

SUMMARY REPORT
of
REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
of
THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY
WORK RELEASE/PRE-RELEASE PROGRAM
AUGUST 1972 - AUGUST 1975

Kent W. Mason
Director, Pre-Release Center

NCJRS

NOV 3 1977

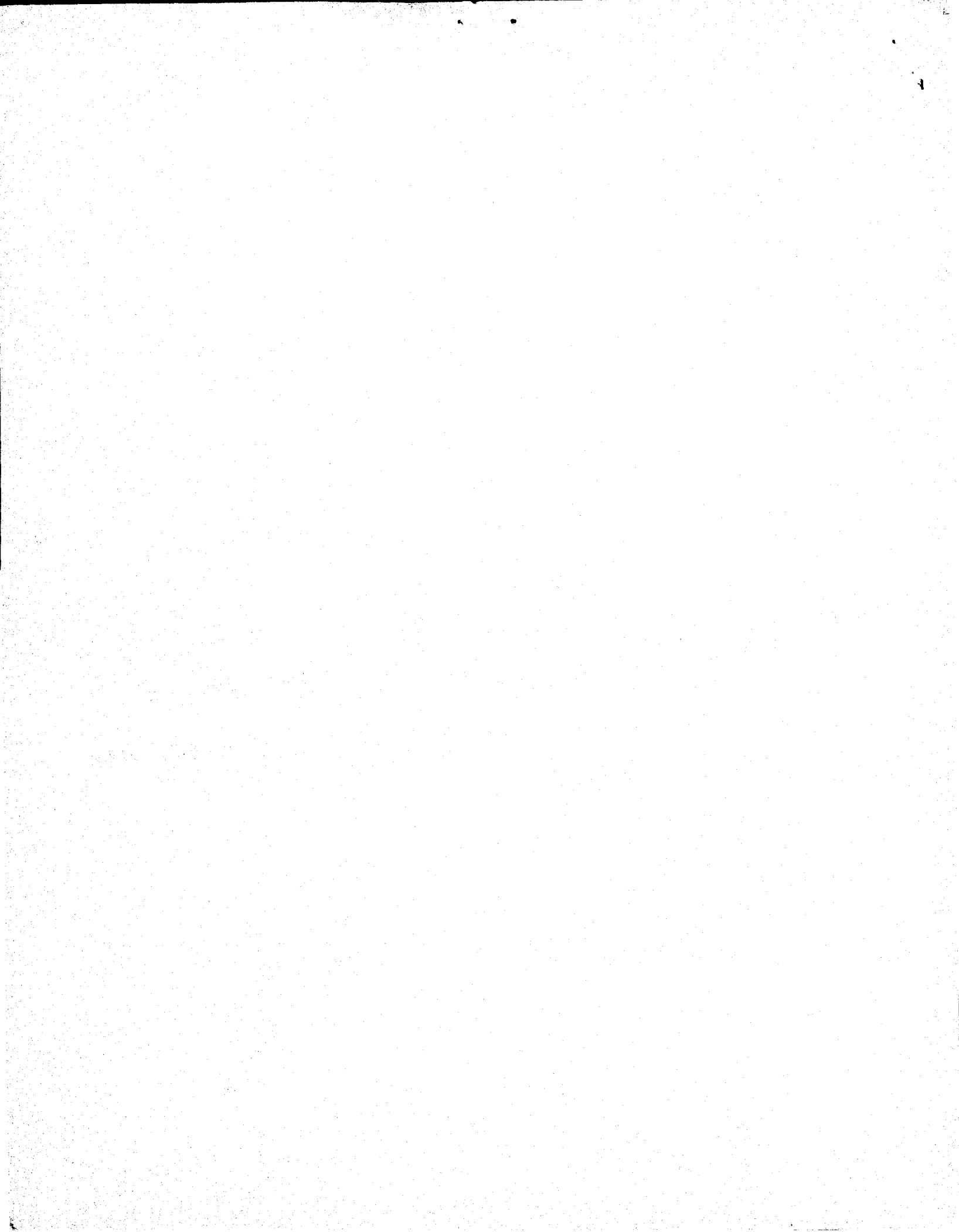
ACQUISITIONS

April 1977

Department of Correction and Rehabilitation
6110 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Phone 301-468-4150

43689
c.1



DATA HIGHLIGHTS

The following statements are highlights of the results of the statistical analyses of the Pre-Release Program.

- * RESIDENCE - Seventy-five percent of the Pre-Release Center participants are residents of Montgomery County.
- * RACE - Two-thirds of the Center residents are white; 1/3 are black.
- * SEX - Less than 1 out of 10 residents are female.
- * AGE - About 3/4 of the residents are younger than 30. About 1/3 are between 18 and 21.
- * EDUCATION - 56% of the residents have 11 years or less of education, i.e. high school drop-outs.
- * CHARGES - Residents have been charged with most types of crimes from non-support to armed robbery and assault but no one category accounts for more than 15% of the charges.
- * VIOLENCE OF CHARGES - Non-violent offenses represented 78% of the charges of residents over the three year period.
- * FELONIES/MISDEMEANORS - The ratio of residents committed for felonies relative to those committed for misdemeanors changed from about 1/3 to 1/2 over the first 3 years of the program.
- * CORRECTIONAL JURISDICTION - Approximately 9 out of 10 residents came from the County; one out of 10 residents came from the State and Federal systems.
- * LENGTH OF SENTENCE - Over the three year period the sentences of residents in the program become longer with over half of the residents having sentences of one year or more.
- * ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE - Less than 3% of the alcoholysers and urinalyses tests taken (7,524) were positive.
- * HOURLY WAGE - About 30.7% of the residents earned \$2.50 or less per hour, 45.7% earned between \$2.51 and \$4.00 per hour, and 23.5% earned more than \$4.00 per hour.
- * SAVINGS AT DISCHARGE - Sixty percent of the residents are discharged with more than \$50.

- * DAYS IN PROGRAM - The average length of stay was about 10 weeks with about one quarter of the residents staying 30 days or less.
- * RESIDENTS BY COURT OF ORIGIN - Over the three years of the program, the number of Circuit Court commitments has considerably increased relative to District Court commitments.
- * COMMUNITY SERVICES UTILIZATION - Approximately one quarter of the residents have used community services.
- * SUCCESSFUL RELEASE - About 73% of the residents entering the program were successfully released from the program. Of this number the percentage released on parole more than tripled due to more residents having sentences long enough to become eligible for parole.
- * STATUS AT TIME OF SUCCESSFUL RELEASE - Of the 297 successfully released, 279 were employed and 10 were in training; 296 had housing; and over 60% left with over \$50 and of that, approximately half had over \$150.
- * REVOCATION - About 27% of the residents were revoked from the program and returned to security confinement for violating program rules, most frequently for abusing alcohol or drugs or being in unauthorized absence from the Center.
- * RATE OF WALK-OFF - 4.9% of the Center residents "walked off" the program; all were subsequently revoked and reincarcerated.
- * IN-PROGRAM ARRESTS - Five out of 407 residents were arrested for new crimes - all larcenies - while on the program.
- * CLASSIFICATION PATTERNS - Residents were classified into eight (8) classification patterns: Inadequate/Immature (24%); Socialized Deviance (10%); Alcohol (22%); Drug (17%); Emotional Dysfunction (9%); Unsocialized Aggressive (3%); Situational (16%).
- * DISCHARGE BY CLASSIFICATION - Alcohol Pattern and Situational residents had disproportionately larger numbers of releases (program completions); Inadequate/Immature and Unsocialized Aggressive Patterns had disproportionately larger numbers of revokees (return to confinement) than their representation in the total Pre-Release Center population.
- * DISCHARGE AND RECIDIVISM - Eighty percent (80%) of the successfully released residents were not rearrested approximately one year after discharge.

- * SKILL BY CLASSIFICATION - Alcohol, Emotionally Disturbed and Situational Patterns are over-represented in the skilled group. Inadequate/Immature, Drug, Socialized Deviance and Unsocialized Aggressive are over-represented in the unskilled group.
- * CLASSIFICATION BY RELEASE STATUS BY RECIDIVISM - Emotionally Disturbed, Inadequate/Immature, and Drug Pattern individuals were more likely to be arrest-free if successfully released than the other patterns.
- * SKILL LEVEL BY RELEASE/RECIDIVISM - Successfully released, arrest-free individuals were over-represented in the skilled and semi-skilled groups and under-represented in the unskilled group. Revoked groups are over-represented in the unskilled category.
- * CLASSIFICATION BY RECIDIVISM BY SKILL LEVEL - Rearrested Inadequate/Immatures are over-represented in the unskilled group.
- * SKILL LEVEL BY AGE - Up to age 30, the proportion of residents holding skilled jobs increases. After age 40, the proportion by skill level remains stable.
- * CHARACTERISTICS BY RELEASE RECIDIVISM -
 - * RESIDENCY - Residents from the District of Columbia tend to be revoked disproportionately though residency is not significantly related to those successfully released and not rearrested.
 - * RACE - There is no significant difference between race and release or rearrest status.
 - * AGE - Younger residents are more likely to be revoked and rearrested.
 - * EDUCATION - The amount of education a resident has is not significantly related to release or rearrest.
 - * MARITAL STATUS - Single residents are more likely to be revoked while married residents are more likely to be successfully released from the program.
 - * WAGE LEVEL - There is no apparent pattern between wage level and release or rearrest.
 - * VIOLENCE OF CRIME - Offenders committed for violent crimes were less likely to be rearrested while non-violent offenders were more likely to be rearrested.

* "RECIDIVISM" BASED ON APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR FOLLOW-UP OF THOSE SUCCESSFULLY RELEASED:

Arrest-free rate: 80.5%
 Rearrest rate: 19.5%
 Reconviction rate: 11%
 Reincarceration rate: 6.4%

* "RECIDIVISM: BASED ON APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR FOLLOW-UP OF THOSE REVOKED FROM THE PROGRAM:

Arrest-free rate: 53.6%
 Rearrest rate: 46.4%
 Reconviction rate: 20.9%
 Reincarceration rate: 15.4%

- * RESIDENT SATISFACTION - Seven (7) out of ten (10) residents interviewed by a non-staff research assistant indicated satisfaction with various program elements involving relationships with staff.

PROGRAM COSTS

- * PER BED COST - The FY 75 per-bed "Departmental Budget Costs" (excludes fringe benefits, utilities, rent, and capital costs) were \$6,529 for the Pre-Release Center and \$6,868 for the County Detention Center.
- * PER PERSON COST - After considering room and board payments by a resident the average per person cost for 150 residents in FY 75 was \$1,581.
- * RESIDENT EARNINGS - During the three year period residents earned \$401,300 of which \$72,600 was paid in taxes, \$61,900 was paid in room and board, \$105,700 was paid to residents' families, and \$3,700 was paid in fines and restitution.
- * COMMUNITY RESPONSE - To date the community has been very supportive (basically because of the Center's relatively good track record overall). Citizenry or neighbor complaints have essentially been non-existent.
- * At the time of report completion (February, 1977) almost 1,000 offenders have participated in the program with earnings of approximately \$1,000,000.

PRIMARY GOALS OF THE PRE-RELEASE CENTER

Important to any program is the clear and concise definition of the programs, goals and objectives. The major goals toward which the activities of the Center are directed are as follows:

- (1) Provide a highly structured residential treatment opportunity for selected short term offenders in the criminal justice system.
- (2) Increase the opportunities for offenders to change themselves and those conditions that brought them into the criminal justice system.
- (3) Within the Pre-Release Center develop a social climate through programs and services which facilitate personal change, encourage individual responsibility and increase one's social problem solving skills.
- (4) Release participants of the work release program to the community with appropriate employment, cash savings and suitable housing.
- (5) Operate a correctional center in such a manner that the community feels comfortable with the Center's presence.
- (6) Develop a correctional program that provides economic and social advantages to the community.

DESCRIPTION OF PRE RELEASE CENTER CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT PROGRAM:

The Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation operates a 40 bed Pre-Release Center at 11500 Huff Court, Kensington, Maryland. The fundamental philosophy underlying the Pre-Release Program is that the most effective means of correcting the offender and reducing crime is through the process of resocializing and reintegrating the offender into his own community. It is the task of the Pre-Release Center to build solid ties between the offender and the community through the offenders':

- (1) Obtaining suitable employment and attaining economic independence.
- (2) Participating in the Center's counseling services and Social Awareness Program.
- (3) Participating in local education and/or community mental health programs, if the need exists.
- (4) Restoring family ties and locating suitable housing for release.

In a larger sense this involves securing a place for ex-offenders in the routine functioning of our community.

Residents assigned to the Pre-Release Center spend the day either working on a job in the community (work release) or in an academic or vocational training program in the community (educational release). Residents pay for their room and board (at the rate of 20% of their gross income) as well as pay support for their families, pay taxes, fines, restitutions, etc.

The evening program of residents emphasizes various individual, group or family counseling activities, and academic adult education programs, a Social Awareness Program, as well as involvement in specific community based programs such as drug or alcohol counseling. Each resident meets with the Center treatment team staff the first week he enters the Center and once every month thereafter, to jointly plan and to review his progress in the program, and to discuss specific problems he or she may be experiencing in coping with community life.

As a resident progresses through the program, demonstrates responsibility and ability to positively adjust to his work role in the community, he/she becomes eligible for and earns weekend furloughs with family and friends. Through a phasing out process the individual earns regular releases or parole, which normally occurs between three to five months after entering the program. The Pre-Release Program helps direct the focus of correctional efforts from temporary imprisonment to a carefully devised combination of control and treatment. After release paroled ex-residents are under intensive supervision by an agent assigned to the Center.

SERVICES WHICH ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO OFFENDERS THROUGH THE PRE-RELEASE CENTER

(1) Psychological Diagnosis

- a. Psychological testing--California Personality Inventory and Tennessee Self-Concept Tests are administered to all potential Center residents and MMPI on an "as need" basis.
- b. Evaluation of test scores is made by the Pre-Release Center psychologist who assists staff in assessing offenders' psychological states and emotional problems.
- c. A Clinical Psychologist assists staff and residents in developing specific treatment plans.

(2) Problem Assessment and Program Contracting

- a. Residents, with staff in individual interviews and treatment team interview, explore and identify central issues underlying behavioral problems and incarceration.
- b. The staff and resident develop an individually tailored "Program Contract" specifying resident program plans and activities based on needs (e.g., work, vocational training, counseling, behavior items such as being alcohol and drug free, financial planning, housing arrangements, etc.).

- c. The Center primary counselor monitors a resident's plans and actions toward meeting contracted items and assists residents in problem-solving when difficulties are experienced.

(3) Employment Services

- a. Vocational aptitude testing is done by Center staff on an "as need" basis.
- b. Vocational interest testing may be requested by the offender.
- c. Job development is performed by the Center Work Release Coordinator.
- d. An employment-seeking skills seminar is taught each Wednesday afternoon in which job applications are completed and job interviews are practiced through the use of video tape equipment.
- e. Assistance in employment placement is provided by Center Work Release Coordinator who helps convince employers to give ex-offenders a fair interview and a chance to prove themselves on the job.

(4) Vocational Training Services

- a. A General Motors training program is available in Virginia with a guaranteed job at an automobile dealership.
- b. Vocational training is available at various vocational schools in the Washington metropolitan area, coordinated with and funded by the County's Division of Labor Services (CETA).
- c. On-the-job-training (OJT) is provided by many employers.

(5) Academic Education

- a. Literacy training is offered by volunteer tutors under the supervision of the PRC teacher/counselor.
- b. Adult education evening classes are provided through the the County Board of Education - both ABE (Advanced Basic Education) and GED (General Education Diploma) instruction.
- c. GED programmed academic instruction is available through the Pre-Release Center by the "Saturation Approach to Learning".
- d. College education, on a case by case basis, can be arranged-generally through student work-scholarships.

(6) Counseling and Therapy

- a. Primary Counselors at the Pre-Release Center see each resident at least once each week.
- b. Group counseling for specific offenders (generally inadequate/immature types of individuals) is provided by the Pre-Release Center. (Two groups meet once each week at a local church since early 1976).
- c. Alcohol counseling:
 - (1) Twinbrook Alcohol Services Clinic (individual and group counseling, Thursday nights).
 - (2) Silver Spring Alcohol Clinic (individual and group counseling, Monday nights).
 - (3) Driving-while-intoxicated school located in Rockville (residents must pay \$50 for 5 week session).
 - (4) Montgomery General Hospital Alcohol Program (partial hospitalization program) informational and counseling services provided at cost.
 - (5) Silver Spring Day Treatment Center (Cameron Street) nightly 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., alcohol treatment program at cost (private organization).
- d. Drug counseling:
 - (1) Assessment services followed by individual, family, and group therapy at 8500 Colesville Road (Alternatives and Counseling Services of the Montgomery County Health Department).
 - (2) GUIDE - Guidance in Drug Education (private) which is primarily group counseling.
- e. Mental Health Center - Six County centers provide assessment services as well as provide group, family, and individual counseling.
- f. Community Psychiatric Clinic (private) - Located in Bethesda and Wheaton provides assessment services followed by individual and group counseling subsidized by the Montgomery County Health Department.
- g. Pastoral Counseling - Area wide private non-profit counseling provides family counseling in Rockville. This is a private non-profit service with a sliding fee schedule, subsidized by the County.

(7) Social Awareness Program

- a. Time, place and function - Sixteen (16) seminars lasting two (2) hours each are run continuously at the Pre-Release Center, and take place each Monday and Thursday evening providing the resident with an opportunity to learn work adjustment and social coping skills.
- b. Topics and instruction - Various topics are presented (communication skills, value clarification, world of work, problem solving, decision making, drugs and alcohol, money management, etc.) by volunteers from the community or the Center staff.

(8) Financial Management

- a. The resident is counseled on financial planning and the development of a plan.
- b. Ten (10) percent of residents' income goes into mandatory savings program for accumulation in preparation for eventual release.

(9) Locating Housing

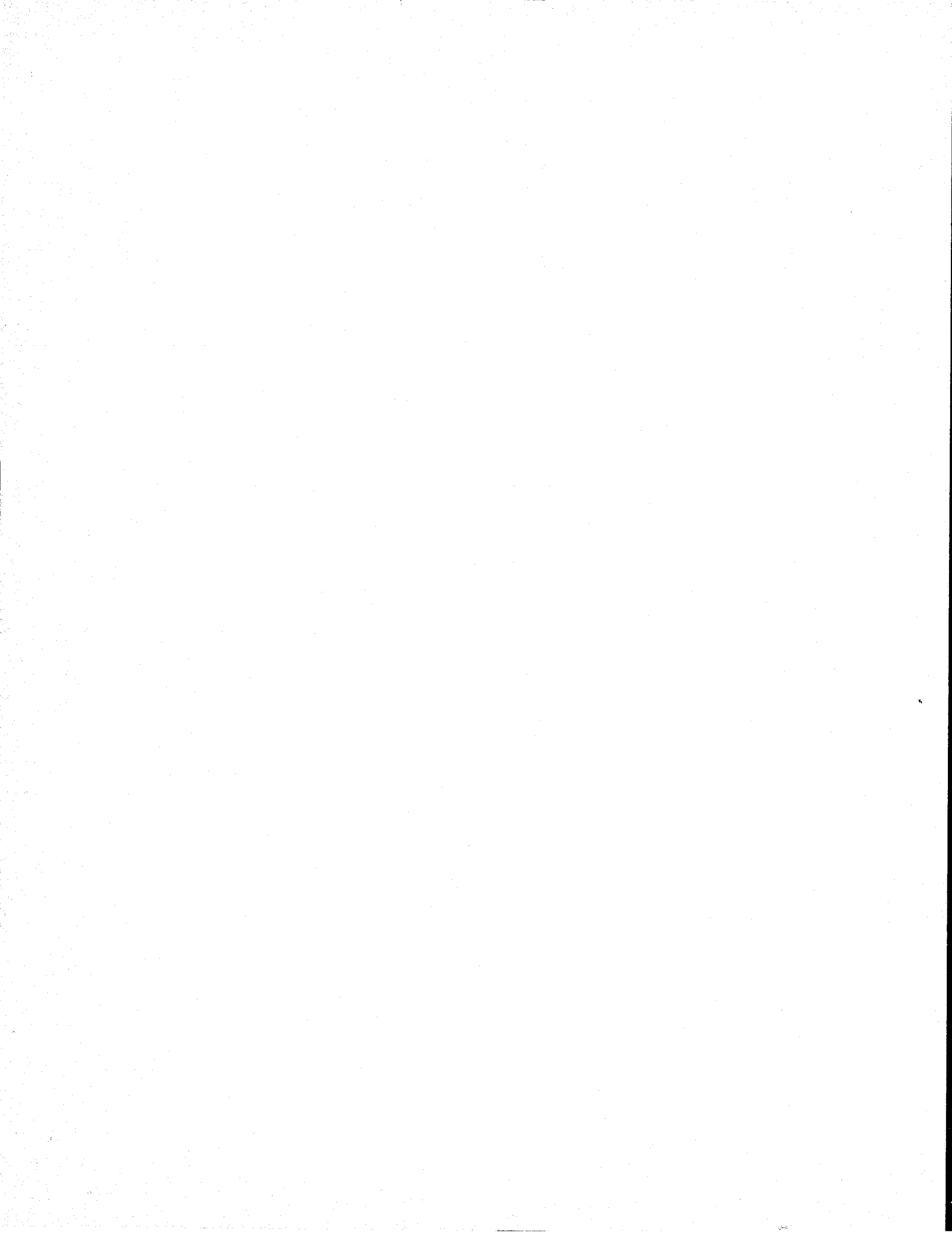
- a. Assistance is provided in finding appropriate housing prior to discharge.
- b. Residents' savings may be used when necessary for advance payment of rent.

(10) Utilization of Other Community Agencies' Services

- a. Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (services to the handicapped offender).
- b. Department of Social Services (emergency assistance to offenders' families).
- c. Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Administration (driver's license problems).

(11) Coordination with Parole/Probation Agent Prior to Discharge

- a. The Pre-Release Center staff, the Parole/Probation agent, and residents finalize release plans for the Parole Board on living arrangements and employment.
- b. The Pre-Release Center staff develops Mutual Agreement Plan (MAP) Contracts with the Parole Board. (If a resident adheres to and accomplishes criteria specified in the MAP the resident is guaranteed a future release date).
- c. The Pre-Release Center staff and Parole/Probation Agent provide follow-up services to the resident.



END