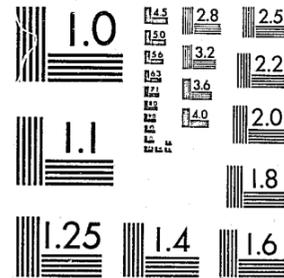


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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
 OFFICE OF ADULT PROBATION
 643 Maple Ave.
 Hartford, CT 06114

CR-Sent
 1-17-83

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OFFICE OF ADULT PROBATION BIENNIAL REPORT

ACQUISITIONS

The Department of Adult Probation, activated on February 23, 1956, was administered by a Commission of six members appointed by the Governor until December 31, 1978. As a result of the restructuring of state agencies and reorganization of the Judicial Department, the Commission was dissolved and the Department was placed in the Judicial branch of state government, where it now operates as the Office of Adult Probation, on January 1, 1979.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Honorable John P. Cotter, served as an original member and as the Chairman of the Commission during its final period of service, along with Superior Court Judge Joseph F. Dannehy, Superior Court Judge William D. Graham, Attorney Jerome J. Rosenblum, Mr. Frank Davino, Mr. Paul Hemming and Mrs. Florence Grieb.

It is the responsibility of the Office of Adult Probation to provide and supervise probation service for all the courts of the state having jurisdiction in criminal cases, except the Juvenile Court. The Chief Court Administrator appoints a director who is its executive officer.

Our caseload exhibited a dramatic increase of 17% from 17,189 in 1977-78 to 20,107 in 1978-79. For varying periods during that fiscal year we had a total of 35,839 cases under supervision. Of the 13,991 adult cases discharged, 12,102 or 86.50% successfully completed their probation. Of the 1,931 youthful offenders discharged, 1,641 or 84.98% successfully completed their probation.

Continuing the trend recorded in the fiscal year 1978-79, the current caseload for fiscal year 1979-80 of 22,128 is a 10% increase of 2,021 cases

over that of last year. For varying periods during this fiscal year, we had a total of 39,530 cases under supervision. Of the 15,607 adult cases discharged, 13,796 or 88.40% successfully completed their probation. Of the 1,967 youthful offenders discharged, 1,734 or 88.15% successfully completed their probation.

During fiscal years 1978-79 and 1979-80, the department's training staff provided our professional probation personnel with 12,064 hours of training for an average of 80.4 hours per employee. This training was accomplished by employing a number of resources such as: The Connecticut Justice Academy, Title XX training funds and local colleges and universities. Eighteen officers pursued graduate degrees with the aid of Title XX funding. Training staff has worked with administration in its long-range planning efforts and in the expansion of our training manual.

In addition, the Supervisor of Training has played a major role in the agency's latest planning effort which resulted in a definition of agency supervision standards and the implementation of a casebook review system.

Specialized training was conducted for agency Volunteers and Interns, as well as TASC employees, and a standard training orientation program was provided for all new employees hired during this time period.

The following projects were undertaken with federal grants from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration:

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING - \$17,110. In the past year, progress has been made in attaining most of the goals of the grant. In addition to maintaining training-hour records, our Training Officer has been involved with delivering the orientation program for two classes of newly hired personnel;

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maintaining the agency's relationships with the Connecticut Justice Academy; planning next year's training program; and writing the Interstate Compact chapter for the manual.

SPECIALIZED PROBATION SERVICES PROJECT - \$130,000.

During fiscal 1978-79, this grant financed the purchase of outside professional services for individuals placed in the custody of the Office of Adult Probation who exhibited needs which could not be met on an in-house basis. Services purchased were mainly in the area of employment, mental health and drug and alcohol treatment. This project was to expire at the end of fiscal 1978-79 unless a transfer to General Fund monies could be achieved.

Public Act 79-585, Sec. 14, effected the pickup of this project into the General Fund budget enabling the agency to continue these contracts with outside professional agencies.

INCREASED USE OF VOLUNTEERS IN PROBATION - \$62,491. The Volunteer Program has continued its active and responsive role of assistance to the Office of Adult Probation. With the benefit of federal funds, during 1978-1979, the number of Coordinators was increased from two to seven with a corresponding growth rate of 25% in the Volunteer and Intern participation.

During 1979-80, the program was expanded to include the three coordinators from the Juvenile Court and now provides volunteer services in both the Juvenile and Adult jurisdictions.

The four major units include: 1) Volunteers in Probation, where selected, trained and supervised Volunteers assist officers in managing their extremely high caseloads; 2) Volunteers in Court, assist the department by covering the daily court sessions for monitoring dockets and assisting with intake of cases

referred to the agency on a particular court day; 3) Volunteers Assistance Program, where Volunteers assist clerical staff with a variety of office and clerical tasks; 4) Probation Intern Program, where college students receive credit for working with and assisting our staff, providing mutual benefit to all concerned.

Two new programs, Volunteers in Investigation and TASC Volunteers, were developed during 1978-79 in which 24 individuals contributed 1,400 hours.

For fiscal 1978-79, the Volunteer Program resulted in 58,269 man-hours of service with an estimated saving to the Judicial Department of \$471,280.60, an increase of 16% over the previous year. For fiscal 1979-80, with over 500 active Volunteers involved with the department, there was a contribution of a total of 62,227 man-hours at a saving to the Judicial Department of \$577,000. This is another program that began with federal funds that is now totally supported by General Fund monies as of July 1, 1980.

CASELOAD CLASSIFICATION COORDINATOR - \$34,136. Caseload classification has enabled the Office of Adult Probation to reduce the active caseload by 25% and to concentrate available resources on high risk probationers who have greater needs. During 1978-79, this case screening and management system, known as DCMBO (Differential Caseload Management by Objectives), was approved for a third and final year of funding. Accomplishments included: 1) Continued monitoring and improvement of statewide client classification and supervision performance; 2) Design and implementation of an empirically refined client risk-screening instrument to aid in the determination of differential strategies of case control and supervision; 3) Procurement of \$80,444 from the National Institute of Corrections to conduct an evaluation of this

screening/classification system. This position is now included in the General Fund.

CASELOAD CLASSIFICATION MANAGEMENT EVALUATION - \$80,444. Assisted by this award a comprehensive evaluation of the operation and effectiveness of the DCMBO risk-screening system was undertaken by the Connecticut Office of Adult Probation.

Based upon a careful review of data compiled for this project, evaluators believe the DCMBO system has effectively identified the "Low Risk Segment of the Offender Population." Comprehensive workshops with line staff and administrators reveal that the program has successfully accomplished the goals of resource allocation and improved service delivery. Recommendations offered in this evaluation suggest refinements aimed at enhancing the accuracy of the classification system through further empirical adjustments.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES UNIT - \$46,718. In conjunction with the Differential Caseload Management by Objective System, we have for several years experimented with the concept of caseload management by specialization of supervising officers with three distinct types of offender groups. This concept, which permits teams to divide case assignments according to specialization, permitted testing the experimental treatment of offender groups by probation officers and the development of a method of group screening of each court referral. Specialized Service Units have made substantive progress towards improved control of probationers and better implementation and follow-up of voluntary rehabilitative plans, including utilization of outside professional services. The benefit of an award of

\$46,718 during the past year promoted expansion of this practice to approximately half of all probation field offices, where satisfactory progress in improving caseload management has been achieved.

PRETRIAL RELEASE AND SUPERVISION - \$51,134. This project, a joint effort between Adult Probation and the Department of Corrections, assisted the courts in providing equal opportunities for pretrial release by reducing the number of persons held in pretrial detention at the Hartford Correctional center. In the first year, a total of 1,263 persons were interviewed with 70 of the 94 referrals granted some release opportunity by the Court avoiding a total of 3,572 days of incarceration at an estimated savings of \$66,224.88.

Although the release and supervision activities were discontinued, this project provided aid in developing procedures to safely reduce pretrial detention in Correctional Centers and to reduce probation caseloads through pretrial intervention. Technical assistance was supplied to various pretrial practitioners and agencies. The major focus during 1979-1980 was an assessment of the entire pretrial process, the results of which were utilized by the Pretrial Services Commission to support recommendations to the General Assembly.

ADULT PROBATION ON-LINE INFORMATION SYSTEM (APOLIS). Development of the Adult Probation On-Line Information System (APOLIS) has continued. Initial forms, procedures, files and programs have been developed for a pilot program, which included entering and updating case information and producing a narrative face sheet for investigations and field office case management. Present activities are directed toward converting the present products to be compatible with the new Judicial Data Center hardware and interfacing with the

other CJIS members, particularly the Judicial criminal system, which is being developed concurrently.

In the past year a terminal and printer were installed in our Enfield Office to tie in with the teleprocessing program of the State Judicial Information System at the Windsor Superior Court. A number of screens have been developed and a pilot program has been implemented to facilitate the exchange of information between the Court and our Office in a more efficient and expeditious manner.

TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES TO STREET CRIME (TASC) - \$562,500. This program seeks to reduce drug and alcohol related crime and criminal recidivism among substance abusing offenders by providing a screening unit to identify drug and alcohol abusers, an intake unit to assess and refer clients to appropriate treatment and a tracking unit to monitor the progress of TASC clients in treatment.

Actively serving twenty-one of the state's thirty-two Courts, Connecticut TASC, with an award of \$562,500 for 1979-80 has identified, referred to treatment and monitored 1,155 substance abusing defendants during the past fiscal year. Approximately two out of every three defendants who entered the program complied with the Court's requirements for treatment. Less than 12% were rearrested for other offenses while TASC clients, and all violations of program rules were immediately reported to the court.

The vast majority of clients were initially identified and referred on a pretrial basis, so that the prospects for successful completion of their treatment plans could be observed by the courts prior to final disposition of their criminal matters. Because of Connecticut TASC's efficient referral and

feedback mechanisms, court caseflow was actually enhanced. The program has already been awarded a second round of funding from LEAA for fiscal year 1980-81.

PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION REPORT PROJECT - \$69,008. In November, 1979, the Office of Adult Probation was selected to participate in a federally-funded, national demonstration project for the improvement of presentence investigation reports. During this fiscal year, project staff has researched the history and development of the presentence report in Connecticut, surveyed the needs and opinions of criminal justice officials from all agencies that utilize the presentence report, analyzed the costs and time involved in preparing reports, and developed plans for improving and streamlining the investigation process. The Office of Adult Probation has received assistance in project planning utilizing an inter-agency Advisory Board comprised of representatives from the Judicial Department, the State's Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, the Corrections Department, and a private defense attorney. The implementation area for the beginning phase of this project is the Hartford J.D. Court and G.A. 15, New Britain.

7-1-78 to 6-30-79

Adult Offenders

On Probation June 30, 1978		14,790
Placed on Probation		<u>16,467</u>
Total Probationers Under Supervision (3,069 more than last year)		31,257
Discharged from Probation		
Conduct satisfactory during probation	86.50	12,102
Absconded - lost from supervision	2.59	363
Sentenced for Violation of Probation	5.95	832
Sentenced on new charge	4.58	641
Died	<u>.38</u>	<u>53</u>
Total Discharged	100.00%	13,991
Total Adult Probationers under supervision end of year		17,266

Number of Presentence Investigations completed during past year

PSI's	5,790
Posts	<u>2,725</u>
Total	<u>8,515</u>

Youthful Offenders

On Probation June 30, 1978		2,399
Placed on Probation during past year		<u>2,183</u>
Total Probationers under supervision (99 more than last year)		4,582
Discharged from Probation		
Conduct satisfactory during probation	84.98	1,641
Absconded - lost from supervision	2.02	39
Sentenced for Violation of Probation	7.20	139
Sentenced on new charge	5.49	106
Died	<u>.31</u>	<u>6</u>
Total Discharged	100.00%	<u>1,931</u>

Total Youthful Offenders under supervision end of year	2,651
Total Adult Probationers under supervision end of year	17,266
Additional Interstate Compact cases	<u>190</u>
Grand Total	<u>20,107</u>
Number of Youthful Offender Eligibility Investigations	7,080
Total Earnings (Adult & Youthful Offenders)	\$38,947,835.88

Collections by Restitution Services	70,319.59
Collections by the Office of Adult Probation	<u>593,722.50</u>
Total	\$664,042.09

During the former year 736 cases were processed under the Interstate Compact for Probationers with a total of 1,330 still under active supervision. This includes 760 probationers being supervised from 47 states, while 570 probationers were serviced by our Department in 39 states. We assisted in 127 Interstate Compact investigations for other states, while our Department received similar benefit on 41 such requests.

7-1-79 to 6-30-80

Adult Offenders

On Probation June 30, 1979		17,266
Placed on Probation during past year		<u>17,539</u>
Total Probationers under supervision (3,548) more than last year		34,805
Discharged from Probation		
Conduct satisfactory during probation	88.40	13,796
Absconded - lost from supervision	1.13	177
Sentenced for Violation of Probation	5.62	877
Sentenced on new charge	4.42	690
Died	<u>.43</u>	<u>67</u>
Total Discharged	100.00%	<u>15,607</u>
Total Adult Probationers under supervision end of year		19,198

Number of Presentence Investigations completed during past year

	PSI's	5,147
	Posts	<u>4,179</u>
	Total	9,326
Youthful Offenders		
On Probation June 30, 1979		2,651
Placed on Probation during past year		<u>2,074</u>
Total Probationers under supervision (143 more than last year)		4,725
Discharged from Probation		
Conduct satisfactory during probation	88.15	1,734
Absconded - lost from supervision	.66	13
Sentenced for Violation of Probation	5.49	108
Sentenced on new charge	5.34	105
Died	.36	<u>7</u>
Total Discharged	100.00%	1,967
Total Youthful Offenders under supervision end of year		2,758
Total Adult Probationers under supervision end of year		19,198
Additional Interstate Compact cases		<u>172</u>
Grand Total		22,128

Number of Youthful Offender Eligibility Investigations 6,890

Total Earnings (Adult & Youthful Offenders) \$45,958,398.50

Total Restitution Collected on Court Orders \$843,115.95

During the past year 779 new cases were processed under the Interstate Compact for Probationers with a total of 1,284 still under active supervision. This includes 728 probationers being supervised from 47 states, while 556 probationers are being serviced for our Department in 38 states. We assisted in 129 Interstate Compact investigations for other states, while our Department received similar benefit on 42 such requests.

Like all criminal justice agencies, the Office of Adult Probation is faced with increasing workloads and diminishing resources. During the two fiscal years covered by this report, the supervision caseload in the Office of Adult

Probation has increased from 17,189 to 22,128, an increase of 22%; and continues to increase at an average of 220 cases per month.

The investigative responsibilities of the Office of Adult Probation remain relatively constant, and statistics show that during this same time period we completed 11,310 presentence investigations and 14,020 youthful offender investigations with an average staff of 150 line officers. With the exception of the pickup of federally funded positions upon grant expirations, there have been no new positions allocated to the agency for three consecutive fiscal years. At the same time, the crime rate in Connecticut has increased by about 17% during fiscal 1977-78 and 1978-79. Figures for the first six months of 1980 reveal a 10% increase nationally and a 9% increase in the State of Connecticut.

In addition to the above, effective July 1, 1981 we will see the implementation of Public Act 80-442, an act revising the sentencing laws, Sec. 25 of which allows the Commissioner of Corrections to petition the court for the release of sentenced inmates when a given institution is determined to be extremely overcrowded and where such release is necessary to preserve the health, safety and welfare of such inmates. Subsection C states that if the petition for modification is granted, the inmate shall be released immediately on probation for a period not to exceed the remainder of the sentence.

In view of the already overcrowded conditions existing in most correctional centers and state institutions, it seems apparent that the Commissioner will utilize this section as soon as he is able, and the results will impact on the already burdensome caseload presently supervised by the Office of Adult Probation. In addition, the officers will be supervising more

hardcore felony offenders than they are under present sentencing practices as we know them.

The Office of Adult Probation will continue to explore various strategies that deal with the increasing workload situation, and will continue to refine its caseload management system, its risk classification procedures and the development of a standard form presentence report which should decrease the time between conviction and sentence in felony matters, especially for incarcerated offenders.

Legislation is necessary to curtail the tremendous use of probation in the Part B courts. Most of this is attributable to the Accelerated Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which in some G.A. courts is used in over 60% of the criminal dispositions. We believe eligibility for this type of treatment should be limited to only very minor misdemeanors.

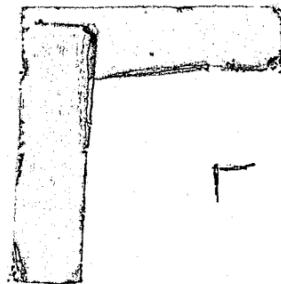
In addition, we feel there should be a statutory limit to the number of times a defendant can be considered for referral to probation supervision. We are supervising many offenders who not only have been on probation three or four times in the past but are often currently on probation for more than one offense in different jurisdictions.

Also, defendants who have histories of failures on probation should definitely not be considered for probation in the future, especially if their past offenses concerned felonies.

One of our major problem areas for fiscal 1981-82 is the expiration of the federal grant which created the Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime Unit within our department. We feel there is a continuing need for this type of program either in the post-trial or pre-trial area, and that there are other

services that could be performed by this unit; and we, therefore, plan to pursue funding of this unit in the Appropriations Act for fiscal 1981-82. We see much stronger interest being exhibited throughout the state in the area of pre-trial services, and we feel that the combination of the present bail commissioner's staff and the monitors and intake workers of the TASC Project can do a great deal to alleviate this critical issue.

The expansion of data processing in the criminal division will aid tremendously in coping with the workload described above for the Office of Adult Probation. The pilot project in G.A. 13 will soon begin to show positive return, and since we are the biggest users of the State Police Bureau of Identification in terms of seeking criminal history information, automation in this area will be nothing but a tremendous plus and will help us obtain accurate information in a much speedier fashion than we are currently able to do. It will also help us with some very serious problems we have been having in the area of warrants issued for violation of probation and the speedier handling of referrals as they come from the courts. If we are forced to continue much longer getting this information manually, as we have in the past, we will continue to fall further behind due to the constantly increasing criminal dockets.



END