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YOUTH RECEPTION AND CORRECTION CENTER

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ACQUISITIONS



YARDVILLE

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ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 1978 - JUNE 30, 1979

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Superintendent

State of New Jersey
Youth Reception and Correction Center. Yardville

Summary Report for Fiscal Year 1978-79

Highlights of
Accomplishments
and Developments

The single most important highlight during the past fiscal year has been the change in administration at Yardville and the accompanying transitional problems experienced in most organizations during such changes.

On September 5, 1978 Mr. Thomas F. Lynch was appointed Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Juvenile Services, and Mr. Donald D. Zelinski was appointed Acting Superintendent at Yardville. Due to the nature of this change, including the fact that a number of juvenile programs had been organized and made operational prior to the administrative changes, a large number of key Yardville staff associated with the juvenile programs opted to transfer and/or were promoted to other posts within the Division of Juvenile Services. Initial primary goals of the incoming Superintendent were to fill a number of critical administrative posts at the institution and simultaneously maintain existing ongoing programs at a professional level. Accordingly, from the latter part of September, 1978, through January, 1979, a number of key people were appointed to manage various departments within the institution. These included the Assistant Superintendent, the Director of Professional Services, the Director of Social Services, the Director of Education, and several promotions at primary level supervisory posts, including the school principal, vocational supervisor, and several other line staff posts associated with housing unit treatment programs. In addition, an Acting Deputy Keeper was appointed due to transfer of Yardville's Deputy Keeper to the Leesburg State Prison on a temporary assignment. It is a tribute to Yardville's tradition of having fine staff development programs which resulted in some outstanding personnel being promoted into critical managerial jobs. This combined with the efforts of all staff resulted in Yardville maintaining a high level program operation during that period of time.

During the year a number of juvenile programs were transferred from the jurisdiction of Yardville and the Division of Adult Institutions to the Division of Juvenile Services. These included community oriented juvenile programs such as Stuyvesant House Program, Cottage 3 Program, and the Cottage 12 Program on the grounds at the State Home for Boys. Though the Wharton Tract Program continued as a juvenile program, it remained under the jurisdiction of the Appointing Authority at Yardville along with the Medium Security Unit Program. In this latter instance a decision was made by the Commissioner that the Wharton Tract Unit would remain with the parent institution and that juveniles programming in the Unit would gradually be absorbed into other programs under the auspices of Juvenile Services. This transition will be made no later than October 1, 1979 and plans are currently under way for implementation of a new adult program at that Unit.

The administration at Yardville has maintained some of the goals and objectives of the prior administration by maintaining its community orientation through the offering of various programs located in the community thereby enhancing rehabilitative prospects of inmates and also providing community services. The Construction Trades Program, which is located in the community is responsible for refurbishing old dilapidated dwellings in the inner-city of Trenton. This program operates in conjunction with Fr. Brian McCormick and has to date refurbished a number of homes in the Trenton area and also provided refurbishing services in Jackson Township and Bordentown Township. Also, a number of community projects were completed through the CETA Program in refurbishing various buildings in and around the Bordentown Township area.

The Paraprofessional Program has maintained its working relationship with the Yepsen Unit at the Johnstone Training and Research Center, Mercer County Youth House, and the Training School for Boys at Jamesburg. Unfortunately, in the latter instance, paraprofessional placements at Jamesburg have dropped off due to a significant decrease in requests for such help from Jamesburg authorities. We are endeavoring to maintain this program and indeed expand it in the coming months as it is vitally needed as an outlet for programming more mature, long term offenders at Yardville.

The Culinary Arts Program at the restaurant facility located at the Department of Corrections has been maintained though several significant problems developed during the year. A new coordinator of the program was named and several of the program aspects have been reviewed in order to prevent inmate associated problems occurring at the restaurant facility. We will continue to streamline both procedures and program elements in order to assure that a professional Culinary Arts Program is conducted at the restaurant facility. This program is vitally needed as a further step in the training process of inmates working in the Culinary Arts program as it provides a restaurant type atmosphere thus enhancing their employability upon parole.

The Superintendent has spent a great deal of time in streamlining administrative work at the institution, and has developed a "Functional Unit Concept" in order to decentralize the current organizational structure. Autonomous housing unit programs have been developed with appropriate correctional unit supervisors and treatment/security staffs. This organizational problem has taken considerable time, and in fact we are still working with it, but once this decentralized program has been accomplished it is our belief that a number of critical problems associated with incarcerated offenders will be handled more effectively.

A continuing problem exists with the number of emotionally disturbed and/or retarded inmates being received and incarcerated at Yardville. It appears that Yardville accommodates most of these inmates when reviewed on the Reception Classification Committee due primarily to the staff we have assigned to housing unit programs. As a result we have a unit for emotionally disturbed types who should be treated in a self contained hospital type unit with appropriate medical/psychiatric personnel. Unfortunately, we have experienced difficulty on transferring inmates to psychiatric facilities either when on parole or during the time of their incarceration due to existing policies of the Divisions' of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. The dilemma is compounded by the obvious policies of the Division of Mental Health to depopulate mental health institutions when in fact mental health services are simultaneously needed for incarcerated offenders committed to correctional institutions. Also, services in the community are inadequate for chronically mentally ill inmates on parole status.

Due to the outstanding efforts of a number of staff coordinated by the Assistant Superintendent's efforts, Yardville received a satisfactory rating from the Health Department during the past year and this is most significant since the rating included the entire institution and possibly is a first for the Department of Corrections.

Admissions, The Youth Reception and Correction Center at Yardville started fiscal
Releases, year 1978-79 with a count of 883 and closed with 829. The highest
Population count was on July 11, 1978 with a total of 850. These figures include
all inmates in the main institution, all satellites and the Prison
Reception. The average daily population was 753 as compared with 858 the previous
fiscal year. For individual units the average daily and high count was as follows:
Reception, average 149, high 184 (Mar.); Correction, average 549, high 589 (July);
Wharton Tract, average 56, high 71 (Jan.); Newark House, average 8, high 15 (July);
Integrity House, average 5, high 7 (Sept.). The wide disparity in the beginning year
and ending year count is attributable to the transfer of three juvenile Cottage programs
to the Division of Juvenile Services.

Inmate Discipline and Morale

There were no serious disturbances at the Institution during the year, with only minor altercations affecting inmate morale.

A total of 36,551 relatives and friends visited the inmates of the Reception and Correction Center. A total of 2,137 disciplinary cases were processed by the Adjustment Committee as compared with 2,045 the previous year. There were a total of 2,153 on-the-spot corrections, compared with 2,524 the previous year. There were several events during the year which had a positive effect upon inmate morale, especially the picnic for the population in July and the Christmas Party given by the Reverend Woody and several banquets during the year. The number of furloughs that were granted during the past fiscal year totaled 71. There were a total of 40 escapes, including 3 from work details, 6 from Wharton Tract Unit, 1 from Camden House, 4 from Newark House, 2 from Integrity House, 4 from Cottage 12, 5 from Jamesburg (Cottages 3 and 8), 14 from Stuyvesant Avenue House, and one from Clinton House. Nine inmates still remain at large, 3 YRCC, 1 YCIB and 5 SHB juveniles.

Business Management

Yardville managed to get through the fiscal year on its appropriation plus an additional \$10,000. This was possible only by leaving a large number of needed positions vacant, putting a much greater strain and load on existing staff. The fiscal year was marked by a much closer scrutiny of fiscal reports and deficits by the Department Central Office. Much time was spent in supplying the Division of Administration with necessary facts and figures to assist in this process. The financial administration of five Juvenile Grants took a large portion of time and many projects and problems within the institution itself were put aside to complete the Grant functions. The recent employment of an Assistant Business Manager who is skilled in Financial Grant Management assisted greatly in getting through this difficult period. These Grants have been transferred to Central Office in 1980 FY which will allow Yardville business staff to direct their energies to other areas.

Personnel

As of June 30, 1979 there were 417 staff positions approved of which 392 were filled. During the past fiscal year a total of 79 new employees were hired, while 133 employees resigned their positions with the institution. Of this latter number, 57 transferred to the juvenile programs. Employee promotions totaled 39, and one employee received a reclassification to higher title. There were 47 certifications received and processed, 76 accident reports were filed, 35 disciplinary hearings were heard, and 3 grievances were processed. The Personnel officer coordinated and functioned as chairman for the Bond Drive, United Fund, March of Dimes and American Cancer Crusade.

Food Service

During June the Department of Health inspected the institution and Yardville received an overall rating of Satisfactory, and this included the sanitation satisfactory report for the kitchen and mess halls. During the latter part of February and early March, the kitchen floor was resurfaced and despite the fact that there were no kitchen cooking facilities for a week, no refrigeration, storage rooms, dish washing facilities and restricted dining hall areas, all meals were served, hot and on time. This department again packed 800 bags consisting of candy and fruit which were distributed to the inmates during the Christmas holidays. New equipment added to or replacing old equipment included 6 new electric grills and a 725 pound capacity ice machine. A new program was initiated on July 5, 1978 but was terminated during May, 1979 due to staff changes and other problems. This was the Dining Area Detail (DAD) from South 2. In addition to 853,966 meals served to staff and inmates, a number of special meals were provided including the Board of Trustees, Jaycees, Long Termers, Hispanic and Muslim functions, and cake and pastries for various religious groups and other organizations.

Canteen Many new items were added to the product line in response to inmate requests. We are still faced with spiraling costs which unfortunately have to be passed on to the population. Much of the population has no income other than State pay which has not increased in three or four years. Mr. Clark, the Canteen Storekeeper for 5 years, passed away after a long bout with lung cancer. "Pop" as he was known by the staff and population will be missed greatly. Mr. Ron Jones has taken over as Canteen Supervisor.

Mending Shop The mending shop branched into some new and interesting areas during the year. The newest addition is chair caning thanks to the expertise of an inmate who has shared his talents with others working in this shop. In addition, the shop did a much greater volume in re-upholstering, including auto seats, headliners and custom upholstery for our rebuilt jeep. Drapes were made for a number of areas in the institution. All of this customwork was accomplished in addition to the regular institutional mending for Yardville as well as many other institutions.

Maintenance Of the 7,210 work orders received by the maintenance department, a total of 6,177 were completed. This is over and above the many emergencies and new installations that developed during the course of the year. Assistance was rendered to the contractor who installed and set up a new TV antenna system and outlets. Many areas of the institution were painted, including the vocational building corridors, admitting and discharge area, reception gym corridor, Reception housing corridor, officer dining area and kitchen area. Bulletin boards, cabinets and shelves were made for various departments, and much time was spent at the Wharton Tract Unit installing water and sewerage to three trailers which are used by the para-professionals. Also, repairs were made at the Stuyvesant Avenue House and the restaurant at the Department of Corrections, correcting sanitary violations as well as normal breakage during the time while under Yardville's care.

Direct Treatment Program There were 2,826 admissions to the Reception Center in
Classification fiscal 1978-79 as compared with 2,623 during the previous fiscal year, and 2,914 in fiscal year 1976-77. The past year's admissions included 2,476 new commitments, 276 recommitments, 737 parole violators, 39 transfers from Jamesburg, 244 transfers from the Prison, and 54 returned for reclassification. There were 3,598 releases from the Reception Center including 1,050 to Annandale, 735 to Bordentown, 37 to Skillman, 118 to New Lisbon, 6 to State Prison, 4 recalled, 19 paroled and 136 to Jamesburg. A total of 1,463 inmates were received from the Reception Center for Yardville and its satellites.

A total of 632 inmates were paroled from the Correction Unit and its satellites, 25 inmates were recalled, 25 inmates were transferred to the New Jersey Psychiatric Hospital for medical and/or psychiatric reasons, and 136 men were remanded to court. There were a total of 191 State Prison cases in the general Correction population at the end of the year. A considerable number of men were transported to the community for a variety of reasons, including 365 medical trips, 544 court trips, and 942 various other trips including recreation, religious, and educational trips.

The Prison Reception Center started fiscal year 1978-79 with a count of 41 and closed with a count of 49. There were 1,975 admissions to the Prison Reception in this fiscal year as compared with 1,603 during the previous year, and included 1,664 new commitments, 24 recommitments, 272 parole violators and 15 returned from escape.

Releases from the Prison Reception Center included the following: Trenton, 158; Jones Farm, 161; Rahway, 499; Leesburg, 680; Yardville, 25; Bordentown, 94; and Annandale, 45. Information was received that all persons who had been serving prison terms in the Essex County Correction Center have been paroled.

Juvenile Separation Process Effective March 19, 1979, the Stuyvesant Avenue Project, Cottage 12, and Cottage 3 juvenile programs were transferred to the Division of Juvenile Services.

Medium Security Program There are presently a number of programs serving different types of juveniles in the Medium Security Unit. These programs include the Program of Intensive Education, N-2-A (Passive Unit); N-2-B, Long-termers; N-2-C, Recommitment Treatment Unit; and the N-1-A, Aggressive Unit. Four additional academic classrooms fully equipped to service different types of juveniles were implemented during the year. Various cleanup and paint details were established for the primary purpose of teaching juveniles good work habits. Five structured activities have been implemented for North House residents, in a direct adaptation of the Psycho Education model. Further processes in the separation project include a juvenile adjustment team to hear all disciplinary charges on juveniles; Reception and Correction Classification for juveniles; visitation; medical; and housing, both Reception and Correction. Clothing and feeding have been proposed, but are not as yet implemented.

Social Services An effort was made to view the Social Services Department as a subsystem within the larger institutional structure. The primary aim is to provide a rehabilitative vehicle that would facilitate such progress in residents that would strengthen their chances of adequately adjusting to the community and refraining from further antisocial activities. Emphasis was placed on developing a more professional outlook on staff responsibilities. Orientation was given to staff to begin to visualize unit programs, to define the characteristics of their client-group (residents); to assess their needs and design an approach to fulfill them. A Community Resource File is being developed that will catalog services available and correlate them with specific locations. It is viewed as a priority that a program monitoring and research component be developed within the department so that it can be determined whether or not unit programs effectively adhere to program objectives and if outcomes are desirable.

Psychology A total of 1,859 Reception inmates and 251 Correction inmates were tested on a group basis, as compared with 1,793 during the same period last year. There was a total of 1,859 psychological admission evaluations on Reception inmates and 486 on Correction inmates done by staff psychologists and psychology consultants. A total of 863 inmates received psychiatric examinations conducted by Dr. Jorn and Dr. Boyle. Two psychologists resigned to take positions elsewhere, and the loss of these two left the psychology staff shorthanded during the 1978-79 year. There was an increase of 400 admission evaluations written by fewer psychologists over the previous year. As a result, other services were diminished. Therapy groups decreased from a high of 13 groups per week in operation at the beginning of the year to a total of only 5 groups in operation by the end of the year. The East housing unit also lost the services of a psychologist at their S.E.T. meetings and lost the therapy groups supervised by Dr. Viggiano during the past year. Because of the dearth of available and applying clinical psychologists and the complicated Civil Service procedures, it has been difficult to replace the staff resignations.

Education Accomplishments during the fiscal year 1978-79 are measured against goals and objectives established in F.Y. 1977-78 Education Department Annual Report. One of the objectives was to appoint an assistant supervisor of education for the academic school; Mrs. Charlotte Blackwell was appointed in an acting capacity, and was moved into the position on a permanent basis in July, 1979. A prime need in the academic area was acquiring adequate teaching materials on all instructional levels, and this was accomplished. The installation of the I.B.M. 360 Computer System was the major accomplishment of the Yardville Computer Program. Notable achievements were made in the area of job placement, with close rapport established with two outside organizations that provide services to the ex-offender, H.O.P.E. in Bergen and Hudson Counties.

and C.E.A.S.E. in Morris, Warren, and Sussex Counties. The decentralization of the learning center was accomplished and has proven to be highly successful with enrollments extremely high and increased number of inmates passing the G.E.D. test. In the vocational area, the purchase and partial installation of two large sky light exhaust fans that will be used to pull some of the extreme heat out of the dry cleaning shop has been one of the major accomplishments.

Yardville was selected as one of the four sites to serve as a pilot study for the Houghton-Mifflin Testing Program, and the testing of students was completed in December. A reporter from Corrections Magazine visited Yardville in February, and an article on Adult Basic Education Program should appear in a fall issue of the magazine. A total of 135 inmates passed the G.E.D. test during this fiscal year and are eligible for their high school equivalency certificates. The Early Release Program initiated by the institution in November, 1978 has been very successful, as of the 20 cases that job placement processed and were paroled, only 3 men have violated their agreement. This program has an excellent outlook for the future with statistics such as the present 85% ratio.

Recreation James Livingston, Yardville inmate fought his first professional fight on July 1, 1979 at Rahway State Prison and won in the first round by a knockout. During the year heavy emphasis was placed on organized intramural recreation activities. A goal of the institution had been focused on maximizing participation in recreational activities. This was achieved to a great extent and in the coming year we hope to establish a model program at Yardville. Increased interest in activities had occurred in the area of boxing and in all likelihood due to the successes of inmate Scott from Rahway State Prison, a boxing club currently is being organized at Yardville. Leisure time recreation activities included traditionally oriented activities such as checkers, chess, cards, ping pong, and by a small number of inmate hobby groups.

Health Services The hospital had a total of 78,107 visits for treatment during the year, including admission examinations for inmates, 3,973; sick calls, 14,469; special medications, 42,689; laboratory procedures, 7,718; x-rays, 7,059; and 682 consultant examinations by the surgeon, orthopedist and ophthalmologist. Also, 265 patients were admitted to the institution hospital for a total of 899 bed days. In the area of staff treatment, 75 new employees were given physical examinations, there were 81 laboratory procedures and 164 x-rays. A total of 39 inmates were hospitalized in the community.

The dental staff provided the following services: diagnosis, 10,812; oral surgery, 682; restorations, 1,743; x-rays, 2,382; prosthetics, 27 full and 133 partial. There were 18,289 procedures performed in preventive dentistry for this fiscal year.

Religious Activities The Sacrament of Confirmation by the Most Rev. George W. Ahr, Bishop of Trenton, was administered to five men. Five members of the Protestant Church received the Sacrament of Baptism. Rev. DuBois and Fr. St. John prepared and delivered a presentation for the Eastern Seaboard Conference for Correction personnel at the Hyatt House in Cherry Hill, and two inmates also participated and spoke to the members of the workshop. The Christian Adoption Program held several meetings in which more and more volunteers are participating. The first marriage ceremony was held in the Yardville Chapel in May, with Rev. DuBois officiating. Two other requests for marriage have been reviewed and the ceremonies will be performed in the near future. In addition to regular church services for all denominations, the chaplains were involved in individual and group counseling with inmates and with various volunteers from the community churches, who have been coming to Yardville to worship with the inmates.

Imam Muhsin reported that the Islamic Community of Yardville is functioning in accordance with the Quranic standards. There are approximately 350 to 400 residents in Yardville who claim Al-Islam as their religion. As half-time chaplain, time will not permit to service the needs of the active islamic community totally. Yardville's unit at Jamesburg is not being serviced due to time, but Wharton Tract Unit is serviced on a regular basis. The Prison Services Committees of the Masjid Muhammad of New Jersey State are looking forward to working in the Volunteer Parole Program adding another dimension to serving the incarcerated individual who accepts the Religion of Al-Islam.

Custody The custody department continued to be involved in the furlough and work release programs as well as the normal areas of responsibility. A total of 2,137 disciplinary cases were processed by the Adjustment Committee, and 2,153 on-the-spot corrections. Of the latter, 2,068 were Correction, 128 Reception adults and 16 Reception juveniles. During the year, 36,551 visitors came to visit Reception and Correction inmates. A total number of furloughs granted during the year was 71 including 45 3-day furloughs and 26 escort furloughs.

Work Opportunities A weekly average of 10 inmates worked in the mending shop, repairing and fabricating such items as mattresses, pillows, pants, shirts, etc. for Yardville and a number of other institutions. The miscellaneous brush shop in the State Use Industry had an average of 15 inmates and produced a variety of brushes. Also, 81 men were working in the kitchen, 13 in the repair shop, 2 in the storeroom, 7 in canteen, one on Truck 1, 6 in construction trades, 5 at Johnstone, 22 in computer training, 8 at the Department of Corrections, 11 in the medical area, and 73 clerks in a variety of areas. The great majority of the inmate population was attending vocational, academic and special education classes each day, either on a full or part-time basis.

Work Release A total of 9 job interviews were made in the community during the year, and this resulted in the hiring of 14 men. These men were employed in 5 firms in the Greater Trenton area and of these 5 firms one was newly acquired during the year. A total of \$11,352.94 was earned by the men who participated in the Work Release Program, and from these earnings, the State received \$2,939.69 for maintenance and \$2,699.68 was paid to the State and Federal governments in taxes. A number of inmates who would have been enrolled in this program have opted for the Board of Trustees Early Release Contract Program. Some of the work release inmates have also been transferred to a half-way house and kept their work release job. This cut down the total earnings, maintenance and taxes. There should be an increase of inmates in this program in the coming year as there are currently three firms waiting for qualified residents. Also, the possibility of a modification of the work release standards by the Department of Corrections could serve to increase the numbers of participants in the program.

OFF-GROUNDS RESIDENTIAL UNITS

Wharton Tract Unit - There were 48 juveniles in the Wharton Tract Program at the end of this fiscal year, and they will gradually be transferred to other juvenile facilities since Yardville will retain Wharton Tract as a satellite for its use in the future. Currently, the only adult inmates remaining in the program are paraprofessionals and Culinary Arts residents. The residents of this program were involved in several projects of community interest, including refurbishing a day care center in Bordentown, maintaining the cemetery grounds in Tabernacle, and assisting the Department of Transportation in repairing potholes on Carranza Road. The latest project entails the cleaning of litter and debris from several creeks near the unit which are popular canoe routes. In addition, the program has provided residents on a regular basis for the traditional forest details servicing Bass River State Forest, Batsto, Penn State Forest and Atsion Lake. The school program has been operating well and 25 residents earned

their G.E.D. out of a total of 33 tested. Community recreation activities ranged from beach trips in the summer to movies, plays and public television tapings in the winter.

Plans and Aspirations Major efforts during the coming year will be focused on community oriented programs in addition to strengthening program components in the areas of Construction Trades, Landscaping, paraprofessionals, and Culinary Arts. In addition, we will pursue individualized programs for longer term inmates through the mechanism of residential and non-residential community placement programs. Internally, we will pursue the goal of administrative decentralization via final implementation of the Functional Unit Concept as we feel it is a progressive administrative model in the field of corrections which will serve to ameliorate many of the day by day problems associated with incarcerated offenders. Finally, we would hope to evaluate programs and services offered to inmates within the institution toward revising and redeveloping more suitable programs to meet the needs of inmates. These plans and aspirations should make the job easier for all and create a more conducive atmosphere for staff and inmates alike. A number of our goals and objectives have been met over the period of the last year but we will pursue and further refine these efforts in order that Yardville will continue to be a progressive and outstanding correctional institution as evidenced by its past record.

August 15, 1979



Donald D. Zelinski, Superintendent

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