

1977

# SUMMARY REPORTS

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES OF  
EVALUATION REPORTS OF STATE  
AND LOCAL L.E.A.A. PROJECTS**

45813



**BUREAU OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING & ASSISTANCE**

Department of Administration  
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ACQUISITIONS

EVALUATION SUMMARIES

OF

LEAA-FUNDED PROJECTS

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## INTRODUCTION

As part of the 1978 Comprehensive Plan for Florida, each Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit was required to conduct one intensive evaluation of an LEAA-funded project. Each SPA Planning and Evaluation Section Planner was also required to conduct one intensive evaluation. A workshop for SPA and local evaluation personnel was held in April, 1977 to orient and train those responsible for conducting these evaluations. On-going review and supervision of evaluation efforts was the responsibility of the SPA Evaluation Coordinator.

Criteria used to select projects to be evaluated included:

1. Size of Grant - As a general rule, large projects should be evaluated because of the potential significance and impact of the expenditure of large amounts of resources.
2. Innovative Character - If a project appears to be representative of a relatively new approach, or one which has yet to be tested, an intensive evaluation should be conducted. Early intensive evaluation of new approaches should aid in the much more systematic development of the "state of the art" in criminal justice.
3. Replicability of Transferability - If demonstrated to be successful, many projects can be replicated widely in other jurisdictions and agencies. In those instances where a project holds great potential for replication and transfer to other jurisdictions, an intensive evaluation should be strongly considered.
4. Controversial Nature - In those instances in which a project is expected to be particularly controversial, an intensive evaluation should be conducted to permit the objective analysis of the project and its results.
5. Priority Projects - Those activities which are related directly to high priority state goals and objectives should be given high priority for intensive evaluation.
6. Duration and Continuation - Short term projects which are not expected to be continued by the SPA or other agencies should not ordinarily be intensively evaluated. Similarly, those projects which expect to apply for continuation funding should be considered for intensive evaluation to insure that information about the project's performance is available upon which to base a decision concerning continuation funding. If a strong monitoring effort can provide sufficient information upon which to base a decision on continuation funding, then an intensive evaluation may not be warranted.

7. Nature of Project - Some projects, because of their nature, may not require an intensive evaluation. Large equipment purchases or the construction of facilities may be examples. The emphasis here should be placed on evaluating the need for the equipment or facility before awarding the grant. It is appropriate to consider an intensive evaluation of the use of the equipment or the facility when they are directly related to a program with specified objectives.
8. Cost and Difficulty of the Evaluation - Certain projects by nature are methodologically far more difficult and/or costly to evaluate than others. In some instances, to obtain information sufficiently, accurate and complete to warrant a reasonable level of confidence, it is necessary to allocate more for the evaluation of the project than appears reasonable. The results obtained from such an evaluation may not warrant the expense.

The following executive summaries briefly describe the purpose of each project as well as the most significant evaluation findings and recommendations. Copies of the full evaluation will be provided upon request. Questions regarding these summaries should be directed to the BCJPA, Evaluation Coordinator at (904) 488-8016.

EVALUATION SUMMARIES

FROM

METROPOLITAN PLANNING UNITS





## JACKSONVILLE YOUTH RESOURCES BUREAU

(76-J6-11-FC01)

Jacksonville Metropolitan Planning Unit

INTRODUCTION

Jacksonville's Youth Resources Bureau has been the recipient of several LEAA grants since its inception in August, 1974. The 1976 Youth Resources Bureau was awarded to the Jacksonville Human Resources Department on March 9, 1977. Total budget was \$27,648. The project, based on the Youth Services Bureau concept, non-coercively attempts to divert pre-delinquent youth from the formal juvenile justice system by providing timely counseling and referral services to youth and their families at no cost.

A random sample of 306 closed cases of a total population of 1,005 closed cases of the Youth Resources Bureau was drawn: 172 from the first period, September 1, 1974 - April 30, 1975, and 134 from the second period, September 1, 1975 - April 30, 1976. Demographic and other pertinent client data was gathered from individual case records. Comparisons were drawn between the sample's adjudicated and non-adjudicated clients and from information supplied by the Youth Service Bureau of West Palm Beach for 1976-1977. The primary thrust of the study was directed to follow up on clients during the intervening period from the cases that were closed through July 31, 1977. Sampling cases from two periods allows researchers to determine if there were significant differences between numbers and types of clients served in the two periods and also to follow up on clients for periods of fifteen to thirty months after their cases were closed by Youth Resources Bureau to identify those who were eventually adjudicated delinquent. In addition, the previous and present staff were interviewed and an effort was made to contact a random group of clients in the sample for the above two periods by means of a telephone survey. Various grant reports for the period, 1974-1977, were also utilized.

FINDINGS

Some of the study's findings are summarized below:

1. The basic finding and recommendation of the study was that the project is performing a much needed service in the community and should continue to receive LEAA funds provided that efforts be directed to correct problem areas outlined in the study through positive internal change so that pre-delinquent youth may be served more effectively.
2. The subgroup of thirty-five clients who were later found to have been adjudicated comprised 11 percent of the 306 sampled clients; in addition, adjudication was withheld or petitions were not processed or dismissed for nineteen other clients.

3. Females had lower rates of adjudication than did males. In order of ascendancy, the rates were as follows: 3 percent for black females; 7 percent for white females; 15 percent for black males and 16 percent for white males. White males and females comprised 74 percent of the sampled cases and blacks 26 percent.
4. Youth who were found to have been adjudicated tended to be younger, junior high school age, than their non-adjudicated counterparts who attended senior high school.
5. Adjudicated and non-adjudicated clients had poor school attendance records.
6. The majority of youth who were later adjudicated came from families with three or more children and were living with both parents whereas the majority of their non-adjudicated counterparts were from smaller families with one or two children and were not living with both parents. The known occupations of parents and guardians of both groups revealed a majority were skilled workers.
7. There was consensus among the professional staff and the present and former administrators of the program concerning its merits in averting youth from the juvenile justice system in Jacksonville.
8. Most elements of the program were rated as good or excellent by the counseling staff; the three elements which received slightly lower ratings were: communications with agencies and schools, inservice training, and follow-up.
9. The actual average cost per client day of \$1.82 for the Bureau was lower than budgeted costs for all of the juvenile program modalities of the Division of Youth Services except probation and aftercare.

BEACH PLACE: THE HILLSBOROUGH RUNAWAY CENTER

(76-A1-12-FH01)

Hillsborough Metropolitan Planning Unit

INTRODUCTION

The Hillsborough County Runaway Center project, Beach Place, was implemented in July, 1975, in the amount of \$120,000. The program is administered by the County's Department of Children's Services.

Beach Place is a non-secure, non-coercive program for runaway youths and other dependent children. Youths come to Beach Place through self-referrals, and referrals from law enforcement agencies, Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (DHRS), and other community agencies, and they remain in the program on a volunteer basis only. Consequently, admission procedures and services provided vary with the needs of the youth and with the circumstances of each individual case.

FINDINGS

Although implementation delays significantly affected the accomplishments of the first year measurable objectives, review of Beach Place service data indicates that second year program activities are considerably more in line with the agreed-upon performance criteria.

Overall, the Runaway Center is an impressive program and appears to be more desirable than the available detention and shelter care programs, particularly when considering that the youths served are generally not being charged with criminal offenses. Observation of the operation of the program and interviews with operational staff further substantiate the quantity and quality of services being offered at Beach Place.

In general, recommendations and comments provided with regard to the programs at Beach Place are supportive in nature but suggest increased emphasis on referrals and follow-up client tracking, one-to-one volunteer and youth volunteer services, family counseling and family group counseling, and casework and referrals for out-of-county youths. Also, the recommendations suggest the assessment of present performance of outreach services component and the reassessment of the Beach Place role as the initiator of youth services and other community involvement projects not directly related to the operation of the Runaway Center program.

Two (2) general recommendations for further evaluative efforts are also provided due to limited data concerning some of the currently existing measurable objectives and limited follow-up data regarding subsequent contacts with the juvenile justice system, as well as family, school, and employment adjustment. These suggest the commitment of resources and manpower to the coordination and implementation of data collection and evaluative activities, and the shifting of evaluation emphasis toward the quantitative documentation of progress made in achieving outcome objectives.

These recommendations support the continuation of the Runaway Center, with its existing service components, and advocate increased emphasis on evaluation activities which should lead to continued improvement in the planning and operation of the Beach Place program.

## CLEARWATER VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(76-A1-13-AG01)

Pinellas Metro Planning Unit

INTRODUCTION

The Clearwater Victim Assistance Program is in the first year of operation. This project was awarded on December 23, 1976 to the Clearwater Police Department. Total budget for this project is \$41,364.

Programs designed to provide aid, referral, or information to victims needing some type of assistance in recovering from the impact of crime are virtually nonexistent.

The primary thrust of the Clearwater "Victim Assistance Program" is to remedy the aforementioned situation by bridging the gap between the victim and resources available in the community. These services would be utilized to relieve losses or injuries sustained by the victim and hopefully reduce the trauma associated with certain types of crimes.

FINDINGS

1. In analyzing data on the measurable objectives that could be evaluated at this time, it has been found that the program has met, and in some cases exceeded those objectives (see quarterly progress report tracking sheet in Appendix B).
2. Many agencies, especially private non-profit, heretofore unknown as resources, have been utilized by victims through contact with project.
3. Through questionnaire responses, certain outdated eligibility criteria has been noted and via project staff efforts, remedies are being sought.
4. Further assessment of the project is not feasible at this time in that only four months of data are available. Preliminary indications lead the evaluator to believe that the program will be a success and fill a long neglected void in the criminal justice system.
5. Through casual observations noted on several on-site visits, it is evident that the project staff are totally dedicated and have the full support of the entire police department.

## FORT LAUDERDALE COMMUNITY SERVICE AIDE PROJECT

76-A2-94-CD01

Broward Metropolitan Planning Unit

INTRODUCTION

The Community Service Aide Project was implemented by the Ft. Lauderdale Police Department on February 1, 1975, and operated with a total budget of \$50,996 (80% Federal funding). The project has received three (3) years of LEAA assistance. The second year's (FY '75) budget totaled \$67,378 with a total allocation of \$32,000 (48%). The third year's budget totaled \$87,057 with 46% of that (\$40,153) coming from federal LEAA funds.

The Community Service Aide Project was implemented as a continuation of the concept of using civilian personnel to replace sworn officers in the exercise of duties not necessitating the use of force, the power of arrest or other sworn officer authority.

The CSA Project, as initially conceived, determined a need for a minimum of 20 persons to staff the program effectively by assuming only a portion of the list of possible duties and anticipation of increasing the number of personnel and the number of duties as the program progressed. The project increased the number of personnel during the three grant periods to a total of 39 and added another duty to the original list; that of crime scene investigation.

FINDINGS

The funding source from CSA personnel salaries proved to be restrictive and a slight hindrance to program implementation. The Community Service Aides were employed through the city personnel office using civil service guidelines with funding by the Comprehensive Education and Training Act of 1974. The restrictions of this Act were that the applicant be unemployed 15 of the last 20 weeks and not be eligible for unemployment compensation. This placed an undue hardship on all concerned to find qualified persons who would be eligible for a CSA appointment. Full implementation of the project was slowed to a degree as some of those who were placed in the program had to be let go because they did not qualify or were found to be incapable of performing the duties. It is recommended that another source of funds be used for personnel salaries. If this is done, it is anticipated that a greater number of more qualified applicants will be available from which to select.

In spite of this one negative aspect, the program proved to be well planned and justified by pre-project data. A thorough training program and diligent implementation of the project's objectives contributed to the project's success.

Pre-project analysis revealed that a majority of the patrol officers' time and effort were spent on duties not requiring his specialized training and authority as a sworn officer. A list of these duties was compiled and assigned to CSA personnel for response. As the number of personnel increased and as their training and experience in the field made them more proficient, other more specialized duties were assigned to those qualified to perform them.

Meticulous records were devised and kept on personnel assignment, calls-for-service, responses, time spent, vehicle use and activity results on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. This excellent record system allowed the project managers to amend program procedures for greatest efficiency.

Project funding, for the most part, was received from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). All the rules and regulations of this agency for the submission and operation of Federal grants were followed as to procedure. The project, originally, was to be for three years but ended after 32 months utilizing three LEAA grants.

Overall, the project was well planned before implementation, utilized the best personnel conditions would allow, accomplished the purpose and goals for which it was intended and made a significant contribution to the decrease in crime and improvement in the criminal justice system.

A viable indicator of the success of a program is its acceptance by clients. The CSA program received about a 90% acceptance rating from the citizens surveyed, and an 80 - 90% acceptance by police officers.

One of the more important features of the CSA program was the cost factor. By using civilian personnel rather than sworn officer, the program realized a saving of more than \$3.00 per hour for services rendered.

## CITIZEN DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

(75-AS-15-D310; 76-A4-15-EJ06)

Dade County Criminal Justice Planning Unit

INTRODUCTION

The Citizen Dispute Settlement Program became operational in May of 1975 after receiving its initial grant (74-AS-15-0036) from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). The original goal of the program was to divert certain classes of criminal misdemeanors from the formal criminal justice system to dispute settlement before trained mediators. The offenses proposed for mediation at that time, in priority order, were:

- |                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Disorderly Conduct  | 6. Family and Child              |
| 2. Assault and Battery | 7. Possession of Stolen Property |
| 3. Malicious Mischief  | 8. Petit Larceny                 |
| 4. Trespass            | 9. Loitering                     |
| 5. Animals             |                                  |

The primary focus of the program was to facilitate the resolution of minor complaints evolving principally from neighborhood or domestic disputes.

The program has expanded and now handles certain classes of cases which would fall under civil jurisdiction. These cases involve animal complaints, consumer problems, employer/employee problems and domestic visitation problems. Also, certain domestic felonies have been found to be suitable for the mediation process.

Another major goal of the project was to ease the burden of the Dade County criminal justice system by reducing the number of minor criminal cases causing a backlog in the system. By July, 1977, or 25 months after program inception, over 6,300 cases had gone through intake at CDSC. Of these, 1,200 were referred to other agencies for assistance, 2,877 were resolved through hearing, and 1,686 were resolved through other means. By contrast, only 114 or 2 percent of the cases were referred to the State Attorney's Office and 344 were considered not resolved.

FINDINGS

The evaluation findings are based on data collected through a questionnaire survey of all CDS clients participating in mediation hearings over a four week period (July 20 - August 17, 1977); through surveying program staff, mediators, and relevant staff from key referral agencies by questionnaire and personal



interview; and by a document survey of case records and program reports. The major findings are as follows:

1. CDS has become a key component in the local criminal justice system's response to handling domestic disputes, since the bulk of its cases are domestic in origin.
2. It is not possible under present data collection methods to determine the extent CDS diverts cases from the criminal courts, although it does appear to have some success in removing cases from the system, particularly at the entry stage. Additionally, the program appears to divert cases from the civil courts.
3. The program's service delivery is rated highly in terms of a speedy process, availability/accessibility of services, and provision of multicultural services.
4. Overall responses of both client complainants and respondents was quite positive with regard to: a) satisfaction with the results of the hearing, b) opinions as to the lasting effect of the resolution obtained at the hearing, c) ratings as to characteristics of the mediators, and d) the agency the party would select if the problem recurred. Key referral agencies were also generally satisfied with the program's performance. This reflects well on the quality and effectiveness of the mediation hearings.
5. The program's method for recording caseload information (particularly referral information) and statistics, and categorizing cases is adequate and misleading. Their statistical procedures are more sophisticated than many similar programs, but further modifications and improvements are recommended. A similar problem existed with the program's measurable objectives as they are often not realistic or quantifiable.
6. Approximately one-third of the scheduled mediation hearings are canceled due to the non-appearance of one or both parties. Although this "no show" rate is in line with other similar programs, it is recommended this high rate be evaluated and action taken to reduce these non-appearances.
7. The program's effectiveness is directly related to the relational distance between the parties. The closest disputant relationships--domestic or neighborhood matters-- have the greatest chance for successful case resolution and client satisfaction.
8. The program's interagency relations and community outreach are adequate, but need to be improved.



EVALUATION SUMMARIES

FROM

REGIONAL PLANNING UNITS



FIRST CIRCUIT NARCOTIC INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

(76-A2-61-CB02)

West Florida Regional Planning Council (RPC 1)

INTRODUCTION

This project was awarded to Escambia County on January 14, 1976, in the amount of \$113,733, plus local and state matching funds. (Total \$126,370) The purpose of this project was to investigate illegal drug law violations. The Escambia County Sheriff's Office, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and the Pensacola Police Department each contributed one officer.

The Escambia County Grand Jury investigated this project during their spring term of 1977. This Grand Jury investigation arose from a series of articles in the Pensacola Journal which charged that the project was misusing public funds and focusing on possession violations rather than drug selling offenders.

FINDINGS

The Escambia Grand Jury determined that the most effective method of controlling the drug traffic in the county is through the concept of the narcotic task force. This joint effort has actually allowed individual governmental agencies to effect savings in manpower assigned to drug enforcement in their respective communities, and simultaneously provide a more effective drug enforcement program for the entire first circuit.

The Grand Jury also stated that there should be more stringent supervision and control over "buy money" entrusted to the project investigators. (The Chairman of the Narcotics Task Force has reported these steps for increased supervision and control of "buy money" have been taken). The Grand Jury feels that both improper planning and poor judgment were employed by two members of the task force on one occasion and recommends that each receive disciplinary action.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The overall operation of the First Judicial Circuit Narcotics Task Force appears to have generally met the purpose for which it was designed and intended. Although further analysis and examination of records and a more in-depth evaluation have been suggested throughout this report, the evaluator feels sufficiently informed on the project nature, design, and goals to offer general recommendations:

1. Examination should be made as to the reasons, number and source of assigned manpower: to the task force itself (both full and part time), and within the law enforcement agencies of the First Judicial Circuit for single-agency, drug-related enforcement.
2. Immediate steps should be taken to obtain two to three additional investigators for full-time assignment to the task force. This should include the designation of a supervisor (preferably a new man) with senior rank within his agency. This supervisor should assume the duties and responsibilities of the project director in his absence.
3. Permanent status (civil service or otherwise) should be firmly established for the project director and secretary.
4. More effort should be made to adequately/equitably share the existing local matching cost of the project.
5. Visible efforts should be made immediately to increase project awareness and to improve public support of this project.
6. An audit should be formally requested so that it may be worked into the BCJPA's audit schedule for this fiscal year. Careful examination of the Confidential "Buy" funds should be performed therein since allegations were made; and further, since the Escambia County Grand Jury suggested tighter controls of that account. (A BCJPA audit of this project is tentatively scheduled for March, 1978.)
8. Written policy clarifying the purpose, objectives, and goals of the unit should be prepared, after meeting with participating agencies. The distribution should be adequate to clarify all drug enforcement duties.
9. Additional monitoring, and evaluation should be given to the project. This should be provided by contract (funding) or cooperative agreement. Evaluation should be built into the third year project design and budget, if necessary, and considered in all successive project years regardless of funding sources.
10. Some appropriate means should be made to refute unbiased allegations. The current direction and development of the task force should be emphasized.
11. There should be developed a suitable method of incentive and encouragement for the existing investigators and project staff; as well as the participating agencies and units of government.

## ALACHUA COUNTY POLICE TELEPHONIC SCREENING PROJECT

(75-AS-03-C211)

North Central Florida  
Regional Planning Council (RPC 3)

INTRODUCTION

This project was implemented by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office March 1, 1976. The goals of this project were to reduce response time and increase the availability of the patrol force to respond to urgent response situations. This goal was to be achieved through the creation of flexible patrol zones and appropriate screening of requests for assistance.

During 1974, Alachua County Sheriff's Deputies responded to approximately 17,570 service calls. Forty percent of those calls were estimated by the Sheriff's Office to be of secondary importance, many of which could have been handled via telephone or by a less than an emergency type response.

Through implementation of professional law enforcement screening of calls, many non-emergency calls could be handled by the screening officer, thus increasing the availability of manpower to respond to emergency situations.

FINDINGS

- 1) The project, while resolving 14.2 percent of all calls, did not meet its goal of resolving 28 percent of all calls. The level of calls for service resolved by the intercept officers, however, effectively freed more of the patrol force time for preventive patrol and incidence investigation.
- 2) Using estimates from the Sheriff's Office, the project has saved approximately 3,698 to 5,547 person hours of patrol force time. Resolution of complaints of the nature resolved in 10 to 15 minutes by the intercept officers takes approximately one to one and one half hours of patrol personnel time.
- 3) The project has cost a total of \$69,418 for the 17 month period, where the addition of patrol force for that same period would cost \$111,416 in salaries alone.
- 4) The overall decrease in the level of crime in Alachua County of 11.3 percent from 1975 to 1976 cannot be attributed solely to the Telephonic Screening Project, but it (the project) is no doubt an intervening or contingent factor in that reduction.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The telephonic screening program/intercept officers have proved to be an effective measure in decreasing response time, increasing the amount of time devoted to preventive patrol and incidence investigation, as opposed to increasing the patrol force by the equivalent 14.2 percent. It should therefore be strongly considered for continuation of funding in the Sheriff's budget in the coming years. Discontinuation of the project with the current level of patrol force would ultimately result in a reduction in the quality of service rendered to Alachua County citizens.
- 2) Better records should be kept by the Sheriff's Office on computation of response time, therefore providing a written record of dates on which response time was determined and methods used for determining this, to document current estimates of response time.
- 3) To accurately determine the true level of activity of the intercept officers, records should be kept, if practical, of the total number of calls for which the intercept officer comes on the line. Records now only indicate the number of calls resolved by intercept officers. Many calls for which they come on the line ultimately result in dispatching a sworn officer for urgent response or leisure response at less than peak times of the day, and there is currently no assessment of that level of activity.
- 4) The Sheriff's Department should adopt a standardized format to be used for monthly intercept officer reports similar to the one attached. Information generated, as suggested in the above recommendation, should also be included. Changes in officers in charge of the Communication Center has also yielded changes in reporting formats. A standard format should be adopted to allow for uniform comparisons of data.
- 5) The program should return to the original intent and replace the rotating position with a permanent officer for the duration of the grant period. This would resolve the fiscal questions and assure that three new positions were created as originally intended. Another alternative would be to secure proper permission from the SPA to deviate from the original intent.



## ST. JOHN'S COUNTY CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

(76-A1-04-AE01)

Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council (RPC 4)

INTRODUCTION

St. Johns County Crime Prevention Unit began operation on March 1, 1976 with an award to the St. John's County Sheriff's Office. The project has recently begun its second year of LEAA funding (FY77). The project was selected for an evaluation for reasons as follows:

1. It is an innovative and particularly unique project for a generally rural county;
2. It is presumed to be a comprehensive and tightly administered project which can be quickly evaluated with no undue burden by single criminal justice planner plus certain staff members of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, as well as volunteers; and
3. The staff of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, the implementing agency, has a record of being most accommodating and cooperative in all matters pertaining to criminal justice planning, grants management, and surveys.

FINDINGS

The St. Johns County Crime Prevention Unit has reached a large percentage of the people in St. Johns County, in fact an estimated 42 percent of the county's population, particularly in the populated areas (most particularly in and around St. Augustine). Its most notable impact has been in the St. Augustine Shores, which area has been lowest in crime victimization and in having to report crime, and among the middle aged and elderly. The active radio program has scored high marks, and the efforts of the CB Watch Volunteers have been noteworthy. Citizen's response, particularly as evidenced by ever increasing calls for law enforcement services and for reporting suspicious activities, has been commendable. The generally high level of confidence in law enforcement held by the citizenry of St. Johns County has been inspiring. This evaluation survey has data which reveals that law enforcement officers in St. Johns County and in municipalities therein have maintained a 98 percent confidence level among the citizenry.

One area in St. Johns County, the West King area, appears to be in need of increased services. The area was found to be: 1) least aware of the St. Johns County Crime Prevention Unit, 2) ranked lowest in attitude toward the concept of crime prevention, 3) showing lowest confidence in law enforcement, 4) showing least

inclination toward taking precautions against crime, and 5) showing the highest incidence of robberies, physical assaults, burglaries, and larcenies.

Other shortcomings noted during the course of this evaluation were comparatively minor ones, which if corrected, could result in qualifying the St. Johns County Crime Prevention Unit for exemplary project status.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Organize a specific 3 to 6-person special voluntary task force, selected from among the CB Watch Volunteers or, only if necessary, from outside the Volunteer's organization and train and direct that special task force of volunteers to devote all their crime prevention energies in the West King area.
2. Increase the utilization of the CB Watch Volunteers by first carefully screening and selecting from among the Volunteers three or more zone captains, which captains would be charged with areas comparable in size to the Sheriff's patrol zones.
3. Carefully screen and select from among the volunteers a cadre of 4 to 8 people (or more if necessary), of whom two or three show expertise in giving presentations before large audiences, and several of whom reveal organizational skills, aptitude, and temperament for working closely with individuals or small groups.
4. Carefully train the selected cadre in methods and concepts of crime prevention, target hardening procedures, etc., and divide the cadre into 1) a bureau or group of speakers and 2) into a residential and business security check and target hardening group.
5. On a voluntary basis, have the three or more zone captains call upon members of the selected and trained cadre to schedule and coordinate their speaking engagements, their residential and business security checks and target hardening activities, and their organization of neighborhood block watch committees.
6. Improve coordination and liaison between the St. Johns County Crime Prevention Unit and the Sheriff's Parole Division, in order to create among patrol deputies a better understanding of the concepts of crime prevention and the capabilities of the Sheriff's Crime Prevention Unit.
7. Continue all other crime prevention activities, particularly the radio programs, and the newspaper and magazine articles, and the utilization of the CB Watch Volunteers as "eyes and ears" for the Sheriff's Office.
8. Provide advice to other law enforcement agencies in Region IV who are contemplating establishing or expanding existing crime prevention units, particularly law enforcement agencies in neighboring Putnam County.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER COUNSELOR PROGRAM

(76-A1-050-FF01)

Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council (RPC 5)

INTRODUCTION

Youth Programs is a prevention/diversion agency which receives its referrals from those diverted to the community resources from Youth Services and Social Services of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services and from law enforcement officials, parents and other social agencies. Youth Programs serves to minimize the youth's penetration into the Juvenile Justice System by accepting divertees at the lowest penetration level and assigning the youth to a one-to-one volunteer for counseling.

FINDINGS

Relative to program impact, the program's recidivism rate of 9% compares favorably with other similar programs. More specifically the State Youth probation program reports a recidivism rate approaching 19%, almost twice that of the Youth Counselor Program.

During the past year, the program has recruited and provided training to 115 volunteers. Interestingly, of the volunteers randomly contacted, approximately 20% of the total numbers, all were supportive of program activities and felt the program provided a valuable service.

In terms of cost effectiveness, the per client cost amounted to \$126.00, as compared to the State Youth Probation Program costs of \$248.00. When viewed in combination with the recidivism rate, the project is extremely cost effective, in relative terms.

In general, the project enjoys good interagency operational relationships. However, no formal written working agreements have been established resulting in a multiplicity of referral procedures.

The following recommendations are offered to improve overall project efficiency/effectiveness. In general, all findings indicate that the program has adequately met its intended objectives with commendable costs effectiveness and good inter-agency relationships. Relative to program improvements, consideration should be gained to more formal (written) working agreements with participating agencies. Also, input from the volunteer counselors may result in operational improvements, such as methods of determining the optimum length of time youth are assigned to a volunteer counselor.

## CITIZEN DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROJECT - ORANGE COUNTY

(76-A4-76-EJO2)

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (RPC 6)

INTRODUCTION

The Citizen Dispute Settlement (CDS) Program was designed to reduce the Criminal and County Court caseloads by diverting complaints involving ordinance violations, misdemeanors, and minor felonies to dispute settlement mediation before trained mediators; the sought for outcome of these procedures was to provide impartial hearings for residents of Orange County.

LEAA fundings for the implementation of the program was received by Orange County in late 1975. Hearing officers were recruited by the Orange County Bar Association from attorneys who volunteered to serve at all hearings. The project was publicized to attract clients either through direct contact with the program or through referrals from the police, the sheriff, or other individuals or agencies active in the Orlando criminal justice system.

The major objective of the program is to offer disputing parties an alternative "hearing process", outside of the normal court hearing procedures. A reconciliation of differences culminating in a lasting solution is the end objective. The program attempts to assist the complainant and the respondent in reaching a mutually satisfactory settlement.

FINDINGS

The major objective of the evaluation was to determine the success rate of the cases referred to the CDS Program. For the purpose of this evaluation, the success rate is defined as an agreement reached at a CDS hearing that is still in effect. The statistics compiled indicate that approximately 50 percent of the agreements reached over a 12-month period remained in effect at the time this evaluation was being conducted. Due to an insufficient number of questionnaires returned (25%) no accurate comparison could be made of complainants versus respondents nor can the CDS Program be classified as a success or failure.

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CURRENT REFERRAL SYSTEM

A total of thirty-four (34) police officers were interviewed between September 16 and 22, 1977, and asked specific questions as well as their own opinions concerning the CDS Program. Nineteen (19) police officers were interviewed from the Orlando Police Department and fifteen (15) from the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

The majority of the police officers interviewed stated that they refer or have referred people to the program. The overwhelming type of complaints referred were neighborhood and family disputes. However, 66 percent of the officers had fair or indifferent attitudes or expressed no opinion of the CDS Program. The negative attitudes may be attributed to the lack of feedback to the officers from the program.

A majority of the officers also stated that they were not aware that copies of the agreements of dispositions of cases referred were available to them. Consequently, these officers did not know the outcome of the cases they had referred to the CDS Program. Of the officers who did receive notice of the outcome, none could remember if the cases had been settled or remained unsettled. The assumption of the officers who had received notice of the outcome was that if notice had been received by the officer(s), the case must have been settled; the corresponding assumption was that if the outcome was unfavorable or the individuals involved in the dispute failed to contact the CDS Program, then the officers received no notification as to the outcome.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The results of the cases referred to the CDS Program should be posted for the officers at their respective agencies. The results should be posted, at a minimum, on a monthly basis. The program director is in the process of revising the present system of feedback to the police agencies.
2. The CDS staff should provide in-service training to the law enforcement agencies on a quarterly basis over the period of one year. The program director is currently in the process of contacting Orlando Police Department and the Orange County Sheriff in order to provide more in-service training to these agencies.
3. The CDS staff should provide more information to the general public pertaining to the program. The staff should make the general public aware of the services provided, and the type of cases handled by the CDS Program. The program director is aware that more information should be given to the public about the CDS Program and he hopes to rectify this situation in the near future.
4. There appeared to be confusion in answering the questionnaire that was handled through the mail. This problem will be resolved before another questionnaire of this nature is mailed out.

5. The small number of individuals (25%) who answered and returned the questionnaire was not a large enough sample from which to draw any meaningful conclusions. Many of the individuals who had attended CDS hearings have since moved away from the area. Obtaining a large sample from which one can draw conclusions may continue to be a problem in the future, because of a large transient population.
6. Further in-depth evaluation should be done on the CDS Program before a final conclusion can be drawn as to the program's success or failure.

## WINTER HAVEN - "STAMP OUT CRIME" PROJECT

(76-A1-67-AE02)

Central Florida Regional Planning Council (RPC 7)

INTRODUCTION

The Stamp Out Crime program is a comprehensive crime prevention effort operated by the City of Winter Haven Police Department. The program has two goals. First, to educate and involve the public in a total crime prevention effort. Second, to reduce crime in the target areas through citizen education and participation.

Prior to program implementation, crime prevention efforts were minimal within the City of Winter Haven. At the onset, the Stamp Out Crime program sought to involve and educate the public with a media campaign and the establishment of volunteer groups. As stated in the report, 16,000 radio spots were used to aid crime prevention methods. In addition, 326 meetings involving 14,000 people were conducted. Furthermore, the local newspaper printed 48 individual articles about the program and crime prevention methods. The program was taken to the people at every opportunity. There are five shopping centers located within the city limits. During the 18 months, on 25 different occasions, crime prevention displays were presented by volunteers and police personnel.

Volunteer involvement was used to strengthen the bonds between law enforcement crime prevention efforts and the public. An executive committee was established to guide program objectives. Volunteers were recruited and trained in crime prevention methods. These individuals were used in many ways but primarily for conducting home security surveys. Police officers within the department were also trained in crime prevention and used during off duty hours for crime prevention surveys of residences and commercial businesses.

FINDINGS

With the amount of coverage to involve and educate the public in crime prevention methods the Stamp Out Crime program appears to have established a significant level of involvement and understanding for citizens in crime prevention methods. However, followup work has begun to determine the exact impact of suggestions made for target hardening with those persons surveyed and contacted about crime prevention methods.

It is difficult to identify the direct relationships between crime reduction and law enforcement crime prevention efforts. However, there has been a reduction in the crime rate within the City of Winter Haven. Several of the variables that could have affected a crime reduction were examined. Within other city agencies there were no

existing programs that could directly relate to crime reduction. For example, the public utilities department did not have any massive new street lighting campaign. Other community resources were examined to determine if present programs could affect crime rate and it was determined that no program existed that would significantly affect the crime rate.

The Florida State Unemployment Office was contacted to determine if the unemployment rate, a variable in crime reduction, could have affected the crime picture. The unemployment rate did not vary significantly.

Two important activities undertaken by the police department during the 18 month period that have had an impact on crime reduction, in addition to Stamp Out Crime, that can be considered variables are manpower reallocation and an intensive crime prevention project in high crime incidence areas. First, during the project, the city was divided into grids and daily locations of crime were pinpointed - time, day of week, weather, and month were recorded. After patterns were established, manpower were reallocated to high incidence areas to the peak crime times to boost patrol coverage. Second, in one section of the city, a special crime prevention unit was established and has had significant effect on community relations and crime reduction.

The overall impression of the Stamp Out Crime project is positive. In spite of the unknown impact of other variables that may affect crime reduction, Stamp Out Crime has made a vigorous attempt to have a positive impact on crime reduction and citizen involvement.

The ratio between the population of the City of Winter Haven (19,432) and the number of people contacted by the Stamp Out Crime program through the citizen involvement and media campaign (14,000) is very impressive.

Also, taking Uniform Crime Report figures from 1975-1976 the percent of change was -15.5%. Although it can be argued that many factors are involved in crime rates, it seems highly evident that the Stamp Out Crime program has had a positive effect on crime reduction due to its comprehensive nature.



## REHABILITATION RANCH

(76-A1-08-FX02)

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (RPC 8)

INTRODUCTION

This evaluation effort was greatly burdened by several uncontrollable factors. In the initial stages of this evaluation it was found that state records and the Rehabilitation Ranch records varied to some degree. The result was that all data was not comparable for evaluation. In addition, staff turnover and the disbandment of SEK, Inc. also affected the quality of this document. In view of all the problems encountered with this evaluation much of the data was developed and resulted in some interesting findings.

FINDINGS

In its efforts to examine value, cost and effectiveness of the program, a study of comparable records and surveys of staff and clientele was conducted. The conclusive findings are as follows:

1. The Rehabilitation Ranch showed the level of recidivism to be lower than that of the state facilities, and the term of stay within the Ranch program was shorter than that of the state. Also, better services were provided in the Ranch program.
2. Activities were greatly accepted by the clientele of the Ranch program and per day costs were less than state facilities. Also, a well-defined daily schedule was developed and youth requested to conform to the activities in the schedule.
3. Placement services did not exist formally because of financial problems and availability of space. However, the program was widely accepted and used by both public and private agencies. In addition, records reflected a high degree of successful processing of clients.
4. Attitude survey established that both the student and staff both rated project services and activities positively and believed that continuation of this project and other projects of this nature is a definite asset to the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of all the obstacles encountered, a meaningful evaluation was concluded and the results showed this community based residential treatment program does operate efficiently and effectively. There were few changes that could be recommended to the SEK, Inc. to produce more positive results. In addition, it is unfortunate that a program displaying such accomplishments was disbanded because of the lack of financial support needed from federal and state funding sources.

## COLLIER COUNTY: YOUTH GUIDANCE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

(76-J6-09-FF01)

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (RPC 9)

INTRODUCTION

The Collier County Youth Guidance Project was selected initially due to its unique qualities of a) utilization of volunteers to such a great extent, b) its focus on impacting on identified offenders and potential offenders and c) the fact that it is a demonstration-type project for this Region. The volunteer concept for delivery of intensive services has been verbalized for the past several years. The evaluation of this project, which has been in operation three years, at the local level, utilizing an extensive system of community support, from the juvenile court and DHRS to local civic groups and a multiplicity of private individuals.

FINDINGS

The data collected indicated that the project was successful in obtaining all measurable objectives on which information was available and for which time constraints allowed collection and analysis.

The project's main concern was providing supervision and counseling to youth referred to it by the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (DHRS) (Intake-supervision), schools and/or parents. Youth referred to the project were successfully matched (per measurable objectives) to volunteers in the Naples, Florida, area. The project's major measurable objective of preventing additional referral for 60% of the project youth was found to have been approached with an actual percentage of 57.8. The project was thus within an acceptable range of its major 'estimated' measurable objective differentiated by only 2%, which is insignificant when the reader is informed of the fact that information of an in-depth nature was available on only 26 of the 33 youth involved in the one-to-one counseling program (2% would be less than one youth).

In addition to obtaining its main objective, the project provided services to 225 youth (the measurable objective designated 110 as the estimate), recruited 60 volunteers (60 volunteers was the objective), and provided 27 recreational outings (the objective was 40 outings). Thus, the only measurable objective not obtained was the provision of 40 recreational outings. However, this is not a negative finding. The project did provide twenty-seven outings during the period October, 1976, through August, 1977. This averages out to two outings (approximately) per month. Given the fact that community support and resources are mobilized for each of these outings (costing the project no monetary resources) an average of two outings per month is a desirable accomplishment. The revision of this measurable objective from forty (40) outings

to a more realistic number (25-30) is recommended.

The only other recommendation involves the development of selection criteria to identify youth as project service recipients. The project director indicated that the project relied on DHRS Youth Counselors for placement of youth. The counselors identified those youth who would be best served by the project. However, no written criteria was indicated by the counselors and wide variation was found in the number of past offenses, parental supervision and types of offense patterns of each project participant served. One finding in this aspect concerned the absence of black youth in the one-to-one counseling program of the project. This was explained by the fact that black youth are not referred to DHRS by schools or parents until they have committed serious offenses which eventually result in detention. Though there are no written criteria the project has been successful in addressing the problems of a majority of its youth (in the one-to-one counseling program). It is felt that by establishing formal selection criteria, the project will ensure the placement of appropriate youth and provide for continued successful operations.

EVALUATION SUMMARIES

FROM

STATE PLANNING AGENCY



## Executive Summary

### I. INTRODUCTION

Nationwide, crime prevention has become a popular addition to the traditional methods of law enforcement. Inspired by the success of a few innovative agencies and often funded through LEAA, individual crime prevention programs have sprouted in police and sheriff's departments throughout the country.

In Florida, the major force behind the crime prevention movement has been through the Attorney General's Help Stop Crime! project. Since 1971, Help Stop Crime! has coordinated media and law enforcement activity in a massive statewide public education and awareness program effort to make crime prevention programs available to all citizens of Florida. The Help Stop Crime! project was among the first attempts in the United States to develop a coordinated approach to a statewide crime prevention effort. Its coordination of local law enforcement agencies and use of the media were the first of its kind.\* The Help Stop Crime! project currently operates from an annual budget of approximately \$200,000.

This crime prevention program involves over 300 law enforcement agencies in Florida with a direct impact on approximately 70% of Florida's total population. The major emphasis of the program is to create an atmosphere of understanding for the role the law enforcement officer and citizen can play, and to coordinate citizen action with law enforcement efforts.

### FINDINGS

The Help Stop Crime! project has developed into one of the more effective public education and awareness projects in the country. This may be attributed to several factors which have been identified in this report. One of the most significant factors has been the staff's ability to function efficiently under somewhat difficult circumstances, including several office moves. The ability of the staff to meet and exceed the measurable goals and objectives of the project is typified by the quantity of materials produced and distributed and by the new directions taken by the project in new areas of need. Expansion of the project into target areas has served to demonstrate that a concentration of resources may have a deterrent or prevention affect on crime commission. An informed public becomes an aware public which correlates to crime reduction and prevention.

\*The Minnesota Crime Watch program makes similar claims, but documentation by the Florida SPA indicates that Help Stop Crime! was indeed the first program of its kind in the country.

The results of the survey conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance supports the generally-held notion that the project is effective, especially among those who are direct recipients or beneficiaries of the services provided by Help Stop Crime! An overwhelming majority (90%) of the project officers support the project and view it as a very positive tool in their crime prevention efforts. The material and assistance provided by the staff to the project officers has been consistently received in a positive and timely manner.

Through the involvement of local law enforcement agencies in the Help Stop Crime! project, nearly 90% of the residents of Florida have had some exposure to crime prevention through public education and awareness programs. The catalytic effect of the project has precipitated the initiative, among both law enforcement agencies and private citizens, to begin crime prevention activities beyond the Help Stop Crime! project.

One of the deficiencies of the project has been the level of commitment of top management personnel of law enforcement agencies to the goals of the project. That is, chiefs of police, as opposed to project officers, have not attained the level of commitment to crime prevention that would result in increased support of crime prevention activities outside the realm of Help Stop Crime! The project staff feels that this deficiency is being corrected by increased awareness among top management personnel regarding the benefits to be derived from implementation of community crime prevention programs as part of an agency's regular scope of activities.

One other deficiency of the project outlined by this (BCJPA evaluation) and other evaluation studies has been the tendency of the project to aim its "message" at a middle-class constituency almost to the extent of neglecting other segments of the population. While the results of the BCJPA evaluation effort do not conclusively support this assumption, the assumption has been deemed valid by the project staff, project officers and evaluators alike.

The project is attempting to correct this through internal re-evaluation of goals and objectives to develop implementation strategies which are aimed at segments of the population previously not reached by the project.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. New programs - Examine all programs currently being offered to see which programs can be eliminated or expanded. Include programs on child abuse and domestic assault. These are areas which the project officer survey indicates should be developed.



2. Funding Resources - Immediately begin to seek additional funding sources as LEAA funds will be virtually unavailable in the future.
3. Training and Education - To the extent possible with funds available, develop and implement training packages for project officers and citizen groups engaged in crime prevention activities.
4. Information Exchange: The newsletter developed by Help Stop Crime! should be used as a two-way communications vehicle by everyone involved with the project. As events occur or are initiated at the local level which are of statewide significance or replicability, they should be reported to the newsletter.
5. Expansion of Effort - As the project becomes more sophisticated in its delivery mechanism, the project's constituency should be expanded. Programs aimed at subpopulation groups such as the elderly, residents of low income housing developments and the physically handicapped should be explored.
6. Volunteers - Use of the volunteers at the state level should be explored to augment staff efforts in areas where appropriate.
7. Coordination of Citizen Groups - A clearinghouse function should be established whereby a network of both law enforcement agencies and citizen groups can benefit from the project's activities.
8. Record Keeping - Record keeping by the project has been more than adequate. However, a re-examination of the forms used to report on use of materials (project officers' activity report) should be initiated. The present form does not measure usage of material.
9. Statewide Crime Prevention - The Help Stop Crime! project should become a permanent tool of the Attorney General, to promote crime prevention activities in the state by the residents of Florida.

## STATEWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNICATIONS

Florida Division of Communications

(76-A2-22-CA01)

INTRODUCTION

There are approximately 400 local law enforcement agencies in the state of Florida, which, without exception, require communication capabilities to provide basic levels of law enforcement and community services. Historically, the development of communications systems in the state were hampered by a lack of documented system needs, irrationally and non-systematic planned local system configurations and the lack of non-partisan technical expertise to develop and guide the implementation of a total law enforcement communications network for the state.

The predominant need during the late 1960's was for guidance to be provided to all users of communications systems. The need was addressed by Florida's 1969 and 1972 Legislature which created the foundation at the state level for technical engineering services and directed the creation of a planned strategy for all future law enforcement communication systems. The Division of Communications (DIV-COM) was created and charged with planning, developing and directing the implementation of a statewide law enforcement communications system.

FINDINGS

As a result of communications needs and directive legislation, the DIV-COM has been continually supported with federal resources for six and one-half years from eight separate fiscal funding periods. A total of \$703,119 in federal/state resources have been expended to support the legislation and meet the needs of the state in developing and guiding the implementation of law enforcement communications systems.

The DIV-COM project, "Statewide Law Enforcement Communications," was assessed from a technical assistance delivery standpoint and depended upon project staff input, law enforcement agency questionnaire responses and the analysis of project and SPA files.

The analysis of data points to several conclusions. The Division's Public Safety Section is providing the law enforcement community in the state with significant levels of quality service. The section's communications engineers are responsive to the requests and inquiries of all agencies geographically and by size. The level of satisfaction expressed by the agencies for services provided is a good indicator of the professional and technical capabilities of the engineers. On the basis of questionnaire

responses, the analysis indicates that at least one-half of all agencies are unaware of the Division of Communication's legal mandates and authority. Even though law enforcement agencies indicate that they are not fully informed as to the types of technical assistance services available to them, the Division of Communications' files indicate that with few exceptions all agencies have been provided some type of technical assistance during the last four years of the project.

Finally, most agencies do not feel that their communications needs have been thoroughly assessed. To strengthen the existing technical assistance approach, the following recommendations are made to be incorporated into the Div-Com project.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The statewide law enforcement communications project, as a component of the Division of Communications' services, should be continued with the use of state general revenue funds.
2. The statewide law enforcement communications master plan should be revised to incorporate a systems needs analysis and a system's priority implementation process.
3. The Division of Communications should develop and implement standardized equipment and system engineering specifications, to be revised periodically.
4. The Division of Communications should develop and publish an information pamphlet for distribution to all law enforcement agencies stating the Division's statutory authority and responsibility, types of services available to agencies and general requirements of the state master plan.

## PUBLIC DEFENDER COORDINATION OFFICE

Florida Public Defender's Assn.

(76-A3-47-DB02)

INTRODUCTION

The Public Defenders Coordination Office (PDCO) was established in 1974 to develop management standards and processes to reduce disparities among Florida's 20 public defender offices in policies, caseloads and funding. The Office has received Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) funding since its inception to enhance liaison between the elected public defenders and the judicial, legislative and executive branches of government.

The PDCO is a private agency created by the Florida Public Defenders Association to provide technical assistance, continuing legal education and the above-mentioned services, to the public defenders. This evaluation covers the period 1976-1977.

FINDINGS - Among the major findings revealed by this evaluation, are the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. The large majority of Florida's public defenders are satisfied with the services of the PDCO and feel the Office has helped cooperation and reduced duplication.
2. The PDCO has been active in implementing several Florida defense standards and national administrative defense standards, but inactive in implementing national operational defense standards.
3. The PDCO, when compared with the State Prosecutions Operations Coordinator, has more administrative activities, but fewer operational activities.
4. In order to perform some activities performed by similar efforts in other states, the PDCO should engage in intensive basic trial skills training of new defender attorneys, include federal public defenders in activities and provide additional legal services.
5. Some public defenders want additional PDCO services in the areas of videotape, auditing, statistical reports, purchasing procedures, appellate training, training manuals, and forms.
6. Although the Office was extensively involved in liaison duties and provision of some technical assistance, the PDCO should become more involved in providing standardized management assistance.
7. The PDCO achieved its objectives with regard to public information activities, but could take the lead in enhancing national efforts in public defender coordination.
8. PDCO efforts in training have generally been sufficient and well-received by participants.

## FLORIDA'S COORDINATED PRETRIAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Florida Department of Offender Rehabilitation

(76-A4-41-EJ01)

INTRODUCTION

The Pretrial Intervention Program (PTI) diverts eligible accused offenders prior to trial and places them in supervised community based programs. There are presently seven PTI projects servicing seven judicial circuits in Florida with funds from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). The program operates under the Department of Offender Rehabilitation (DOR) in cooperation with the State Attorneys in each circuit involved. In FY 1977-78, this program will be expanded to 18 judicial circuits in all. This report covers FY 1976-77.

FINDINGS

Among the major findings revealed by the study are the following:

1. During FY 1976-77, 6,631 preliminary investigations were completed and 2,120 background investigations were conducted.
2. Of 1,439 people who were accepted into the program, 1211 or 90%, successfully completed the program. There were 134 who did not complete the program.
3. The program's recidivism rate was 3.70% to those clients who had successfully been terminated from the program.
4. In total, the PTI program has collected \$58,965.03 in restitution.
5. The average cost for one individual to go through the program was approximately \$313.00 compared to the average cost per case on probation being \$1,656.25.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Eligibility criteria should be expanded to include persons: a) accused of prior minor offenses and b) persons accused of second degree felonies. There are many offenders who could benefit from the program that are now not eligible.
2. There is a need to establish good working relationships with State Attorneys in the new judicial circuits in which projects will be established.

3. There is a definite need for increased training of line staff as well as supervisory staff. This should be done on a pre-service and in-service basis every six months.
4. With the expansion of the Pretrial Intervention Program, all data needs to be computerized.

STATE JUDICIAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM  
76-AS-30-IA01

INTRODUCTION

The State Judicial Management Information System: 76-AS-30-IA01 was a continuation of a discretionary project involving reallocated 1972 funds. This evaluation sought to answer the question of what was accomplished by the project, and what the reasons were for either the accomplishment or non-accomplishment of various expectations of the project.

The main goal (as implied within the subgrant application) involved a feasibility test of an automated docketing system within the Second Judicial Circuit and a feasibility test of the collection of offender-based transactional data.

FINDINGS

1. The overall purposes of the Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) in implementing this project apparently were vastly different from LEAA's.

2. The State Attorney's Office and the six county Clerks of the Court were supportive of the implementation of the project.

3. The Department of Offender Rehabilitation (DOR) and the Florida Department of Criminal Law Enforcement (FDCLE) had, as of the development of this evaluation, not entered into substantive agreements or actual working relationships with SJMIS, although substantial progress toward that end was accomplished within the past four months. This includes a shared data base as well as a working agreement to test data exchange with FDCLE and the Courts.

4. Because of statutory limitations, the reorganization of the Youth Services Program Offices (YSPO), and efforts at the federal level in the area of juvenile systems, the juvenile component of the project was deleted.

5. The project has some very serious shortcomings in terms of resources which have affected its potential for providing expected services.

6. The project had troubles developing relationships with other state agencies in its early phases, which were later

resolved. This is significant because many of the project's stated goals involved the cooperation of other state-level agencies.

7. Out of ten objectives, four objectives were declared by the project and BCJPA to be invalid because of their focus upon juvenile information systems. The project accomplished three objectives and is presently implementing two objectives. It failed to accomplish one objective.
8. The project had anticipated the problem of its being compatible with information systems already operational, and, accordingly was developed to meet that need. (NCIC and FCIC code compatibility, etc).
9. There is a need for this type of project that is:
  1. a system to generate statistical summaries concerning workload data and accounting for every offender and alleged offender within the criminal justice system; and
  2. an information system capable of providing OBTS/CCH information to system users on a timely basis still exists. This system development represents a logical solution to the problems involved in getting that information.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Funding agencies, along with project and SPA personnel should meet and decide upon goals, timetable, and measurable objectives (objectives were not sufficiently measurable).
2. Progress should be submitted in a more timely fashion including reports on the attainment or achievement of each individual objective. After July, 1977, project showed marked improvement in this area.
3. Future extensive similar projects should have very intensive monitoring and technical assistance (TA).
4. TA from Project Search should be sought to resolve the main issues facing this grant in its attempt to get renewal.
5. Work plans should be developed along the lines suggested by Search, Inc.
6. Project should be re-funded provided recommendations 1-5 are adequately addressed.



## FLORIDA NETWORK OF RUNAWAY AND YOUTH SERVICES

(75-A5-29-FI01)

INTRODUCTION

This is the first evaluation by the Bureau of Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance of the Florida Network project, which became operational in September of 1976. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) funds are utilized for the portion of Network activities which addresses the needs of runaway youth and their families.

The Network activities funded through the JJDP Act include: establishment of a statewide data base on runaway youth; assurance of compliance of Florida runaway centers with state standards; mobilizing public and private sector cooperation and support for runaway youth and family services in Florida; increasing runaway centers' planning capabilities; facilitating coordination among national, regional, and state runaway centers/networks in providing and upgrading services to runaway youth; and establishment of an information clearinghouse.

The most recent grant from JJDP Act funds to the Network was in the amount of \$23,333 for the time period June, 1977 - May, 1978. The grant pays for eighty-five percent of the project director's time, and fifty percent of a clerical staff person's time.

FINDINGS

An analysis of Network files, survey questionnaire results from 9 of Florida's 11 runaway centers, and interviews with Network and runaway center staff indicated that the project has developed contacts with all state runaway centers and with some major resources for runaway youth nationally, in other states, and in-state.

Further, the Network has considerably increased the visibility of runaway youth and family problems and services through its newsletter, participation in local, state, regional, and state workshops and conferences, and provision of technical assistance.

Formal documentation of activities relating to specific objectives was found to be sparse in some areas. Definition of roles and responsibilities of Network staff and the Network, in general, were found to be often unclear. A major portion of the problem regarding role and responsibility delineation appeared to be due to the fact that the Network receives funds from a variety of sources, to perform varied activities. Also, the concept of "networking" is highly complex and requires much delineation of processes and acceptance of responsibilities both in the part of the Network central office and the centers.

The Network has played a minor role in the state in setting common goals for runaway centers. For this reason, and a variety of other reasons, the establishment of a statewide data base on runaway youth has essentially not occurred.

Increased technical expertise in the areas of planning and management would appear to be beneficial to the project.

Despite the deficiencies in the project, which have been occasioned by a variety of factors - some of which have been beyond project control - the Network serves a very necessary central coordinating function for runaway services which is not being filled by any other agency or organization. In view of this fact, continued funding is recommended.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Improved accountability via development of formats for technical assistance requests, and technical assistance evaluation; and aggregation of data collected.
2. Further training for Network staff in planning and management, with such expertise to be transferred to runaway center directors.
3. Development of data base and goals for runaway centers via meetings with SPA staff, Network staff, Office of Youth Development staff, and runaway project directors.
4. Increased priority emphasis on in-state coordination and improvement of services to runaway youth.
5. Priority emphasis on private sector and local governmental agencies and organizations with regard to runaway services improvement.

## CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

(75-AS-47-DB02)

INTRODUCTION

This is the first evaluation by the Florida SPA of the Center for Children and Youth which became operational in September, 1976, with Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act funds.

The Center for Children and Youth was created to organize concerned citizens and professionals through the state into a network of advocates for children and youth. The Center for Children and Youth is in a unique position to speak for the total child and for all youth in Florida. They remind the community, state agencies, and the legislature of the presence of special problems and needs of youth.

The Center's activities include: publishing and disseminating bi-monthly newsletters; development of multi-county child and youth advocacy structures and development of a clearinghouse capability to assist state and local agencies in planning, developing/publishing legislative information, and training volunteers in advocacy strategies.

The Center began operation under a grant from the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act funds in the amount of \$59,000. Present operation of the Center is being funded with Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act funds in the amount of \$81,420.

FINDINGS

Analysis of the data indicates that the Center, has in its short period of operation progressed in mobilizing citizen involvement in matters relating to children and youth. Data also reveals that the Center has had a positive impact on increasing public and professional knowledge about children and youth and the provision of services. The project appears to have successfully met its objectives.

Respondents to the questionnaire indicated that the Center's efforts towards facilitating increased cooperation/coordination of services for youth were very good. Fifty-two percent (52%) felt that coordination of services was the most beneficial aspect of the Center. However, for the period of time that this evaluation was conducted, the Center seemed to be devoting most

of its efforts to statewide problems and not taking a proactive role in local community mobilization. This was due in part to the great number of state needs to be addressed and the minimum number of staff of the Center. A "Community Organization Specialist" was hired in August, 1977, to focus on local communities. In addition, this was the first year of the Center's operation and much time and effort had to be spent on organizational and administrative matters. Further, the Center has considerably increased public and professional awareness of problems and issues related to children and youth through its newsletters, staff's participation in workshops and seminars and through its statewide conference.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A systematic reporting procedure should be developed to gather information regarding technical assistance requested and provided.
2. The Center should work to clarify the specific responsibilities of the cluster in relation to the Board. Clarification should assure that the Board's role is policy making and the cluster's role is one of advising the Board on specific issues.
3. It is recommended that the Center standardize the procedures for the coordination and recruitment of youth advocates into advocacy alliances at the local level. A procedural manual specifying the ways to identify and mobilize the advocates in particular areas should be developed.
4. Establishment of a procedure by which the community organizer will carry out a pre- and post-assessment of the advocacy activities in any target area or community.
5. The Center should reconsider the composition of the Board of Directors in order to expand representation from business, industry and labor and elected officials. In the same respect, we recommend that qualified young people be included in all planning and implementation of programmatic policy decision.
6. More formalized information coordination should be established between the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Task Force and the Center with regard to specific issues or areas of mutual concern.
7. Organizational charts of the powerbrokers within each target area should be kept by the Center.

8. The Center should consider participation in radio or public television talk shows. Placement of articles in local or main state newspapers is also recommended.
9. The Center for Children and Youth should review budgets of agencies providing services to children and youth and should provide consultation to state budget officials on matters relating to the allocation of funds for services for children and youth.
10. Recognizing the need for a single state organization to serve as an advocate for youth in an effort to prevent delinquency, continued funding for the Center is recommended.



**END**