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Awakening Peace - End of the Year Evaluation Report, June 30, 1974

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END OF THE YEAR EVALUATION REPORT FOR THE AWAKENING PEACE
(For Year Ending June 30, 1974)

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The purpose of this report is to summarize the evaluation data collected for the Awakening Peace. For the purposes of presentation the evaluation report has been divided into four sections. The first section will deal with the overview of the research strategy. The second section will be concerned with the report of data collected on the adult diversion program. The third section will deal with the analysis of data collected in conjunction with the Work/Study program. Finally, the last section will deal with the analysis of the juvenile diversion program.

Overview of the
Research Strategy

The Awakening Peace is a youth counseling and alternatives center. The goal of the program is to provide individual, family, and group counseling in an attempt to help families work-out and find new solutions to problems.

The evaluation program was designed to determine the effectiveness of the various alternative services offered by the center.

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Evaluation

The evaluation paradigm was developed by the La Jolla Human Research Laboratory. After reviewing the goals of the various programs, relevant data sources were determined. Specifically, to evaluate the adult diversion program a follow-up research strategy was decided upon. With this strategy a selected number of adult diversion participants were follow-up to determine an index of recidivism. Data sources included information obtained through the District Attorney's office.

The data source used in the evaluation of the Work/Study program was obtained from school records. The records were delimited to grade point data only. An effort was made to obtain these data directly from the school records, thereby insuring greater validity.

The data source used to evaluate the juvenile diversion program was obtained through the cooperation of the probation department. Specifically, recidivism rates were used as the target data.

In all phases of the evaluation design controls and contrast groups were sought. However, considering the subtle nature of the data and the unavailability of control populations rigorous contrasting groups and controlled data sources were not available.

One staff member at the Awakening Peace was trained as the liaison person with the evaluation group and was trained in the methods of data collection. Additionally, program coordinators were given training in the methods of data

collection to be utilized and briefed on the research paradigm. It should be noted that the liaison person terminated with the Awakening Peace during the process of the data collection. His termination created some confusion in the early phases of the evaluation process and some anticipated data was not collected. Another liaison person was subsequently trained by the research staff, hence overcoming some of the data collection problems.

Analysis of the
Adult Diversion Data

The stated goal of the adult diversion program was "To successfully divert adult diversion cases referred to Awakening Peace from the criminal justice system."

The total number of adult diversion cases for the period June 1973 through June 1974 was 100. All of these diversion cases were drug related. From this list of 100 possible cases thirty persons had been released from the program for a period of at least 6 months. These thirty cases served as the target persons for the follow-up study. The follow-up study was carried out in conjunction with the District Attorney's office. The summary of these data is presented in Table 1. Also presented in Table 1 is comparison recidivism data collected with the cooperation of the Probation Department, San Diego County.

The analysis of the percentages summarized in Table 1

Table 1

Recidivism Data For The Adult Diversion Subjects Of The
Awakening Peace And Contrast Data Collected In San Diego

	Number	Recidivists	Percentage
Adult Diversion (Awakening Peace)	30	3	10%
Probationers (San Diego County)	8000	2000	25%
Adult Diversion (San Diego County)	_*	_*	15%**

* Exact numbers were unavailable.

** Estimate obtained from an analyst with the San Diego
County Probation Department.

indicated that the recidivism rate for the adult diversion subjects at the Awakening Peace was significantly lower than the recidivism rates for probationers in San Diego County (p less than .05). However, no significant difference was found between adult diversion subjects at the Awakening Peace and adult diversion subjects in San Diego County, although the rate for the Awakening Peace was lower.

Analysis of the Work/Study Data

The stated goal of the Work/Study program was to "... provide training and volunteer work for students who are interested in working with people in a helping way." The implicit assumption of the Work/Study program was that through providing these experiences students would show gains in achievement.

Two Work/Study experiences were offered. One experience involved 15 hours of involvement each week and the other experience involved 2 hours of involvement each week. The summary of the academic grade point averages for the two groups is presented in Table 2.

Although the analysis of the changes in grade points did not indicate a significant gain at the .05 level of confidence, it is evident that the participants in the Work/Study program demonstrated gains in Academic Achievement.

Table 2

Summary of Changes in Academic Grade Point Averages of
Students Involved in 15 Hours and 2 Hours of
Work/Study Experiences*

	Fall 1972	Fall 1973	Change
Work/Study (15 hours)	1.75	2.44	0.69**
Work/Study (2 hours)	1.37	1.83	0.46**

* Grade point averages were based on a 4 point scale,
ranging from 0 (failure) to 4 (excellent performance).

** p less than .05.

Subjective impressions of the Work/Study participants were gathered from the Awakening Peace staff. The information indicated that those participants evidenced positive growth in the areas of developing responsibility, communication skills, personal insight, sociability, and judgement.

Analysis of the
Juvenile Diversion Data

The stated goal of the juvenile diversion program was "To reduce the recidivism rate for juvenile drug abuse offenders on the probation department case load." The total number of juveniles participating in the diversion program was 24. Of the 24 possible participants, 20 were used in the six month follow-up study.

For the purpose of comparison 14 non-drug related probation department cases were selected to contrast with the 20 diversion participants. These 14 juveniles were follow-up over the same time period that was utilized with the diversion participants. Additionally, for the purpose of comparison, summary recidivism data were available for run-aways collected in San Diego over an eight month period. The summary of these data is presented in Table 3.

As can be seen from the data summarized in Table 3, there was a trend for the drug related juvenile diversion clients to have a higher recidivism rate than the non-drug related control subjects. However, the chi-square analysis of these data did not indicate a significant difference at the .05 level

Table 3

Recidivism Rates For Drug Related Juvenile Diversion
Participants And Non-Drug Related Controls

	Cases	Recidivists	Percentages
Juvenile Diversion (drug related)	20	10	50.0%
Control Group 1*	14	6	42.9%
Control Group 2**	30	9	30.0%

* Non-drug related juveniles, collected over a 6 month period.

** Non-drug related juveniles, collected over an 8 month period.

of confidence.

The trend for the diversion clients to have a higher recidivism rate may be a function of the types of control subjects used in the study. No recidivism data was available for drug related non-diversion juveniles, since these types of youths are referred to Awakening Peace for treatment. In further replications of this evaluation scheme drug related non-diversion controls will be sought from another area of California.

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