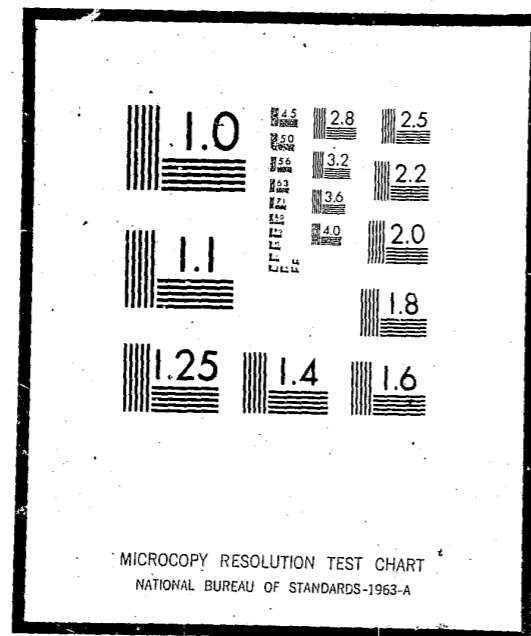


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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFERENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531

Date filmed

5/5/76

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION		DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRESS REPORT 74-ED-08-001	
GRANTEE	LEAA GRANT NO. (74X-63-001) 74ED 080011	DATE OF REPORT	REPORT NO.
Wyoming SPA		12/24/75	4
IMPLEMENTING SUBGRANTEE	TYPE OF REPORT		
City of Riverton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR QUARTERLY <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL REQUEST <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FINAL REPORT		
SHORT TITLE OF PROJECT	GRANT AMOUNT		
Youth Offender Program	\$23,121.00		
REPORT IS SUBMITTED FOR THE PERIOD	THROUGH		
SIGNATURE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR	TYPED NAME & TITLE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR		
	Dennis Horyza, Chief of Police		
COMMENCE REPORT HERE (Add continuation pages as required.)			
<p>The Youth Officer Program has been funded since January 1, 1975, however, the program did not actually get into full swing until February 1, 1975.</p> <p>Attached to this page is the Youth Officer's monthly/annual report along with a detailed evaluation of the program which was conducted in a recent study. It would appear that said attachments will satisfy the narrative portion of this report.</p> <p>Due to careful spending we will be returning quite a large amount of grant monies from 74X-63-001.</p> <p>Also being returned are the monies granted for the publication of a brochure for the benefit of youth. This idea was originated by the past Administrative Assistant for the City of Riverton. After further study and reconsideration, I feel that the expenditure of \$1,800.00 for this project would not be worthwhile.</p> <p>I found the professional survey of the program to be quite interesting. Although it pointed out two weaknesses, I believe it to be a success in our area.</p>			
RECEIVED BY GRANTEE-STATE PLANNING AGENCY (Official) 		DATE 1/15/76	
LEAA FORM 4887-1 (REV. 1-73)		REPLACES LEAA-OLEP-289, WHICH IS OBSOLETE.	

34051
READING ROOM





City of Riverton (WY)

120 SOUTH BROADWAY, RIVERTON, WYOMING 82501

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Telephone 307-856-2297

January, 1976



DENNIS HORYZA
CHIEF OF POLICE

TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

(WY) - Program -
SUBJECT: RIVERTON YOUTH OFFICER EVALUATION

The Riverton Youth Officer Program actually began full operation on February 1, 1975. At the time the attached evaluation was completed, the Youth Officer was engaged in the program for approximately eight (8) school months.

The evaluation reflected that less students utilized the services of the Youth Officer than the number revealed on the Youth Officer's private record keeping system. I would surmise this indication difference is due somewhat to the fact that many of last year's ninth (9th) graders, who are now in the tenth (10th) grade, were not included in the questionnaire process.

We must realize that the Youth Officer is not racing with statistics by attempting to converse with all students, but concentrating on those with a troubled childhood. We also realize that the evaluation definitely indicates that the location of the Youth Office must be made available to all students and that the Youth Officer make every attempt to devote additional time in the school proper.

I find it extremely interesting that drug problems, as viewed by the students, ranked low in priority as compared to personal and school problems. Perhaps adults are overestimating the use of drugs in this age-group and that more efforts be directed towards other causes of unrest.

Personally I feel that for the short duration the Youth Officer Program has been in operation, the positive results certainly tend to healthily outweigh the negative aspects.

Dennis F. Horyza
Chief of Police

DFH/es

RIVERTON YOUTH OFFICER EVALUATION

The purpose of the evaluation was to provide general answers to several questions concerning the Riverton Youth Officer Program. The questions related to student and staff reaction at Riverton Junior High School to the Youth Officer Program. Information concerning student awareness of the Program, student and staff participation in the Program, general attitudes of students and staff to the Program and to those who utilized the Program, and problems encountered by those attempting to participate in the Program was desired.

Questionnaires were developed and administered to the students and staff of Riverton Junior High School during December, 1975. The evaluation of the program was based entirely on the responses to the questionnaires. While a detailed evaluation of the Program obviously cannot be accomplished in this way, a general evaluation of the Program can be accomplished in this manner. The results of this general evaluation are contained in the remainder of this report.

Questionnaires were administered to 727 students and 41 staff members. Of the students surveyed, 387 students were males and 337 students were females. The students were evenly distributed by grade, with 237 seventh graders, 243 eighth graders and 246 ninth graders.

Student responses to the questionnaires are presented below. The responses to those questions which pertain to all respondents are presented first, followed by the responses to questions which pertain to a share of the respondents. The general questions and the breakdown of responses to these questions are:

1. Grade 7th: 237; 8th: 243; 9th: 246.

2. Age 12: 157; 13:215; 14: 247; 15 & over: 106.
3. Sex Male: 387; Female: 337.
4. Did you attend Riverton Junior High School during the 1974-75 school year? Yes: 462; No: 258.
5. Do you know that there is a Youth Officer at Riverton Junior High School? Yes: 669; No: 52.
6. Do you like the idea of having a Youth Officer in your school? Yes: 587; No: 95.
7. Do you know where the Youth Officer's office is located? Yes: 477; No: 247.
8. Have you had a chance to talk with the Youth Officer personally? Yes: 161; No: 561.

The above responses indicate that over 90 percent of the students know that there is a Youth Officer at Riverton Junior High School. However, only 66 percent of the students know where the Youth Officer's Office is located. Since a relatively large number of students do not know where the Youth Officer's office is located, it would appear that efforts should be made to correct this situation.

Over 80 percent of the students interviewed indicated that they liked the idea of having a Youth Officer at Riverton Junior High School. At the same time, only 161 students, or 22 percent of those who responded, indicated that they had personally talked to the Youth Officer. The following responses were given by those students who indicated that they had talked personally with the Youth Officer.

1. Grade and sex:

7th Grade, male:	18
7th Grade, female:	17
8th Grade, male:	31
8th Grade, female:	28
9th Grade, male:	27
9th Grade, female:	40

2. Do you like the idea of having a Youth Officer in your school?
Yes: 122; No: 28.
3. What did you talk about when you talked with the Youth Officer?

Personal Problems:	51
School Problems:	58
Drugs:	29
Family Problems:	22
Other:	43.
4. Did you have any problems in contacting the Youth Officer?
Yes: 34; No: 113.
5. How did you contact the Youth Officer?

Home:	18
School:	98
Police Department:	3
Other:	27.

The responses from those students who had talked personally with the Youth Officer indicate that personal and school problems are the major topics which are discussed. If family problems are grouped with personal problems, drugs would represent the least-discussed of the three major topics. Less than 20 percent of the students who talked with the Youth Officer talked to her about drugs, according to the questionnaires. The above responses indicate that some students have encountered difficulties in contacting the Youth Officer. Most personal contacts are made at school, while virtually no personal contacts were made at the Police Department.

Some of the questions contained in the Student Questionnaire were designed to detect substantial differences of opinions between those students who had talked to the Youth Officer and those students who had not talked to the Youth Officer. The results of these questions follow:

1. Why do you think the Youth Officer is in school?

	Have Talked n=161	Haven't Talked n=561
Help	131 (81%)	478 (85%)
Explain	44 (27%)	100 (18%)
Arrest	24 (15%)	34 (6%)
Punish	9 (6%)	8 (1%)
Other	6 (4%)	22 (4%)

2. What is your view of students who utilize the services of the Youth Officer?

Positive	52 (32%)	154 (27%)
Negative	23 (14%)	45 (8%)
No Opinion	82 (51%)	350 (62%)

3. Do you think your opinion of police has changed because of the Youth Officer at school?

Yes	50 (31%)	111 (20%)
No	103 (64%)	397 (71%)

4. If your opinion has changed, how has it changed?

Like police better	35 (22%)	83 (15%)
Like police less	18 (11%)	22 (4%)

5. Do you think the Youth Officer's presence in your school has changed the behavior of the students?

Yes	48 (30%)	157 (28%)
No	74 (46%)	189 (34%)
No Opinion	29 (18%)	193 (34%)

The above responses reveal several potentially significant variations in attitudes between the group of students who have talked with the Youth Officer and the group which has not talked to the Youth Officer. While most students think the Youth Officer is in the school to help, a higher proportion of students who have talked with the Youth Officer feel she is in the school to arrest. It also appears that

the opinions of the students who have talked with the Youth Officer have changed more than have the opinions of the second group. Approximately 31 percent of the first group felt their opinions toward police have changed because of the Youth Officer, while only 20 percent of the second group felt their opinions had changed. The majority of students in both groups felt that their opinion of police had not changed due to the Youth Officer. Less than a third of the students in either group felt that the behavior of students had changed due to the presence of the Youth Officer.

The staff of Riverton Junior High School was administered a questionnaire which was similar, in many respects, to the student questionnaire. Attempts were made to determine the staff's concept of student attitudes toward the Youth Officer Program. The staff responses are summarized on the attached Staff Questionnaire.

According to the questionnaires, staff reaction to the Youth Officer Program is highly favorable. Ninety five percent of the staff members rated their reaction to the program as positive. Also, the staff seems to view student reaction to the program as being quite favorable.

There appear to be several major differences between the staff and student responses. While staff members agree that personal problems represent the most discussed area, drugs are given more importance by the staff than by the students. Seventy percent of the staff members indicated that they felt that drugs were an often-discussed subject in Youth Officer conferences. Less than 30 percent of the students who talked with the Youth Officer indicated that drugs were discussed. Staff members also credit the Youth Officer Program with changing student opinion of police to a much greater extent than ~~indicated by the student questionnaires.~~

indicated by the student responses.

The student and staff responses express several common areas of concern. These areas of concern relate primarily to the manner in which the services of the Youth Officer are made available. Numerous staff members expressed a desire that the Youth Officer's schedule be arranged to permit more time to be spent by the Youth Officer at the Junior High School. Staff members also commented that regular hours during which appointments could be scheduled would be of value. In light of the fact that over 20 percent of the students who talked with the Youth Officer indicated that they experienced some difficulty in contacting the Youth Officer, it would appear that these concerns are shared by the students. If it is consistent with the other demands placed upon the Youth Officer, additional time should be scheduled at the Junior High School.

In summary, student and staff reactions to the Youth Officer Program are quite favorable. Both groups view the primary purpose of the Youth Officer as the provision of help to students. Less than ten percent of the students feel the Youth Officer is in the school to arrest students. Opinions concerning the effect of the Youth Officer on the behavior of the students are mixed, with no definite indication that the Youth Officer Program has changed the attitude of the students relative to police. Similarly, the effects of the Youth Officer on the behavior of the students are unclear. Students and staff seem to feel that the services of the Youth Officer could be made available to more students if arrangements could be made to increase the amount of time spent by the Youth Officer at the Junior High School.

STAFF QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Were you employed at the Riverton Junior High School during the 1974-1975 school year? YES 88% NO 12%
2. How do you view student reaction to having a Youth Officer as a part of your school?
Positive 78% Negative 0% None 10%
3. Have you referred students to the Youth Officer? YES 33% NO 65%
4. In your opinion, what share of your students have had an opportunity to talk with the youth officer personally?
Many 25% Some 43% Few 25% None 0%
5. Of the students who have talked with the officer, what areas do you think were most often discussed? (Please rank in order of importance)
Personal problems 90% School problems 70% Drugs 70% Family problems 75%
Other (please specify) 0%
6. How do your students view the purpose of the Youth Officer program in your school?
Help 93% Explain 38% Arrest 0% Punish 0% Other(specify) 8%
7. If your students have not talked to the Youth Officer, what is the reason? (Please rank in order of importance)
Didn't want to 53% Couldn't get in 48% No reason to 78% Other 3%
8. Do you think student opinion of police has changed due to the presence of the Youth Officer at School?
YES 63% NO 25%
9. If student opinion has changed, how has it changed?
Like Police Better 55% Like Police Less 0% No Change 38%
10. Do you think the Youth Officer's presence at school has changed the behavior of the students?
Better Behavior 50% Worse Behavior 0% No Change 28%
11. In the event you have referred students to the Youth Officer, do you think the students benefitted from the referral?
YES 85% NO 0% No Opinion 15%
12. What is your reaction to having a Youth Officer as a part of your school?
Positive 95% Negative 0% No Opinion 5%
13. What improvements and changes would you like to see made in the Youth Officer program?

NOTE: PERCENTAGE FIGURES MAY NOT ADD TO 100% DUE TO NON-RESPONSES TO SOME QUESTIONS.

YOUTH OFFICER'S REPORT

DECEMBER, 1975

	TOTAL THIS MONTH	TOTAL THIS YEAR
Total Number of Individual Females contacted.	27	317
Total Number of Individual Males contacted...	22	248
Total Number of Female Visits.....	86	1050
Total Number of Male Visits.....	56	283
Number if Females Sent In.....	1	51
Number of Males Sent In.....	4	48
Number of Females Called In.....	7	166
Number of Males Called In.....	2	91
Number of Females who came in Voluntarily....	65	838
Number of Males who came in Voluntarily.....	63	447
Total Number of Individual Parents Contacted.	14	217
By Phone.....	51	627
In Person.....	21	305
At Home.....	6	230
Total Mileage.....	202	4624
Services Consulted		
Attorneys.....	4	76
School Counselors.....	31	291
Social Services.....	12	174
Business People.....	7	72

Deviated three (3) boys and three (3) girls from legal action.

Other Activities:

- December 3, 1975 - Guest speaker - High School Government Class
- December 10, 1975 - Guest speaker - High School Psychology Class
- December 16, 1975 - Administered Evaluation to Junior High
- December 17, 1975 - Guest speaker - High School Government Class
- December 12, 1975 - Attended District Court in Lander

Types of Problems in General

Girls: Parental
Boredom

Boys: Parental
Boredom
Drugs

Jackie Marlatt
Jackie Marlatt
Youth Officer

cc: Bill Moffat, Mayor
Dennis F. Horyza, Chief of Police
Loring Lahti, Junior High Principal

END