

Growing up in America means growing up in a Community.



**ALTERNATIVE
PROGRAMS**

**for Status Offenders
and Detained Juveniles**

53016

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS
FOR STATUS OFFENDERS
AND DETAINED JUVENILES

NCJRS

DEC 18 1978

ACQUISITIONS

GOVERNOR'S JUSTICE COMMISSION
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AND

THE PENNSYLVANIA JOINT COUNCIL
ON THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

SUMMER, 1976

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INTRODUCTION

The guidelines developed by the Governor's Justice Commission Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for implementing programs with Bayh Act funds place specific emphasis in three areas: alternatives to detention and to post-adjudicative treatment of status offenders in secure facilities, alternatives to the detention of all youth in adult county jails, and programs to routinely divert status offenders from the juvenile justice system.

The program descriptions which follow offer a sampling of types of alternative approaches which the Advisory Committee thinks meet the intent of their guidelines and the Bayh Act. The materials are not intended to be comprehensive, but only to indicate the range and variety of resources which could be developed to provide the services necessary to bring Pennsylvania into compliance with the Federal Act. Their purpose is to serve as a base from which planning to meet individual community needs can be initiated. Although many of the programs provide services in all three emphasis areas, the programs are included in the section to which their most unique and/or extensive services apply.

The materials were compiled by the staffs of the Governor's Justice Commission and the Joint Council on the Criminal Justice System under the guidance of the Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The assistance of the many agency and program people contacted within and outside of the State in identifying resources and supplying the necessary information was essential and greatly appreciated.

I. JUVENILE DELINQUENCY ACT OF 1974

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, sponsored by Senator Birch Bayh, created for the first time a unified national program to deal with juvenile delinquency prevention and control. The Act created the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention within the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to implement and administer Federal juvenile delinquency programs.

The Act contains the following general provisions:

1. The coordination of delinquency programs; authorization of additional resources to states, localities, public and private agencies for community-based prevention, diversion and treatment programs; centralization of research, training, technical assistance and evaluation activities; development of national guidelines for the administration of juvenile justice; adoption of procedural protection for juveniles under Federal jurisdiction.

2. That 75% of the allocated funds be expended on "advanced techniques" in delinquency prevention programs, in diversion of youth from the juvenile justice system, and in providing community-based alternatives to juvenile detention and corrections facilities. These techniques include: youth services bureaus and other counseling and supportive services, comprehensive programs of drug and alcohol abuse education and prevention, educational programs designed to keep delinquents in elementary and secondary schools, alternative learning situations, and probation subsidy programs.

3. The creation of a State Advisory Committee on juvenile delinquency planning. The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Committee was established by Governor's Executive Order 75-3. The Committee advises and assists the Governor's Justice Commission, the designated planning agency for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, in the preparation and approval of a State plan for conformance to the specific provisions and objectives of the Act. The Committee consists of representatives from units of government, justice and law enforcement agencies, public and private youth service agencies and private organizations concerned with juvenile delinquency and youth problems. One-third of the members are under 26, and a majority are not employees of state, local or federal government.

The Pennsylvania Juvenile Delinquency Plan adopted by the Advisory Committee and the Governor's Justice Commission deals with the specific portions of the Act relating to the deinstitutionalization of status offenders, and the separation of juveniles from incarcerated adults:

Section 223 (a) (12) of the Act requires that youth who are charged with or have committed offenses that would not be criminal for an adult (status offenders) not be placed in juvenile detention or correctional facilities.

Under this provision, juvenile status offenders and non-offenders will be diverted from the juvenile justice system, and where residential care is necessary, will be placed in shelter facilities, group homes, or other community-based alternatives rather than juvenile detention or correctional facilities.

Section 223 (a) (13) of the Act requires that juveniles alleged or found to be delinquent not be detained or confined in any institution in which they have regular contact with adults incarcerated because they have been convicted of a crime or are awaiting trial on criminal charges. Under this provision, juveniles may not be held in any adult jails or lock-ups unless they can be kept totally separate from adult offenders. The Act also mandates that the State provide an adequate monitoring system to insure that these requirements are met.

Some of the strategies adopted in the 1976 Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Plan include:

Legislative Change, to remove the status offender from the delinquent category, to prohibit use of jails for juveniles, to promote use of shelter care, and to provide funding incentives to counties to develop viable community-based treatment programs.

Administrative Enforcement, to establish an ongoing process through the Department of Public Welfare that will assure compliance with existing Legislation and regulations through development of an accurate youth services reporting system, revision of current regulations pertaining to detention and placement of youth, and enforcement of new and existing regulations through on-site inspections and evaluation.

Education and Technical Assistance, to provide information at county and program level about the Act requirements and types of alternatives available, and technical assistance in planning and development of status offender and detention alternative programs.

Funding of Alternatives, to provide grants for programs which insure the separation of juveniles from incarcerated adults, and the treatment of status offenders separate from criminal-type delinquents in physically unrestrictive community-based settings.

PROGRAM TABLE

This is an alphabetical listing of the programs included in this booklet. Following each program is an asterisk(s) to indicate in which area(s) the program provides a service, and the page on which it is found is listed.

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II. DETENTION ALTERNATIVES

The Bayh Act mandates changes in the patterns of juvenile detention which affect the system as it exists in Pennsylvania today. Detention of over 3,000 youth each year in county jails and prisons where true separation from adult offenders cannot be guaranteed is an acknowledged problem. Status offenders are routinely detained in secure facilities with youth who have committed criminally delinquent acts because there are no viable, non-secure options available to the courts.

Alternatives to secure detention in the community have proved to meet the needs of secure detention by assuring that youth are available to the court for hearings, and by protecting youth from danger to themselves or others. Community-based detention services can provide the necessary short-term intervention, problem resolution and supervision on a case by case basis at a significantly lower cost than secure detention. Comprehensive services can mitigate the factors which usually dictate the detention decision--the youth, his home situation, prior referrals and offenses, community concerns--through established daily contact, crisis intervention, problem assessment and temporary placement outside the home when necessary. Some of the initial services, described in general below, may or may not need to be continued beyond the period of detention.

Community Advocates: Community advocates may range from supervised volunteers to reassigned probation officers, who work primarily with youth who require more supervision than the family can guarantee but do not need close supervision or security to remain trouble free in the community. The advocate program emphasizes maintenance of the youth-community ties through a one-to-one relationship with an adult who functions as an advocate, positive role model, friend, problem solver, or authority figure. Advocate programs may be managed by court, county or private agencies, or may be incorporated as a component of a residential or multi-service program.

Shelter Care: Shelter care services provide temporary residential placement for detention of youth not requiring security but who are unable to stay in their own homes. Shelter care services can include short-term foster home placement, short-term group homes, and shelter care facilities. Services within shelter care programs vary, but in group home and facility programs usually include education, crisis intervention counseling, program activities, casework for long range residential planning where necessary, advocacy and referral to other agencies.

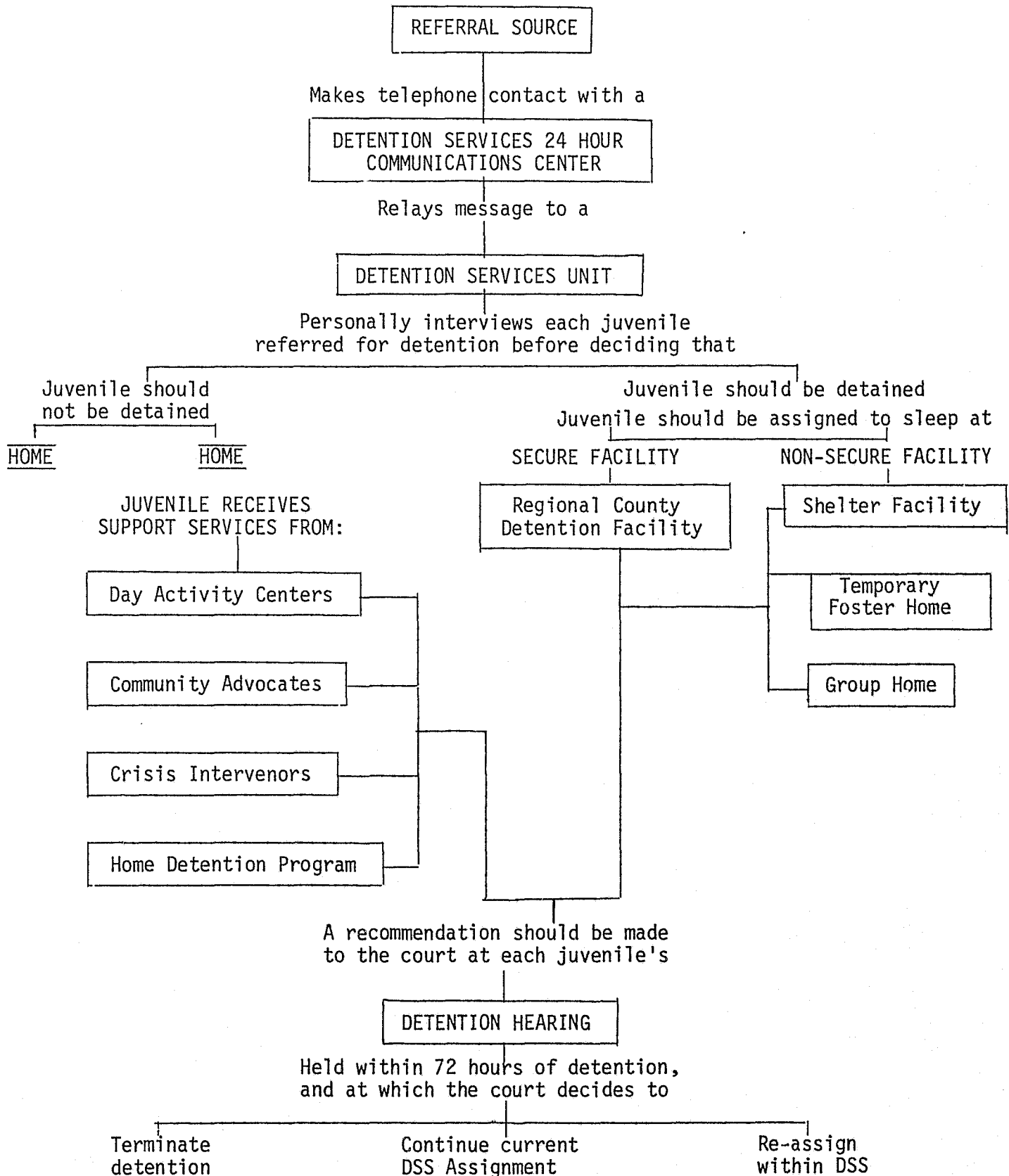
Intake and Referral Services: Intake and referral services provide an identified capability to accept cases on a 24 hour basis from all sources feeding youth into the juvenile detention system--police, courts, schools,

families, other child care agencies. IRS also provides a mechanism for: immediate problem assessment, case by case detention decision, intervention to resolve crises through counseling or mediation, indication of further service needs by youth and family, coordination of placement for services and follow-up to insure that the service plan is being followed. Intake and referral programs can be within or outside the court structure, and can be used to divert youth from secure detention into viable non-secure alternatives.

In providing adequately for youth detention needs, a complete range of services in the community is most desirable. The ideal model for this system could be described as a Detention Services System as described in the chart on page

A DETENTION SERVICES SYSTEM MODEL (DSS)

A Detention Services System is defined as that program and decision network necessary to alter the use of secure detention facilities so as to effect a reduction in the number of child-care days and in the number of juveniles detained in secure facilities.



CHILDREN'S HOME OF EASTON
Emergency Placement Care
25th Street and Lehigh Drive
Easton, Pa. 18042
(215) 258-2831

Michael H. Danjcek, Executive Director
Gloria Ingram, Agency Coordinator

Beginning in November, 1974, the Children's Home of Easton attempted to fill a gap in resources for youth by providing emergency shelter care for adolescents as an alternative to placement in a secure detention facility. This service also has provided a support mechanism for the Children's Bureau and Juvenile Probation Office when immediate foster home placement is neither available nor appropriate. This arrangement allows a youth the opportunity to "cool off" without the necessity of involving himself/herself with a foster family or going through the stigma or confusion involved in placement in a detention center.

The shelter has a capacity of six youths and is funded on a \$31.00 per diem contractual basis. The Children's Bureau has assigned one worker to be the liaison with the shelter's staff and the placed youths; soon a representative from the probation department may be assigned to a similar role. The shelter's agency coordinator is responsible for intake, supervision of counseling services and coordinating the youth's future placement plans.

There are six full-time counselors and two volunteer recreational workers. Two teachers tutor the children during the school year. The children participate in a variety of recreational activities on and off campus after a 24-hour adjustment period. They also may earn about \$1.50 an hour for several hours of work on the shelter's ground.

The children are required to undergo a physical examination by the referring agency within 72 hours after placement; however, a nurse is on call at all times for emergency and follow-up care.

COMMUNITY DETENTION PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF BALTIMORE
212 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21220
(301) 383-4896

Franklin Young, Supervisor

In 1973, the Department of Juvenile Services in the City of Baltimore received an LEAA grant to finance the development of a Community Detention Program as a pilot project. The program was to provide an alternative to the high cost of placing juveniles in institutions.

The Community Detention Program provides juveniles with intensive supervision in their own or a surrogate home during the period between their detention hearing and the adjudication and/or dispositional hearing. The purpose of the intensive supervision by a Community Detention Worker is to keep the youth from committing any additional offenses and to assure his/her appearance in court.

Juveniles assigned by the Juvenile Court to the Community Detention Program fall within the following criteria:

- The child must be between the age of 10 and 18;
- The child must have a home, either real or surrogate, in which he/she may be placed;
- The case is not one where the Court determines the child must be removed from the community;
- Jurisdiction over the child has not been waived and the child has not been detained pending waiver;
- Top priority is given to first offenders;
- The parents must at least not be resistive to close supervision;
- A Community Detention Worker is available who can assume supervision of another case;
- The location of the child's home does not offer a geographic impediment to close supervision.

The Community Detention Program has demonstrated that it is a viable alternative to institutional detention. It was successful with 92.5% of the cases that were closed by the end of its first nine months in operation. Only 15 (7.5%) cases out of 200 were program failures--9 committed new offenses and 6 absconded from supervision and were not available to the Court. The cost per day of supervising a child in the Community Detention Program is \$6.03; the cost per child of having a child placed in an institution is \$36.25.

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH SHELTER
74 South Second Street
Newark, Ohio 43055
(614) 349-8494

Richard Lusetti, Director

The Neighborhood Youth Shelter, Inc. is a non-profit organization incorporated in May, 1975, to provide an alternative community residential facility to the incarceration of status offenders in city and county jails in Licking County, Ohio. The project is funded under the LEAA deinstitutionalization of status offenders program.

The Shelter serves as a short-term, crisis intervention emergency shelter facility for status offenders. It has a capacity of ten youth (coed) with a maximum stay of thirty days. Additional provisions for emergency shelter care through arrangements with foster homes for four beds have been made. Program services include group, individual, and family counseling, recreation; housekeeping responsibilities, and referral to other agencies for services.

The treatment modality integrates Shelter services in a supportive environment to enable individual response to client needs. Staff is responsible for developing a treatment plan with the youth, and for coordination, support and follow-up of the clients' individual program.

PRE-HEARING INTENSIVE SUPERVISION UNIT (PHIS)
Philadelphia Family Court, Juvenile Branch
1801 Vine Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
(215) MU6-7960

Lois Brown, Director

The Pre-Hearing Intensive Supervision Unit began operation in May, 1970, through a grant from the Governor's Justice Commission, and is sponsored by the Philadelphia Family Court.

The program was established (1) to relieve overcrowding of detention facilities and reduce detention costs, and (2) to involve a youth who would have been held in custody in a meaningful plan or program before he appears in court for his adjudicatory hearing through intensive probation casework and daily supervision, so that a more productive court decision could be made.

The Unit consists of seven male probation officers, their supervisor, a research assistant, and a secretary. The maximum case load of each probation officer is no more than seven boys at any given time; boys are assigned (where possible) to an officer who lives in or near their community and are seen on a daily basis. The juveniles are assigned to the unit by the presiding judge at their detention hearing and are referred directly to the unit from the hearing for an initial interview.

The probation officer uses a community approach in helping the child plan his program, and the probation officers have exhibited a strong personal concern in working with the boys and have offered help and support in many informal ways.

VOLUNTEER HOMES FOR STATUS OFFENDERS

Office of Volunteer Services
1323 Winewood Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(904) 488-8890

Contact: Jeff Schembera

The Florida Youth Services Division in 1975 established a network of short-term, volunteer homes as an alternative to the situation of detaining status offenders in secure detention facilities with delinquents.

The volunteer homes are recruited through a myriad of community resources including churches, radio spots, civic associations, and volunteer groups. The program is fully supported by the Florida Division of Youth Services. Every potential volunteer family is intensively screened by the staff, and the families participating represent a cross-section of the community. They receive no compensation for their services, and are responsible for providing food, shelter, and supervision so the child may remain in the community rather than be held in a secure detention facility.

Children placed in volunteer homes in lieu of secure detention must have a detention hearing within 48 hours. A Volunteer Services staff person has contact with the home at least once a day. The maximum stay in a home is two weeks.

During the first four months of the program, an average of over 750 beds in volunteer homes were available, and 1,181 youth were placed for an average of 6.4 days. During that period, only 5.6% of the youth placed ran away from the volunteer homes.

III. ALTERNATIVES TO INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT OF STATUS OFFENDERS

Development of sufficient alternatives to eliminate the placement of youth adjudicated for status offenses in closed, correctional facilities is also a funding priority under the Bayh Act. These alternatives should address longer term youth treatment needs within the family and community setting. The problems leading to status offenses can best be resolved within non-restrictive, community residential or non-residential programs, because institutionalization is often both inappropriate and harmful to the youth and family.

Alternative programs which can adequately meet status offender needs should work with the youth and family at home whenever possible. If it is necessary to remove the youth from his home, the residential placement should be considered temporary and in as home-like a setting as possible. The focus of counseling in all residential programs should be toward the youth's return to his own home, or to an independent living situation where this is not possible.

Most of the program approaches described as detention alternatives can be appropriate in providing the longer term care or supervision needed in institutional alternatives as described below. Additional approaches suitable only to the longer term care indicated for post-adjudication alternatives are also described.

Community advocates: Through increased contact and establishment of a trusting, one-to-one relationship, advocates can provide the counseling and support necessary to enable a youth to successfully direct his actions and negotiate in the community--schools, jobs, family and other interpersonal relationships.

Shelter Care: Through placement in long term foster homes or group homes, where youth are provided with a family or group living setting, attend school, hold part or full time jobs and receive individual counseling and assistance in long term planning, youth can be successfully integrated in the community even though removal from home is necessary.

Alternative Schools: Alternative schools provide a wide range of educational opportunities outside of the regular public school setting. Through use of innovative curriculum, teaching methods, individual planning and scheduling, and intensive counseling, these programs offer a viable learning experience for youth who have become alienated in traditional high schools. As commitment alternatives for status offenders, alternative schools should focus on the total needs of the youth, and frequently involve family or group counseling and work-study arrangements as program components.

Career and Job Development Programs: These programs provide youth with job skills, training and counseling, actual work experience and job-related education. They offer both the youth and the court a viable, paying program alternative.

ACHIEVEMENT PLACE
901 Vine Avenue
Williamsport, Pa. 17701
(717) 323-8156

John Konkle, Manager

Achievement Place is a community-based residential center for delinquent boys between the ages of 15 and 17. The program serves as a dispositional alternative to institutionalization for the Lycoming County Court, and works with youth adjudicated for non-violent offenses. The program presently is funded by Lycoming County, the Governor's Justice Commission, and is one component of the Lycoming County Office of Youth Services.

The program uses a three-level phase system, with the youth earning different or increased privileges as they progress in each phase. The average length of stay in the home is 4 to 6 months; youth are involved in school, jobs, and recreational activities within a home-like therapeutic environment. At completion of the program, youth are returned home when possible, placed in other long-term residential settings, or placed in the Waterdale Work Training Program to prepare them for independent living.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE, INC. (CSI)
311 South Juniper Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
(215) KI6-3503

Wetonah B. Jones, Executive Director
Willie V. Small, Director of Social Work

CSI was incorporated in 1949 to insure adequate and appropriate services to Black clients where traditional child placement agencies have not met their needs. It is a United Fund agency which also receives per diem rates from the Department of Public Welfare.

CSI provides preventive medical services; psychological and psychiatric services to help nurture positive self-image and define the areas of a youth's adequacy; educational services; vocational services to provide youth with a realistic package of his/her career potential; a legal component (established prior to Gault) to insure that no child's legal rights are violated in placement, delinquency petitions and/or witness testimony in court; additionally there are seminars to acquaint youth, staff and foster families with their rights under the law.

CSI functions from a Black conceptual practice base. Programs are geared to the development of survival skills to enable the youths to overcome their dependent or delinquent status within a society which discriminates against both Blacks and youth.

Pertinent programs of service include:

Foster Family Care for Dependent and Neglected Children and Youth. Foster homes are provided as an alternative to institutional placement and not as a substitute for the youth's natural family. Within the foster home, children are able to develop social skills in relating to others by living in a natural family setting. CSI's client group is primarily the hard to place Black adolescent male and large family groups.

Independent Living Service for Dependent and Delinquent Youth (DPW and YDC purchase of service). CSI helps place and supervise older adolescent youth who no longer need foster care or institutional placement in independent living facilities, such as a large commercial apartment complex, small converted apartment buildings, the "Y", or an agency-owned residence. This program began in 1966 with dependent and neglected youths who had been in CSI's foster care service. In 1973, the Philadelphia Youth Development Center contracted with CSI to provide this alternative for adjudicated delinquents. From 1966 - March, 1976 a total of 253 young adults were served in independent living (218 males, 35 females). CSI works collaboratively with the DPW and YDC by keeping them abreast of the youth's progress but takes over direct supervision of the client. Each youth continues with a social worker and may use the supportive services of CSI, in addition to the community resources. An Individualized Service Plan is developed which is highly flexible and attempts to meet the needs, inputs, motivation and potential of each independent living participant in terms of education and vocational training and movement towards leaving placement.

(Taken from A Definitive Statement of Services @ 1976 by C.S.I., W. V. Small, ed.)

HORIZON HOUSE
520 South Shippen Street
Lancaster, Pa. 17602
(717) 394-9831

Mr. Victor Salansky, Director

Horizon House is a group home for twelve boys from 15 - 17 1/2 years which began operation in April, 1970. To date, 150 boys have completed the 8 1/2 - 9 month program. The boys are youth that have been adjudicated delinquent and are referred to Horizon House from the juvenile court. About 60 percent of the youth served come from Lancaster County. The staff - a director, six professionals, and support staff - provides group and individual counseling, psychiatric and psychological counseling and treatment. The staff tries not to duplicate services that are already available and makes use of community resources for educational and vocational counseling and other supportive services. The program is funded by purchase of service from Lancaster and surrounding counties at a cost of approximately \$25.00 per day per child.

The program has been the model for the establishment of other group homes throughout the state.

LOYSVILLE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM
Loysville Youth Development Center
Loysville, Pa. 17047
(717) 789-3841

Thomas Eagan, Program Director

The Loysville Community Service Program is a foster care placement service for adjudicated youth funded by the Department of Public Welfare. The program attempts to provide all the basic elements of family life through foster placement in order to teach the child independent living.

Services include the following:

- Recruitment and training of foster parents;
- Placement of adjudicated youth, ages twelve through seventeen, in foster homes. Through careful matching process in which the child makes several weekend visits to a future home, both the parents and the child can decide if they think the placement would be successful;
- Area representatives functioning as communication facilitators between foster parents and the child in separate and group meetings before and after placement; follow-up counseling visits continue at least weekly for duration of foster placement. The area representative is on call 24 hours a day to provide any support that may be needed;
- Counseling for the natural parents in an effort to make the home more suitable for the return of the child (children return to the natural home in about 50% of the cases; otherwise, foster placement lasts until age eighteen and may continue informally as long as the participants desire to keep the foster home relationship intact);
- Liaison with the local schools and any community service agencies involved for duration of placement; help in finding jobs or vocational placement for the youth.

MIDDLE EARTH SCHOOLS
Norristown State Hospital, Bldg. 37
Norristown, Pa. 19401
(215) 631-2604

Tabor Home
Route 611
Doylestown, Pa. 18901
(215) 348-2049

Frank J. Schmauk, Director

Middle Earth School first opened at Norristown State Hospital in September, 1973, and at the second location, Tabor Home in Doylestown, in September, 1975. The program deals with boys and girls aged 12-16 who have been expelled from public school because of disruptive behavior and truancy. Typical youth in the program have negative attitudes towards authority and schools, are about 3 1/2 years behind grade level, and about half are on probation for offenses ranging from runaway, ungovernability, assault, auto-theft and burglary. Each of the two schools has a capacity for sixteen students.

Contracts are developed with each youth through bargaining and compromise, so that authority is not presented as inviolably rigid. The different personalities and styles of staff offer several role models for identification, and non-conforming behavior is allowed to avoid disastrous contests of wills. Disruptive, anti-social acting out behavior is managed and modified indirectly through the system in an impersonal, matter-of-fact manner; direct physical confrontation is avoided whenever possible.

The interactions between staff and students are intended to negate the adversary authority relationship and foster cooperative attitudes. The behavioral strategies employed are designed to guarantee academic success and thereby promote self-esteem. The hope is that if the youth can compete and achieve at an adequate level within the system, their feelings about themselves will change accordingly and they therefore will not be forced into anti-social or defiant roles. The school has been successful in returning youth to public school after program involvement.

The program is funded by the Intermediate Units of Bucks County, Norristown State Hospital, Bucks County Probation Department, Mental Health/Mental Retardation, and the Lenape Valley Foundation.

OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIAL CENTER, INC. (OIC)
1225 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19122
(215) 236-5400

John J. Thelen, Director of Operations

Opportunities Industrial Center was established in 1964 in Philadelphia to provide employment skills, job training and placement to unemployed inner-city Blacks. The program focus has continued in employment training; the following additional components specifically address the youthful offender:

1. Group Homes Program (DPW - Youth Development Center Contract): Care and instruction are provided to 18 adjudicated 15 to 18 year old males. The homes are an institutional alternative which offer guidance, vocational-educational training, counseling, personal hygiene, grooming, recreation, emergency medical and dental care. A program coordinator supervises the overall activities of the homes. Each home is staffed with an in-residence counselor, youth development worker and houseparent. A service coordinator directly supervises the homes and insures the basic services to students. An educational instructor provides educational and vocational training.
2. Community Youth Advocate Program (CAP): Adjudicated delinquent male youth are referred to CAP through the Center for Community Alternatives. Community persons are trained as advocates and offer positive role models through cultural, educational, social, recreational and other growth related activities. The advocate spends a minimum of 15 hours per week with the youth and receives \$15.00 for activities. Each youth receives \$5.00 a week for carfare.
3. Urban Career Education Center: (funded by U.S. Office of Education and National Institute of Education). UCEC emphasizes career planning and related experiences as the educational vehicle for personal and academic development. The program is organized into three components:
 - a. Career Intern Program--CIP assists in helping dropouts and potential dropouts develop viable career goals. Course material consists of integrated career-oriented and academic curricula, and the program involves individualized instruction and small group sessions. Activities give students practical experience by allowing them to observe and work alongside professionals.
 - b. Career Orientation Program--COP helps public school instructors, counselors and community representatives integrate career-oriented subject matter into their present academic programs in grades K through 12.
 - c. Community Career Program--CCP creates opportunities for parents of the CIP interns to identify and resolve the needs and problems of their children through information sharing to solve problems and open educational and economic doors to parents.

PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM (PYAP)
13 South Third Street
Harrisburg, Pa. 17102
(717) 232-7580

Thomas Jeffers, Director

PYAP is a private, non-profit organization established in 1975 to provide a full range of supportive services to adjudicated youth through advocates as an alternative to incarceration.

The one-to-one advocate-youth relationship based on the development of trust is the key to PYAP's program approach. PYAP attempts to match each youth with an advocate who can best meet his individual needs. Advocates have a variety of backgrounds, and many can identify with and share the experiences of the youth they serve. PYAP advocates offer a minimum of fifteen or thirty hours contact per week for about six months with the youth to provide counseling and attempt to meet the youths' social, educational and vocational needs.

Advocates receive training related to the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system, goal planning and other youth-service concepts. They meet informally once each week to share problems, pool resources, discuss successes and failures. These meetings provide an opportunity to assess routinely each advocate-youth relationship.

Participants are led towards more constructive life styles through the full range of services offered by the advocates. Each youth in the program receives a \$5.00 weekly allowance while in the program, and recreational activities are planned with the advocate.

PYAP has an active caseload of approximately 109 youth; 38% are involved in an educational program, 51% are involved in an employment program.

PROVIDENCE EDUCATIONAL CENTER (PEC)
Providence Inner City Corporation
2419 North Grand
St. Louis, Missouri 63106
(315) 628-5866

Joseph D. Ryan, MSW

The Providence Educational Center, funded through LEAA, is designed to deal with young boys, 12-16 years old, who are charged with stranger-to-stranger crimes and who have histories of poor academic achievement and social failure. PEC is comprised of three interrelated components:

Education - A highly individualized approach to providing instruction and remedial assistance in academic subjects. Student-teacher ratio is approximately 6-1.

Social Services - This component performs diagnostic assessments, provides regular group and individual counseling to youths, provides counseling and assistance to families and acts as liaison with juvenile court officials on each case.

Aftercare - This component is responsible for easing the youth's transition back into the community.

While the PEC program is basically a school, the students receive regular counseling and assistance in dealing with their attitudes, self-image and social relationships. Since 70 percent of the youth served are referred by the juvenile court, the project provides a non-residential alternative for adjudicated juveniles.

The goals of the program are:

1. Reduce street crime among those students enrolled in PEC;
2. Reduce truancy and improve educational skills, especially in reading;
3. Engage students in a therapeutic program which will rehabilitate students by developing a more positive self-concept and thus increase social adjustment;
4. Work with parents of all students; and
5. Orient each youth towards a successful placement in public schools, vocational schools, and employment.

SPECIAL APPROACHES IN JUVENILE ASSISTANCE, INC. (SAJA)
1743 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
(202) 483-7252

Contact: David Lundsun

Special Approaches in Juvenile Assistance (SAJA) is a network of youth service projects located in the Adams-Morgan/Dupont Circle area of Washington, D.C. The program is funded from several sources including the National Institute of Mental Health, foundations, private donations and purchase of care contracts. SAJA began in 1968 as the Runaway House which grew out of counseling services offered by a neighborhood coffee house. Incorporated in 1969 as a non-profit organization, SAJA has evolved since then to the following network of youth service projects, coordinated through a Resource Center:

Runaway House: Provides temporary shelter and crisis counseling for 14 youth aged 11 to 17. The average stay is one week, and staff includes four full-time counselors and 10 volunteers, several consultants and part-time workers. Runaway House services include casework, family counseling, court advocacy, and referral to other SAJA projects and area agencies.

Foster Care Program: Foster home location, placement, and supervision to young people from Runaway House and other SAJA residences. Homes are licensed and weekly individual and family counseling sessions are provided by staff.

Family Counseling Seminar: A group of professional and para-professional counselors who provide free, or low cost, long and short term therapy and support to families of runaways and other young people in SAJA.

Other House: A temporary group shelter home for six young people, ages 13 to 17, with a staff of three. For one to six months, the house provides room, board, individual and group counseling, and tutoring. Residents are supported by payments from city and county agencies, and are usually referred from Runaway House.

Second and Third Houses: Long-term group foster homes; each has a capacity of six young people and a staff of three. The houses provide a supportive group living experience for the youth with counseling, school and job placement. The houses are supported by purchase-of-care contracts with local public agencies.

THREE RIVERS YOUTH (TRY)
2039 Termon Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212
(412) 766-2215

Ruth G. Richardson, Director

Three Rivers Youth, a private, non-profit organization since 1973, is a network of five group homes and one orientation home in Allegheny County which serve as alternatives to institutionalization for youth aged 13-18. The program uses a multi-disciplined staff team approach towards adapting the program to each youth's needs and resolving their problems. Three Rivers is funded by per diem reimbursement, LEAA and the United Fund.

The five group homes provide total residential services for 40 youth in small residences. Each home offers the youth opportunities for group living, social work-psychological counseling, education, health care and program activities. The residential staff lives in with the youth, functioning in semi-parental roles, and providing the youth with consistent daily relationships involving understanding and control, food and physical care. This environment is strengthened by clinical staff and supplemental services. The homes, located throughout the county, offer a variety of neighborhoods and living experiences to meet each youth's individual needs appropriately.

The Orientation Home serves as a base of support for the other homes. Youth are initially placed here so staff can determine the type of ongoing placement needed, make arrangements for use of other community resources, and to allow for an adjustment period to an open setting. Youth are involved in designing a program in the TRY network to meet his needs. The Orientation Home also serves as a temporary placement for youth from the other homes who may be having problems, and eliminates the need to return the youth to the referral source (often the court) at such times.

YOUTH ADVOCATES, INC.
Eight Plum Street Mall
Media, Pa. 19063
(215) 565-1287

Eileen Stief, Chairperson

Youth Advocates, Inc. was developed from a volunteer court-watching effort, and now has an Advocacy Program and a group home. The program was started in 1970 by members of the Friends Suburban Project and was incorporated in 1972. The program receives funds from federal and state grants, private foundations and individual donations.

The Advocacy Program matches up an advocate with a youth, based on each individual's interests, abilities, location, and special needs. An advocate is not a judgmental-authoritarian figure, but an understanding and supportive person who is there when needed by the youth. The advocate helps provide services such as tutoring, temporary housing, legal advice, referrals and transportation. The advocate's specific role is defined by the youth's immediate and long range needs. The advocate program works with approximately 85 active cases each month, and accepts referrals from Juvenile Court, schools, other child care and community agencies, police, family and friends.

Youth Advocates operates one group home for boys as an alternative for youth unable to live at home, to teach them how to take responsibility for their own lives. A purchase-of-service plan with the local child care agency and the juvenile court supplements other funding sources.

The education and outreach component trains all advocates and volunteers, and all must engage in community education workshops, speaking engagements, public relations and court-watch activities.

IV. DIVERSION PROGRAMS

Diversion programs are designed to intervene with youth at the point of their official contact with the formal juvenile justice system. These programs aim to prevent youth from coming into further contact with the system through informal, immediate problem resolution, referral to appropriate community service agencies, or placement in appropriate treatment programs.

Referrals to diversion programs are made by police, the courts, families, schools, others in the community or other child care agencies, with the intent of avoiding formal processing and negative labeling. Youth referred to diversion programs have usually committed minor offenses or status offenses and can often be prevented from becoming more seriously involved as delinquents.

Many programs appropriate to diversion of status offenders have been described as commitment and detention alternatives. As diversion programs, their point of impact would be just prior to formal court intake. Intake and referral services, advocacy programs, alternative schools, employment programs and some shelter care residential services which intervene at any point prior to court involvement can be effective diversion programs.

In addition to those approaches already described, arbitration programs--which provide a forum for resolving interpersonal conflicts between youths and adults, and runaway houses--which are short-term residences which do not rely on a formal referral process for intake, are viable diversion programs.

THE BRIDGE
Youth Services Center
19 North River Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701
(717) 824-5766

Ronald Russo, Project Director

Through a blending of experienced staff, volunteers, other agencies and community groups, The Bridge seeks to develop useful alternatives for youth in the community and also offers a confidential beginning point towards a solution for those young people experiencing personal problems. The Bridge is a component of Catholic Social Services, funded by the Governor's Justice Commission and community groups such as the United Way. The primary target population is those youth who are involved in less serious delinquent acts in the community and come to the attention of the police. The staff consists of eleven professionals and two secretaries.

Programs and activities at The Bridge include three programs for early intervention: Big Brothers of America; a neighborhood outreach program which has workers dealing directly with "hanging out" community youths; a close working relationship with schools, the police and the Court which provides a good referral system. Additional programs include: community-wide youth development programs; counseling services for individuals, groups and families; a legal services unit with the Legal Services Association, Inc.; youth employment services with the Penn State Extension Services; Volunteers in Probation and special services to runaways and their families.

Special services for runaway youth is a joint community effort with direct services being provided by The Bridge. Through the cooperation of the Family Service Association's HELP-LINE, The Bridge receives incoming calls 24 hours a day. A Bridge staff member is always on call and may be reached by the HELP-LINE staff during the night and on weekends. Following a thorough assessment by The Bridge staff, shelter care and/or transportation to the youth's home can be made available when a runaway comes to The Bridge seeking help and understanding. The Bridge is authorized by the Juvenile Court to provide emergency shelter without parental permission for a maximum of 24 hours but will inform police or parents of a youth's whereabouts when asked to do so. The Bridge is able to provide shelter care for up to seven days.

During the first program year, The Bridge served 718 youth in the components funded through the Governor's Justice Commission and 755 other youth in ancillary components (Job Corp, Legal Services, Youth Employment Services, etc.). In the Police, School and Court Referral Project, 19% have been referred by police and probation, 17% by school personnel, and 37% have been referred by their parents, friends, siblings or self.

COMMUNITY ARBITRATION PROGRAM
102 Cathedral Street
Annapolis, Md. 21401
(301) 263-0707

Kay Peacock, Project Coordinator

The Community Arbitration Program, begun in 1974 by a grant from LEAA, is set up to handle misdemeanors, the lesser offenses to come before the juvenile court, and juvenile services. The procedure is as follows: Police issue citations resembling parking tickets to youth and complainants at the time of offense, and set a date for appearance before the Community Arbitrator within seven working days of the arrest. Youth, parent and complainant appear before the Community Arbitrator who hears the case and decides to: (1) refer the case to the state's attorney, (2) deny the case for insufficient evidence, (3) continue the case for 90-day informal supervision for counseling, restitution, or volunteer work in the community, or (4) close the case with a warning. Participation in the arbitration process is voluntary.

The objectives of the program are the following:

1. To increase the speed of handling misdemeanor cases from 4-6 weeks;
2. To involve youth quickly in a positive work experience providing the opportunity to develop good working relationships with community people and agencies;
3. To allow the victim to see that something is done to correct the youth and make it clear the offense is important;
4. To involve the community in direct action relative to the juvenile crime problem;
5. To attack quickly and meaningfully minor acting out of juveniles in order to prevent future more serious offenses.

This program addresses itself only to juveniles who are cited for an alleged misdemeanor offense. The objectives of the program, however, and the procedural mechanism for handling the complaints could perhaps be tailored to a community-based program for the status offender. The program could be designed to provide an expeditious experience for the juvenile, his or her family and the community.

COUNSELING AND REFERRAL SERVICES (CRS)
2133 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
(215) MU6-4260

Grace R. Nash, Director

Counseling and Referral Services is an extra-legal, non-judicial service developed in May, 1971, as a unit of the Philadelphia Family Court. The program is primarily concerned with the diversion of youth from formal court processing and is funded by a grant from LEAA.

Clients are referred directly from the court at intake, the police juvenile aid division, individuals and the Board of Education. The majority of clients are either: (1) truant, (2) involved in minor offenses, (3) involved in status offenses (incurability, curfew, runaway), or (4) involved in a conflict with family, parents, guardians, or other adults. The program serves as a major diversion point for youth who have been arrested but do not require formal court processing.

CRS provides a broad range of services including on-site counseling, crisis intervention, direct referral of youth to other agencies for services within the community, and mediation. The CRS offices are open for 16 hours each day, ten hours on Saturday, and are staffed by an interdisciplinary team of paid and non-paid staff including graduate MSW's and para-professionals.

On referral, the client and complainant are involved in a screening intake interview with an assigned counselor. If the case is found eligible, a planning conference is held to determine how to proceed with the case - further counseling through CRS, referral for other services, termination by mutual consent, or when necessary referral back to court. Counselors follow up on cases for from 30 to 60 days.

The program serves approximately 3,000 youth each year.

COUNSELING OR REFERRAL ASSISTANCE (CORA)
733 Susquehanna Road
Philadelphia, Pa. 19111
(215) FI2-7660

Sister M. Charity Kohl, Administrator

CORA was established in 1971 in the Northeastern section of Philadelphia as a private, non-profit, non-sectarian agency administered by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. CORA was established as a court diversion program, and originally provided diagnostic psychological evaluation, psychiatric and medical consultations, individual and family counseling, parent groups and referral services. The program has expanded to include parent consultation hotline, teacher training, speech and hearing therapy, family therapy, drug and alcohol counseling and neurological evaluations.

CORA started as an LEAA supported program under Family Court sponsorship. Presently, it is multi-funded through grants from various state, city and federal agencies including Drug Abuse, Delinquency Prevention, Mental Health/Mental Retardation, and Pennsylvania Act 89 funds.

CORA receives referrals from the police, probation, courts, public and private schools and other agencies. Over a four year period, the majority of the youth served have not had formal court contact, however, most of the clients' problems involve family difficulties and ungovernable behavior evidenced by running away, incorrigibility and truancy. Thirty percent (30%) of the youth served have had court involvement as runaways and truants. Thirteen percent (13%) reported minor police contact, and seventeen percent (17%) admitted more serious involvement, including arrests, detainment, formal charges and probation.

The CORA program has a significant positive effect on the youth's attitudes towards school, education and their self-image.

HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM OF GREENVILLE HOSPITAL
North Main Street
Greenville, Pa. 16125
(412) 588-2100

Harry Cartwright, Jr., Program Director

The underlying concept of the Human Services Program is to establish a multi-service facility that provides a wide spectrum of psycho-social services. The program was begun in 1970 and is funded by Greenville Hospital and grants from the Governor's Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse. The services provided by the Program that are pertinent to juvenile offenders include non-residential intervention and counseling.

1. Parent-child or family conflicts: Parent group sessions, youth group and individual sessions for juveniles aged 6-12, and family therapy sessions;
2. Social and personal adjustment: A myriad of clinical and counseling services;
3. Youth management system: A youth group available for any youth (15-20) experiencing strains and conflicts of a personal or interpersonal nature; a peer influence system designed and developed to encourage primary and secondary preventative activities;
4. Crisis management system: Twenty-four hour/seven-day-week emergency service; trained volunteers go into crisis situations on request in teams of two. An active roster of 50 volunteers is maintained.

Referrals are made to the Human Services Program by the probation department as well as by private agencies and local industry. The juvenile and his family may also seek help from the program on their own initiative.

JUVENILE DIVERSION PROJECT
Youth Service Unit of York County
28 East Market Street
York, Pennsylvania 17401
(717) 848-3301

William Long, Chief Probation Officer

The York County Probation Department initiated a special unit to deal solely with status offenders through family counseling in response to an alarming yearly increase in the numbers of such cases appearing in court. As it has generally been acknowledged that status offenses are symptoms of family problems, two of the county's juvenile probation officers received family therapy training at Harrisburg State Hospital, and began to use a co-therapy family approach with selected cases. The unit became an established service of the probation department through a grant from the Governor's Justice Commission in 1974.

The unit is staffed by three full-time workers who provide immediate attention to families in crisis by listening to problems and providing a catalyst for direct change. The unit also screens and refers youth to other community agencies whenever feasible. Children Services of York County runs a similar unit, and both staffs meet together weekly to share information and in-service training.

Future plans for York County, which has a juvenile detention facility, include an emergency and diagnostic shelter facility operated by the Children's Home of York. This planned 24-bed facility will provide both short-term (limited to ten days or less) emergency shelter with crisis intervention care and a diagnostic study evaluation unit providing ninety-day placement.

NEIGHBORHOOD EDUCATION AND COUNSELING CENTER-FRANKLIN HOUSE
1327 North Franklin Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19122
(215) 235-0228

Louisa Groce, Director

Franklin House is a public alternative school, funded since 1968 by the Philadelphia Board of Education, for 50 boys in North Philadelphia. The students are referred by various social service agencies, courts, parents and public school personnel. The population of the school is predominantly Black with a percentage of Puerto Ricans.

The program was initiated to develop a freer and more individualized academic program for the students. Emphasis is placed on emotional growth and group interaction, and this is facilitated through a large, supportive staff of 14. Many students are on court probation and have emotional and/or social problems, or have had serious negative gang involvement. The goal of the Franklin House is to develop an alternative educational approach that will provide a relevant curriculum with as much individual instruction as possible.

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH DIVERSION PROJECT (NYDP)
1933 Washington Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10457
(215) 731-8900

Warren Williams, Director

The Neighborhood Youth Diversion Project (NYDP) was developed in 1970 as a community-based alternative to the juvenile justice system by Family Court. The program is aimed at a target population of predominantly Black and Puerto Rico juveniles. About 400 youth are provided services annually. The program is funded through the Special Services for Children and the State Department of Social Services. The program consists of several components which offer a range of services.

1. Advocates: Each juvenile in the program is assigned an advocate who serves as a counselor and big brother/sister to the participant and who seeks out resources in the resolution of participant problems.
2. The Forum: The Forum consists of panels of community volunteers who have been trained in the technique of fact finding, mediation and conciliation. The mediators hold informal hearings with the family to provide a setting in which a parent and child can discuss their problems and devise ways of resolving them without recourse to the courts.
3. Agency Referral Pilot: Using the Forum format to assist in helping the school, student and the parent work together to resolve problems and to prevent school disciplinary action that might lead to Family Court action.
4. Family Court Forum: This project has teamed two community mediators and three probation officers to hold Forum hearings during the investigatory stage at Family Court.
5. Medical and Mental Health Services
6. Education: The program has a mini-school that seeks alternative learning situations that would benefit the students on a long-term basis. The school provides remediation in reading and mathematics and provides ongoing intensive supportive counseling for students experiencing difficulty in school.
7. Recreation: Programs that provide athletics, enrichment and exposure opportunities.

PERSONAL AID BUREAU (PAB)
Jewish Family Service
1610 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
(215) KI5-3290

Robert H. Stern, Supervisor

The Personal Aid Bureau (PAB) within the Philadelphia Jewish Family Service provides services to youth voluntarily referred by the police Juvenile Aid Division, the Juvenile Court's Intake Department and the Court. The program receives funding from the Federation of Jewish Agencies and the United Fund.

The juvenile program of the PAB represents the Jewish community in the Juvenile Court. In order to carry out that function, workers are in court every day to provide direct services and referral to clients, as well as evaluation and consultation services to the court. PAB attempts to meet with families during severe crisis, often a very emotional experience for the family which demands considerable skill from the worker to relate to the families and establish ongoing casework relationships.

With the PAB, the majority of the referrals come from lower middle class intact Jewish families where the acting out adolescent is often the symptom carrier and the family scapegoat. The family counseling service is designed to help both the adolescent and the family deal with their problems within the context of the family relationship.

PAB's efforts have been greatly facilitated by their good working relationships with juvenile court judges, probation officers, police officials and interested community groups and individuals. Another important aspect of the program is the active participation of the lay advisory committee which is committed to the concept of serving youngsters and their families in the community. The committee also participates in a Big Brother/Big Sister program which augments the counseling program.

PAB currently serves about 175 boys and girls and their families in the City of Philadelphia, and there is an extensive waiting list. Staff for the program include an MSW supervisor, two full-time MSW counselors, a student intern and part-time staff. Youth in the program have primarily been involved with status offenses and property crimes, and in most cases diversion and family counseling have been appropriate to their needs.

PHILADELPHIA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTERS, INC. (PEC)
2820 North Fourth Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19133
(215) 426-0900

Leon Alexander, Administrator

Philadelphia Environmental Centers is the management and program development core of a network of human services programs active in the City of Philadelphia. This system include the following youth components:

1. Lower Kensington Environmental Center, Inc., Joseph S. Holden, Director:

A. Lower Kensington Environmental School is an experimental community school which serves 60 students each semester. These students are recruited by PEC or referred to PEC primarily from the neighborhood junior high schools. About 80 percent of the students have been categorized as serious truancy or disciplinary cases by the parent schools. The School concentrates on both normal academic skills and a unique urban studies curriculum. The School is now in its ninth year, and is funded by the Philadelphia Board of Education.

B. Two group homes serving male and female juveniles aged 15-17 who have been referred by the Philadelphia Youth Development Center. The group home is a 4-6 month residential program which includes group therapy, individual and family counseling, vocational and educational services, work therapy, and recreational activities.

C. Lower Kensington Crisis Center is a 24-hour, 7-day community resource for outpatient drug and alcohol abuse treatment, community education, crisis intervention, vocational development, and social service referrals.

D. Lower Kensington Drug and Alcohol Program operates through an intensive program which includes group, individual and family counseling.

2. East Philadelphia Environmental Center, Inc., Barry Rosen, Director:
Two group homes serve youth aged 9 to 17 who have been adjudicated either delinquent or deprived. These group homes are funded by the Governor's Justice Commission. This Center also operates a drug and alcohol program.

3. Impact Services Corporation: Impact is a Supported Work Program which provides transitional employment within a mildly supportive setting for those problem youths, ex-addicts, and/or ex-offenders who would otherwise have extreme difficulty in obtaining and holding a normal, competitive job.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY DIVERSION PROGRAM
Sacramento County Probation Department
Sacramento, California 95827
(916) 363-3161

The Sacramento Diversion Project was designed to test whether juveniles charged with a status offense could be handled better through short-term family crisis therapy at the time of referral than through the traditional procedure of family court. The project began handling cases in 1970 funded through grants from the California Council on Criminal Justice and the Ford Foundation, and has been designated an LEAA exemplary project.

The basic premise of the Diversion Program is that through the use of family counseling techniques, a specially trained probation officer seeks to improve communication among family members in order to send the youngster home rather than to a court or detention facility. Most referrals come from the police, and the first counseling session is often held within one hour or two of referral. In cases when immediate crisis counseling does not resolve the conflict, arrangements are made for temporary placement of the youth. The entire procedure is voluntary and requires consent of both the parents and the youth. Services are available 24 hours per day.

The project has been successful in decreasing the number of referrals to court and effecting an 80% reduction in overnight detentions. The project is now used for routine handling of all runaway and unmanageable cases in Sacramento County.

SPOKANE DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION OF STATUS OFFENDERS

Spokane Area Youth Committee
West 621 Mallon Street
7th Floor Flour Mill
Spokane, Washington 99210
(509) 325-4555

Stan Baxter, Director

This project, funded by LEAA, is designed to effect the total reduction of status offenders in detention and institutions in Spokane. The program aims to resolve and stabilize crisis situations, to assess the ongoing needs for services of the status offenders and their families, and to refer them to appropriate community resources.

Project staff include the Director, Resource Coordinator, three Youth Service Specialists, three Youth Advocates and two secretaries. Resources are coordinated through a Committee made up of representatives of all agencies participating in the system and the community. A Youth Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives of the target population, provides youth input and involvement. The project is not administratively related to the court, and will serve as an alternative to court intake for status offenders.

Project components include: twenty-four hour phone service for screening; crisis intervention available on twenty-four hour basis to youth and families; intake and referral, assessment, counseling, referral for residential services and follow-up; follow-up services by youth advocates to assure problem resolution. The program provides specialized services through referral to existing service agencies. Every effort is made to maintain the family unit intact and residential care is used only when no other option is viable. Referrals of youth who currently are being sent to court but who are not charged with delinquent offenses are accepted from the court, law enforcement agencies and the schools.

VALLEY YOUTH HOUSE, INC. (VYH)
539 Eighth Avenue
Bethlehem, Pa. 18018
(215) 691-1200

Gary Stone, Executive Director

Valley Youth House (VYH) is a private, non-profit agency which, beginning in March, 1973, has provided temporary shelter, professional counseling, physical examinations and personal needs for runaway youth. Situated in Bethlehem, VYH primarily provides services for and uses resources in the Lehigh Valley (Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton area), but will assist youth from any area. VYH is funded by grants from the Governor's Justice Commission, by the United Way, private foundations, and contributions.

VYH seeks to serve potential runaways, present runners and runaways recently returned home. Staff attempt to serve a facilitating role in bringing parents and youth together in order to interrupt patterns of alienation, flight from home, drug abuse and other self-destructive behavior. Volunteers participate in the treatment program by providing recreational activities for the youth.

Professional counselors staff the shelter 24 hours a day, offering individual, group, and family counseling. Youth are encouraged to deal with their problems and if possible, to go home instead of remaining at the shelter, but to utilize the counseling services with their families. Approximately two-thirds of the youth seeking help spend time at the shelter. The average length of stay is four days. Youth are allowed to make their own decisions within the first 24 hours as to whether they wish to call home. If the parents have not been contacted within this time period, counselors notify them with the youth's knowledge. Information concerning a youth's whereabouts is never kept from police or parents contacting the shelter.

Over one thousand youths have voluntarily come to VYH for help, many referred by the neighboring police districts and the probation department. VYH has provided juvenile authorities with a resource for dealing with runaways and has provided an alternative to detention. Where 90-95 percent of the runaways referred to either Lehigh or Northampton counties had previously been detained, Northampton County estimated that in 1975 there was at least a 65 percent reduction in the number of runaways detained.

VOYAGE HOUSE, INC.
1433 Lombard Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19146
(215) PE5-8406
567-6650

Margaret Krueger, Executive Director

Voyage House is a non-profit corporation founded in January, 1971, in response to the need for a drop-in center for youths congregating in downtown Philadelphia. The program is funded by the Department of Public Welfare, federal grants and private and corporate contributions. The program was expanded when the drop-in center proved inadequate, and other supportive services were added. The program currently operates five components:

1. Information and outreach: Staff work extensively on the streets of Philadelphia and are used as a counseling resource in the communities they serve. They are "there" and can intervene in a crisis situation and often help escort a youth to the Voyage House center if needed.
2. Crisis intervention: The center receives youths through self-referral, outreach workers, police, DPW, juvenile court and other public and private agencies, and operates a 24-hour hotline to assist in emergencies. Counselors provide support and initial satisfaction of concrete needs for the majority of runaway youths. Community resources are used extensively when auxiliary services are needed.
3. Emergency residential placement: Maintains a resource of trained families who take troubled teenagers into their homes for one to three nights, providing a therapeutic environment for youth in severe crises. Training consists of parenting skills, awareness of youth problems, listening and counseling skills.
4. Educational Services: The Community Voyage School provides psychological and educational services to fifty youths who have a history of running away, truancy, poor academic record and/or who could not adjust to public schools. The School is licensed and diplomas are granted. It provides individual attention to youth in developing academic skills, and support and guidance for working on family problems.
5. Long-term housing: Voyage House operates two six-bed long-term coed group foster homes for youth who cannot return to their own homes. The homes, each staffed by three counselors, are funded through a purchase of service contract with the Philadelphia and Delaware County DPW.

In 1975, the total number of youths contacted by the streetworkers was 745. Three hundred sixty-three clients were at the center for more than one day and 5,024 calls were received by the hotline. Voyage House reunited 122 runaways with their families, provided 37 youth with short-term residence, and 15 homeless youth with long-term housing. Voyage House believes that they have provided an effective alternative to street life and incarceration for many young people.

THE WHALE'S TALE, INC.
4527 Winthrop Street
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213
(412) 621-8484

Henry Lipinski, Executive Director

The Whale's Tale is a non-profit, community supported corporation that serves as the parent organization for three programs serving youth and their families in the Pittsburgh area.

1. The Amicus House - A 24-hour a day program for juvenile runaways. The facility admits juveniles for temporary residence, and provides individual, group, and family counseling toward returning the youth to his/her home. When this is not possible, Amicus House helps arrange longer term residential placements.
2. Karma House - A 24-hour a day, non-residential therapeutic center providing crisis intervention, phone referral service, one-to-one counseling, group therapy, and a structured narcotics addiction program.
3. Families Together - A program which serves families of drug-misusers by offering family-centered counseling, casework therapy, crisis intervention, and related services. The program also provides supportive and follow-up services to the Amicus and Karma House programs.
4. Foster Placement Program - A program which recruits and trains foster parents, places deprived and/or delinquent adolescents in foster homes and provides follow-up social services.

The Whale's Tale, Inc. is funded by LEAA, the Allegheny County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program and the National Institute of Mental Health.

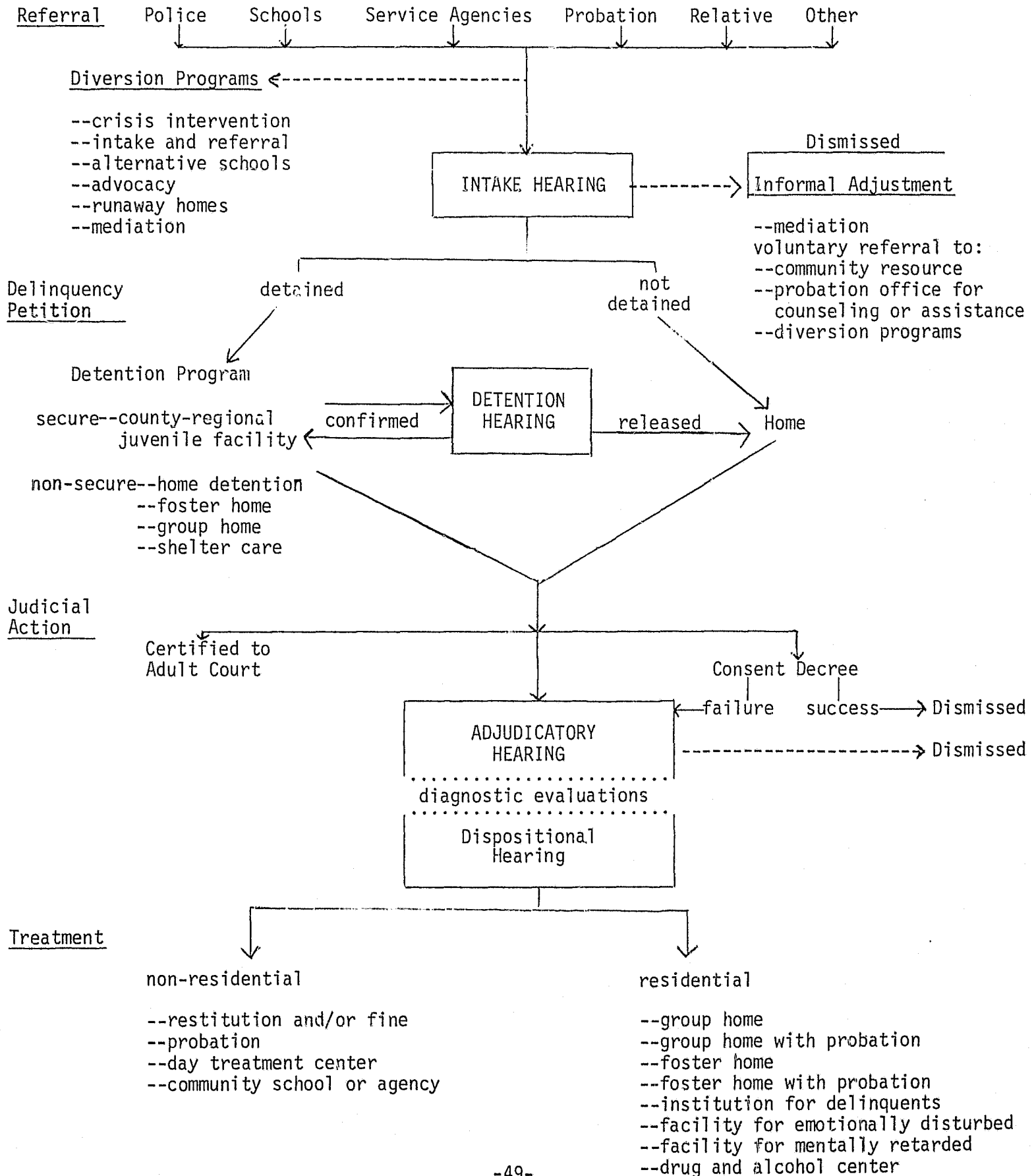
YOUTH ASSISTANCE SERVICE CENTERS: 24 HOURS
The Office of Youth Opportunity Services
Juvenile Delinquency Division
1350 'E' Street, N.W.
Room 406
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 629-5384

Tom Blagburn, Coordinator

The twenty-four hour Youth Assistance Centers were created to insure that total aid is available to youth within their own communities on a continuous basis. The three centers (more are planned) provide 24-hour intake, analysis, diagnosis and evaluation of an individual youth-related problem. They help to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system and being labeled as "delinquent" by providing necessary assistance to solve problems that lead to delinquent acts. The five components of the centers include: outreach teams, intake, diagnostic and evaluation, counseling, and referral and follow-up teams. The YASC has provided emergency temporary shelter for youths until such time as their immediate housing program could be resolved. Staff assistance within the centers is composed of approximately 37 persons, including doctors, lawyers, social workers, dentists, teachers, employment counselors, nutritionists, and their respective assistants.

The centers are funded by LEAA and by the Washington D.C. Model Cities Commission. According to the latest data from D.C. Superior Court, the target areas served by the 24-hour YASC have had a significant reduction in referrals of youth to juvenile court from the Metropolitan Police Department and other sources. This data also indicates that the juvenile crime rate has experienced a significant reduction (about 20 percent in target areas noted) since the opening of the YASC.

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



END