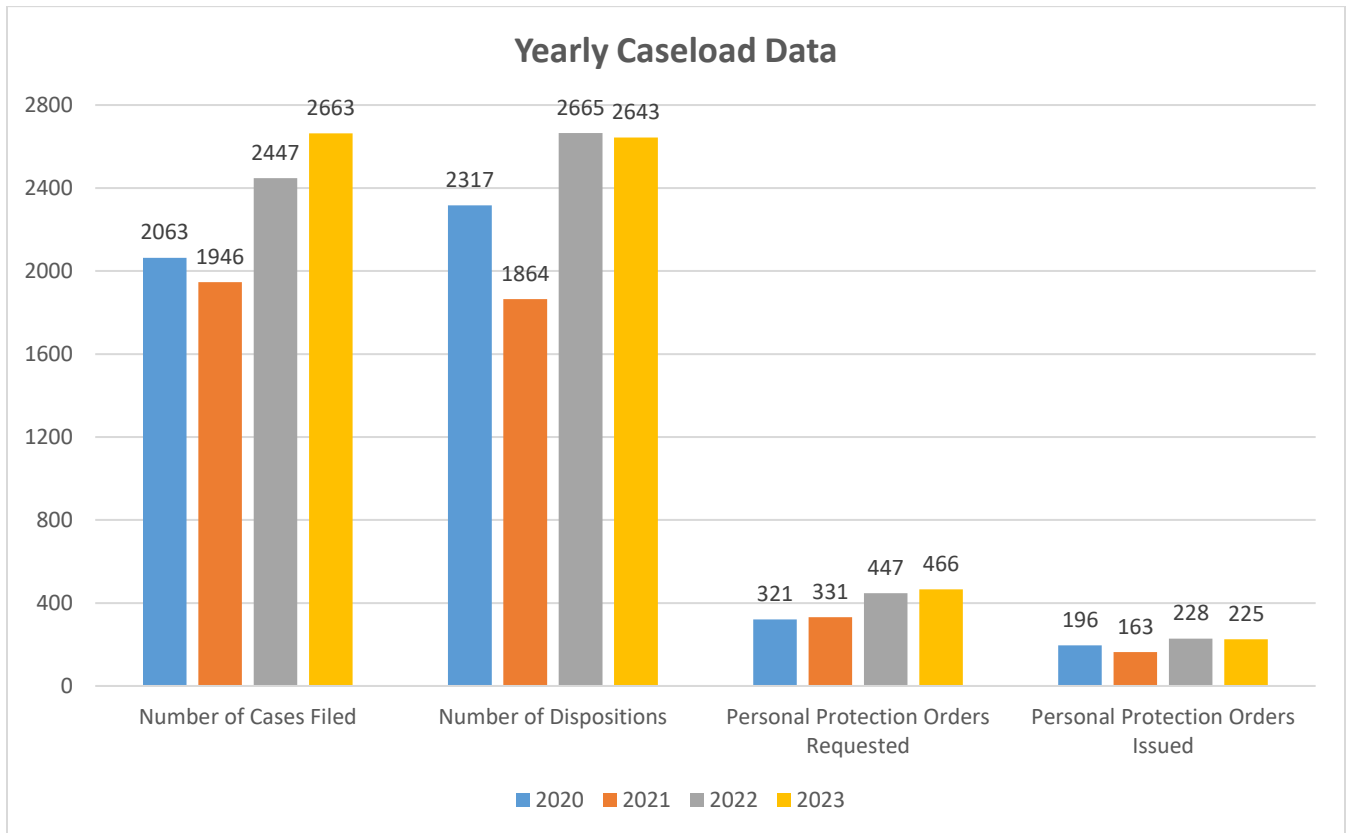
2024 Annual Report

Thursday, June 6, 2024

Criminal and Civil,
Friend of the Court,
Family Division



Circuit Court Statistics

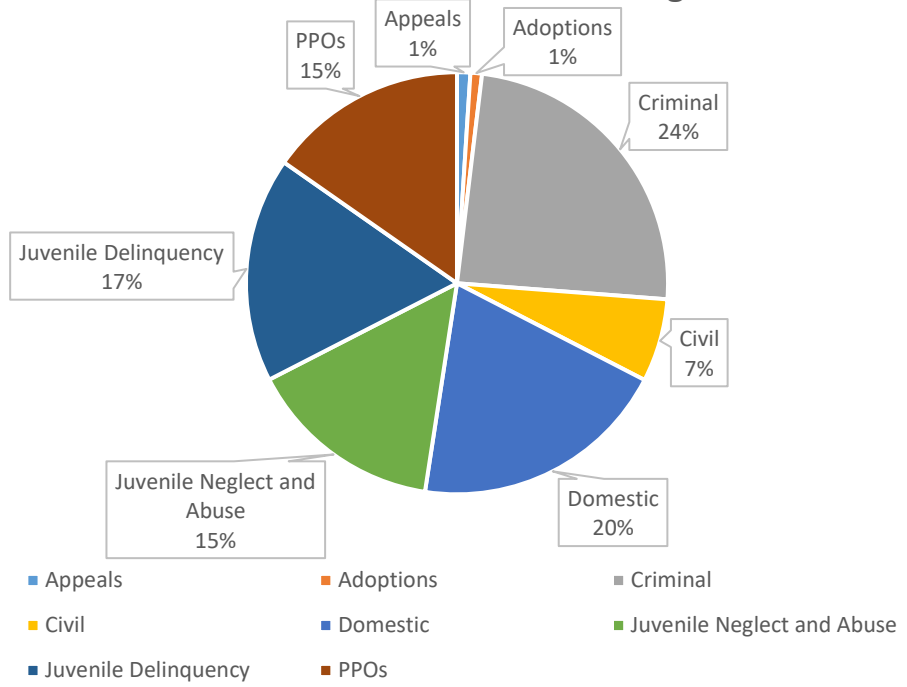


Circuit Court continues to see a high number of case filings and dispositions. 2023, was the highest year on record with 2,663 new cases filed.

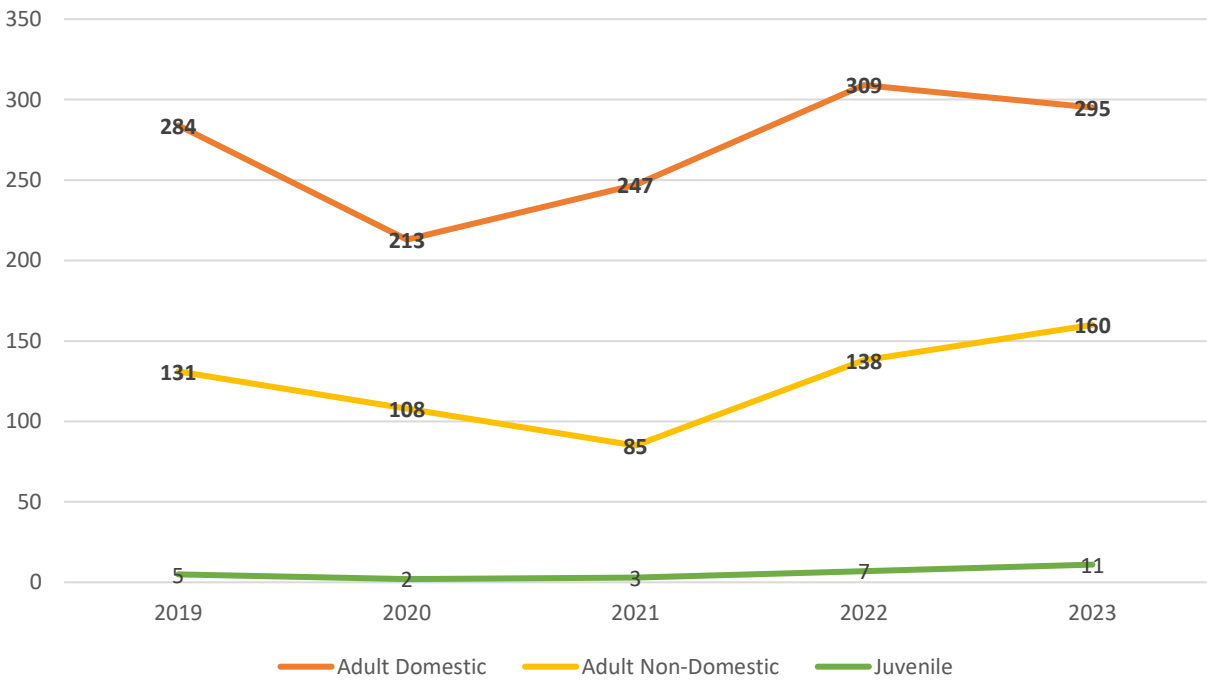
Following disruptions caused by COVID, we reported a backlog of 118 jury trials in 2020. In March of 2022, Circuit Court had a backlog of 79 trials. In March of 2023, this number was 82 despite Circuit Court conducting 26 jury trials in 2022. In March of 2024, this number was 83 despite Circuit Court conducting 38 jury trials in 2023.

In 2023, 2,663 cases were filed in Circuit Court, which includes all case types. 741 of these cases were felony cases, which is an increase from the prior year with 685 felony cases.

Breakdown of 2023 New Filings

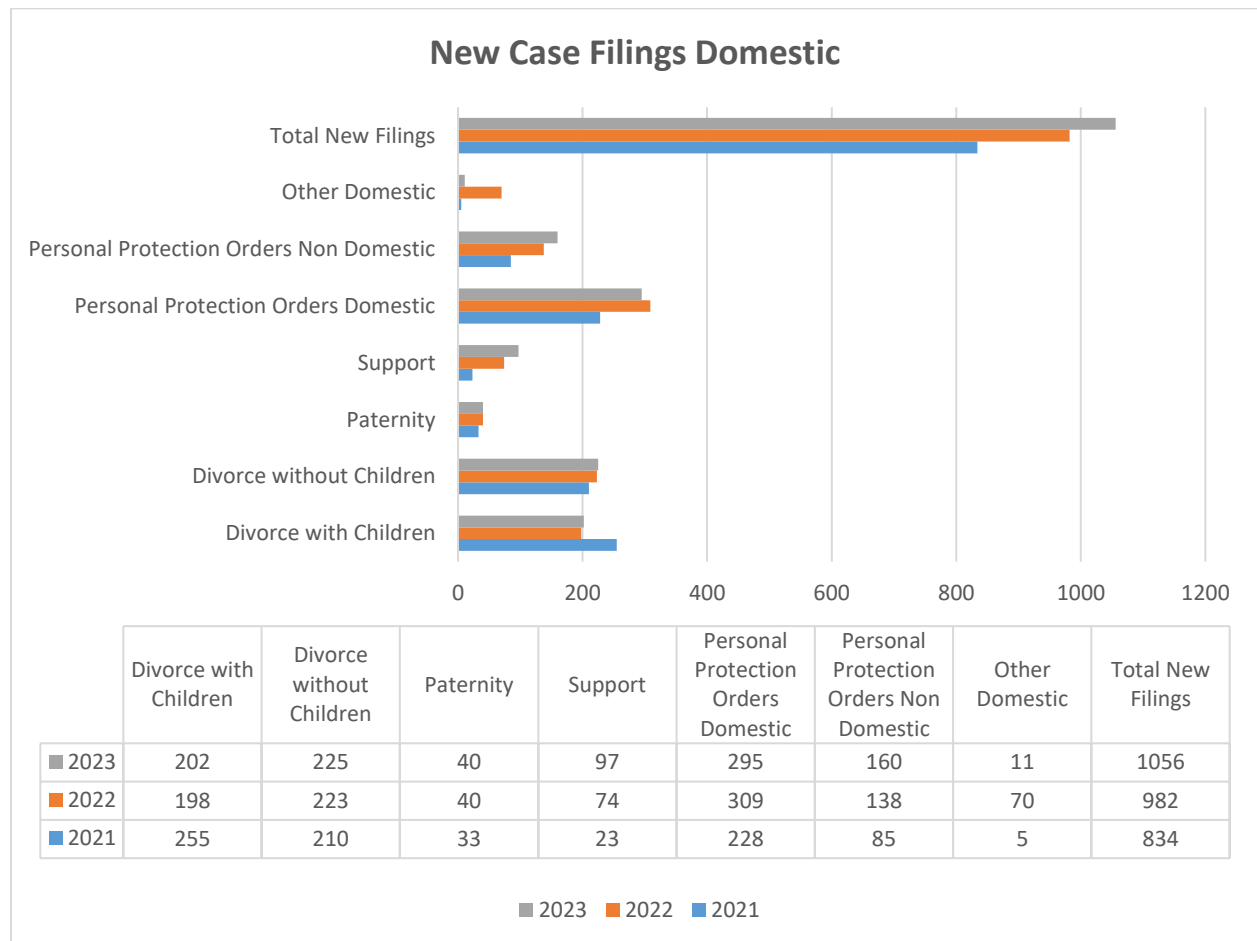


Personal Protection Orders



2023 was another busy year for domestic cases as well, with numbers staying fairly consistent over the past 3 years.

Statistics relating to the domestic docket can be deceiving. Unlike other case types, the court dedicates significant amounts of time to these cases in years following the filing date, in some cases, the court remains involved with the family for over 18 years. For example, the court remains responsible to hear requests for changes to custody, parenting time, and child support. To put this into perspective, the Friend of the Court typically has around 5,000 open cases at any given time.



Circuit Court Judicial Changes

On June 30, 2023, Judge Roberts Kengis retired from the bench.

We are extremely grateful for the support of the County and the Board of Commissioners in permitting expenditures to have visiting judges come in and assist during this time. Retired Judge Timothy Hicks from Muskegon County and Retired Judge Laura Baird from Ingham County played a vital role covering cases during this time.

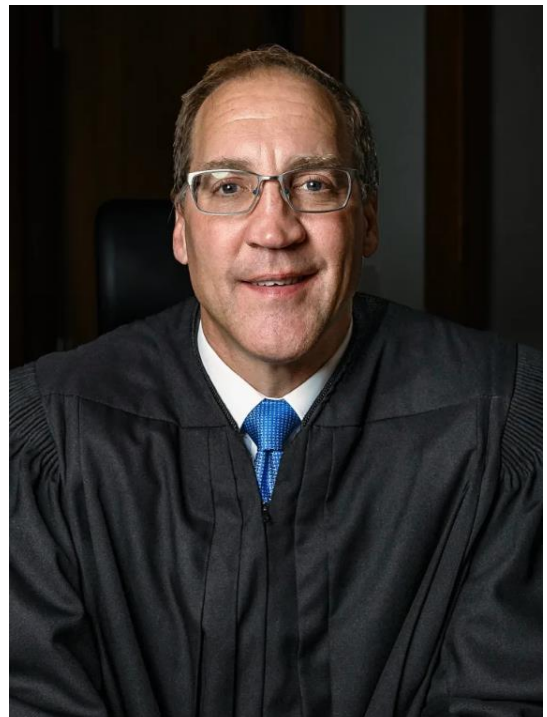
Following his appointment, Judge Matthew Antkoviak was sworn in to the bench on August 24, 2023.

Judge Margaret Zuzich Bakker agreed to take on the additional duties as Chief Circuit Court Judge after only a short break.

In 2023, Allegan County Circuit Court received approval to add a third Circuit Court judge beginning in 2025. We are very excited for the addition of a new judge. The Circuit Court sincerely appreciates the county's willingness to move forward with all of these changes.



Judge Roberts Kengis



Judge Matthew Antkoviak

Circuit Court Jury Trials

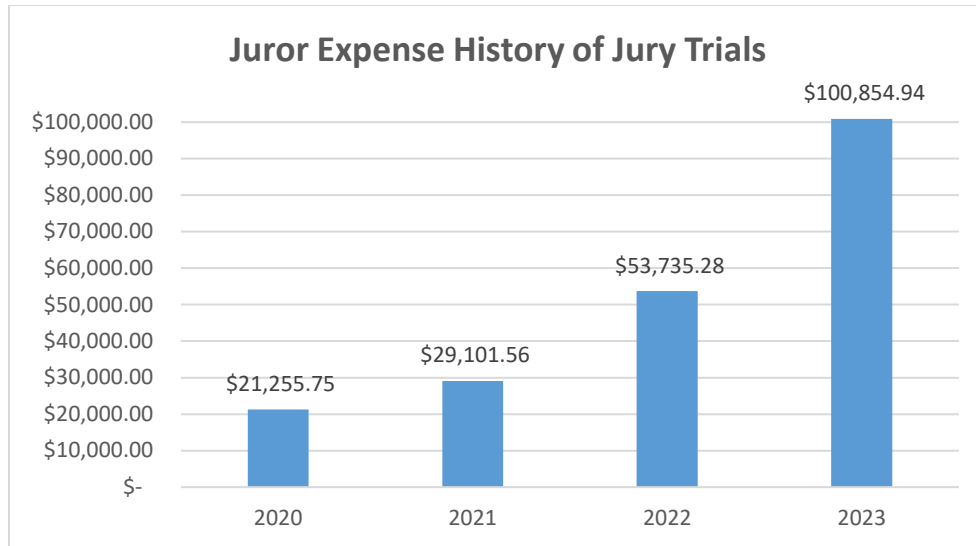
2023 was a record setting year with a total of 38 jury trials being called up in Circuit Court. Of these 38 cases, potential jurors were called in 34 times. 18 of these cases were handled by Judge Bakker, 11 by Judge Kengis, 4 by Judge Hicks, 4 by Judge Antkoviak, and 1 by Judge Buck.

With the assistance of our new jury management system, we summoned 4,950 Allegan County residents with a one step process – summons and questionnaire sent together. Citizens are then required to respond to the questionnaire within 10 days. There is a very easy way of doing the questionnaire online. There are additional online tools and resources for citizens, including a way to email the court directly with any questions or concerns. Additionally, the system also allows for jurors to postpone their service to later dates if there are pre-arranged commitments that conflict with the initial dates of service. This allows them to take ownership of their service dates while increasing confirmed juror percentages.

Of those 4,950 Allegan County citizens summoned in 2023, we confirmed 2,084 as available jurors. The remaining 2,866 were either disqualified (643), excused (441), exempt due to age or military obligation (627), undeliverable (132) or unfortunately did not respond (371). 427 citizens were actually seated on a jury panel for the 38 jury trials conducted in 2023.

Managing jurors and their needs is still a full-time job for a Circuit Court employee, but our attendance rates are 95-100% for reporting days. Prior to COVID, the courts averaged about 12 trials per year. In 2022, we had 26 jury trials, 11 of which occurred in the 4th quarter between the beginning of September and mid-December. This exponential rate continued into 2023, with another 11 trails in Q1 and finishing the year with a record 38.

There is a significant cost to conducting these many trials, both directly and indirectly. In addition to “all hands-on deck” for circuit court staff, prosecutors, defense attorneys, witnesses and victims, jurors are provided a small stipend, mileage reimbursement, and meal allowance per reporting day. Below is a summary of the expenses paid to jurors for jury trials. These expenses are tracked and charged on the jury line item under the Circuit Court activity on the general ledger.



Clean Slate

Circuit Court spent a considerable amount of time working to respond to the Clean Slate legislative changes in 2023. In collaboration with the Circuit Court Clerk’s Office, we were able to work through reports to determine where data was inaccurate or incomplete causing the system to prevent the set aside.

Counties were offered the opportunity to apply for state funding to pay for overtime wages to assist with these initial reports. We were awarded funding which was used to assist in review of the reports, which contained approximately 6,000 charges. No employees were mandated to complete the work and instead we were able to offer the opportunity and the workload was split amongst those employees who expressed an interest. This funding was used to completely cover the overtime hours necessary to complete the work in a timely manner.

Clean slate legislation for juveniles took effect on December 31, 2023, after the effective date was pushed back from earlier in the year. However, courts did not receive the necessary reports until April 1, 2024, which are currently being worked. The initial reports also required a large amount of time be dedicated to finding missing data and there were approximately 12,000 charges and tickets in the first report.

Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program (SSSPP)

The Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program is an intensive probation supervision program that targets high risk felony offenders. SSSPP participants are closely monitored by the court program coordinator and the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) probation agent. The participants are subjected to frequent random testing for drug and alcohol use and are required to attend frequent meetings with MDOC probation and the SSSPP coordinator. To improve probationer success, the program promptly imposes graduated sanctions which include small amounts of jail time for probation violations. The 48th Circuit Court grant for SSSPP has increased from the previous year to FY24 (\$133,000).

2023 Statistics

- **8 Successful Participant Graduations**
- **1 Unsuccessful Participant Discharge for non-compliance**

Current 2024 Statistics

- **18 current Participants (as of April 8, 2024)**
- **Received 24 referrals for potential participants**
 - **11 referrals not recommended**
 - **9 recommended referrals sentenced into program**
 - **4 recommended referrals pending (scheduled for sentencing)**
 - **0 graduations or discharges for non-compliance**

The Swift and Sure program had some personnel changes in the year 2023. Circuit Court Judge, Robert A. Kengis, retired in August and incoming Judge Matthew Antkoviak took over for the program. In December of 2023, a new Swift and Sure coordinator was hired as Aaron Arredondo left employment to complete law school. The entire Circuit Court team would like to thank Judge Kengis and Aaron for their years of dedication to the SSSPP.

The future is bright for the Allegan County Swift and Sure Sanctions Program. Our goal is to increase the program numbers while ensuring each participant is receiving the proper services to set them up for success in life. Previous annual reports have shown that SSSPP graduates are less likely to commit further offenses than standard probationers within three years of admission into the program. With continued funding, we hope to continue to change lives as this program has been a proven cost-efficient way of reducing recidivism and an effective alternative to long prison terms.

Efrain Avila
Swift and Sure Coordinator

Allegan County

Friend of the Court (FOC)

The FOC Office continued to provide services to parents throughout 2023. In-person meetings and hearings are available for many court users. FOC staff continues to use technology, such as electronic signing of documents, telephone meetings, two-way communication through MiChildSupport accounts, and remote hearings conducted using the Zoom platform, to provide robust services to parents with a FOC case. Many court users appreciate the availability of these alternate means of doing business with the FOC Office. There were two staff turnovers in 2023. Training for two new employees is ongoing.

Progress Towards 2023 Goals

At the beginning of 2023, several goals were established. The goals and progress made towards those goals are discussed in this section.

Grow the ACT program – The Specialized Enforcement Officer has continued to build partnerships with community partners. Progress: the FOC has established a referral process with OnPoint to provide case management services for individuals that have child support orders and have substance use disorders, mental health disorders, and/or lack housing. This will permit the FOC to accept more cases into the court’s ACT program. In addition, the FOC has been able to secure some resources for parents with support obligations, through a new program that is funded by the Office of Child Support and Michigan Works. This program, GEMS, is discussed in a later section of this report. Resources may include vehicle repairs, securing identification documents and/or drivers licenses, resume writing, job search and career training, technology packages, etc.

Implement the Gain Employment Maintain Support (GEMS) Program – The FOC Office worked with the Michigan Office of Child Support and West Michigan Works! to implement the GEMS program in 2023. This cooperative effort provides referrals for parents with support orders to a career coach at West Michigan Works! The career coach assesses the parent’s barrier(s) to obtaining and maintaining employment. Services may include resume writing, interviewing skills, and job search. Support is provided to remove barriers to employment. For example, the career coach may provide assistance with getting a license reinstated, arranging for vehicle repairs, or locating employers that will accept applicants with a criminal history background. In addition, participating parents may earn incentives for accomplishing mini-goals set with the career coach. This program is funded by the Michigan Office of Child Support and West Michigan Works! A recent quarterly report is attached. The largest barrier to employment for parents in Allegan County GEMS program is transportation.

Provide an Orientation session for parents with a FOC case – Over the summer of 2023, the FOC director worked with an intern to develop a PowerPoint presentation for use for an

orientation program for parents with a FOC case. Sessions will be offered in person and via Zoom. The first session will be offered in May 2024.

Provide information to parents about resources in Allegan County – Two monitors have been installed in the hallway outside of the FOC Office. One monitor plays videos in a loop. The videos cover topics such as the availability of mediation, protecting children on social media, accessing a MiChildSupport account, and 211 services. A second monitor displays numerous flyers for different parent resources in Allegan County, e.g. programs from MSU Extension Office, Community Action Agency resources, early childhood programs, and other community resources are shared with the public. The monitors were provided by IS and the FOC office coordinator updates the content on these monitors on a regular basis.

Review and update the FOC website – Reviewing the website and ensuring updated information is on the website is an ongoing project. Working with IS, the FOC now has several forms that are available for parent use that allow for completion and submission of forms to the FOC Office electronically. This can save parents time and money.

Performance Statistics

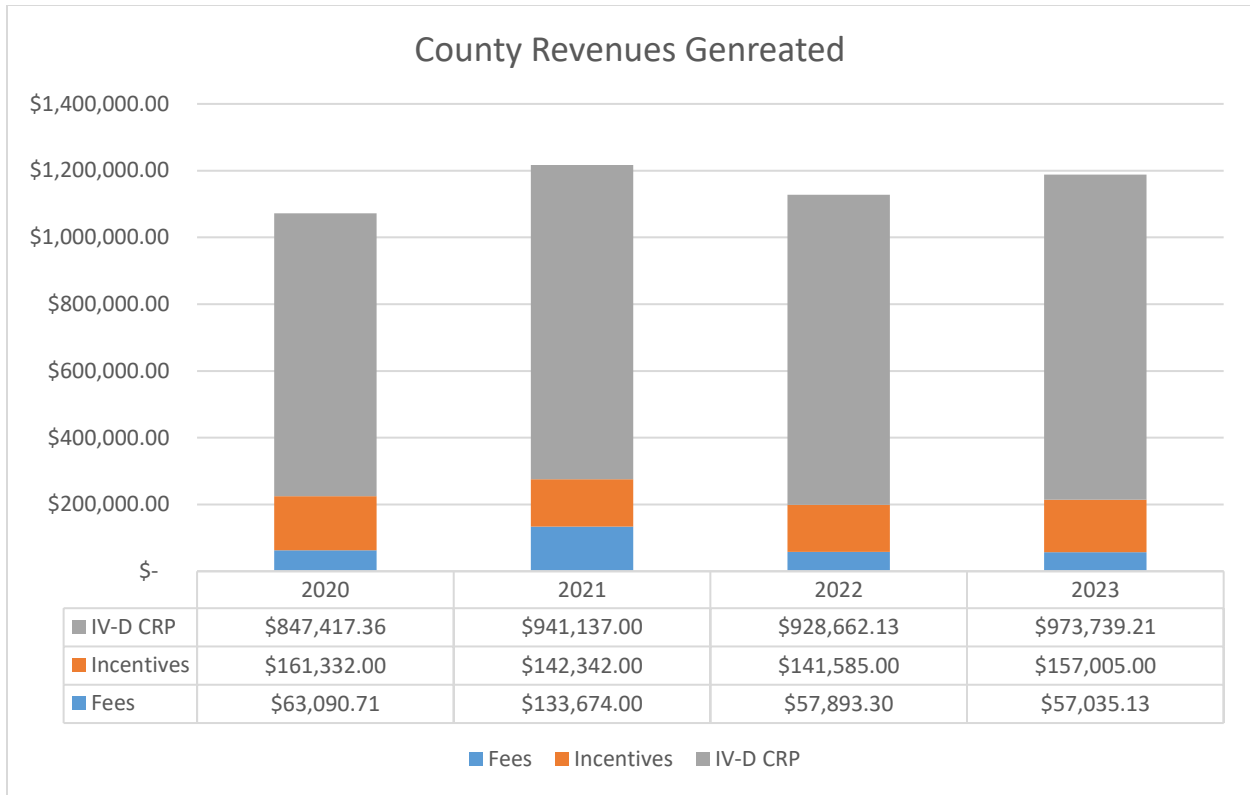
The FOC distributed a total amount of support of \$12,820,171.51 in 2023. The majority of support was distributed to parents with minor children.

Through a cooperative agreement between the court and the Allegan County Sheriff's Office, a Sheriff's Deputy is dedicated to enforcing bench warrants issued for failure to pay child support. This Deputy also serves process for cases where paternity and support are being established. The deputy attempts to resolve FOC bench warrants without arrest whenever possible. The FOC office collected \$8,793.48 in bench warrant fees which, in addition to reimbursement from the Cooperative Reimbursement Program Contract, help fund this position.

FOC Facilitators resolved 65% of custody issues outside of the courtroom through facilitative gathering information conferences.

FOC Enforcement Officers have an average of 1,106 court cases each. They are responsible for monitoring support payments and initiating enforcement of the court's custody, parenting time, and support orders. In 2023, the Enforcement Officers issued 223 custody and parenting time notices and 318 bench warrants. These activities were in addition to monitoring and responding to case alerts, meeting with parents to help resolve disputes, sending income withholding notices, making referrals for mediation services, and calculating support and drafting consent orders for parents. FOC staff had 42 parents under FOC supervision for child support enforcement. This is the highest number ever seen in FOC supervision.

In addition, FOC staff conducted child support reviews in several hundred cases. FOC staff sent out 2,917 National Medical Support Notices.

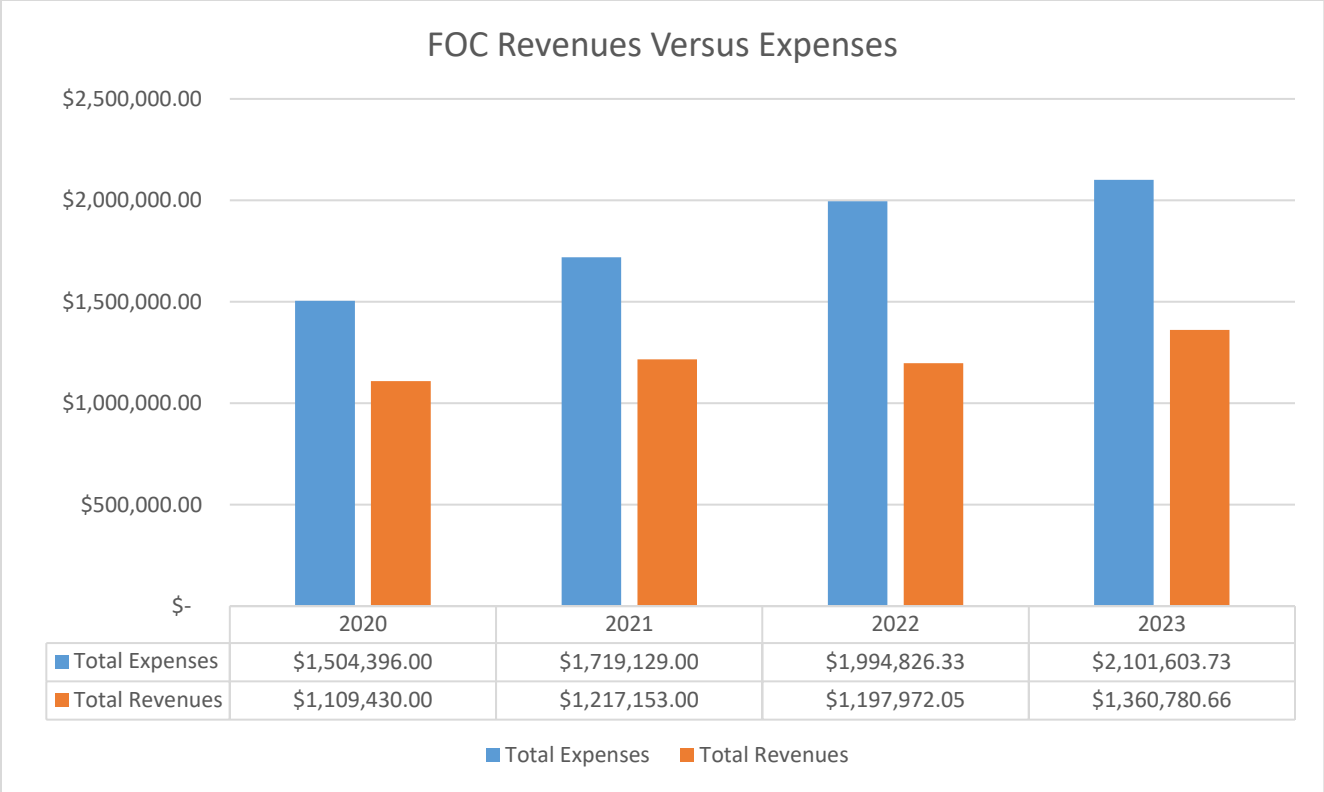


Revenue Classifications

1. IV-D CRP reflects the revenue for IV-D services. It is the total amount of reimbursement received under the Cooperative Reimbursement Program (CRP) contract. The CRP is a federal payment allocated to the county general fund. This amount is directly related to the number of expenditures by the FOC Office. CRP revenues for 2023, were \$973,739.21.

2. Incentive reflects the performance-based federal payment allocated to the county general fund. It is the total amount of incentives received pursuant to the federal IV-D program. 42 USC 658A 45 CFR 305.35. The FOC earned \$157,005.00 in incentives in 2023. This represents an increase of more than \$15,000 compared to incentives earned in 2022.

3. Fee reflects the statutory collections allocated to the county general fund. It is the total amount of semi-annual service fees, which is \$2.25 received by the county treasurer and not the service fees collected and sent to the state treasurer. Fees were collected in the amount of \$57,035.13.



Revenues versus Expenses

Altogether, with some other revenues streams, the FOC earned revenue of \$1,360,780.66. This represents an increase of \$162,808.61 compared to 2022, revenues of \$1,197,972.05. While expenses increased from 2022 to 2023, expenses increased by \$106,777.40, a lower amount than the revenue increased: 2023 expenses were \$2,101,603.73, compared to 2022 expenses of \$1,994,826.33.

2024 Friend of the Court Goals

The FOC has identified the following goals for 2024:

Train FOC staff in Motivational Interviewing – In 2023, two FOC staff members, Jessica Castañeda and Kari Pinnell, were certified to train others in using Motivational Interviewing (MI). This training and certification was covered by a grant. When staff use MI in their interactions with a parent, staff are listening more actively, acknowledging the parent’s challenges and strengths, and working with the parent towards a plan that helps the parent comply with court orders. Jessica and Kari will be training their co-workers in using MI to improve customers relations and outcomes in 2024.

Community Outreach Efforts – The FOC will increase its attendance at community events. For example, attending the Stand Down event for veterans and parent educational events.

Increase referrals to the GEMS program – The FOC will increase referrals to the GEMS program. Strategies for this include sharing information about the program with other county courts and departments to increase awareness of the GEMS program, using MI to increase parent interest in participation, and sharing information about GEMS with Allegan community agencies.

Increase the percentage of child support cases that have a support order to 83% - The FOC currently hovers around 80% of open child support cases having an order established. In order to earn the maximum incentives allowed, the FOC must consistently maintain a support order percentage of 80%. The FOC will be proactive in making sure its data is correct by reviewing open cases to determine if they should remain open or be closed. Closing cases that do not need to be open will improve this percentage.

Alternative Contempt Track (ACT) Program

The Circuit Court's Alternative Contempt Track (ACT) docket is an intensive supervision program for parents that are not paying their child support obligation due to underlying issues such as poverty, mental health disorders, substance use disorders, physical disabilities, etc. A Specialized Enforcement Officer works with individuals to identify barriers to regular support payments and locate appropriate resources/services for the parent to remove barriers to regular support payments. These parents meet on a regular basis with the Enforcement Officer and have monthly court meetings with Judge Bakker.

In 2023, nine new participants were admitted into the ACT Program. There were 5 successful discharges from the ACT program. ACT Program participants paid more than over \$13,000 in payments.

Allegan FOC has one of only two ACT Programs in the State of Michigan. Allegan Courts have been asked to present to other FOC offices on the benefits of an ACT Program. Several participants experienced successes in obtaining driver's licenses and participating in treatment for mental health and substance use disorders.

Not all ACT participants are able to work. The ACT program refers parents with disabilities to Michigan Rehabilitative Services. Four ACT participants were found eligible for benefits from the Social Security Administration.

2023 Breakdown

- 21 CASES referred to ACT
 - 15 cases interested of which 9 cases were admitted
 - 6 of those interested had other pending criminal charges and were unable to be admitted due to those pending charges
 - 6 were unable to be contacted/did not respond to contact attempts
- 6 NEW participants admitted into the program---representing 9 cases
- 4 participants admitted into the program for another year—representing 6 cases
- 3 participants representing 4 cases were unsuccessful discharged for non-compliance
- 1 participant passed away unexpectedly
- 5 successful discharges (includes those admitted in 2022, and those admitted for another year) representing 7 cases
- Current number of ACTIVE ACT participants as of April 3, 2024
 - 7 participants representing 11 cases

- 2 participants have cases in other counties
- 4 participants were referred to LEAP (Learn Earn and Provide) program—now known as GEMS (Gain Employment Maintain Support). 2 of those participants began participating in GEMS and continue to work with GEMS.

ACT Payments

- Total collected from Act participants in 2023: \$13,348.70

Challenges faced by ACT program and participants in 2023:

2023 proved to be a difficult year for participants. Transportation, housing, mental health, substance use and unemployment were the biggest challenges facing the majority of the participants and referrals in 2023. Although ACT received numerous referrals, many had pending criminal charges and were unable to be accepted into ACT due to those pending charges based on the current MCL.

Homelessness continues to be the #1 challenge among the participants and referrals of the ACT program. During 2023, 8 participants at various times found themselves homeless, couch surfing, living in their cars, tents when able, or staying at shelters in Holland or Kalamazoo when able. One participant was living in a storage unit until they were no longer able to afford the unit. All the participants were referred to the OnPoint Homeless Assistance Program. Of those 8 participants, 1 participant found transitional housing with Building Men for Life after living for several months at the Holland Gateway Men’s Shelter (formerly Holland Rescue Mission). A second participant was able to move from transitional housing to their own home. The other participants—some of which have been discharged from the program—continue to struggle with housing.

Success Stories from 2023

Even through the challenging times many participants found success. 2 participants were able to work to get their driver’s licenses reinstated. Another participant was able to get their identifying documents (birth certificate, social security card, ID) to be able to apply for jobs. Other participants began receiving mental health treatment and substance use disorder treatment from OnPoint and other supportive services. 2 participants were finally approved for Social Security Disability Insurance which is a garnish-able income and will now be able to maintain their support payments. Others have applied for SSI/SSDI with the assistance of their supportive service. 2 other participants were approved for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and had their cases inactivated due to their incapacitation.

Future program goals:

- Continue to collaborate with local community agencies/resources
- Obtain referrals from county/state probation agents and others who work with individuals who may have support cases in Allegan who are struggling to pay their support
- Work to grow payee participation in the program
- Continue to spread the work about ACT
- Continue to grow the ACT program as other job duties allow

ACT program participant remarks:

“Having support and help with resources to better myself and for my children has been the most helpful thing about ACT....”

~2023 Successful ACT Discharge

“I appreciate Jessica and Judge Bakker and everyone else who has helped in my journey. Thank you all so much....”

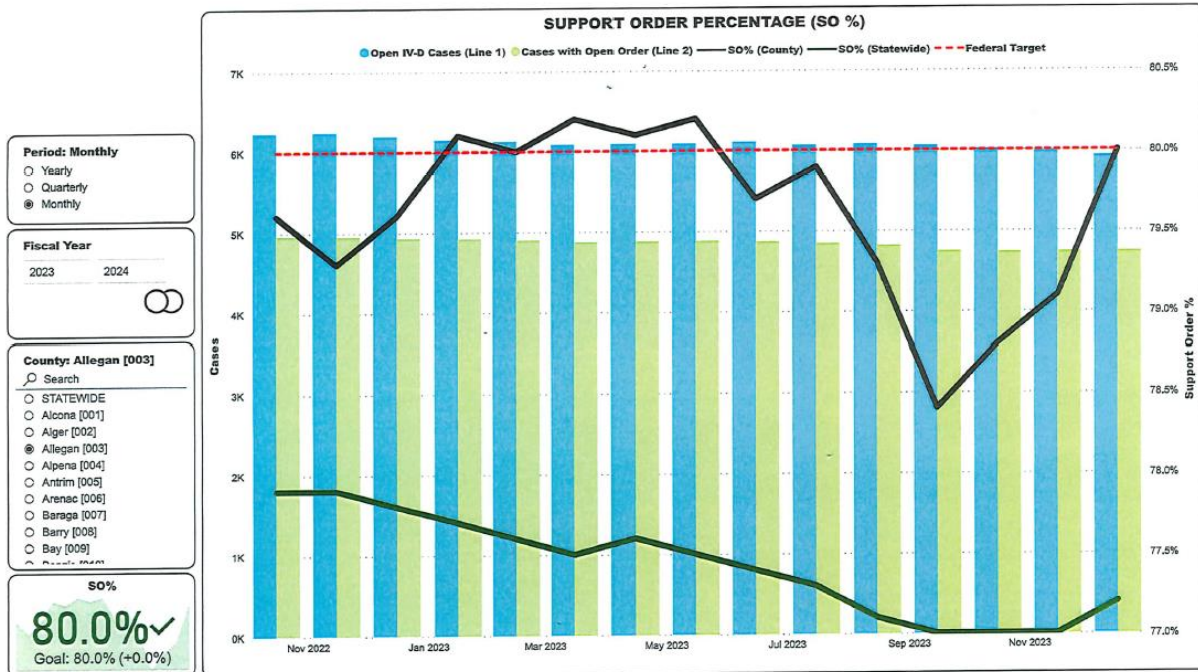
~2023 Successful ACT Discharge

Jessica Castañeda
Specialized Enforcement Officer

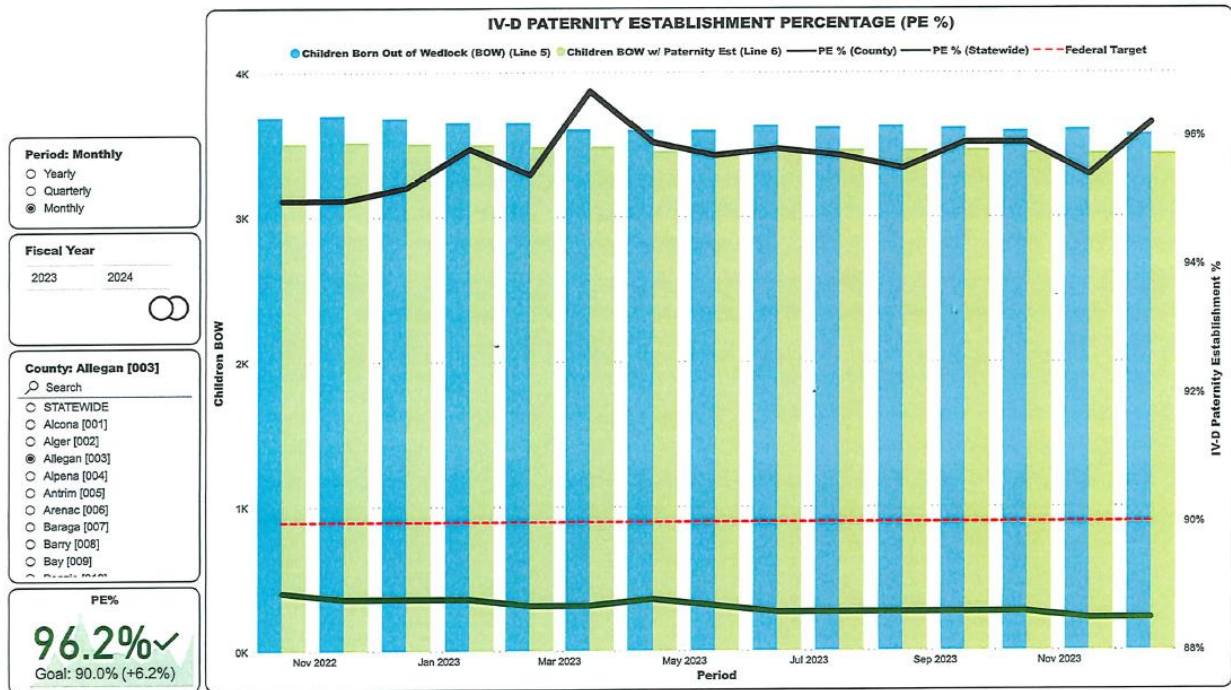
Summary of Attachments

The FOC earns incentive monies based on five performance factors. Tables for these five performance factors are attached. Tables for 2023 are attached and tables from 2021 and 2022 have been provided for comparison.

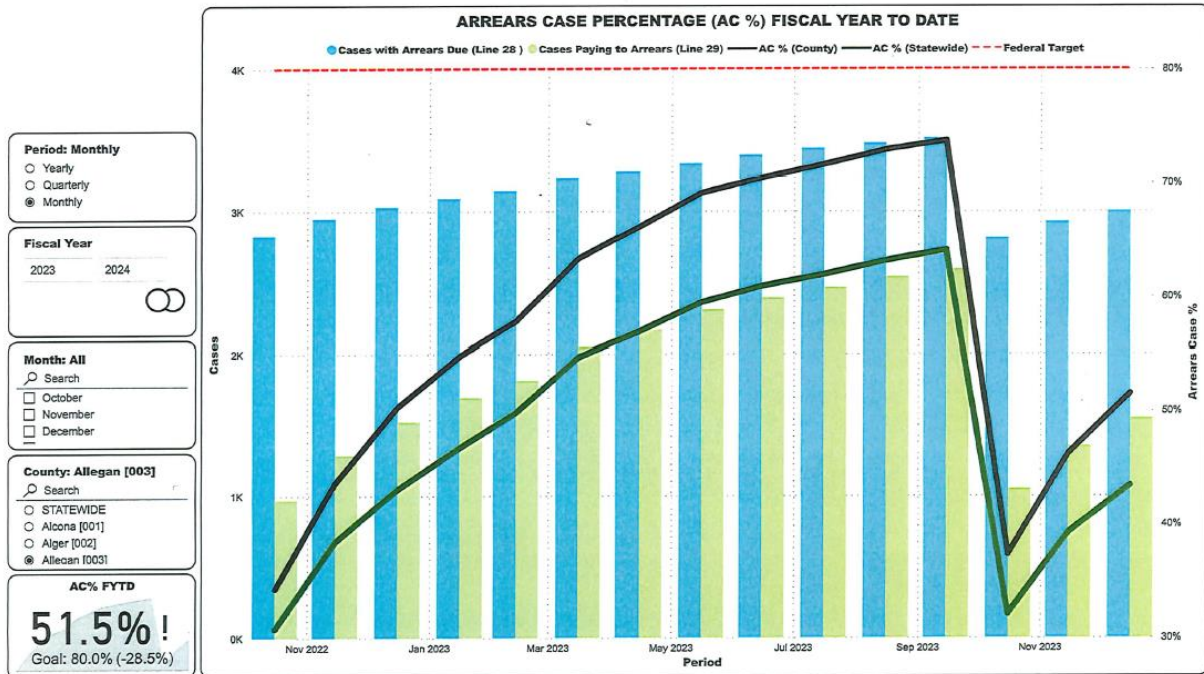
Attachment A – Support Order Percentage – This measurement shows the number of cases that have a support order established, divided by the number of cases that need to have a support order established. The FOC must have a support order percentage of 80% to earn the maximum amount of incentives available. In 2023, the FOC reached an 80% support order percentage. This was a very small decrease from 2022, when the FOC earned a support order percentage of 80.2%. The FOC exceeds the state average of 77.2%.



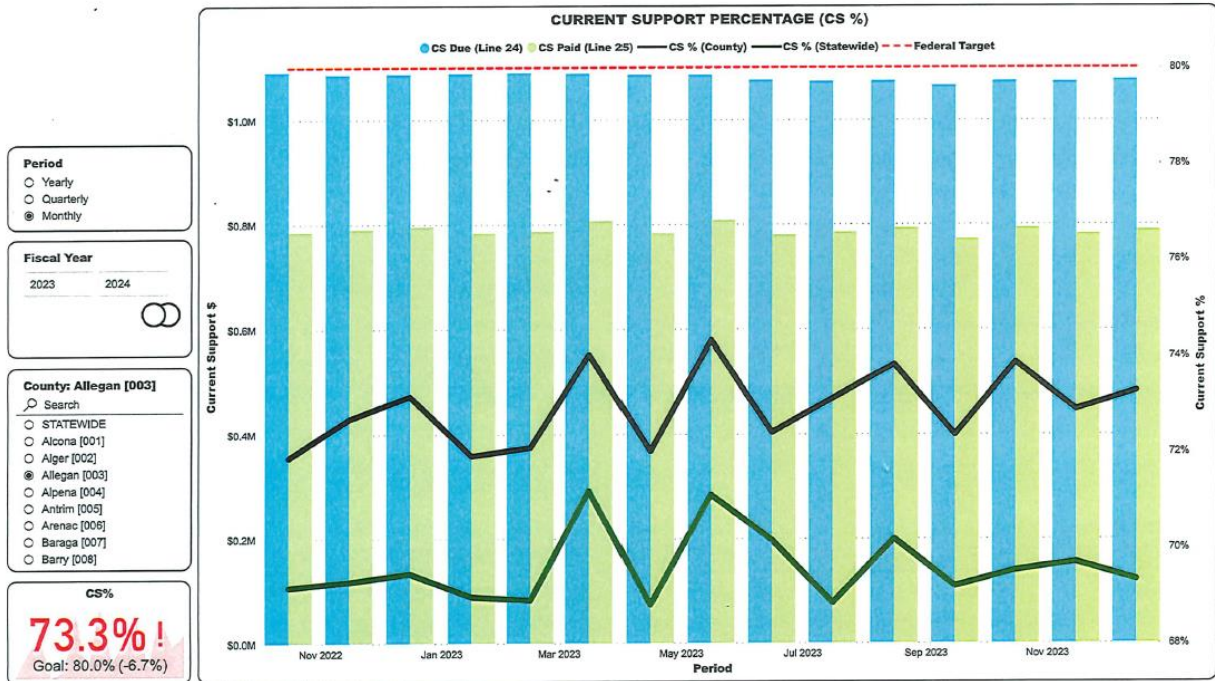
Attachment B – Paternity Establishment Percentage – This factor measures the number of children born out of wedlock (BOW) that have paternity established, divided by the number of children BOW that need to have paternity established. The FOC must have a paternity establishment percentage of 90% to earn the maximum amount of incentives available. The statewide paternity establishment percentage is about 89%. The Allegan FOC had a 96.2% paternity establishment rate in 2023. This is fairly steady and well above the 90% goal.



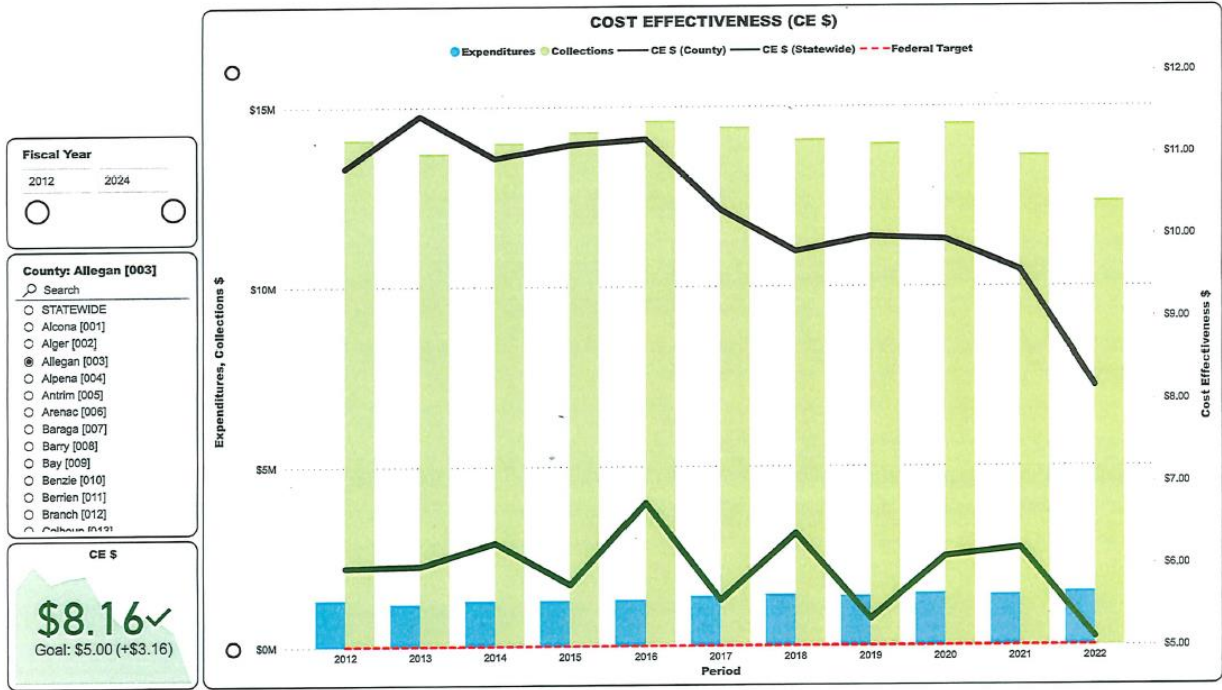
Attachment C – Arrears Case Percentage – This performance factor measures the number of support cases with past due support owed with a collection of past due support, divided by the number of support cases with a past due support balance owed. This is a cumulative percentage that increases throughout the year. The Allegan FOC exceeds the statewide average for the arrears case percentage.



Attachment D – Current Support Percentage – This factor measures the amount of current support collected in the month it is due, divided by the amount of current support due in a month. Allegan FOC exceeds the statewide average for current support percentage. Allegan FOC is below the goal of 80%, but the office continues to look for ways to improve their performance in this area.



Attachment E – Cost Effectiveness – In order to earn the maximum incentives available, the FOC must have a cost effectiveness ratio of at least \$5.00, that is for every dollar spent, the FOC must collect at least \$5.00 of support. The Allegan FOC collects \$8.16 for every dollar spent. Allegan outperforms the statewide cost effectiveness rate, which fell below \$5.00 in 2023.



Attachment F – Flyer for the GEMS program.

How can GEMS help me?

As a GEMS participant, you will be able to receive the following services:



Career Coach: Receive one-on-one attention and referrals to needed services. You can meet with your career coach in-person, on the phone, and online at least once a week to support your progress.



Job Leads and Career Planning: Get help finding job leads that fit your skills. Hear ideas and strategies that job seekers use to get hired. Learn about ways to earn better wages and advance your career.



Support Services: You may receive help with things like work-related expenses, transportation, licensing fees, job training, and GED or English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, if available. You also may be able to get job retention and career advancement services for up to six months after entering employment.

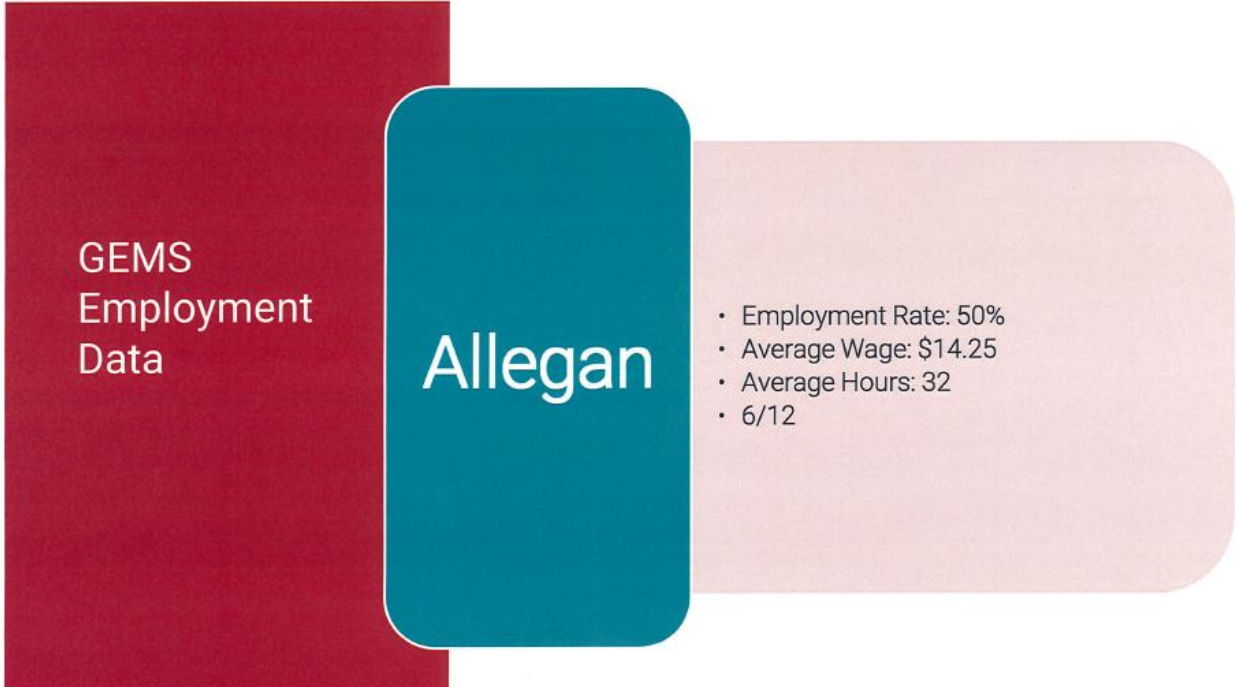


Incentives: The Friend of the Court may reinstate suspended licenses, review your child support order to see if it can be lowered, lift bench warrants, and reconsider other enforcement actions that are in effect. Michigan Works! may provide financial incentives when you reach specific milestones in the program.



On-the-Job Training: On-the-job training can help job seekers re-enter the workforce. GEMS offers a wage reimbursement to employers to train you on new skills.

Attachment G – Data for the GEMS program from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024.



Allegan County Legal Assistance Center (ACLAC)

Allegan County Legal Assistance Center's mission is to provide free legal assistance education to all Allegan County residents about the appropriate legal processes and procedures, offer access to proper tools, and assist with paperwork thereby, more effectively accomplishing justice for all.

ACLAC can provide tools, resources and information to aid in competent self-representation in civil court matters such as: divorce, personal protection, child support, civil motions and orders, guardianship, parenting time, landlord-tenant matters, custody, small claims, court-fee waivers, and paternity.

All of the assistance provided by ACLAC staff, interns, and volunteers is provided free of charge but patrons may be charged a small fee for copies.

Assistance is provided at the ACLAC office which is located in the lower level of the Allegan County courthouse – lower level, by phone as time permits, and via quality video (Zoom) by appointment.

ACLAC continues to be grateful for the support provided by the County and the Board of Commissioners.

Hours:

Monday 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

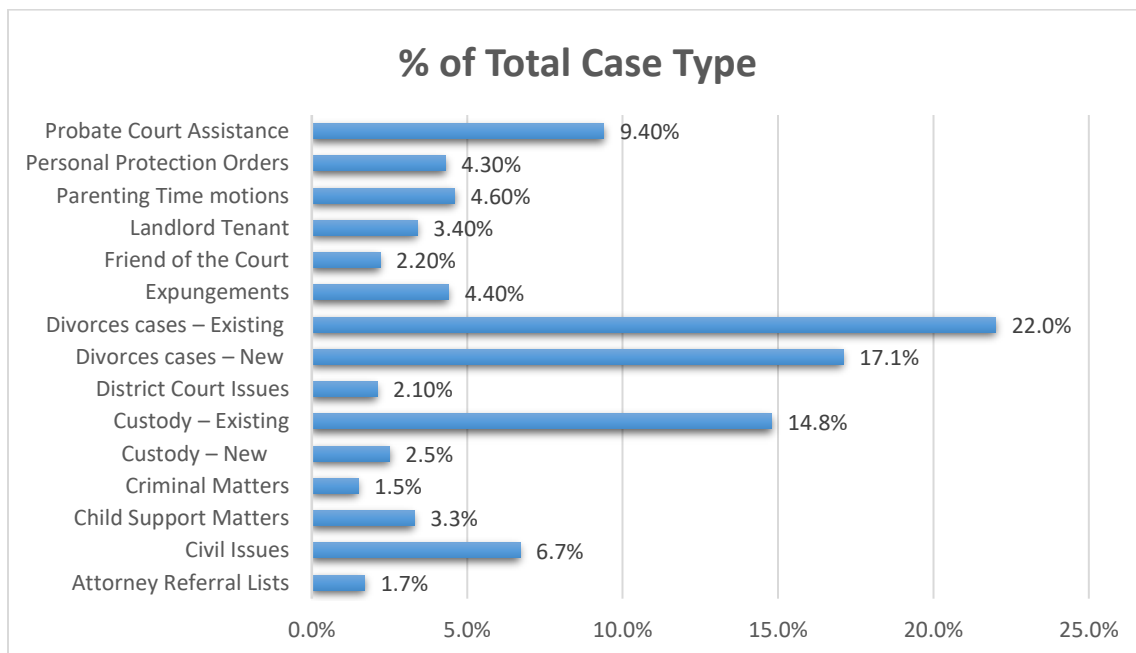
Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

NOTE: The last patron is assisted 30 minutes prior to closing time.

2023 Statistics

- **3,210** Patrons served in 2023
- **27,087** Since opening July 31, 2012
- 68% of patrons assisted have income \$40,000 and less
- The age of our cliental varies, but the majority are between 21 and 60
- During 2023, there were 7 community presentations
- 1 director, 1 assistant director, and 1 part time patron assistant
- 6 interns and 2 community volunteers

2023 Statistics by Case Type



48th Circuit, Family Division

Beginning in December 2023, and throughout 2024, the Circuit Court Family Division is adjusting to several current and upcoming legal changes. These changes have a significant impact on the parties that come before the Court. Three impactful changes will be highlighted below.

Background Checks

The Family Division is now handling requests from the National Instant Criminal Background Check System relating to background checks for firearm transfers to persons under twenty-one years of age. The court must respond to these requests within three days and report whether the juvenile has a “disqualifying juvenile record” that would affect the transfer of a firearm. A policy was implemented to address the scope and depth of the court’s response as all juvenile records are confidential but may be open to certain specified persons or other persons as approved by the court. Interestingly, the court has received more requests than anticipated.

Juvenile Set Asides

As of December 30, 2023, all but certain ineligible juvenile delinquency offenses are now automatically set aside two years after termination of court supervision or when the juvenile turns age eighteen, whichever occurs later. When an offense is set aside, the juvenile is considered not to have been previously adjudicated (convicted), except for very specified exceptions. Additionally, the statute does set forth numerous dos and don’ts on how to address certain situations moving forward. For example, the juvenile is not entitled to be reimbursed for any money paid toward fees, costs or assessments. However, a court cannot collect any unpaid amounts. Curiously enough, in the area of ordered costs, the statute did not address to issue of unpaid restitution. Each court will need to look at other statutory provisions regarding the collection of unpaid restitution to determine if this is allowed.

The majority of courts handling juvenile matters use a state case management system supplied by the State of Michigan. This case management system is supplied by Judicial Information Services (JIS). Fortunately, the JIS system is able to notify the Michigan State Police, who keeps records on the vast majority of juvenile offenses, of the juvenile offenses being set aside on a daily basis. This alleviates what could have been a very time-consuming task for courts handling juvenile delinquency matters. However, the courts are to notify the arresting agency of each offense that is set aside. The court received the first report of cases on April 1, 2024, which covered all historical offenses being set aside. This report contained approximately 6,000 cases which required collaboration with the Circuit Court Clerk’s Office to conduct cleanup efforts.

Assessment Tools Required

The last change to highlight is an upcoming change. As of October 1, 2024, courts are to utilize various screening/assessment tools to assist in appropriate decision making for juvenile delinquency matters. The use of these screening tools is to be used in all areas of delinquency proceedings. The court is required to use a detention screening tool on a juvenile prior to the juvenile being detained. Prior to a court making a decision to have a delinquency charge handled informally through diversion or the consent calendar, the court is to use a risk screening and mental health screening tool to determine if informal action is appropriate, and in the case of juvenile diversion, whether this action is in the best interests of public safety and the minor. Additionally, for cases handled formally by the court, the court must conduct a risk and needs assessment for each juvenile prior to disposition. In these formal cases, a new assessment must be completed every six months, when the juvenile experiences a major life event, or when there is a major change in juvenile proceedings.

The assessment tools must be based on research based and nationally validated standards with guidelines to be developed by the State Court Administrative Office. The Circuit Court Family Division has been using a risk assessment for juveniles for a number of years, however, the assessment has been limited to the juveniles handled formally where a disposition is completed and juveniles in the court's residential program. The Family Division has utilized one of the recognized assessment tools to accomplish this screening, being the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI), but is reviewing other assessment tools to determine the most appropriate assessment tool for our juvenile population in Allegan County.

The assessment and screening tools are designed to assist in determining why the juvenile is at risk. Further, the tools are used to promote consistency, focus resources, assess, and hopefully reduce, out of home placements for juveniles, and direct juveniles to services that match their delinquency charges and risk to the community.

Child Care Fund Receives Increased Revenues from State to Counties

The biggest change to note from 2023, is the legislative change in the child care fund for all counties in Michigan. On 10/01/2021, you may recall the large change in Michigan law as it moved 17-year-olds from adult court to juvenile court. This "Raise the Age" legislation then analyzed the cost incurred by juvenile courts that would have previously fallen to the Michigan Department of Corrections. During this 3-year trial period, family courts had to track expenses relating to 17-year-olds and submit them to the Raise The Age grant for 100% reimbursement. This was a very tedious process and many family court leaders across the state worked tirelessly to find a better solution, including our own Chris Dulac who sits on the executive board for the Michigan Association of Family Court Administrators. In conjunction with the governor's task force regarding juvenile justice reform across the state, the legislature approved an increase in the Child Care Fund from a 50/50 cost sharing ratio to a 75 state / 25 county cost sharing ratio for In-Home Care programming and pre-court involvement services for delinquent youth. Residential care for delinquent cases as well as neglect/abuse cases remain at a 50/50 share. This is a very large revenue increase for Allegan County (estimated \$500,000 for 2023). The state has

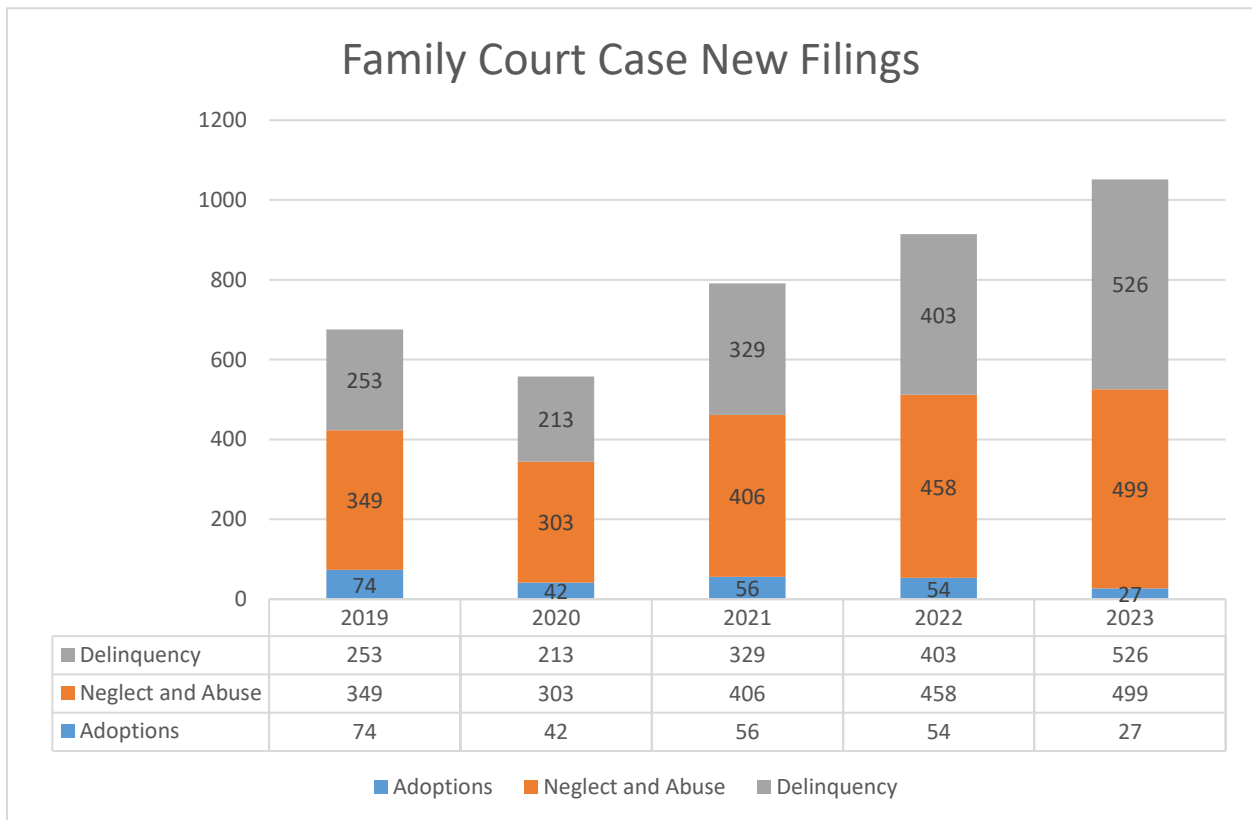
additionally granted these funds in advance of the statute becoming law on 10/01/2024. The goal of the advanced funding is to provide family courts the time needed to increase services, as well as to implement the new requirements of existing services. New requirements include things like assessment screenings for risks and needs, mental health screening tools, and quality assurance audits. Court administration looks forward to working with county administration to ensure a successful transition for these new requirements to ensure we continue to receive increased state funding through the child care fund.

Sex Offender Treatment Services

We continue to work with Ron Grooters to provide services relating to juvenile sex offenders. In fiscal year 2023, 35 juveniles received services. There were 31 successful discharges from the program and only 1 unsuccessful discharge (which is based on re-offense, participant drop out, or additional charges).

Case statistics

In addition to managing all of the above changes, Family Court like Circuit Court, had a very busy year.



Community Probation

2023: A Snapshot

Cumulative Statistics:

<u>Measured Area</u>	<u>Number</u>
Total Cases	115
New Petitions Adjudicated (on current or previous probationers)	19
Probation Violations Adjudicated	44
Community Service Hours Ordered	895
Days Spent at Home	11,797
Days Spent in Detention	1221
Days Spent on a Tether	97
Days Spent in Residential Care	2,329
Total Days on Probation	15,658
Number of Children Taking Medication	48 (41.7% of caseload)
Total Number of Contacts Made	6,960
Number of Recidivists	12 (10.4% of caseload)
Number of Repeat Offenders	11 (9.6% of caseload)
Probationers Released During FY	79
Number Released Who Met Goals	67 (84.8% success rate)

Average Probationer:

<u>Measured Area</u>	<u>Number</u>
Average Age	15.1
Number of New Petitions Per Case	.16
Number of PV's Per Child	.38
Average Days at Home	102
Average Days in Detention	10.6
Average Days in Residential Care	20.25
Average Days on Probation	136
Average Grade	9 th
Average Number of Contacts Per Case	60.5

Did You Know?

- The average juvenile on probation in Allegan County is a 15-year-old 9th grader.
- On average, about 27% of probationers had his /her probation violated this past year.
- The average probationer spends approximately 7.7% of his/her days on probation in detention and approximately 14.8% of his/her days on probation in residential care.
- Of the children released from probation during the FY, approximately 85% were successful in meeting his/her treatment goals.
- Approximately 10.4% of the total caseload includes children who were previously on probation and came back to the court for subsequent offenses.
- Approximately 9.5% of the total caseload includes children who commit new offenses while on probation.
- On average, children on probation are contacted 60 times by his/her probation officer, with 21 of those contacts being face-to-face.
- The average child involved with the court spent approximately 19 weeks (or approximately 4.75 months) on probation.
- Approximately 41.7% of the children who had contact with the court during the previous year were taking prescribed medication.
- The average number of community service hours ordered per case is approximately 8.

Community Justice Program

The Community Justice program works with youth ranging from 8 to 18 years of age. Several different groups and services are available to the youth when placed on Community Justice. One of those key services is preventative/informational groups led by the Community Justice Officers. These groups are not only offered to youth already on probation but also to kids still in elementary school who are considered at-risk or truant.

Community Justice is currently holding weekly groups in Allegan's three elementary schools as well as in Fennville Elementary. Groups have been held in Plainwell Elementary in the past.

WHY TRY:

Why Try and **Prime for Life** are the groups that are offered by Community Justice. The goal for these groups is to help the youth develop skills to manage emotions, build healthy relationships, and support a better understanding of substance abuse struggles within themselves and their family.

Why Try teaches 10 lessons and concepts, it is a strength-based approach to help youth overcome their challenges and improve outcomes in areas of truancy, behavior, and academics. The youth learn the concepts through activities, YouTube videos, and a workbook.

Reality Ride- Each decision we make has a consequence. The decisions we make today directly affect the future.

Labels- Negative labels can hurt your future, but positive labels can help you achieve your goals and attain better opportunities. Ultimately, the label you wear depends on you. You can change your label by changing your actions and showing others your strengths and positive traits.

Defense Mechanisms- Pressure situations are best handled by maintaining control of your emotions and selecting positive defense mechanisms.

Motivation Formula- You can take your challenges and channel them into positive motivation: first to better yourself, and then to turn outward and help others.

Climbing Out- When you put the tools from the visual metaphors in action, and when you develop awareness of the positive and negative ways that others can influence you, you will be prepared to avoid negative behaviors and their consequences.

Jumping Hurdles- Everyone experiences setbacks, but successful people jump back up and keep trying. They know that there are certain steps they can use to help them overcome their challenges and achieve success.

Desire Time and Effort- Anything worthwhile in life requires desire, time, and effort. There are no shortcuts to achieving success. You will get much further in life by working hard than simply relying on your talents or abilities.

Lifting the Weight- Living by the law and rules and developing self-discipline will make you stronger, opening the doors of opportunity for the future.

Plugging in- Getting help is not a weakness it is strength. Challenges become easier when you have a positive support system to help you overcome them. You have the power to create a support system if you don't have one. You have the power to strengthen a support system if yours is weak.

The Wall – When you have a clear vision of your future, you have hope for something better, and life's challenges come nothing by temporary obstacles. When you have a limited perspective, it is hard to see beyond the day-to-day challenges, and impossible to dream of a brighter future.

Prime for Life:

Prime for Life is a highly effective program for helping people of many ages reduce high-risk choices around the use of drugs and alcohol. It is designed to change thinking and drug use behaviors by changing beliefs, attitudes, risk perceptions, motivations, and the knowledge of how to reduce their risk of alcohol and drug-related problems throughout their lives.

Participants in a Prime for Life group will:

- Feel engaged and comfortable sharing their thoughts, feelings, and self-reflection.
- Learn how the combination of influences and personal choices determine outcomes and how to make low-risk choices.
- Be able to self-assess and identify their risk levels and current phase of alcohol and drug use, as well as identify what they value in their lives and make decisions about when and how to protect those values.

Prime for Life is an early prevention program that has been shown to:

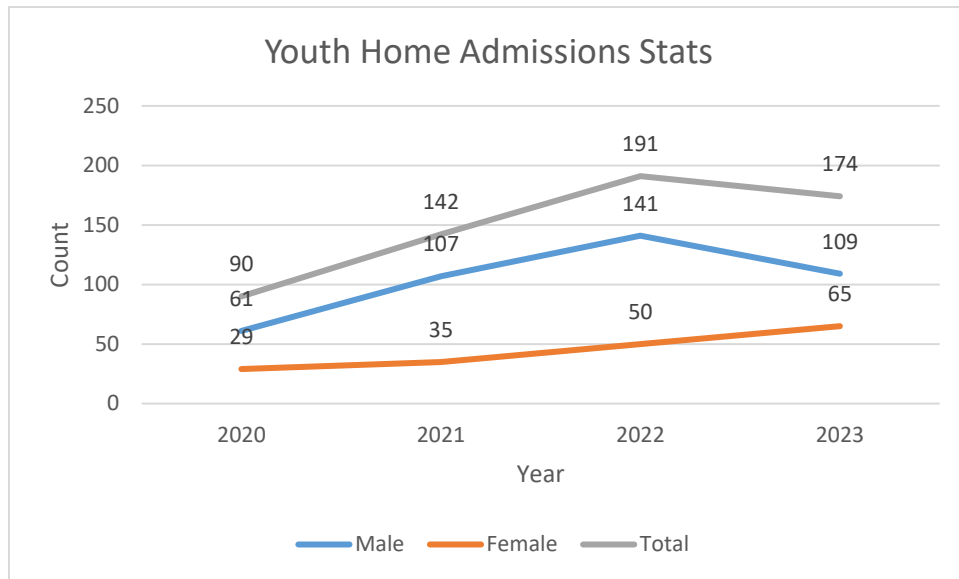
- Decrease high-risk alcohol and drug use
- Increase perception of early risk
- Decrease recidivism
- Promote inclusion, openness, and lack of judgement

2023 Community Justice Statistics:

- 118 truancy cases across the county
- 52 elementary kids attended the Why Try group
- 15 probation kids ordered Why to Try group
- 20 adoption studies completed
- 19 youth saw Dr. Schmuker for psychiatric services
- Approximately 550 hours of community service completed
- 63 total cases receiving Community Justice Services

Juvenile Detention

The Detention Program is designed to provide a short-term, physically restrictive, and safe environment for youth, both male and female, ages 10-18 who are detained pending further court action. Youth under the age of 18 who are charged with committing a delinquent or criminal act are processed through the juvenile justice system. The juvenile justice process operates according to the premise that youth are fundamentally different from adults, both in terms of level of responsibility and potential for rehabilitation. In 2023, the detention center admitted 174 youth and the average length of stay was 28 days. The average length of stay was a 6 day increase from the previous year. Release from detention occurs only through posting of bond (if applicable), or by order of the court.



Detention offers daily programming and activities within the framework of a token economy system to help youth learn how to use more appropriate and positive behaviors. Educational programming is provided by the Outlook Academy Monday through Friday during the school year. Classes offered are in math, science, language arts, and history. Detention staff provide support by participating in the classroom, working with G.E.D. students, and supporting residents with high school on-line credit recovery program.

Reading Intervention Program

It is the goal of the Reading Intervention Program at the Juvenile Center to move students from where they are to where they should be academically. We do this by creating a literate rich environment. Personal reading is required, students and staff participate in book clubs and all students receive intervention services as necessary. Some students enter the program with severe deficits, however, students who struggle with reading typically make significant gains while they are in Detention/Cheever Treatment Center. Here are examples of significant progress made by several residents while at the Juvenile Center.

Student 1 – Upon arrival, she was struggling within her community and needed hearing and vision care services. Within one school year, her decoding of words improved from 4th to 11th grade levels.

Student 2 – This student felt very insecure about her reading ability and was reluctant to participate. Over the course of three months, she demonstrated reading growth and competency and her reading scores improved from 4th grade to 11th.

Student 3 – Over one and a half months, this student gained two grade levels, from 5th to 7th grade.

Student 4 – This student improved his reading skills from a 5th-8.5 grade level within two months.

Student 5 – After one month this student improved from 6th to 9th grade level.

Every year, several students prepare for and/or complete their GED accreditation while at the Center. These students have fallen short of meeting necessary requirements toward their High School graduation and the GED program equips them to take the next steps towards their young adult life. In the year 2023, three of our students were able to complete their GED.

Youth Home Programming

Programming continues after the school day and on weekends. Residents are involved with creative writing through prompts, followed by an hour of staff led book clubs. Book club is a time for small group interaction and a bit of relaxation before the evening meal. Additional programming during the week includes twice weekly religious services scheduled with Barnabas Ministries, Why Try groups facilitated by detention staff, and weekly music therapy with Louie Morrard. Other daily activities include exercise either in the multi-purpose room or outside, daily living skills such as cleaning the unit and their rooms, doing their laundry, and self-care.



The gardening program kicks off every April by starting seeds on the unit, then transplanting the plants into the garden. The program has several learning opportunities for the residents. They learn about how to take care of a garden from planting, weeding, and harvesting the produce. The garden allows them another activity to be active outdoors, it helps develop responsibility, a sense of accomplishment, and self-confidence. Produce is used by the Juvenile Center's kitchen, residents' families, and local food pantries. The garden produced just over 900 pounds of vegetables last summer.



The Juvenile Center’s food service program continues to provide high quality nutritious food for the residents in both the Detention and Cheever Treatment Center programs. The kitchen was awarded two grants for the 2022 – 2023 school year. The grant application and process were led by Amy Cornell, Juvenile Section Registrar, with the assistance of Kirsten Atchinson, Finance Specialist from the finance department.

Awarded for 2022 – 2023 School Year:

Breakfast Expansion Grant 2023

Competitive Grant through the National School Lunch Program

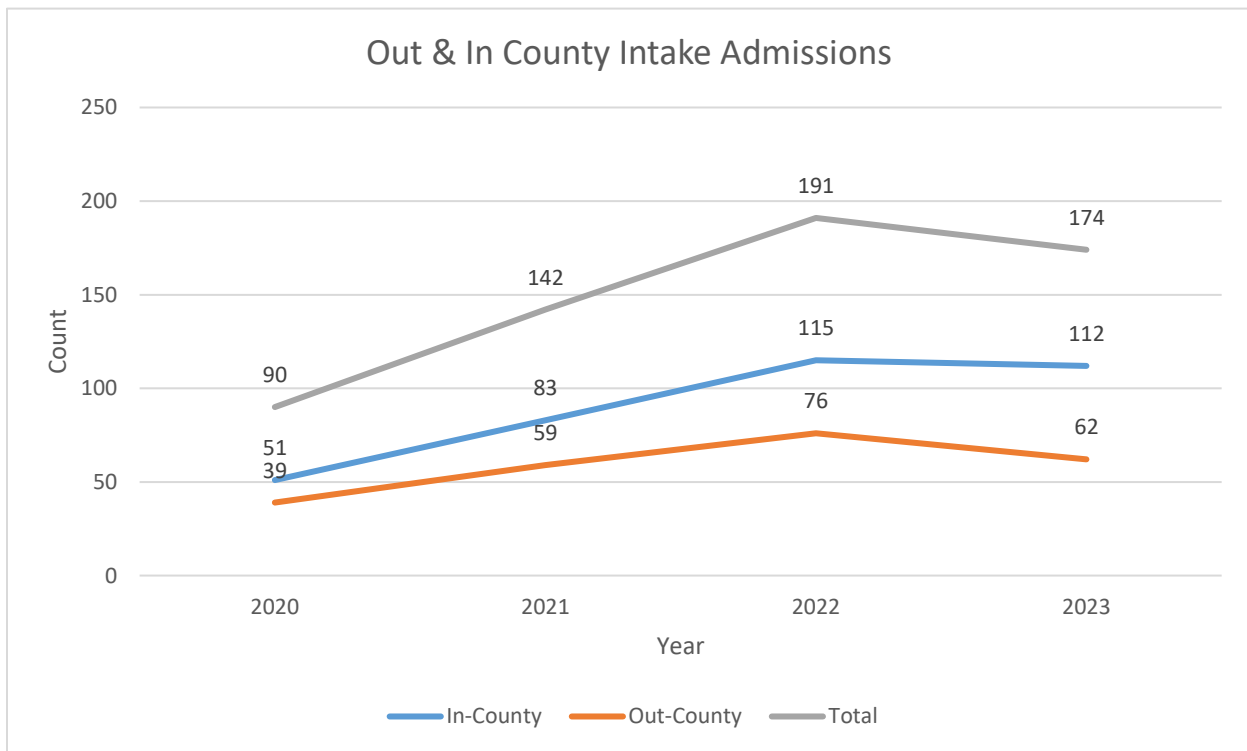
- Awarded \$6,600 for a reach-in freezer.
- Awarded \$728 which was used to purchase an induction cooktop and cookware for Detention’s kitchen and also products to use in a taste-testing event to expose residents to a variety of healthy snack options.

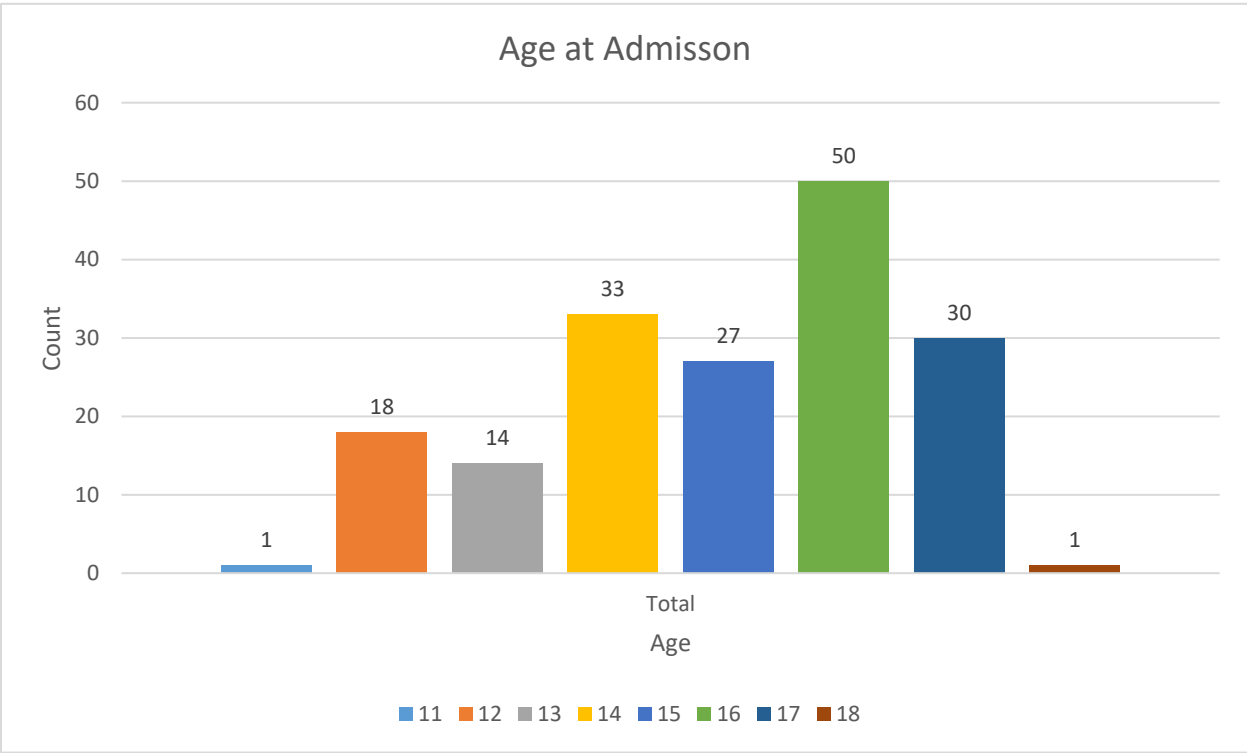
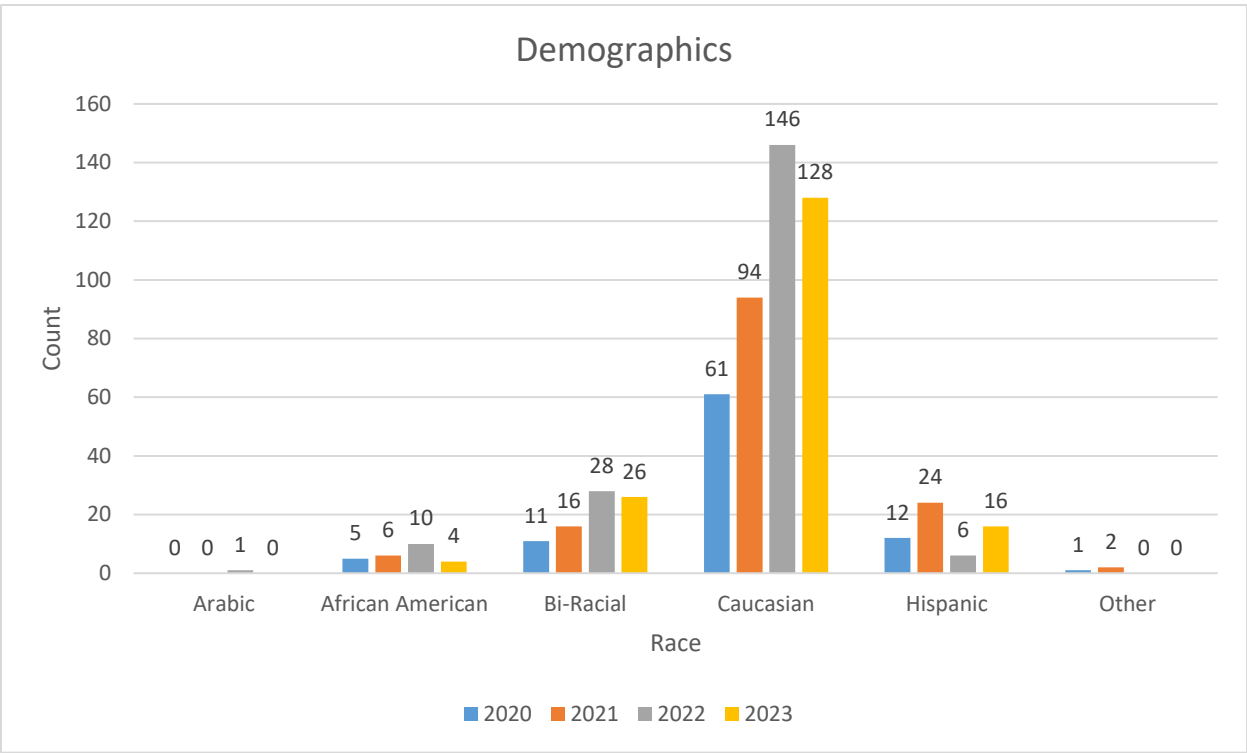
NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant

Competitive Grant through the National School Lunch Program.

- Awarded \$6,435 for purchase of 3 new cafeteria tables on wheels.

Juvenile Detention Stats





Cheever Treatment Center

Mental Health with in Juvenile Treatment Centers

The connection between mental health issues and adolescents in the juvenile justice system is complex. There are multiple factors at play to identify if mental health issues lead to involvement in the juvenile justice system. Although there are shared risk factors, there isn't a direct correlation between mental health and the juvenile justice system. That said, the juvenile justice system needs to take a best practice approach to properly address the growing need.

The residents we have at Cheever fall within the national average for adolescents in America. Roughly two-thirds of adolescents in detention/treatment centers are struggling with mental health issues. The percentage of adolescents struggling with mental health issues outside the juvenile justice system is significantly less than within the system. Between 9 and 22 percent of adolescents outside the system have similar mental health struggles. The question that is to be answered for juvenile justice centers is, "what services are in place providing opportunities to best meet the juveniles needs?".

Cheever Treatment Center

Cheever serves the county through working with adolescents of every race/ethnicity, gender and age (11-18). Unfortunately, outside of Cheever, services for adolescents vary by race/ethnicity, gender, and age in the juvenile justice system. Nationally, adolescents of color have less opportunity for treatment of mental health and substance issues. Females also are offered less service opportunities, which is significant due to females entering the system with more mental health concerns than Caucasian males. The adolescents ordered to Cheever are fortunate to have multiple services provided for them without bias.

Cheever provides its juveniles opportunities to improve their mental health. The juveniles are offered psychiatric services, therapy (both individual and family), substance abuse information, and skill building groups. The ability for Cheever's residents being offered specifically the psychiatric, therapy, and substance abuse information puts Cheever well ahead of most juvenile centers. The percentages of the average facility providing these services ranges from 58% down to 1% depending on the service and the facility. Cheever offers 100% of our residents all these services. Cheever understands that when a juvenile's mental health is stabilized, they can better understand themselves and develop empathy for others. Our juveniles are healthier overall thus being safer in the community. The ability we have to offer the proper services for today's juveniles provides the greatest possibility of success for them to return to the community within Allegan County.

2023 Cheever Statistics

- 26 youth served (16 males, 10 females)
- 1040 individual therapy sessions held
- 390 family therapy sessions held
- 240 hours of learning groups held
- 590 hours of community service completed

2023 Back to School Drive

Cheever staff along with community partners were able to complete a back-to-school drive to cover needed school supplies for Cheever, Youth Home, and Outlook Academy students.



Looking Towards the Future

The staff of Cheever consistently evaluate the needs of our adolescents to the services provided. All signs speak to the percentage of adolescents entering the juvenile system in correlation with mental health struggles rising over the coming years. Cheever will continue to adjust to meet the adolescent's mental health needs effectively.

S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

FINANCE - CLAIMS & INTERFUND TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, Administration has compiled the following claims for 5/17/24, 5/24/24, 5/31/24, 6/7/24; and

WHEREAS, the following claims, which are chargeable against the County, were audited in accordance with Section 46.61 to 46.63, inclusive, M.C.L. 1970 as amended and resolutions of the Board; and

WHEREAS, said claims are listed in the 2024 Claims folder of the Commissioners' Record of Claims.

May 17, 2024

	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	AMOUNT ALLOWED	AMOUNT DISALLOWED
General Fund - 101	221,673.19	221,673.19	
Parks/Recreation Fund - 208	541.05	541.05	
Friend of the Court - Cooperative Reimb - 215	1,684.39	1,684.39	
Health Department Fund - 221	2,927.31	2,927.31	
Solid Waste/Recycling - 226	77,054.09	77,054.09	
Animal Shelter - 254	1,061.19	1,061.19	
Indigent Defense Fund - 260	57,634.66	57,634.66	
Central Dispatch Fund - 261	63,368.15	63,368.15	
Justice Training Fund - 266	1,188.20	1,188.20	
Grants - 279	1,862.50	1,862.50	
Sheriffs Contracts - 287	8,205.16	8,205.16	
Transportation Fund - 288	113,930.31	113,930.31	
Child Care Fund - 292	7,396.58	7,396.58	
Senior Services Fund - 298	74,834.99	74,834.99	
Property Tax Adjustments - 516	47,465.39	47,465.39	
Tax Reversion 2020 - 621	175.00	175.00	
Tax Reversion 2018 - 629	545.50	545.50	
Fleet Management/Motor Pool - 661	15.87	15.87	
Self-Insurance Fund - 677	1,437.66	1,437.66	
Drain Fund - 801	24,671.20	24,671.20	
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIMS	\$707,672.39	\$707,672.39	

May 24, 2024

	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	AMOUNT ALLOWED	AMOUNT DISALLOWED
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General Fund - 101	94,572.41	94,572.41	
Parks/Recreation Fund - 208	3,174.31	3,174.31	
Friend of the Court - Cooperative Reimb - 215	82.49	82.49	
Friend of the Court - Other - 216	340.00	340.00	
Health Department Fund - 221	1,357.39	1,357.39	
Animal Shelter - 254	723.10	723.10	
Indigent Defense Fund - 260	17,919.30	17,919.30	
Central Dispatch Fund - 261	1,054.04	1,054.04	
Grants - 279	2,120.90	2,120.90	
Crime Victims Rights Grant - 280	66.75	66.75	
Transportation Fund - 288	4,076.52	4,076.52	
Child Care Fund - 292	26,852.21	26,852.21	
Veterans Relief Fund - 293	1,590.51	1,590.51	
Senior Services Fund - 298	118,639.74	118,639.74	
American Rescue Plan Act - ARPA - 299	27,503.60	27,503.60	
Property Tax Adjustments - 516	14,329.38	14,329.38	
Tax Reversion 2021 - 622	350.00	350.00	
Fleet Management/Motor Pool - 661	46.82	46.82	
Self-Insurance Fund - 677	27,876.98	27,876.98	
Drain Fund - 801	16,627.77	16,627.77	
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIMS	\$359,304.22	\$359,304.22	

May 31, 2024

	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	AMOUNT ALLOWED	AMOUNT DISALLOWED
General Fund - 101	96,120.42	96,120.42	
Friend of the Court - Cooperative Reimb - 215	97.05	97.05	
Health Department Fund - 221	2,509.18	2,509.18	
Solid Waste/Recycling Fund - 226	7,084.76	7,084.76	
Animal Shelter - 254	677.81	677.81	
Register of Deeds Automation Fund - 256	105.07	105.07	
Indigent Defense Fund - 260	134.00	134.00	
Central Dispatch Fund - 261	4,872.55	4,872.55	
CDBG Program Income Fund - 277	30.00	30.00	
Grants - 279	11,162.31	11,162.31	
Sheriffs Contracts - 287	47,519.86	47,519.86	

Transportation Fund - 288	4,846.64	4,846.64	
Child Care Fund - 292	5,630.51	5,630.51	
Veterans Relief Fund - 293	3.89	3.89	
Senior Services Fund - 298	3,457.94	3,457.94	
Capital Improvement Fund - 401	79,171.00	79,171.00	
Property Tax Adjustments - 516	16,494.84	16,494.84	
Revolving Drain Maintenance Fund - 639	36.01	36.01	
Fleet Management/Motor Pool - 661	4,665.00	4,665.00	
Drain Fund - 801	3,880.00	3,880.00	
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIMS	\$288,498.84	\$288,498.84	

June 7, 2024

	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	AMOUNT ALLOWED	AMOUNT DISALLOWED
General Fund - 101	137,933.30	137,933.30	
Friend of the Court - Cooperative Reimb - 215	335.96	335.96	
Health Department Fund - 221	7,126.52	7,126.52	
Solid Waste/Recycling Fund - 226	20,298.99	20,298.99	
Register of Deeds Automation Fund - 256	649.93	649.93	
Indigent Defense Fund - 260	3,839.41	3,839.41	
Central Dispatch Fund - 261	3,330.50	3,330.50	
Local Corrections Officers Training Fund - 264	531.30	531.30	
Justice Training Fund - 266	1,990.00	1,990.00	
Law Library Fund - 269	2,152.50	2,152.50	
Transportation Fund - 288	3,491.75	3,491.75	
Child Care Fund - 292	20,190.72	20,190.72	
Veterans Relief Fund - 293	5.23	5.23	
Senior Services Fund - 298	1,233.68	1,233.68	
American Rescue Plan Act - ARPA - 299	415.92	415.92	
Capital Improvement Fund - 401	13,950.00	13,950.00	
Property Tax Adjustments - 516	4,747.31	4,747.31	
Tax Reversion - 620	280.00	280.00	
Revolving Drain Maintenance Fund - 639	20.00	20.00	
Self-Insurance Fund - 677	511,873.07	511,873.07	
Drain Fund - 801	1,090,607.23	1,090,607.23	

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIMS	\$1,825,003.32	\$1,825,003.32	
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners adopts the report of claims for 5/17/24, 5/24/24, 5/31/24, 6/7/24, and interfund transfers.

S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

2024 MILLAGE LEVY - SET COUNTY MILLAGE RATES

WHEREAS, pursuant to State Law (MCL 141.412 and 141.413), a notice of a public hearing concerning the 2024 County Budget was published in the Allegan County News, a newspaper of general circulation, on October 5, 2023, and a public hearing concerning the budget was held on October 12, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners (Board) adopted a Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriation on October 12, 2023; and

WHEREAS, having held said hearing, the Board has determined the levy of said proposed millage to be in the best interests of the County.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the following millages to be levied throughout the County of Allegan in the year of 2024:

County Operating Tax	5.1419
Allocated - Veterans Relief Fund	<u>0.0200</u>
TOTAL COUNTY OPERATING	5.1619
SENIOR SERVICES	0.4887
MEDICAL CARE FACILITY	0.2426
ALLEGAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	<u>0.0970</u>
TOTAL COUNTY MILLAGE	6.9472

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the Board Chairperson and County Clerk are authorized to sign the necessary documents on behalf of the Board.

S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

SHORELINE EROSION AND FLOODING

WHEREAS, Allegan County and neighboring Lake Michigan shoreline counties have suffered substantial damage to both public and private structures because of record-breaking high-water levels driven by a series of high-velocity windstorms; and

WHEREAS, said damage has been reported to state and federal officials repeatedly since November 2019 and throughout the present year of 2024, causing state legislators to request an emergency declaration from the Governor of this state many months distant; and

WHEREAS, public safety officials have monitored closely the washout of Lakeshore Drive, Saugatuck Township, Allegan County since November 2019, when the erosion action of Lake Michigan's current condition caused the first weakening of said road; and

WHEREAS, citizens often look to local governments, including counties and townships, state and federal agencies to preserve and protect life and property; and

WHEREAS, Allegan County local governments have expended considerable resources to address the road washout; and

WHEREAS, the Allegan County Road Commission and Saugatuck Township are expending funds to plan a road relocation to remedy this matter and will be requesting state and federal infrastructure funds to relocate the road.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners (Board) supports the requests from the Allegan County Road Commission to receive immediate financial aid from the State of Michigan and Federal Governments' infrastructure funds needed to remedy this threat to public safety, which exceeds the ability of local governments to address alone and which has been identified for several decades; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board requests Senators Stabenow and Peters, Congressman Huizenga, and all Allegan County representatives in the legislature to support the Allegan County Road Commission and Saugatuck Township's request for infrastructure funds.

