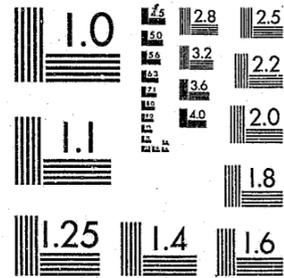


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STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

THE STATE OFFICE BUILDING CAMPUS

ALBANY, N.Y., 12226

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SURVEY OF SERVICES
PROVIDED BY PRE-RELEASE
CENTERS IN THE NYS
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

As part of a DCJS Grant (Intensive Evaluation of DOCS Pre-Release Centers), the Department's various Pre-Release Centers were sent a survey questionnaire in order to gather data on services provided to the inmates of these 17 facilities. Based upon the data collected, a preliminary program typology was structured consisting of the following three components: (a) type of Center staff, (b) focus of program activities, and (c) type of delivery of specialized seminars.

An overview of the findings of this survey is provided in table form on pp. 18-21.

Funded By:

NYS Division of Criminal
Justice Services
DCJS Grant #2731 (Intensive
Evaluation of DOCS Pre-Release Centers)

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December 1980

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2-23-81

SURVEY OF SERVICES PROVIDED
BY PRE-RELEASE CENTERS
IN THE NYS DEPARTMENT
OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

As part of a DCJS (Division of Criminal Justice Services) Grant (#2731, Intensive Evaluation of DOCS Pre-Release Centers), the Department's various Pre-Release Centers were sent a survey questionnaire (see attached copy) in order to gather data on services provided to the inmates of these facilities. The report is divided into the following two sections: (a) history and overview of DOCS institution-based pre-release, and (b) findings from survey of services provided by the Pre-Release Centers.

A History and Overview of Program

The Department's Pre-Release Program began with the development of the Green Haven Pre-Release Center. This development at Green Haven was initially conceived during late 1972 when Project Second Chance approached Green Haven with the offer of providing post-release services (employment, housing, supportive services) to inmates who were to be released from prison to residence. Initially, four Green Haven inmates volunteered to administer an office within the institution to assist Project Second Chance in providing community services to prospective parolees.

This Pre-Release Center developed this format of an inmate-staffed operation working in conjunction with Department staff. The program's theory was that if the inmate was connected with post-release services prior to his Parole Board appearance, a suitable program could be established for Parole Board approval which could subsequently be implemented following release to the community. An aspect of this operation was an understanding of the types of programs which Parole approved of and, consequently, through the development of the pre-release program process, staff of Pre-Release Centers at the various facilities have endeavored to have the input of Parole staff so as to facilitate the development of the inmate's release plan.

As the Green Haven Pre-Release Center's program evolved, its scope broadened to include working with additional community service agencies to arrange for other post-release services for prospective parolees and to provide specific information services by inviting community groups to conduct seminars within the facility. A formal program consequently evolved with a division of labor among the inmate staff and the development of program curriculum and a program cycle with various components. During 1977, staff of the Department's Division of Program Planning, Research and Evaluation visited this Center and published a descriptive program review.¹

Subsequently other pre-release center programs developed at various Department facilities. In recognition of these developments, civilian staff advisors for the Pre-Release Centers met during 1977 in Albany to pool their experience and further develop the program. Furthermore, during 1978, the Department planned to operate Downstate Correctional Facility as a Centralized Separation Center to provide pre-release services to inmates during the ninety-day period prior to release. However, subsequent factors resulted in a development of Downstate into a Classification Center with an accompanying focus on the facility-based Pre-Release Centers in operation at various facilities.

¹ A Descriptive Review of the Green Haven Pre-Release Centers by Bernard J. McCarthy, NYS Department of Correctional Services, September 1977.

NGJ# 80150

During 1980, several significant developments involving the Department and the Division of Parole impacted upon the Pre-Release Center programs. First, the Department's Division of Program Planning, Research and Evaluation received an intensive evaluation grant (#2731) from the State's Division of Criminal Justice Services to develop a research design for studying the Pre-Release Centers. (This Grant became operational during mid-May 1980 and terminated on September 30, 1980). On June 17th, the Department arranged for a meeting in Albany involving the inmate directors of the Pre-Release Centers, the Commissioner of Correctional Services (Thomas A. Coughlin III), the Chairman of the Board of Parole (Edward Hammock), and other involved parties.

Inmate directors of the 15 Pre-Release Centers presented their ideas concerning standardization of the Pre-Release Center program. (Facilities with pre-release programs which were not represented included Mid-Orange, which was in an early developmental stage, and Bayview, which has a program, for the female inmates, that is operated by the South Forty Corporation). The inmate directors emphasized factors common to all of the Pre-Release Centers such as peer counseling provided by inmate staff to inmates participating in the program.

As an outcome of this meeting, Commissioner Coughlin and Chairman Hammock released an interagency memorandum of agreement on July 31, 1980 (see attached copy) which "affirmed their commitment to enhance and expand the program." This agreement focused upon program administration, indicating that the Department's Director of Correctional Guidance and Parole's Director of Institutional Parole Services shall have joint responsibility for administration of Pre-Release Center programming." Furthermore, this agreement stated that at the facility level, the program's operation would be jointly managed by "the Correctional Services staff member designated by the Superintendent, the Parole staff member designated by the Director of Institutional Services, and the inmate Resident Director."

A further programmatic development occurred on September 8th as a follow-up to the July 31st Interagency Memorandum of Agreement. On September 8th, the Department's Director of Correctional Guidance/Special Housing (Arthur Leonardo) and Parole's Director of Institutional Services (James Williams) issued an interagency memorandum on implementation of Pre-Release Center Programs "at all facilities except the five camps, and the Rochester, Edgcombe, Lincoln and Fulton Correctional Facilities. This memorandum stated that at facilities with already existing PRC (Pre-Release Center) Programs, a PRC Management Committee would be established consisting of the Inmate Resident Director, the Senior Institutional Parole Officer, and the Department's staff member selected by the Superintendent. In addition, at facilities without PRC Programs, a Steering Committee was to be formed to begin the establishment of such a program. A copy is attached of an excerpt of this September 8th memorandum which specifies the "core activities and services" which are seen as essential and expected to be "delivered by existing as well as new Pre-Release Centers. The eleven core elements include the following:

1. orientation to PRC Services and Activities
2. Parole Board appearance sessions
3. job development techniques

4. mock employment interview
5. coping/life skills techniques
6. mock Parole Board hearing
7. legal class
8. consumer affairs class
9. reorientation to family life
10. field parole supervision
11. summary session

Survey Findings

Attached to this report are Tables I and II with findings of this program services survey. In addition, a copy is also attached of the survey instrument. (See Appendix B)

On August 26th, the questionnaire was sent to the Inmate Resident Directors of the various Pre-Release Centers.² Subsequently, copies of the questionnaire were also sent to the following individuals: the CETA-funded Civilian Coordinator of the Mid-Orange Pre-Release Center (which is in, a developmental stage) and the Pre-Release Program at Bayview, which is operated by a private organization - The South Forty Corporation (275 Seventh Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10001).

In the following section, which should be read in conjunction with the attached summary tables the elements of the questionnaire are reviewed, with references to particular facility Pre-Release Programs.

1. Client Needs Assessment

All Centers reported that a client needs assessment is prepared. The Wallkill Center stated that its assessments are very limited.

2. Orientation

All Centers except the Great Meadow Center stated that an orientation is provided.

3. Maintain Contacts By Outside Agencies

All Centers reported the maintenance of contacts by outside agencies.

4. Secure RA (Reasonable Assurance) Letters

All Centers reported that RA letters are secured for inmates.

5. Facilitate Community-Based Agency Seminars

All Centers except for those at Great Meadow and Wallkill reported that they facilitate community-based agency seminar.

²Bedford's responses were reported during the course of a field visit to the Pre-Release Center at that facility.

6. Help individuals with:

a. Resumes, Cover Letters

All Centers reported that they provide assistance with resumes and cover letters.

b. Social Security

All Centers except for those at Mt. Mc Gregor and Wallkill reported that they provide assistance concerning Social Security. (Woodbourne's Center did not complete this item).

c. Birth Certificates

All Center's except for Eastern, Green Haven and Mt. McGregor reported that they provide assistance with birth certificates.

d. Veterans' Benefits

All Centers except for Arthur Kill and Eastern reported providing assistance with Veterans' Benefits. Queensboro reported that "Veterans referral is processed in conjunction with the Law Library and the Pre-Release Center". Bedford does not provide such service.

e. Motor Vehicle (license, etc.)

The Centers which reported providing such assistance included Bayview, Elmira ("information only"), Mid-Orange, Ossining, Queensboro, Taconic ("in the process"). Those Centers which reported that they did not provide such assistance included Arthur Kill, Clinton, Fishkill, Great Meadow, Green Haven, Mt. Mc Gregor, Eastern Otisville, and Wallkill. (Woodbourne's Center did not complete this item). Also, Bedford does not provide such services.

f. Food stamps, Social Services

All Centers except the following reported providing such assistance: Great Meadow, Green Haven, Otisville and Taconic.

g. Bus Services

The following Centers reported that they assist inmates with bus services: Bayview, Mid-Orange, Otisville, Taconic and Woodbourne. The following Centers reported that they do not provide such assistance: Arthur Kill, Elmira, Fishkill, Great Meadow, Green Haven, Mt. McGregor, Ossining, Queensboro, Eastern, Bedford and Wallkill. Clinton did not complete this item.

h. Other Types of Individual Help

Fishkill's Center responded by noting that other types of help include "relocation, referral to drug program, assistance in academic programs." Wallkill's Center responded by noting that inmates are "helped with erasing discriminating material from record." The other Centers did not respond to this questionnaire item.

7. Counseling:

a. Peer Counseling (Individual and/or Group)

The response to this questionnaire item was varied. Centers indicating that they provide both individual and group counseling included: Bedford Hills, Arthur Kill, Bayview, Clinton, Elmira, Fishkill, Mid-Orange, Ossining, Otisville, and Taconic. Bayview reported "group and individual with video-training in attending skills." Centers indicating that they provide only individual counseling include Great Meadow.

Queensboro's Center did not answer this questionnaire item.

Green Haven, Wallkill, Woodbourne and Eastern answered "Yes" but did not specify whether one or both types of counseling were provided.

Finally, Mt. McGregor indicated that it did not provide either type of counseling.

b. Drug Counseling (i.e. Reality House) and/or Alcohol

Centers responding "Yes" to this item included Fishkill, Green Haven, Ossining, Otisville, Wallkill and Woodbourne. One Center, Mid-Orange responded "Both" to this item.

Centers responding "No" to this item included Arthur Kill, Clinton, Elmira, and Mt. McGregor. Also, Bedford does not provide such services.

Centers which did not respond to this questionnaire item included Bayview, Great Meadow, Queensboro, Taconic, and Eastern.

c. Vocational Counseling

Centers responding "Yes" to this questionnaire item included Bedford, Eastern, Bayview, Elmira, Fishkill, Green Haven, Mid-Orange, Ossining, Queensboro, Taconic, Wallkill and Woodbourne. Queensboro's vocational counseling is provided through RTP (Recruitment and Training Program, Inc.).

Centers responding "No" to this questionnaire item included Arthur Kill, Mt. McGregor, and Otisville.

Centers which did not respond to this questionnaire item included Bayview, Great Meadow and Taconic.

d. Other Types of Counseling

Seven Centers responded "Yes" to this questionnaire item. Ossining responded "Yes" but did not specify the types of counseling. Six Centers provided examples of such counseling,

including the following:

1. Bayview - "family, motivational, legal"
2. Clinton - "college placement and counseling"
3. Fishkill - "decision-making processes"
4. Great Meadow - "self identification/positive social behavior"
5. Mid-Orange - "family problems"
6. Wallkill - "job, family, general"

Centers which responded "No" to this survey item included Arthur Kill, Elmira, Bedford, Mt. McGregor, Otisville, Woodbourne, and Eastern. Centers which did not respond to this item included Green Haven, Queensboro, and Taconic.

8. Classes or Seminars in:

a. Parole

All Centers except Mt. McGregor and Bedford reported having parole classes or seminars.

b. Career Employment

All Centers except Great Meadow, Bedford, Mt. McGregor, and Woodbourne reported having career employment classes or seminars.

c. "Life Skills"

All Centers except Arthur Kill, Bedford and Mt. McGregor reported having "Life Skills" classes or seminars.

d. Health Education

The following Centers reported having health education classes or seminars: Bayview, Clinton, Fishkill, Green Haven, Mid-Orange, Ossining, Queensboro, and Taconic.

The following Centers reported not having such classes or seminars: Arthur Kill, Bedford, Elmira, Great Meadow, Mt. McGregor, Otisville, Eastern, Wallkill and Woodbourne.

e. Fashion

Bayview reported having classes or seminars in fashion whereas Bedford does not. The Centers at the male facilities do not provide such classes.

f. Consumer Services

All Centers except the following reported having classes or seminars in consumer services: Arthur Kill, Bedford, Great Meadow.

g. Budgeting/Credit

Taconic's Center did not respond to this questionnaire item. The following Centers did not report such classes or seminars: Eastern Great Meadow and Mid-Orange. The other Centers report classes or seminars in budgeting and credit.

h. Insurance/Taxes

The following Center's indicated that classes or seminars on insurance/taxes are provided: Bayview, Clinton, Elmira, Fishkill, Green Haven, Mid-Orange.

The following Centers indicated that such classes are not provided: Arthur Kill, Bedford, Great Meadow, Mt. Mc Gregor, Otisville, Queensboro, Wallkill, Woodbourne.

Taconic's Center did not respond to this questionnaire item.

i. Driver's Training

The following Centers report that they have classes or seminars in driver's training: Bayview, Mid-Orange, Ossining, Queensboro. Taconic's Center reported that such training is in the process of being established. The remaining Centers do not provide such training.

j. Legal Affairs

All Centers except Bedford, Mt. Mc Gregor and Great Meadow report that they have classes in legal affairs.

k. Personal Awareness

All Centers except Bedford, Mt. Mc Gregor, Woodbourne, Great Meadow report that they have classes or seminars in personal awareness.

l. Planned Parenthood

The following Centers reported having classes or seminars in planned parenthood: Bayview, Eastern, Fishkill, Green Haven, Mid-Orange, and Taconic.

The following Centers did not report having such classes: Bedford, Clinton, Elmira, Great Meadow, Mt. McGregor, Ossining, Otisville, Queensboro, Wallkill and Woodbourne.

m. Family Responsibilities

All Centers except Eastern, Great Meadow, Mt. McGregor, Bedford and Woodbourne reported having classes or seminars in family responsibilities.

n. Resocialization

All Centers except Bedford and Mt. McGregor reported having classes or seminars in resocialization.

o. "Thresholds Decision-Making"

The following Centers report having classes or seminars in the field: Bayview, Clinton, Fishkill, Ossining, Queensboro, and Taconic. Wallkill's Center reported that it is "attempting to incorporate" this type of seminar into its program. The other Centers do not offer such classes.

A September 3rd cover letter from Clinton's Resident Director indicated that their staff received "training in a Threshold workshop conducted by a Senior Parole Officer and attended by Center Staff and Institutional Parole Staff." Also, "continuation of this training in decision-making will be hopefully continued, with envisioned implementation of this component into Pre-Release Seminars, conducted by Center staff."

p. Communication

The following Centers report having classes or seminars in communication: Arthur Kill, Bayview, Clinton, Elmira, Fishkill, Great Meadow, Green Haven, Mid-Orange, Ossining, Otisville, Queensboro and Wallkill.

Taconic's Center did not respond to this questionnaire item. The remaining Centers (Bedford, Mt. McGregor and Woodbourne) did not report having such classes.

q. Other Types of Classes/Seminars

The response to this questionnaire item was quite varied. Centers which provided comments on this item included the following:

1. Bayview - "classroom anxiety, math workshop, stress and violence"
2. Mid-Orange - "Social Security, exit - relocation to Orange County"
3. Mt. McGregor - "going for a job interview and work-related skills"
4. Otisville - "transition from prison to community"
5. Queensboro - "educational seminars are conducted by LaGuardia College and the East Harlem College and Career Counseling Program"

6. Wallkill - reference was made to an attached program cycle. Although Wallkill reported (see pp. 6-7) having seminars in family responsibilities, separate reference is made in this sub-section to the cycle's one-week component focusing on "family and community expectations." The emphasis is on "what happens during re-entry back into the community and family", and this seminar is taught by Dr. Peter Fabian.

7. Woodbourne - "Home Sweet Home Family Counseling Day for the families just prior to the potential parolee's parole appearance."

One general staff overview on classes or seminars was received in a September 3rd cover letter from Clinton's Pre-Release Center Resident Director. He noted that "many of the seminars which staff conducts are presented in conjunction with student aides from SUNY-Plattsburgh, who also serve internships at the Pre-Release Center. These aides are from the Home Economics Department of the College and are supervised by an Assistant Professor, who together with the Resident Director and the Facility's Pre-Release Coordinator plan and coordinate activities of both students and pre-release staff."

9. Workshops in:

a. Social Service Applications

Centers reporting workshops on social service applications include the following: Arthur Kill, Bayview, Bedford, Eastern, Elmira, Mid-Orange, Ossining, Queensboro, Taconic and Woodbourne.

Centers which did not report such workshops included Clinton, Green Haven, Great Meadow, Mt. McGregor, Otisville and Wallkill.

Fishkill's Center did not respond to this questionnaire item.

b. Job Interviews (Videotape)

The following Centers reported having workshops in job interviews (videotape): Bayview, Clinton, Eastern, Elmira, Fishkill, Green Haven, Otisville, Queensboro, Woodbourne and Wallkill. Elmira also reported "live" job interviews. Mid-Orange reported having mock job interviews, and Ossining reported having job interviews without the videotape capacity.

Mr. Mc Gregor did not report having such workshops. In addition, Bedford's Center did not report having such workshops. Taconic's Center did not respond to this questionnaire item.

c. Parole Hearings (Video)

The following Centers reported having parole hearings (video): Bayview, Clinton, Green Haven, Otisville, Queensboro, Wallkill and Woodbourne.

Elmira reported having both mock and live hearings. Fishkill reported having "mock parole". Ossining reported having parole hearings in its service program but without the video capacity.

Taconic's Center did not respond to this questionnaire item.

Bedford Hills, Arthur Kill, Great Meadow and Mt. Mc Gregor do not conduct such hearings.

d. Sensitivity Training

The following Centers reported having workshops concerned with sensitivity training: Bayview, Fishkill and Ossining.

Taconic's Center did not respond to this questionnaire item.

The Mid-Orange Center indicated that it would like to implement such training.

The remaining Centers did not report having such workshops.

e. TA (Transactional Analysis)

The following Centers reported workshops in TA: Bayview, Clinton, Eastern, Fishkill and Ossining. A September 3rd cover letter from Clinton's Pre-Release Director indicated that "TA Seminars will also be added and are to be conducted by the Center's new Coordinator, Mr. Nick Valvo, who is on the Clinton staff as a Correction Counselor."

The other Centers did not report having such workshops. Taconic's Center did not respond to this questionnaire item.

f. Other Types of Workshops

The following Centers reported having other types of workshops: Bayview, Clinton, Mid-Orange, Ossining and Wallkill. The following are specialized types of workshops listed in the responses:

1. Bayview - "self-awareness through video-training, and use of telephone equipment with video"
2. Clinton - "WIN (Work Incentive Program) consists of four modules relating to other strategies (skills, value clarification, factors in job selecting)"
3. Mid-Orange - "writing resumes, etc."
4. Wallkill - referred to an attached program cycle

10. Other Activities

a. Contacts with family:

The following Centers reported having activities involving contacts with inmate families: Bedford, Elmira ("limited"), Mid-Orange, Ossining, Queensboro, and Woodbourne.

The following Centers did not report having such activities: Arthur Kill, Clinton, Eastern, Fishkill, Green Haven, Great Meadow, Mt. McGregor and Otisville.

The following Centers did not respond to this questionnaire item: Bayview and Taconic.

b. Various other activities:

The following Centers reported having "various other activities", as follows:

- 1. Bayview "writing workshop, contact and information on college curriculum and degree programs"
- 2. Green Haven reference was made to various attached documents pertaining to the "Prospective Career Development" process

This process includes needs assessment and, with the inmate's consent, a form concerned with the inmate's career development plans is placed within the Institutional Parole casefolder.

The following Centers did not report having "various other activities", as follows: Arthur Kill, Bedford, Fishkill, Great Meadow, Mt. McGregor and Wallkill.

The following Centers did not respond to this questionnaire item: Clinton, Eastern, Elmira, Mid-Orange, Otisville, Queensboro, Taconic and Woodbourne.

Interpretation of Findings and Suggested Program Typology

The survey findings summarized in the preceding section are reflective of Pre-Release Center program operations for the period between early September and late October 1980. As was indicated on page 2, on September 8th (shortly after the August 26th distribution of the questionnaire) the Department's Director of Correctional Guidance/Special Housing and Parole's Director of Institutional Services issued an interagency memorandum of implementation of Pre-Release Center Programs which specified eleven "core activities and services" to be delivered by existing as well as new programs. Hence, the information provided by the Program's Inmate Resident Directors in response to the survey questionnaire should be viewed as being subject to subsequent change due to the implementation of the September 8th memorandum and its specification of various core activities and services.

The survey findings indicated that certain services are delivered by all of the Pre-Release Center Programs, as follows:

- 1. Client needs-assessment
- 2. Maintain contacts by outside agencies
- 3. Secure RA (Reasonable Assurance) letters for inmates
- 4. Help individuals with resumes, cover letters

Certain other services were reported as being delivered by all except one or two Centers, as follows:

- 1. Orientation - by all Centers except Great Meadow
- 2. Facilitate community-based agency seminars - by all Centers except Great Meadow and Wallkill
- 3. Social Security - by all Centers except Mt. McGregor and Wallkill (Woodbourne did not respond to this item)
- 4. Veterans' benefits - by all Centers serving male inmates except Arthur Kill and Eastern (Bedford does not provide such services to female inmates)
- 5. Peer Counseling - (either individual, group or both): by all Centers except Mt. McGregor (Queensboro did not respond to this item)
- 6. Parole classes or seminars - by all Centers except Mt. McGregor and Bedford

- 7. Resocialization classes - by all Centers except Mt. McGregor and Bedford
- 8. Job Interviews (mock video, mock or live) - by all Centers except Mt. McGregor and Bedford (Taconic did not respond to this item).

The attached Table II indicates, for each program service component, the number of Centers which have the given component, the number of Centers which do not have the given component, and the number of Centers which did not respond to the questionnaire item concerned with the given program component.

Prior to presentation of a typology of Centers, it is emphasized that the survey of Pre-Release Center services in the Department is an initial attempt to document the existence of various service components at the facility-level. The fact that two Centers report that a given pre-release program service component is delivered does not indicate the extent of service-delivery but rather, it is an indication that each Center is involved in the delivery of the given service component. Determination of the extent to which each service component is delivered would require follow-up contact with the Center.

Program Typology

Various approaches may be utilized in the development of a typology of Pre-Release Center programs. First, it is necessary to have an overview of the typical program and its components. This was provided by the prior discussion concerning (a) services provided by all 17 Centers, and (b) services delivered by all except one or two of the Centers. The following is a listing of the 12 program components in these two categories:

1. Orientation
2. Client needs-assessment
3. Maintain contacts by outside agencies
4. Facilitate community-based agency seminars
5. Secure RA (reasonable assurance) letters for inmates
6. Help individuals with resumes, cover letters
7. Social Security
8. Veterans' benefits
9. Peer counseling
10. Parole classes or seminars
11. Resocialization classes or seminars
12. Job interviews

A typology of Center programs may be introduced and constructed along certain dimensions. The following dimensions have been identified in this initial characterization:

1. Type of Center Staff
2. Focus of Activities
3. Type of Delivery of Specialized Seminars

1. Type of Center Staff

The Pre-Release Center Program model involves an Inmate Resident Director, a Staff Administrative Liaison (typically a Correction Counselor from the Service Unit) and Inmate Peer Counselors. A variation on this model is located at Bayview, a facility for women in New York City. A private group, the South Forty Corporation, has its own staff which provides various services in conjunction with the inmate population. During the course of a field visit to this Program during August 1980, the Program Manager indicated that inmates were to receive training which would prepare them for peer counseling.

In addition, although all programs in this area are coordinated through the institution's Deputy Superintendent for Program Services, the Staff Liaison may be selected from various disciplines. Almost all of the Staff Liaisons are Correction Counselors, but Taconic's Liaison is a Vocational Shop Instructor and the Staff Liaison at Mid-Orange is a CETA-funded staff member with a background in education.

2. Focus of Activities

The September 3rd interagency memorandum outlined eleven core activities and services. For these eleven core activities, the following content classification is offered:

- a. Parole (three activities)
 1. Parole Board Appearance Sessions
 2. Mock Parole Board Hearing
 3. Field Parole Supervision
- b. Employment (two activities)
 1. Job Development Techniques
 2. Mock Employment Interview
- c. Other Informational Services (four activities)
 1. Coping/Life Skills Techniques
 2. Legal Class

- 3. Consumer Affairs Class
- 4. Reorientation to Family Life
- d. Miscellaneous (Administrative, etc.)
 - 1. Orientation to Center Services and Activities
 - 2. Summary Session

This classification of activities indicates that the "core" model for existing as well as new programs has three emphases, as follows: (a) parole preparation (Board and supervision), (b) employment, and (c) other informational services in preparation for release.

Based upon the responses to the survey questionnaires and various field visits, it is evident that the seventeen Pre-Release Center Programs differ in their relative foci, as well as share certain program emphases. The aforementioned twelve service components operational at almost all of the Centers indicates that they share interests in employment (job interviews), parole (parole classes or seminars) and community-based agencies (maintain contacts by outside agencies, facilitate community-based agency seminars).

With respect to program differences, smaller Centers understandably offer less services than Centers responsible for servicing larger inmate populations. In addition, the model for program delivery varies. For example, the Center at Ossining does not operate within a program cycle format but, rather, offers a variety of seminars which participating inmates may select from. In contrast, other Centers involve participants in a cycle within which they are expected to participate in the various components in order to receive (in some cases) the Center's certification (to the Parole Board) that the participant has completed the Pre-Release Program.

3. Type of Delivery of Specialized Seminars

As has been indicated on page 14, through the listing of twelve service components provided by either all Centers or all except one or two Centers, the typical Center provides a variety of specialized services to participating clients. The specific approaches, however, for delivering such services, may differ due to various factors including the particular Center's assessment of the most appropriate strategy of service delivery. For example, most Centers reported the existence of resocialization classes or seminars for re-entry preparation in areas including, for example,

family relationships. Some Centers utilize inmate counseling staff to lead such seminars given the Pre-Release Program's stress upon the advantages of a peer counseling approach. For example, one advantage cited is that since the inmate counselor has himself or herself experienced family relationships both prior to and during the incarceration period, he or she is best equipped to advise fellow inmates upon the aspects of family relationships during the community re-entry period. Alternatively, one of the Center's Elmira, reported that it utilizes community-based resource people to advise inmates in seminars on areas including family relationships, consumer affairs, etc. It was the feeling of staff at this Center that utilization of already existing content-area specialists from community organizations provides inmates in pre-release with the type of information and guidance which they are seeking prior to return to their communities.

Conclusion

This survey report has provided an initial overview of the various types of program services offered by the 17 Pre-Release Centers, located in Department facilities, which are, from the central level, under the joint administration of the Department's Director of Correctional Guidance and the Director of Institutional Services - Division of Parole. Based upon the data collected from inmate resident directors at these Centers, a preliminary program typology was structured consisting of the following three components:

- 1. type of Center staff
- 2. focus of program activities
- 3. type of delivery of specialized seminars

This survey is one aspect of an ongoing application of program evaluation to the Pre-Release Program. Earlier reports in this series have included a review of institutional pre-release program literature and an evaluation research design for the study of Pre-Release Centers in Department facilities (3). A subsequent report in this series will discuss the findings of a national survey on institutional pre-release services programming within state correctional agencies which was conducted at the Department's request by CONTACT, Inc., a federally-funded criminal justice clearinghouse located in Omaha, Nebraska.

As program planning and developmental efforts continue to focus upon the role of peer-conducted, institutional pre-release services, it is useful to focus upon the increased attention given to peer-counseling approaches within the correctional literature. For example, Hirschorn and Burck (1977), in a study conducted at FCI (Federal Correctional Institution) - Tallahassee, Florida, focused upon the effectiveness of peer-led group counseling during the admission and orientation phase of incarceration (4). A post-test only control group design was employed, thereby enabling the assignment of newly entering inmates to a "peer-led, staff-led, or control group" on a random basis. These researchers

- 3. See (a) "Review of Pre-Release Program Literature in Adult Correctional Institutions, DOCS Division of Program Planning, Research and Evaluation (L. Morgenbesser, J. Pollock, S. Russell) September 1980, and (b) Evaluation Research Design for Pre-Release Centers at Facilities of NYSDOCS, DOCS Division of Program Planning, Research and Evaluation, (L. Morgenbesser, J. Pollock), December 1980.
- 4. "Utilizing Inmates as Group Leaders In The Admissions Phase of Incarceration, Offender Rehabilitation, by S. Hirschorn and H. Burck, Vol. 2, No. 1, Fall 1977, pp. 45-52

TABLE 1	Albion	Arthur Kill	Attica	Auburn	Bayview	Bedford Hill:	Clinton	Coxsackie	Downstate	Eastern	Edgecombe	Elmira	Fishkill	Fulton	Gr. Meadow	Gr. Haven	Hudson	Lincoln	Mid-Orange	Mt. McGregor	Ossining	Otisville	Queensboro	Taconic	Walkill	Woodbourne
Classes, Seminars in:																										
Parole		X			X	X			X		X	X		X	X				X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Career, Employment		X			X	X			X		X	X			X				X		X	X	X	X	X	X
"Life Skills"					X	X			X		X	X		X	X				X		X	X	X	X	X	
Health, Education					X	X						X			X						X			X	X	
Fashion					X																					
Consumer Issues					X	X					X	X			X				X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Budgeting, Credit		X			X	X			X			X			X				X		X	X		X	X	X
Insurance, Taxes					X	X									X				X		X					X
Driver's Training					X														X		X		X		X	
Legal Affairs		X			X	X			X		X	X				X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Personal Awareness		X			X	X			X			X			X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	
Planned Parenthood					X				X			X							X				X		X	
Family Responsibilities		X			X	X						X			X				X		X	X	X	X	X	
Resocialization		X			X	X			X			X			X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	
"Thresholds" Decision-Making					X	X						X									X		X	X		X
Communication					X	X						X			X	X			X		X	X	X		X	X
Workshops in: Social Service Applica- tions		X			X	X			X										X		X		X	X		X
Job Interviews (Videotape)					X	X			X		X	X			X				X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Parole Hearings (Video)					X	X			X		X	X			X				X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Sensitivity Training					X				X			X									X					X
T. A.					X	X			X			X														
Other: Contacts with Family						X													X		X		X			

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 APPENDIX A
 TABLE I

	Number of Facility Pre-Release Centers With Program Component	Number of Facility Pre-Release Centers Without Program Component	Number of Facility Pre-Release Centers Not Responding to Questionnaire Item
Pre-Release Center			
Services, Activities: Needs Assessment	17	0	0
Orientation	16	1	0
Contacts w/Outside Agencies	17	0	0
Letters of Reas. Assur.	17	0	0
Interviews, Seminars	15	2	0
Help with: Resumes, cover letters	17	0	0
Social Security	14	2	1
Birth Certificates, etc.	14	3	0
Veterans' Benefits	14	3	0
Motor Vehicle	6	10	1
Food Stamps, Social Svces.	13	4	0
Bus Services	5	11	1
Counseling in: Peer Counseling	15	1	1
Drug (Reality House)	7	5	5
Vocational	11	3	3

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APPENDIX A
TABLE II
FREQUENCIES
OF
SERVICES
OFFERED
FOR
PRE-RELEASE
CENTERS

TABLE 2	Number of Facility Pre-Release Centers With Program Component	Number of Facility Pre-Release Centers Without Program Component	Number of Facility Pre-Release Centers Not Responding to Questionnaire Item
Classes, Seminars in: Parole	15	2	0
Career, Employment	13	4	0
"Life Skills"	14	3	0
Health, Education	8	9	0
Fashion	1	16	0
Consumer Issues	14	3	0
Budgeting, Credit	13	3	1
Insurance, Taxes	8	8	1
Driver's Training	5	12	0
Legal Affairs	14	3	0
Personal Awareness	13	4	0
Planned Parenthood	7	10	0
Family Responsibilities	12	5	0
Resocialization	15	2	0
"Thresholds" Decision-Making	7	10	0
Communication	13	3	1
Workshops in: Social Service Applications	10	6	1
Job Interviews (Videotape)	14	2	1
Parole Hearings (Video)	12	4	1
Sensitivity Training	3	13	1
T.A.	5	11	1
Other: Contacts With Family	7	8	2

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 APPENDIX
 A
 TABLE II



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

THE STATE OFFICE BUILDING CAMPUS

ALBANY, N.Y. 12226

THOMAS A. COUGHLIN III

COMMISSIONER

FLORENCE FRUCHER

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER

August 26, 1980

As part of our grant to develop a research plan to study pre-release centers, we are putting together comprehensive descriptions of the various centers. Towards this purpose, we would appreciate having you indicate whether you offer the following services:

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Complete a needs assessment on the client	_____	_____
Orientation	_____	_____
Maintain contacts by outside agencies	_____	_____
Secure letters of reasonable assurance	_____	_____
Facilitate agency seminars	_____	_____
Help individuals with:		
resumes, cover letters	_____	_____
social security	_____	_____
birth certificates	_____	_____
veterans' benefits	_____	_____
motor vehicle (license, etc.)	_____	_____
food stamps, social services	_____	_____
bus services	_____	_____

August 26, 1980

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
other types of help (please specify)		
Counseling in:		
peer counseling		
drugs (i.e. Reality House) and/or alcohol		
vocational		
other types of counseling (please specify)		
Classes or seminars in:		
parole		
career employment		
"life skills"		
health education		
fashion		
consumer issues		
budgeting, credit		
insurance, taxes		
driver's training		
legal affairs		
personal awareness		
planned parenthood		
family responsibilities		
resocialization		
"thresholds" decision-making		
communication		
other types of classes/seminars (please specify)		

August 26, 1980

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Workshops in:		
social service applications		
job interviews (videotape)		
parole hearings (video)		
sensitivity training		
T. A. (transactional analysis)		
other types of workshops (please specify)		
Other Activities:		
contacts with family		
various other activities (please specify)		

This information will be used to prepare a summary description of all of the Pre-Release Centers. If there are any resource materials (program descriptions, course syllabi, etc.) on your program offerings which you would like to bring to our attention during the course of this survey, please feel free to enclose copies of such documents. If you would like a copy sent to you when the results are compiled, we would be happy to do so.

Thank you for your help with this survey.

Sincerely,

Leonard I. Morgenbesser

LEONARD I. MORGENBESSER
 Program Research Specialist III
 Project Director/Intensive Evaluation Grant For
 Pre-Release Centers
 Division of Program Planning, Evaluation, Research

Joy Pollock

JOY POLLOCK
 Program Research Specialist II

LM:pm

cc: Herbert McLaughlin, Assistant Director of Correctional Guidance
 Charles H. Nygard, Director, Program Research/Evaluation Unit

END