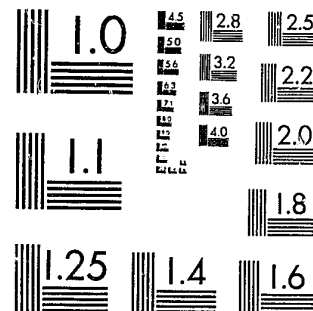


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OMB APPROVAL NO. 43-R0525

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION		DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRESS REPORT	
GRANTEE Connecticut Justice Commission	LEAA GRANT NO. 79JSAC0040	DATE OF REPORT Nov. 30, 81	REPORT NO.
IMPLEMENTING SUBGRANTEE United Way of Greater New Haven	TYPE OF REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL REQUEST <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FINAL REPORT		
SHORT TITLE OF PROJECT Consortium for Youth	GRANT AMOUNT \$307,624		
REPORT IS SUBMITTED FOR THE PERIOD August 1, 1981 THROUGH November 30, 1981			
SIGNATURE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR <i>Linda Raskin</i>	TYPED NAME & TITLE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR Linda Raskin		
COMMENCE REPORT HERE (Add continuation pages as required.)			
<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>This final report is a general review of four years (1977-1981) of a discretionary grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to the Consortium for Youth of South Central Connecticut via the United Way of Greater New Haven. The United Way was selected by the staff of South Central Criminal Justice Supervisory Board as the agency it deemed most qualified to submit an application for funds to be used in a project aimed at the prevention of juvenile delinquency.</p> <p>The original grant of the Consortium for Youth was targeted at youth in danger of becoming delinquent - those "living in communities characterized by high rates of crime and delinquency, high unemployment, and underemployment, sub-standard housing, physical deterioration, and low median incomes."</p> <p>After the selection of nine target communities (New Haven, Meriden, Derby, West Haven, Ansonia, East Haven, Milford, Wallingford, and Hamden) the United Way of Greater New Haven undertook two field surveys. The first was a survey of staff of 20 member agencies to determine how staff of these agencies viewed the needs of youth in New Haven and surrounding towns. A second survey was conducted by a consultant hired to 1) supplement demographic and United Way data and 2) to broaden the base of the project planning effort.</p> <p>The surveys documented the great diversity in the area, as well as the uniqueness and complexity of each town's pattern of youth problems, needs, and resources. Following analysis of the survey data, a series of program objectives was developed. These basic objectives served as a foundation throughout the life of the Consortium but underwent considerable transformation between the first and third years. These early program objectives were:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">NCJRS</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DEC 22 1981</p>			
RECEIVED BY GRANTEE STATE PLANNING AGENCY (Official) <i>MRS. LUCY M. TINE</i>			ACQUISITIONS DATE 1/28/82

AA FORM 4507/1 (REV. 10-75)

REPLACES EDITION OF 1-73 WHICH IS OBSOLETE.

DOJ

A. Provision of direct services to youth and families within identified target communities.

Objective 1. To increase the number of youth from target communities receiving services from private not-for-profit youth-serving agencies.

Objective 2. To increase the number or types of services offered to youth of target communities.

Objective 3. To implement specially designed programs and services for sub-populations of youth residing in target areas identified as in need of special services.

Objective 4. To improve accessibility of existing services to target community youth.

B. Enhancement of the capacity for inter-agency coordination and collaboration in the planning, programming, and delivery of youth services in South Central Connecticut.

Objective 1. To establish regional mechanisms for on-going collaboration and joint programming on common concerns including youth services within the private sector and between public and private sectors.

Objective 2. To establish local mechanisms for on-going local collaboration and joint programming on common concerns including youth services within the private sector and between public and private sectors.

Objective 3. To share project experience with other regions across the country.

C. Active community participation and input by youth and adults in the planning and implementation of youth programs.

Objective 1. Include target area youth and adult residents as active participants in planning, implementation and evaluation of local service programs.

Objective 2. Provide appropriate leadership training for youth and adult residents of target communities.

Although the target population and basic program goal--the application of varied approaches to the prevention of juvenile delinquency--did not change, the scope and magnitude of the project increased dramatically, especially after the first year. During the first year, the

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PROGRAMS

delivery of services was emphasized and was essentially the responsibility of the twenty-eight public and private non-profit agencies under contract with the Consortium.

The second year saw an increase in funding (nearly 50%), which was used to continue or develop new contractual arrangements with human service agencies for the provision of services. However, during the second year a major change in programmatic emphasis took place. The initial direct service focus shifted through organizational entities such as the Regional Coordinating Board, and the Local Coordinating Committees, to the more global concerns of capacity-building, community organization, advocacy, and program development activity. As the application for third-year continuation funding points out: the development of a "comprehensive community resource development initiative dove-tailed with a new advocacy effort and an expanded coordination/capacity/building provision at the local level (which) culminated in a totally new and significant programmatic thrust for the Consortium for Youth."

Frequent references to the Consortium as a direct service project gradually lessened as the Consortium underwent this transition between the end of the first and second years. How the scope and depth of the project increased in magnitude is described in the "Impact and Institutionalization Report: 1977-1981" in the following way:

"The second year documented the transition of a program once solely in the business of directly preventing juvenile delinquency to one now operating as an advocate for services AND institutional change AND community development IN SUPPORT OF the positive development of youth in South Central Connecticut. Rather than merely selling services, the program is formulating, developing, and testing a marketable concept; a service-related philosophy that precipitates a change in the traditional manner in which services are delivered, resources are utilized, and youth programs are defined in the community at large."

Comparison of the statement of the first year's basic objectives (listed above) and goals and objectives for year III (which are on page 4) also illustrated the shift of programmatic emphasis. As such a comparison reveals, the fundamental program goal and five stated objectives for year III were for more global, more complex, and more oriented toward systems change.

THIRD YEAR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES SUMMARY

Fundamental Program Goal:

Through a combined and balanced application of direct service programming of a preventative nature, inter-agency coordination, community participation, and broad-based capacity building, technical assistance and advocacy, the Consortium will support, expand, and encourage the institutionalization of programs incorporating positive youth development while also heavily promoting community development activities to sustain and nourish such operations now and in the future.

Objectives for Year III:

1. Maintain the direct service component at a functional level so as to insure meaningful service delivery and contractual incentives and thus maintain the catalytic force behind the community development and advocacy operations;
2. Continue to support and intensify the bonding of participating private non-profit and public youth-serving agencies among and between the local jurisdictions embodied in the Local Committee structure, in a comprehensive matrix conducting such operational functions as planning, coordination, program design, and evaluation on a local, multi-town, and regional level;
3. Increase the operational level and impact of the capacity building/resource development component as embodied in the local/regional circuit comprising the Local Committee Staff operation and the central staff support, assistance, and coordination of that operation region-wide. Inherent in this component is the continual promotion of local residents/consumer, youth and adult participation in all key decision-making bodies concerned with youth/human services;
4. Expand the focus and increase the intensity of the advocacy component on both the local and regional levels and increase the assimilation between levels in the production of a common advocacy for youth, impacting internally (system-change, institutionalization) as well as externally (lobbying, issue clarification/promotion, public education/awareness);
5. Increase the level of Consortium impact upon the human service system in the State of Connecticut in matters of policy development, service-delivery, system design, legislation, and problem resolution. The promotion of positive youth development/prevention will be a fundamental objective in such activities.

As is evident from the foregoing, a decision was made to seek to the original two-year proposal. Third-year funding was received and was used to continue the focus on capacity-building which had evolved during the second year. Once again, the Consortium experienced change. During the third year the primary focus became "a thrust towards the institutionalization of the various program initiatives undertaken during the preceding two years. Because funding was initially guaranteed for only two years, uncertainty over the program's future brought subtle and important changes to the Consortium - positions were phased out,

staff resigned and moved to other employment, the level of involvement of the Regional Coordinating Board began to decline, and the Local Coordinating Committee assumed their own initiatives."¹

Federal involvement was expected to terminate at the end of the third year. However, third year funds had not been fully expended and LEAA granted permission for the remaining funds to be used in a "no-cost extension period" which extended beyond the third year. During the no-cost extension period, efforts were focused on technical assistance to the various youth-serving agencies, facilitation of workshops, and sponsorship of a regional conference. All components of the Consortium operated as they had over the preceding years; project objectives were met by using non-monetary strategies.

1. "Consortium for Youth of South Central Connecticut: A Final Assessment" by Edwin V. Selden, September 1981

DIRECT SERVICES

The preceding references to direct services in the introduction have already indicated how the Consortium's focus on direct services shifted to become one of several in an expanded and comprehensive organizational situation. Although there was a shift, there continued to be considerable diversity in program activities and services provided by Consortium-funded agencies. The town-by-town profile of contracting agencies on the following pages shows this programmatic variety which made it possible to reach the target population in a number of ways. Close examination of the purpose of the agencies and their programs will show how many were directed at "positive youth development" as a strategy in the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

The new thrust which surfaced during the second year was unanticipated, but as the application for the third year makes clear, this unanticipated development was not seen as a negative factor. It was seen rather as a development which "fully complemented the direct service aspects of the program while working towards their full institutionalization." It was also apparent that initiatives in the area of community resource development were viewed as increasingly appropriate by outsiders as well as Consortium participants, as documented by a Westinghouse study of the model and the Consortium's Regional Board assessment of progress during the second year and plans for the future.

The third year application also refers to the consistency of service delivery during the first two years of operation. Population served and types of services provided were identified as examples of this consistency. Although some program expansion took place between year I and year II, expansion was not as important a goal of the Consortium administration as consistent service delivery. The program expansion that did occur took the form of increased penetration into existing target populations rather than broad incorporation of new targets.

The delivery of traditional agency services in areas previously unserved has been described as "one of the most satisfying features of the Consortium's direct service experience." Consortium efforts demonstrated that program methodologies of such traditional agencies as the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the YMCA, and the YWCA could be modified sufficiently so that inner-city populations could benefit from the programs of these agencies - as long as such programs were accessible to inner-city populations.

In the fall of 1976, at the same time that direct services objectives were being written, a set of guidelines was developed which singled out specific categories of youth whose service needs were to be addressed. The guidelines called for special attention to 1) younger children, to encourage in them positive youth development before they had contact with the criminal justice system; 2) truants; and 3) children of single-parent families, to encourage positive development in them within "the two crucial institutional contexts of the school and family."

A few specific examples from the list of contracting agencies illustrate how the needs of these categories of youth were addressed. Younger children (age 6-8) were reached through programs such as the Ansonia-Derby Girl Scout reading enrichment program. Program efforts of Big Brothers/Bis Sisters, NARCO (in Ansonia-Derby), the YMCA in Wallingford, and others were directed at children of single parent families. STAND, through its skills-building program and media training, provided career exploration for youth identified as chronic truants. The Boy Scout/Girl Scout program in East Haven was directed at leaders who worked with truants and also with young school children from single parent families.

Volunteer support and involvement in delinquency prevention and the Consortium for Youth effort was an important ingredient in effecting institutional change and extending direct service capacity. Recruiting community volunteers into the Consortium effort was an unending task and a continuous process. In most cases, the Consortium met its goals for direct service volunteer participation. Volunteers were given training and orientation opportunities at each of the ten project sites. "Empowering workshops" were also held in several localities to strengthen the position of "non-professionals" who may have been intimidated by the language, position, and credentials of the professional service-givers.

DIRECT SERVICE PROFILE OF CONTRACTING AGENCIES FUNDED BY CONSORTIUM FOR YOUTH - 1977-1981

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>
<u>ANSONIA/DERBY</u>		
STAND		
Ansonia Community Action	Skills Building/ Media Training	To provide training and career exploration for youth identified as at risk.
Conn. Trails Council of Girl Scouts	Skills Building Workshop	To conduct experiential skills building work- shops for career exploration.
	Reading Enrichment	To assist 6-8 yr. olds in developing reading skills out of the classroom setting. Camping experiences.
<u>NARCO</u>		
Parent-Child Resource Center	Parent/Child Education	To help adults and youth, particularly from single parent families, develop better communi- cation skills.
Housatonic Council Boy Scouts and Valley Y.M.C.A	Counseling with Schools & Families	To provide consultation and training to school and agency personnel to work with at risk youth and to counsel with families.
	Outreach	Through outreach, to involve target area youth in activities of Y.M.C.A. and Boy Scouts.
<u>EAST HAVEN</u>		
Quinnipiac Council Boy Scouts and Conn. Trails Council of Girl Scouts	Youth Leadership	To involve Boy/Girl Scout leaders in working with elementary school children from single parent families, truants, for purpose of value education.
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Big Brothers/Big Sisters	To offer youth, particularly from one parent families, opportunity to further growth and de- velopment, through unique one-to-one friendshi- with a responsible, caring adult.
St. Vincent School	Effectiveness Training	To improve adult/youth communications to enabl adult community to respond more effectively to needs of youth.
Human Services Administration of East Haven	Consulation	Provide technical assistance and facilities.

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>
Cultural Arts Council	"Art is You" Workshop	To further positive youth development through validation and demonstration of individual artistry through selected media.
<u>HAMDEN</u>		
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Big Brothers/ Big Sisters	To offer youth, particularly from one parent families, opportunity to further growth and development, through unique one-to-one friendship with a responsible, caring adult.
Y.M.C.A. of Greater New Haven (Northern Branch)	Youth Outreach	Through outreach, to involve target area youth in Y.M.C.A. programs including skill development programs, sports activities, and camping programs.
Quinnipiac Council Boy Scouts	Job Development and Career Exploration	To provide job counseling and career exploration to target area youth.
Hamden Mental Health	Clinical and Case-work Support Services	To provide training and support to staff and case consultation.
<u>MERIDEN</u>		
Meriden/Wallingford Y.W.C.A	Mobile Recreation/ Leisure Education	To increase access to recreational type services by furnishing decentralized program.
Meriden/Wallingford Y.W.C.A.	Outreach to School Truants	To engage "trouble shooters" to work with students toward goal of maximizing use of school program.
Meriden/Wallingford Hospital	Young Parents Program	To offer full range of young parent services to Spanish and minority populations.
Meriden Boys' Club	Capacity Building for Agency Personnel	To provide training programs for professionals and paraprofessionals on Early Intervention Committee.
<u>MILFORD</u>		
Housatonic Council Girl Scouts	Youth Alternative Program	To provide an alternative approach and program to those youngsters not attracted or participating in traditional scout programs.

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>
Quinnipiac Council Boy Scouts	Youth Alternative Program	To provide an alternative approach and program to those youngsters not attracted or participating in traditional scout programs.
Catholic Family Services	Parent Education/Counseling	Parent education program to be developed for those identified and interested through Early Intervention Committee; social worker to be provided in target area schools for outreach. To develop an on-going group for single parent for mutual support and the sharing of mutual concerns.
Milford-Orange Y.M.C.A	Outreach	Through outreach, to involve target area youth in Y.M.C.A. programs including skill development programs, sports activities, camping programs.
<u>NEW HAVEN</u>		
Urban League, Family Counseling, Jewish Family Services and Catholic Family Services	Adolescent-Young Parents Program	To use and expand the Urban League's inner-city teen-age program; program uses peer counselors for family life education.
Farnam Neighborhood House, Albie Booth Boys' Club, Jewish Family Services and Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Catholic Family Services, Family Counseling	Early Intervention Single Parent Families	To provide a coordinated effort to provide wide variety of supportive services to single parent families.
Conn. Trails Girl Scouts, Quinnipiac Council Boy Scouts, Urban League (N.H. Police Department)	Career Exploration and Leadership Training	To discuss and explore career opportunities and to develop leadership skills among selected youth working with at risk children.
Single Parent Roundtable	Information and Referral	Provide services to single parents. Services include consultation, training, community outreach, membership development among financially distressed and minority groups.

Note: Albie Booth Boys Club not participating third year.

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>
<u>WALLINGFORD</u>		
Your Family Y.M.C.A.	Youth Outreach and Organizing	Through outreach, to involve target area youth in Y.M.C.A. programs, including skill development programs, sports activities, and camping programs.
Your Family Y.M.C.A.	After School Youth Activities	To provide after school programs for children from single parent families and other "at risk" youth.
V.N.A of Wallingford, Inc.	Youth and Family Counseling	To provide range of counseling programs for target area youth, including single parent families; summer day care program for children from ages 6-12.
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Wallingford	Big Brothers/Big Sisters	To offer youth, particularly from one parent families, opportunity to further growth and development, through unique one-to-one friendship with a responsible, caring adult.
<u>WEST HAVEN</u>		
West Haven Community House	At Risk Youth	To provide group counseling at schools, a drop in center for adolescents and evening program leadership training, group discussions among parents and adolescents to improve understanding and communications, counseling for single parents and to explore alternative shelters for runaways.
Human Services and Resource Center	Single Parent Family Program FWSN Project	To provide consultation to school personnel concerning special needs of children from single parent families, consultation to the Big Brother/Big Sister Program, and opportunity for children of single parent families to be in a group; implementation of Families With Service Needs at local level.
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Single Parent Family Program	To offer youth, particularly from one parent families, opportunity to further growth and development, through unique one-to-one friendship with a responsible, caring adult.
Clifford Beers Guidance Clinic	ACUTE	Consultation

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ADVOCACY

As previously indicated, the Consortium expanded to include many concerns beyond its initial focus on service delivery. During the course of this expansion, the Consortium evolved a variety of strategies to handle concerns such as increased community awareness, knowledgability, and advocacy in the interests of children, youth, and their families. Some strategies served more than one purpose and did much to increase staff expertise, facilitate collaboration, and increase capabilities at the same time that they (the strategies) were furthering the cause of youth advocacy and positive youth development.

Major strategies used for community resource development and advocacy throughout the four years were the dissemination of information, workshop sponsorship, workshop participation, and participation/membership in relevant organizations.

A. Community and Public Information

In an effort to increase and develop community support and advocacy for the needs of children, youth, and their families in the South Central Connecticut region, the Consortium actively pursued the development of a comprehensive public information component. The availability of various media provided numerous opportunities to present information to the public about children and youth issues as well as Consortium activities and accomplishments. The "media mix" included: mailing lists; written materials such as newsletters, brochures, annual reports; radio and television appearances; and newspaper articles.

Technical assistance and one-to-one staff consultation with local coordinating committees were also used as a strategy to further develop public relations skills of those working at the local level.

B. Workshop Sponsorship

During one particularly active period there were five workshops which were developed and presented in 1979 in a five-month period. The workshops were developed around areas of staff-expressed need or areas of Consortium-wide interest. A brief description of these workshops follows.

1. "Legislation and the Child" focused on current legislation (1979); the workshop was attended by lay and professional people representing contracting, collaborating and other organizations.
2. "Resource Sharing and Program Development" provided staff members from contracting and collaborating agencies with an opportunity to share expertise, information, concepts, and programs related to particular professional areas of in-

terest. Topics included: adolescent mothers, career exploration, socialization groups, single parents, youth leadership.

3. "Television and the Child" sensitized participants to the issues involved in television watching. Yale researchers Dr. Dorothy and Jerome Singer presented their work which led them to conclude that television serves as a negative factor in positive youth development. In addition to being sensitized to relevant issues, workshop participants were given technical assistance and materials to work with families to help change poor television habits and work toward more positive habits.
4. "Program Design and Evaluation" provided technical assistance to staff and volunteer participants from contracting and collaborating agencies. Topics included: goal-setting, measuring change, interpreting facts, identifying problems, choosing strategies.
5. "The Global Needs of The Young Mother" was a workshop co-sponsored by the Consortium and the Health Systems Agency of South Central Connecticut. The basic goal of this workshop was to increase interaction among people and agencies to increase net-working.

Adhering to conference and workshop strategies which had been used successfully in previous years, Consortium staff planned several events which occurred late in the Consortium's life but served to keep youth problems, issues, and concerns in the forefront of people's attention. Each of these required contact with a number of people and agencies, coordination, and, in the case of a workshop on cults, a collaborative effort among three agencies. Descriptions of these events follow:

1. A June 1981 workshop in Meriden was directed at implementing forthcoming Connecticut legislation known as the Families With Service Needs Legislation. The Workshop was planned and designed by Consortium staff, Families With Service Needs staff, and members of Meriden's Youth Advocacy Committee. The specific focus of the workshop was the development of a youth service delivery system in Meriden, a system which could handle youth who would have to be served in the community rather than sent to places of detention. One outcome of the workshop was a feeling of "collective responsibility" for developing a community youth focus. A second outcome was

the formation of five committees which initiated a series of recommendations which were ultimately presented to the Meriden City Council. Three major priorities presented to the Council were:

- 1) To establish a city youth services position;
- 2) To restructure the Meriden Police Department to include a youth division with career advancements; and
- 3) To establish a municipally recognized host home system.

At the final luncheon of the Consortium's Regional Coordinating Board on November 4, 1981, it was reported that the first of these objectives, a city youth services position, was "only a step away."

2. "Services to Youth: A Challenge for the Future", was a major one-day conference held on September 24, 1981. Planning for the conference began in the Spring for this last major event in the life of the Consortium. Conference planners felt that the Consortium should not go out of business in a slow fadeout, but with a major event such as a conference to help keep the spirit of the Consortium alive - a spirit of inter-agency collaboration, and coordination - even after the official closing of the Consortium's doors at the end of November. A conference was also seen as a vehicle to continue the push for advocacy for youth and youth services, a push which is needed more than ever now because of cutbacks in social service spending. During the planning process, two specific purposes to be achieved by the conference were spelled out. They were:

- a) To explore current legislation revolving around teenage sexuality, youth employment, and substance abuse.
- b) To promote a better relationship between youth service providers, youth, and legislators and promote education and advocacy of youth service.

Responses to initial and subsequent publicity clearly indicated that youth-serving agency personnel and others welcomed the opportunity for further contact with others in their field to discuss the plight of youth services.

Special attention was paid to ensuring the involvement of youth in conference planning and actual participation at the conference. In addition to emphasizing the involvement of youth, much of the conference planning concentrated on the identification of legislators who could address the three specific issues which were the focus of the conference. U.S. Representative Toby Moffett agreed to be the keynote speaker, and six Connecticut State Legislators agreed to serve on panels. A third viewpoint considered essential was that of service providers. Their discussion on youth programs, agency collaboration, and new methods of advocacy was seen as an essential element in a comprehensive look at the challenge to youth services.

Conference speakers were chosen for their expertise and involvement in the three topic areas. Dr. Mary Calderone, co-founder and president of SIECUS (Sex Information and Education Council of the United States) addressed the subject of misperceptions of sexuality and how these have affected programs and policies for youth. Mr. Michael Zarin, training specialist for the Youth Employment Project and Northeast Regional Coordinator for the Center for Community Change in New York, focused on current policy, funding, and advocacy strategies for youth employment. Mr. Thomas McCarthy, Clearinghouse Director for the National Youth Work Alliance, focused on current policy, funding, and advocacy strategies for youth and substance abuse.

Of the nearly 200 conference attendees, there was representation from a wide variety of agencies and organizations: police departments, school systems, private, non-profit youth-serving agencies, municipally funded programs (the WIC program e.g.), State of Connecticut departments (Department of Children and Youth Services, Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, Connecticut Justice Commission, Department of Education), and several unaffiliated citizens and private practitioners. In all, there were agencies and organizations from 21 different Connecticut towns.

3. A workshop on "Youth Participation in Cults" was the last public event in the formal life of the Consortium for Youth of South Central Connecticut. The workshop was held on October 29, 1981. The workshop was planned because at a spring 1981 meeting of the Regional Advisory Group of the Families With Service Needs project it became evident that there was a need to deal in some way with the subject of young people and cults. Two facts emerged: 1) the subject of cults was a frequent topic of discussion at Douglas House, this region's youth shelter, and 2) many service providers were uncertain how to handle this subject.

In order to deal constructively with the subject of young people and cults, a morning workshop was planned for October 29, 1981. It was sponsored by the Consortium for Youth, which provided necessary technical assistance, the Families With Service Needs project and the Consultation and Education Service of the Lower Naugatuck Community Mental Health Center, which also provided assistance.

The format of the workshop was a panel of speakers, followed by a CBS film entitled "Cults: Choice of Coercion" which examined the techniques used by cults to attract young people. The panel of six people was carefully chosen so that the subject of cults was explored from a variety of perspectives.

C. Workshop Participation

Perhaps the most significant example of workshop/conference participation is the Consortium's role at the 1979 state-wide conference, "Prevention, An Idea Whose Time Has Come." The conference was co-sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Children and Youth Services and the State Department of Mental Health. The Consortium's role was to give the major (three-hour) presentation at the conference, which was attended by 300 people.

Other examples of Consortium participation were a workshop presented on the collaborative action system model and "change-agency" at the NYWA Conference in Washington, D.C. and the New England Prevention Conference.

D. Membership/Participation

Participation and membership in youth-related organizations was also seen as a useful way to keep in touch with current interests and as a way to continue to build up for youth advocacy. Examples of committees in which Consortium Administration Staff participated were:

- National Youth Work Alliance;
- International Year of the Child 1979 Coordinating Committee;
- Connecticut YMCA Youth and Government State Advisory Board;
- Community Education Work Council of the City of New Haven Board of Education;
- Planning for Children and Youth Committee; and
- Connecticut Youth Service Bureau Association

COLLABORATION

If a future researcher were to do a word-frequency analysis of all Consortium documents, it is safe to assume that the work collaboration would stand high on the list of most frequently used words. Collaboration, a constant, consistent theme running throughout the life of the Consortium, took place on many levels - inter-regional, inter-agency, regional, regional-local, and local.

The significance of inter-regional collaboration was recognized early on. In 1977, the introduction to the program narrative in the initial grant application described the collaborative planning and program development process as a "major regional effort, significant in four respects:

- 1) The first point is that Connecticut has a long tradition of local autonomy which is reflected in its abandonment of county government. For any program to band those municipalities (the 17 towns in the proposal) in common activities is a considerable accomplishment.
- 2) Secondly, the proposed program breaks new ground in inter-regional collaboration. The 17-town area involved...includes municipalities in two separate, independent regions of the state established under state statute and recognized by the federal Office of Management and Budget... but this is the first known attempt to voluntarily encompass these two regions in a service program. It established an important precedent for further efforts in local collaboration beyond regional boundaries.
- 3) The private sponsorship of the proposed program is of interest in two ways: No service program of this scope, involving municipal officials and employees, is currently sponsored by a private organization; and the four separate United Way corporations involved in it have never before joined together to this extent.
- 4) Fourth, as a public-private collaboration, it is an unparalleled approach within this area...existing service programs (which consist of collaborative arrangements) are rigidly held within the boundaries of one or the other region involved. They are largely governed by either government agencies or private agencies, in contract with the consortium of public and private agencies collaborating in the governance of this project.

Two years later, the director of the Consortium referred to the experiences of the Consortium and emphasized the values in an article in the regular newsletter whose name, The Collaborator, served as a reinforcement and reminder of this basic theme. Among the advantages of collaboration which he cited were: 1) the opportunity to take a "whole system" approach to planning and problem-solving by getting all interested parties together; 2) the "multiplier effort which is the extension of influence beyond the primary participants and the resultant spinoff effects especially within and between those existing resources;" and 3) the increase in available resources which comes about through collaboration that yields more options and also allows for increased flexibility.

An example of regional-local collaboration follows: in 1979 a proposal of the New Haven Police Department for a youth activities program came to the attention of the Single Parents Committee of the Consortium. The Single Parents Committee then brought the proposal to the attention of the Consortium's Career Development Committee. Both committees recognized the proposal's strong positive youth development aspect which coincided with Consortium goals and philosophy. After approval by the Consortium's Performance Review Committee and the Regional Coordinating Board, the New Haven Police Department's program proposal was included in the New Haven Career Development Committee. The ultimate result of this collaborative effort was the delivery of needed services to New Haven youth.

Intra-town collaboration at the local level is well illustrated by a more recent (1981) effort in West Haven which centered on building a local response to Connecticut's Families With Service Needs (FWSN) legislation. This legislation, P.A. 80-401, decriminalized status offenses such as running away, truancy, and being beyond the control of parents. Young offenders can no longer be placed in detention - they must be referred to community youth-serving agencies.

West Haven's proposal for final year funding was directed at establishing a local network which would handle those who were labeled as "status offenders." Building this network required a considerable amount of networking, collaboration and coordination. The result has been the establishment of a "small-scale" host homes network and a referral mechanism whereby the Youth Service Bureau is receiving Families With Service Needs referrals from the police department and the school system. Further, the Youth Service Bureau staff is on call 24 hours a day for FWSN cases and serves as the case intervention team.

Over the three-plus years of the Consortium, a variety of youth-serving human service agencies were involved as contracting (Consortium-funded) or non-contracting. A list of these agencies is shown on pages 20-21. The number of agencies (approximately 190) and their variety provide an indication of the diversity of the human service programs serving youth which became involved with the Local Coordinating Committees.

The Local Coordinating Committees, which were formed in eight towns, provided the basic medium for inter-agency coordination and cooperation. In order to guarantee linkages between these committees

and contracting agencies, agency contracts contained a provision that required agency representation on the local committee, as well as regular attendance and continuing participation.

The status of these committees over the four-year history of the Consortium has varied greatly according to the needs of each of the towns. Functioning local coordinating committees still exist in the following towns: Meriden, Wallingford, Ansonia/Derby, Milford, and West Haven. Although the goal of fully functioning local coordinating committees in each of the nine Consortium towns was not completely realized, the surviving committees will serve as a foundation for future collaborative working relationships.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES IN CONSORTIUM FOR YOUTH OF SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT*

EAST HAVEN

Arts Council of East Haven
Connecticut Trails Council of Girl Scouts, Inc.
East Haven Shoreline Association
East Haven, Town of
Board of Education
Human Services Administration
Office of the Mayor
Police Department
Momauguin Recreation League
Quinnipiac Council, Boy Scouts of America, Inc.

HAMDEN

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of South Central Connecticut, Inc.
Career Center
Citizens Interested in Today's Youth
Connecticut Trails Council of Girl Scouts, Inc.
Hamden Boxing Association
Hamden Coordinating Council
Hamden-North Haven YMCA
Hamden Plains Methodist Church
Hamden, Town of
Adult Education
Board of Education
Human Services Department
M.L. Keefe Community Center
Hamden Mental Health Service
Newhall Community School
Office of the Mayor
Police Department
Public Library
Recreation Department
Youth Service Bureau
Labor Unions
Quinnipiac Council, Boy Scouts of America, Inc.
Southern New England Telephone Company
Urban League of Greater New Haven

LOWER NAUGATUCK VALLEY

Ansonia Community Action
Ansonia, Town of
Board of Education
Office of the Mayor
Connecticut Trails Council of Girl Scouts, Inc.
Derby, Town of
Board of Education
Office of the Mayor
Police Department
Youth Officers
Housatonic Council/Boy Scouts of America
Juvenile Court — Bridgeport
Lower Naugatuck Valley Community Council
NARCO
Oxford, Town of
Board of Education
Parent Child Resource Center
Seymour, Town of
Board of Education
Shelton, Town of
Board of Education
Youth Officers
STAND
Valley Council on Drug Abuse
Valley United Way
Valley YMCA

MERIDEN

Catholic Family Services
Council of Community Services
Curtis Home
Family Service Association
Connecticut Yankee Council Girl Scouts
Juvenile Court
La Casa Boricua de Meriden
Meriden Battered Women's Shelter
Meriden Boys Club
Meriden Child Guidance Clinic
Meriden Community Action

* This list includes both contracting and non-contracting agencies.

Meriden Girls Club
Meriden, Town of
Alternate School
Board of Education
Health Department
Housing Authority
Jefferson Middle School
John Barry School
Maloney High School
Office of the Mayor/City Manager
Platt High School
Police Department
Recreation Department
Social Services Department
Trumbull School
Youth Service Bureau
Work Experience Program
Meriden-Wallingford Hospital
Mental Health Clinic
Young Parents Program
Quinnipiac Council, Boy Scouts of America, Inc.
United Way of Meriden-Wallingford
YWCA of Meriden

MILFORD

Catholic Family Services
Housatonic Girl Scout Council
Milford Clergy Association
Milford, Town of
Board of Education
Human Resources
Office of the Mayor
Police Civilian Case Screener
Police Department
Point Beach School
Seabreeze School
Youth Service Bureau
Milford-Orange YMCA
Quinnipiac Council, Boy Scouts of America, Inc.
United Way of Milford

NEW HAVEN

Able Booth Memorial Boys Club
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of South Central Connecticut, Inc.
Catholic Family Services
Christ Church
Community Action Agency
Connecticut Trails Council of Girl Scouts, Inc.
Consultation Center — CMHC
Coordinating Committee for Children in Crisis
Dixwell Community House
Dwight Education Support Program
Fair Haven Health Clinic
Families with Service Needs Project — Region II
Family Counseling of Greater New Haven
Farnham Neighborhood House
Health Systems Agency of South Central Connecticut, Inc.
Hill Cooperative Youth Services
Hill Health Center
Jewish Family Services
New Haven, City of

Board of Education
CETA Youth Employment Program
Health Department — Family Planning Clinic
Human Resources Administration
Office of the Mayor
Police Department — Youth Division
Polly T. McCabe Center
Youth Service Bureau
New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc.
New Haven Volunteers
Planned Parenthood of Connecticut
Quinnipiac Council, Boy Scouts of America, Inc.
Regional Planning Agency of South Central Connecticut
St. Andrews Church
St. Roses Church
Single Parent Roundtable
South Central Criminal Justice Supervisory Board
UMOJA Extended Family
Union Trust Bank
United Way of Greater New Haven
Urban League of Greater New Haven
Women's Health Services
Yale New Haven Hospital
Young Mother's Program
YMCA of Greater New Haven
YWCA of Greater New Haven

WALLINGFORD

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Wallingford
Boys Club of Wallingford
Child Guidance Clinic of Central Connecticut
Spanish community of Wallingford
Wallingford Day Care Center
Wallingford, Town of
Adult Education
Board of Education
CETA
Wallingford Housing Authority
Office of the Mayor
Police Department
Pupil Personnel Service of Wallingford
School District
Welfare Department
Youth Services Bureau
United Way of Meriden-Wallingford
Visiting Nurse Association of Wallingford, Inc.
Family YMCA of Wallingford

WEST HAVEN

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of West Haven
Christ Church
Clifford Beers Child Guidance Clinic
Project One
West Haven Community House Association, Inc.
West Haven, Town of
Board of Education
Department of Elderly Services
Human Services and Resource Center
Office of the Mayor
Police Department
Youth Service Bureau

CONCLUSION

Any attempt to summarize in a few concluding pages a four-year project such as the Consortium for Youth will almost certainly do an injustice to one or more aspects of a project of this magnitude. Further, a final conclusion cannot yet be drawn as to the impact of the Consortium: previous Consortium documents suggest that only after five years will it be possible for an in-depth assessment of impact.

As the "Impact and Institutionalization Report" on the years between 1977 and 1980 points out, the final "outcome of the Consortium experience will be reflected in terms of positive youth development programs institutionalized within the human service system of South Central Connecticut...In measurable terms (this goal) will be actualized when direct service costs are completely assumed by all youth-serving agencies under contract." The report also suggests that the basic mission of the Consortium since its inception will be evident when human service systems in municipalities served by the Consortium "allocate new resources and reallocate existing resources in the furtherance of positive youth development." Even at the time of the writing of the report, the ambitious nature of the ultimate goal was recognized; in 1981, at the conclusion of Consortium activity and in the initial stages of "Reagonomics" and severe cutbacks in human service allocations at all levels (federal, state, local), the goals to be achieved by Consortium-served municipalities seem even more ambitious and difficult to achieve.

Although the current outlook for social service funding is bleak, there were several positive notes expressed in final agency reports indicating continuation of services beyond the official closing of the Consortium doors.

Jewish Family Service, for example, stated, "We have a commitment to serve the children of New Haven, and we will absorb the costs. A social worker will be assigned to two school for the 1981-1982 year." Big Brother/Big Sisters of South Central Connecticut (which expects to make seven new matches in Hamden from July 1, 1981, to July 1, 1981) and Single Parent Roundtable indicated that they will search for other sources of funding in order to continue services.

Commitment to find alternate sources of funding was also expressed by Meriden-Wallingford Young Parents Program to "ensure that the Young Parents Program and recreational activities for youth through the YWCA are maintained."

Catholic Family Services of Milford expressed optimism that the single parents group in Milford will continue even though Consortium funding is no longer available. The Wallingford Single Parents group will continue to offer a monthly newsletter and low-cost activities to adults and their children. The ultimate goal of the Wallingford single parent group (currently sponsored by the VNA) is become an independent organization.

The program at the Yalesville Elementary School, which is sponsored by the Boys Club of Wallingford and which has been supported in part through Consortium funding, is expected to continue. Funding for 1981-1982 will come from the Wallingford Youth Service Bureau budget.

The preparation of a formal report which documents a current view of the Consortium's impact was a major task carried out during the latter portion of the no-cost extension period. A New Haven consultant, Edwin Van Selden, interviewed twenty-six people who participated at some point in Consortium activities. Interviews were conducted between the spring and late summer of 1981; those interviewed were selected at the suggestion of current Consortium staff. One major problem cited by the interviewer was the lack of continuity of individual throughout the life of the program; however, in spite of this obstacle, Mr. Van Selden was able to produce a comprehensive picture which represents a collective view of a four-year project. A note of caution by the author reminds the reader of the report that "it is not a detailed account of the past three-plus years because such a document is not possible. This report is a snapshot taken at one moment in time (emphasis added) and is intended to leave a picture of what was to have happened and what did happen from the perspective of the program and not from the perspective of the participants - out youth."

Two points from the introductory section of the report bear repeating. The first is that the report is a "snapshot" taken at one moment in time. The ten points which the author makes in the excerpt of the report, which is presented on pages 24 to 28, may not hold up over the course of time. Today's views of events and influences (or lack of them) over the course of four years are likely to change with the perspective of time. Some events may diminish in significance, others may increase in significance.

A second point which bears repeating is that the "snapshot" is not taken from the perspective of the young people and their families served by the Consortium. The approximate number of people served in four years was 18,000. Although this figure can be broken down into smaller figures which show the demographic makeup of the target population, statistics alone do not tell the story. Statistics cannot show how individual people benefitted from the implementation of Consortium goals such as youth advocacy, capability-building, networking, and community resource development.

It is impossible to predict how far the "ripple effect" from these efforts will spread. However, many young people and their families in South Central Connecticut will ultimately reap the benefits of increased services, established working relationships among youth-serving agencies and personnel, and an overall heightened sensitivity to youth needs and problems. There is little doubt that untold benefits will accrue from the early conviction of Consortium affiliates that prevention of juvenile delinquency is an attainable goal and the fact that commitment to that goal still remains.

EXCERPT FROM "A. FINAL ASSESSMENT"

by Edwin Van Selden

1. While the Consortium was a multi-community effort, the initial thought was for the program to serve and focus on New Haven. This idea was quickly dispelled and the service area was expanded to include the geographic area served by the United Way of Greater New Haven (seven communities) and then finally to the geographic area serviced by the South Central Criminal Justice Supervisory Board (20 communities).

Though there was a definite concern to provide "positive youth development" programming for youth at risk, the primary reason for the three-phased expansion of the potential service area was in large measure due to the: a) specifications of the grant application, b) the need to demonstrate with a larger population, and thus a higher percentage of potential youth at risk, and c) the need to indicate through the grant application, a collaborative process between and among agencies which were chosen by a "sophisticated" use of statistical analysis.

2. The program, which was initially intended to target the non-profit agencies traditionally funded by the United Ways, was expanded and the complexity of the program increased markedly because:

- a. Three additional United Ways (Milford, Valley, and Meriden-Wallingford) were asked to join the efforts of the United Way of Greater New Haven.
- b. The local governments which had active youth service bureaus saw the United Way of Greater New Haven as seeking to become involved in an area which, technically, by State statute, was a responsibility of local governments. (This concern was heightened by the General Assembly's appropriation in 1977 of one million dollars to the state's various youth service bureaus - such funding had not existed previously).

3. Due to the increasing complexity of the program's organizational design, the program development staff of the United Way of Greater New Haven became involved with an increasingly larger segment of the youth serving programs from the nine target communities.

With this increased involvement, the analytic process of the "appropriate" youth-serving agencies which should have been considered for new or expanded "positive youth development" programming was generally muted. In large measure the projected grant resources for the first year were allocated to those agencies involved in the program development process long before LEAA awarded the grant. The program development process also influenced the allocation of the grant resources during the second year even with the 50% increase in funding.

As a result of this program development process, the programmatic goals relating to "positive youth development" became a secondary concern to the collaboration effort.

4. The program development (allocation) process helped generate the most critical organizational element of the program - the Local Coordinating Committees. Though the Local Coordinating Committees were not part of the initial grant proposal (local program development teams had been established in each of the nine communities to develop the local program), the staff hired to administer the grant along with those involved with the initial program development, had the foresight to require, with the exception of New Haven, the establishment of one Local Coordinating Committee in each of the participating communities.

With respect to New Haven, three Local Coordinating Committees were established. Though the three Local Coordinating Committees were merged into one Local Coordinating Committee, a number of those interviewed made the critical observation that there has never been a need for collaborative efforts in New Haven because: a) there have been large sums of resources available from federal (e.g. Office of Economic Opportunity, Community Development Act), State (e.g. Department of Community Affairs and now Human Resources) and local (e.g. New Haven Foundation and United Way of Greater New Haven), sources and b) the leadership has never been present to develop a collaborative environment, due to the large sums of resources available.

Additionally, those interviewed pointed out that in New Haven, the "traditional" youth-serving human service programs tended not to be funded by the grant - one of the theoretical purposes for the grant - but rather the neighborhood grassroots programs were funded. It was suggested that in New Haven the traditional programs were many of the programs developed with the advent of Community Progress, Inc. in the early 1960's which by the late 1970's had become "traditional" youth-serving programs.

5. The program was designed to be regional in scope, but the glue which held the program together on the regional level was federal money. Once future federal funds became uncertain, the Regional Coordinating Board had a difficult time developing "meaningful" agendas and attendance of members began to drop off.

The functioning of the Regional Coordinating Board was also hampered by: a) the formation of an Executive Committee which became increasingly involved in making policy decisions prior to full discussion by the Regional Coordinating Board, and b) the strong leadership and guidance of the central staff.

6. The role of the local governments was never clearly defined and thus never understood. By State statutes, local governments have the responsibility to provide youth-services programming, but this point was never fully exploited by the United Way of Greater New Haven/Consortium.

- a. When the grant application was being prepared for submission to LEAA, the United Way of Greater New Haven engaged the Regional Council of Elected Officials (RCEO) to pass a resolution of support which stressed collaborative efforts between United Way of Greater New Haven and the RCEO.

- b. Though the mayors and first selectmen of participating communities each had the ability to appoint one individual to the Regional Coordinating Board, these appointments were largely the youth-service professionals who were already part of the local youth service "network."

7. The Consortium's central staff was considered knowledgeable, dedicated, and talented, but the staff was criticized for: a) usurping the role of the Regional Coordinating Board, and b) nor possessing a professional background in youth development. The staff was praised for its dedication in pursuing a systems approach to the management of the Consortium program - particularly in its attention to assisting the initiation and development of the Local Coordinating Committees.

With the uncertainty over funding at the end of the second year, most of the central staff (because positions were phased out or staff sought other employment) moved onto new jobs. Though the staff is not faulted for resigning, a vacuum was created and the program's early initiatives could not be recreated. In essence, the program lost its drive as the original staff resigned, and this affected the Regional Coordinating Board, the Local Coordinating Committees, and to some extent the contracting and non-contracting agencies.

8. There is considerable confusion surrounding the purpose and intent of the LEAA mandated evaluation of the program conducted by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) and the assessment of the model being used to implement the program conducted by the Westinghouse National Issues Center.

The NCCD evaluation, while an evaluation of the Consortium, was also an evaluation of the Consortium vis-a-vis the other 16 nationally funded LEAA "positive youth development programs." It is interesting to note that there was little awareness by those interviewed that this evaluation took place and what the results of the evaluation were.

Because the NCCD evaluation, with the exception of the executive summary, was never made public, the Consortium contracted with the Westinghouse National Issues Center to conduct an assessment of the model the Consortium was using to implement the LEAA grant. The staff who conducted this assessment were described as "excellent transcribers," who were concerned about the Consortium process (how the program was administered) and not about the Consortium's purpose ("positive youth development").

Overall, there was a general lack of understanding between those interviewed as to the distinction between these two studies. Some suggested that the NCCD evaluation may have assisted the Consortium in receiving funding beyond the second year, the others felt that the Westinghouse assessment indicated a level of acceptance that the program (model) was in fact being implemented appropriately.

Regardless of these thoughts, the impression is that neither study had much effect on the Consortium and its various activities.

9. The role of each of the four United Ways was varied and distinctly different.

The United Way of Greater New Haven, which conceived and spawned the Consortium, had no public or outward relationship with the Consortium after the grant was awarded. Inasmuch as four of the larger communities, including the central city of the region, were in the United Way's service area and certain United Way agencies were receiving funding from the Consortium. It is surprising that the Consortium's activities had little visible impact on the planning, allocation, and decision-making process of the United Way of Greater New Haven.

The opposite situation was true with the United Ways in Milford, Meriden-Wallingford, and the Valley. These United Ways were involved in the Consortium process late in the grant preparation, but became heavily involved with the program in their respective communities throughout most of the life of the Consortium.

The reasons for this reversal of roles (one would have expected the United Way of Greater New Haven to have asserted its ownership role) are not totally clear, but some conjecture can be offered:

- a. The program took on a proportion and a complexity that was contemplated initially and drained the United Way of Greater New Haven staff who had other responsibilities and duties.
 - b. Related to the above was the concern that the Consortium was never truly a priority of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Greater New Haven though individual members were very supportive. The impression is that the Board of Directors (including the Planning and Allocation Committees) was an unenthusiastic participant which was "pushed" into an unfamiliar role of public sector grantsmanship.
 - c. Some of those interviewed believed that the role of the United Way of Greater New Haven asserted was the appropriate role - playing down the ownership role - thereby assisting and broadening the collaboration and the collective ownership of all who were involved in providing "positive youth development" within the region.
10. One of the most interesting observations of the Consortium after three-plus years of program activity concerns the structural and organizational change initiated at the community level:
- a. Structural and organizational change occurred in almost all of the nine communities involved with the Consortium. Most communities have undergone changes in the way youth services are provided and delivered and these changes have involved both the non-profit and the public sector programming. (New Haven, as noted earlier, has seen little change in its collaborative delivery of services.)

- b. Most of the Local Coordinating Committees are continuing to function and strengthen the collaborative efforts initiated.
- c. The environmental level of awareness of many of the participants of events, actions; and unrelated influences has been heightened. As one of those interviewed said: "I have learned how to operate in the political process of both the non-profit and public sectors and I am the better for this."

The following is the listing of those interviewed:

- * Merle Berke, Assistant Regional Planner, South Central Criminal Justice Supervisory Board
- * Susan Campion, Director, Human Services, Town of East Haven
- * Henry Chauncey, Jr., former President, United Way of Greater New Haven
- * Wayne Crossman, Director, Catholic Family Services, Milford
- * Nyle Davey, former Director of Youth Services, Town of Hamden
- * Helmer N. Ekstrom, former Director, Consortium for Youth
- ** Sara Fabish, former Youth Services Director, Milford
- * Shelia Joyner, Director of Youth Services, City of New Haven
- * Robert Keating, former Deputy Director, Consortium for Youth
- * Mary Keyes, former staff of the Consortium for Youth
- * Anthony Maltese, Director, Parent Child Resource Center, Ansonia
- * Frances McCoy, Human Services and Minority Affairs Coordinator, Town of Hamden
- * Kathy Merchant, Co-chairman, Regional Coordinating Board, Consortium for Youth
- and Director of Planning, United Way of Greater New Haven
- ** Bruce Morrison, Executive Director, New Haven Legal Assistance
- ** Hon. Flemming Norcott, Jr., former Co-chairman, Regional Coordinating Board, Consortium for Youth
- * Charles Perry, Jr., Director, Ansonia Community Action, Inc., Ansonia
- * Dennis Prefontaine, Field Director, Quinnipiac Council, Boy Scouts of America
- * Linda Raskin, Director, Consortium for Youth
- * Donald Roe, Director, Youth Services Bureau, Town of Wallingford
- * Beth Sabo, Assistant Director, Department of Human Resources, City of West Haven
- * Cornell Scott, Co-chairman, Regional Coordinating Board, Consortium for Youth
- ** Gloria Small, former Director of Planning, United Way of Greater New Haven
- * Michael N. Vanacore, Board of Education, Milford
- * William Wilding, Director, United Way, Milford
- * Barbara Winters, Director of Health and Education Programs, Urban League of Greater New Haven
- * Current member Regional Coordinating Board, Consortium For Youth
- ** Former member Regional Coordinating Board, Consortium For Youth

FOURTH QUARTER/FOURTH YEAR

INTRODUCTION

The final period of the Consortium for Youth was a time of considerable activity. Instead of "letting up for the winding down" a high level of activity was maintained to keep momentum going. The usual responsibilities of the director were carried out, i.e. monitoring contracts to 16 agencies, maintaining liaison with local coordinating committees, gathering information for final reports, and preparing for the Regional Coordinating Board's final luncheon. Beyond these, however, there were two events (a conference and a workshop which are described in detail later on) which occurred late in the Consortium's life which served to keep youth problems, issues, and concerns in the forefront of people's attention. Each of these required contact with a number of people and agencies; coordination, and in the case of the workshop, a collaborative effort among three agencies.

Contract categories had to be adjusted to conform to a new grant award period. It was during this extension period that the needs of the only residential facility in South Central Connecticut surfaced.

Douglas House provided immediate short-term residential care to any youngster referred by a social service agency, police, or self-referral. The Douglas House program serves all the towns in the CFY area and promotes positive youth development through assorted group activities. The shelter serves to house youngsters for the shortest possible time while assisting in the resolution of the family in personal crisis. Most youngsters are reunited with their families after a stay at Douglas House of about a week. The maximum stay at Douglas House is 15 days for community referrals and 30 days for a referral from the State Department of Children and Youth Services. Douglas House Emergency Shelter has been recognized as the number priority project in South Central Connecticut by the Planning for Children and Youth Committee (a group of public and private youth service workers by planners) and the Department of Children and Youth Services Region II Advisory Council (a statutorily mandated advisory body appointed to serve by the Commissioner of the Department of Youth Services) as well as the Consortium for Youth executive leadership. The funds allocated to Douglas House by the CFY will enhance the in-house services provided to the residential population. The operational philosophy at the Shelter is to offer a safe sanctuary that stresses limited penetration into the juvenile justice system and overall delinquency prevention.

Single Parent Roundtable, Inc. began as an on-going committee out of the CFY to address the needs of single parents in the region that were not being met. Although many services for single parent families in the South Central Connecticut region are available, information, coordination, and referral was evidently lacking. As a voluntary committee, with previous monetary support and staff from the CFY, the no-cost extension period allowed this group to incorporate and institutionalize. In a nine-month period, a variety of activities were developed and sponsored to enhance networking between social service agencies and community systems, i.e., education and legal. The funds allocated provides the Single Parent Roundtable an opportunity to deliver the following services: consultation sessions, training programs, community outreach, and member-

ship development among financially distressed and minority groups, and continued assistance to individuals/groups of individuals in targeted communities. Provisions were also made in the amount of \$600.00 for compensation to the South Central Criminal Justice Supervisory Board for the extension period provided the need for continued office space and services in accordance with the terms and provisions of the original agreement.

Monetary projections for the September 24 conference exceeded actual figures due to the excellent response or registration by participants. All adjustments were made in accordance with LEAA and the Connecticut Justice Commission financial guidelines and received prior approval from local authorities.

PROGRESS: FOURTH QUARTER/FOURTH YEAR

DIRECT SERVICES

Direct Services initially were the prime target for goals and objectives of the Consortium. Agencies reached out and provided services that aided considerably in juvenile delinquency prevention. According to progress reports, which were submitted by 16 agencies for the final reporting period, direct services continued to be provided by contracting agencies in many ways and in many places - in schools, on field trips, in homes, and in settings such as the YWCA. Mutual support was sought and found in rap groups, networks, and through the sharing of common concerns. Films, speakers, and workshops provided opportunities to learn for many in groups such as Single Parents of Milford, Wallingford Single Parents Association, and the Meriden-Wallingford Young People's Program.

Perhaps the most creative and "non-traditional" program for juvenile delinquency prevention was the "Art is You" workshop of the Cultural Arts Council of East Haven. This workshop provided participants with a basic three-hour experience in which to discover their own particular artistry in a specific media. The fundamental concept is that each person is an artist - no matter what he does. Media choices were dance, photography, or sound reinforcement. The two-phase program first validates an individual's artistry and then asks for the creation of a specific product. In addition to emphasizing individual effort and individual artistry, the program also encouraged team efforts. The culmination of the workshop effort took place in the performance of skills at the East Haven Summer Arts Festival.

The Wallingford Single Parent Association focused on the needs of single parents and provided support to them as they worked toward the solution of their problems. Through this group's support and encouragement, many found answers that would not have been evident to them acting alone. Speakers, meetings, and low-cost activities (a trip to the UConn farm to watch calves being born, a hayride, a river jazz cruise) were some of the ways single parents got to know and communicate with each other.

Nine Big Brother/Little Brother and 10 Big Sister/Little Sister matches were supervised in Hamden by Big Brother/Big Sisters of South Central Connecticut. Each match required an average of 20 casework hours. Monthly meetings of parent, child, and volunteer are used to assess the status of the Big Brother or Big Sister relationship and to intervene with counseling when needed.

One hundred girls from target areas were registered in the Girl Scout troop program, and most of the 333 young people served by the

Quinnipiac Council of Boy Scouts in Hamden, New Haven, and East Haven participated in a program for exploring career education. The Quinnipiac Council Boy Scout units in East Haven reported further growth for 1980-1981. With the assistance of the campership money from the Consortium, Pack 404 in Momaquin (East Haven) had 100% attendance at Cub Scout Day Camp, and Troop 404 had about 95% attendance at Camp Sequassen Summer Camp. Exploring also grew with the addition of 18 new members to the Police Explorer Post 418, which is sponsored by the East Haven Police Department.

The newest Consortium-funded project, Single Parents of Milford, formed in June 1981 under the sponsorship of Catholic Family Services in Milford, is off to a good start. In addition to social events and opportunities to share common concerns in rap groups, a series of speakers has been scheduled to address the special needs of single parents. Topics to be presented include fiscal management, legal rights of children, stress management, and chronic illness.

Jewish Family Services, a Consortium participant for four years, developed several programs at the elementary and middle school level, which focused on prevention of delinquency. These programs involved students as individuals and as members of groups in three different public schools in New Haven. Specific areas covered by a social worker from Jewish Family Services included 1) problems of adolescents, 2) improving scholastic performance, and 3) the impact of divorce on young people, their families, and their school work.

The Meriden-Wallingford Young Parents Program showed an increase in the number of young people served: according to a report to the Youth Advocacy Committee in Meriden in September 1981, there were 389 youth from Meriden and Wallingford served between July 1, 1980 and June 30, 1981 - a increase of 139 in a year. Consortium funds were used to support the Young Parents Program's outreach groups, which take place every Friday for young mothers and pregnant adolescents age 13-18.

Statistical Summary of Direct Services During No-cost Extension Period

The following figures were taken from final progress reports submitted by consortium-funded agencies and programs. Because of differences in reporting methods, there are some instances in which totals are actually larger than what is shown below.

Total number of people served: 1240
Number of single parents: 153
Number of youth from single parents: 213
Number of adolescent parents: 65
Number of truant youth: 35
Number of females: 603
Number of males: 506
Ethnic Background: Asian - 4
Black - 553
Hispanic - 130
White - 466
Native American - 1

Ages: 1-10 years - 196
6-12 years - 50
11-12 years - 180
13-14 years - 210
15-16 years - 328
17-18 years - 40
18 and above - 214

Regarding type of program, the following numbers reflect multiple answers by Consortium participants:

social - 5	health - 1
vocational - 3	educational - 7
recreational - 8	

Regarding sources of referral, the following numbers also reflect multiple answers:

outreach - 6	other agency - 7
parents - 5	self - 3
school - 5	other - 1

OUTLOOK FOR SERVICES BEYOND NOVEMBER 30, 1981

Institutionalization was a target goal during the third year. This process continues to be reviewed and explored. Although the expiration of Consortium funding will mean the end of some services presently provided by contracting agencies, a number of agencies indicated that services will continue, and efforts will be made to find other sources of funding.

Jewish Family Service, for example, stated, "We have a commitment to serve the children of New Haven, and we will absorb the costs. A social worker will be assigned to two school for the 1981-1982 year." Big Brother/Big Sisters of South Central Connecticut (which expects to make seven new matches in Hamden from July 1, 1981, to July 1, 1982) and Single Parent Roundtable indicated that they will search for other sources of funding in order to continue services. Possible sources include private foundations, individual donations, membership fees (Single Parent Roundtable).

In mid-November Single Parent Roundtable kicked off a new project - the preparation of an "ad-resource" book which will serve as a resource manual for single parents and area professionals (lawyers, doctors, educators). The two-part manual will have a section on non-profit resources likely to meet the needs of single parents as well as advertisements paid for by local businesses and professionals. Current plans call for a 38-page booklet to be available in April of 1982. The booklet will be distributed free to single parents and selected professionals and agencies.

The Single Parent Roundtable has already established three memberships categories and fees: membership - \$10; patron - \$25; and benefactor - \$100.

Commitment to find alternate sources of funding was also expressed by Meriden-Wallingford Young Parents Program to "ensure that the Young Parents Program and recreational activities for youth through the YWCA are maintained."

Nancy Thomasson of Catholic Family Services of Milford expressed optimism that the single parents group in Milford will continue even though Consortium funding is no longer available. The Wallingford Single Parents group will continue to offer a monthly newsletter and low-cost activities to adults and their children. The ultimate goal of the Wallingford single parent group (currently sponsored by the VNA) is to become an independent organization.

The program at the Yalesville Elementary School, which is sponsored by the Boys Club of Wallingford and which has been supported in part through Consortium funding, is expected to continue. Funding for 1981-1982 will come from the Wallingford Youth Service Bureau budget.

A less optimistic view was expressed by Barbara Winters of the Urban League regarding Project Seek-Out and Teens Helping Teens. If other funding is not found, Teens Helping Teens will have to close at the end of 1981, and Project Seek-Out will face similar fate if funding is not found by June 30, 1981.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ADVOCACY

I. September Conference

In the spring of 1981, planning began for the Consortium's last major event, a one-day conference called Services to Youth: A Challenge for the Future. It was felt that the Consortium should not go out of business in a slow fadeout but with a major event such as a conference to help keep the spirit of the Consortium alive - a spirit of interagency collaboration, cooperation, and coordination - even after the official closing of the Consortium's doors at the end of November. A conference was also seen as a vehicle to continue the push for advocacy for youth and youth services, a push which is needed more than ever now because of cutbacks in social service spending.

A conference planning committee was formed, with Barbara Winters, Director of Health and Education for the Urban League of Greater New Haven, as chairman. The committee selected Thursday, September 24 as the conference date and the Ramada Inn in North Haven as the conference location.

During the planning process, two specific purposes to be achieved by the conference were spelled out. They were:

1. To explore current legislation revolving around teenage sexuality, youth employment, and substance abuse.
2. To promote a better relationship between youth service providers, youth, and legislators and promote education and advocacy of youth service.

Throughout the planning stage, the Conference Planning Committee worked to find ways to provide sufficient opportunity for continued interchange between and among conference participants. Time for questions, time for discussion, and time for informal sharing of concerns were all built into the conference schedule.

The Planning Committee also worked to publicize the conference and bring it to the attention of those who work with youth on a regular basis. It was decided to send a "Save-The-Date" notice to 500 agencies, organizations, and departments known to be concerned with young people and their problems. The conference was also later publicized through press releases to area newspapers, public service announcements sent to local radio stations, and final brochures mailed to interested people, agencies, and groups. Responses to initial and subsequent publicity clearly indicated that youth-serving agency personnel and

others welcomed the opportunity for further contact with others in their field to discuss the plight of youth services.

Special attention was paid to ensuring the involvement of youth in 1) conference planning and 2) actual participation at the conference. Two high school students appeared on each of the afternoon conference panels, and there were 40 high school students who attended the conference. In all, there were eight area high schools represented at the conference. The conference planning committee was very pleased with the excellent cooperation and support from the high school principals and teachers who were asked to identify students to serve on panels. The help of principals of the following high schools was taken as a sign of the schools' support of Consortium goals and purposes: West Haven High School, Hamden High School, Milford High School, Wilbur Cross High School (New Haven), Lyman Hall High School (Wallingford), and Shelton High School.

In addition to emphasizing the involvement of youth, much of the conference planning concentrated on the identification of legislators who could address the three specific issues which were the focus of the conference. U.S. Representative Toby Moffett agreed to be the keynote speaker, and six Connecticut State Legislators agreed to serve on panels; three of these legislators also agreed to take on the responsibility of serving as panel moderators. Although some conference evaluations mentioned too much political input, many others expressed a positive view about legislative participation.

A third viewpoint considered essential was that of service providers. Their discussion on youth programs, agency collaboration, and new methods of advocacy was seen as an essential element in a comprehensive look at the challenge to youth services.

Conference speakers were chosen for their expertise and involvement in the three topic areas. Dr. Mary Calderone, co-founder and president of SIECUS (Sex Information and Education Council of the United States) addressed the subject of misperceptions of sexuality and how these have affected programs and policies for youth. Mr. Michael Zarin, training specialist for the Youth Employment Project and Northeast Regional Coordinator for the Center for Community Change in New York, focused on current policy, funding, and advocacy strategies for youth employment. Mr. Thomas McCarthy, Clearinghouse Director for the National Youth Work Alliance, focused on current policy, funding, and advocacy strategies for youth and substance abuse.

Although all speakers were well received, Dr. Mary Calderone received the highest ratings on conference evaluation sheets, which were returned by 64 conference participants. Her presentation made a big impression on the audience, and there was widespread agreement that her presence was a key element in the day's success.

Of the nearly 200 conference attendees, there was representation from a wide variety of agencies and organizations: police departments, school systems, private, non-profit youth-serving agencies, municipally

funded programs (the WIC program, e.g.), State of Connecticut departments (Department of Children and Youth Services, Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, Connecticut Justice Commission, Department of Education), and several unaffiliated citizens and private practitioners. In all, there were agencies and organizations from 21 different Connecticut towns.

The format for afternoon panels included an opportunity to discuss a set of suggested recommendations drawn up by the Conference Planning Committee. (The suggested recommendations were based on input from the Connecticut Association of Human Services and the National Youth Work Alliance.) All conference participants (including legislators), the Connecticut Department of Children and Youth Services (DCYS) Regional Advisory Committee, the Planning for Children and Youth Committee, and other appropriate groups, will receive a copy of the recommendations which represent the consolidated work of the three panels,

CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

There were 15 recommendations presented by the Conference Planning Committee for discussion by those attending afternoon panels. All recommendations were directed at the three conference issues - teenage sexuality (five recommendations), substance abuse (six recommendations), and youth employment (four recommendations).

A statement which preceded the recommendations indicated the following assumption: a collaborative effort which includes all segments of the community (human services, family, business, industrial, educational, and legislative) would be necessary for implementation of the recommendations.

The recommendations on the following pages represent a consolidation of 1) those proposed by the Conference Planning Committee and 2) those which arose out of panel discussions. In the preparation of this summary report, it was necessary to add a fourth category of recommendation entitled "General."

I. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

- A) Efforts should be made to expand and refine youth employment programs to provide job-seeking skills; on-the-job training; job maintenance skills; career development - beginning in elementary school and intensifying in middle and high schools, in combination with work-study opportunities; vocational education; alternative diploma programs; alternative education programs for younger students; and assistance for out of school youth.
- B) Connecticut's Department of Corrections School program should include an employment skills component.
- C) Connecticut's vocational training program should be expanded and include open enrollment and regionalization of schools.
- D) A coordinating component for youth employment and career development programs should be established at a regional level to provide for better use of resources and exchange of information.
- E) Simultaneous economic development and increased youth employment opportunities should be encouraged through the use of tax incentives and tax breaks--i.e., tying business pre-apprenticeship programs to tax incentives.
- F) In an effort to develop more youth employment opportunities, the issues need to be addressed in economic terms.
- G) Community agencies should develop a better support system for youth employment training and career development programs.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- A) CADAC's prevention program should be supported.*
- B) Efforts should be made to maintain and enforce laws currently on the books which mandate the teaching of substance abuse prevention in schools.
- C) Alcohol and drug treatment programming should be established which serves teenagers primarily, and that has a family therapy component.
- D) There should be expanded preventative treatment and detoxification programs. A study should be undertaken to determine the need for separate detoxification programs, perhaps located in general hospitals.*
- E) A study should be undertaken to determine appropriate community responses to the increased availability of drugs.*

- F) Substance abuse programs based on the self-help model should be encouraged and supported.
- G) Increased efforts should be made to enforce laws against those who sell and distribute hard drugs.
- H) Adequate appropriations should be made for technical assistance to communities regarding drug and alcohol education programs. These programs should be directed through Youth Service Bureaus.
- I) Existing substance abuse programs should increase outreach efforts with special attention given to high-risk youth.
- J) Substance abuse programs should develop stress management education for children and youth in the areas of alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs.
- K) Peer counseling in schools should be developed, encouraged, and supported.
- L) Community agencies should increase efforts to improve and expand family support systems.
- M) Efforts should be increased to develop means to eliminate artificial age barriers which prevent youth from seeking mental health services.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TEENAGE SEXUALITY

- A) School sex education programs should be mandated, expanded, and strengthened, especially at the junior high school level and below.
- B) Efforts should be made to ensure that teenage parents and their offspring receive needed social and health services and that teenage parents continue to learn academic, vocational and parenting skills.
- C) The impact of Federal WIC program reductions should be monitored so that high-risk pregnant youth and their children do not suffer serious harm from lack of health and nutritional aid.
- D) Efforts should be made to restore funding to day care centers for young parents, and to develop financial support for sex education programs.
- E) Continued efforts should be made to improve communications between parents and young people so that young people will receive needed information about family planning sexuality.
- F) More family support systems need to be developed.

- G) Community agencies should increase outreach efforts with special attention given to high-risk youth.
- H) Artificial age barriers in obtaining services should be eliminated.
- I) Peer counseling in schools should be developed, encouraged and supported.

IV. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- A) Adequate appropriations should be made and funding sources found for stress management education and development of "alternatives" for use with families and youth.
- B) Increased efforts need to be made to encourage youth to become more involved in community politics and to encourage community and local institutions to facilitate youth participation--i.e., provide educational assistance and skill development to youth for effective participation on boards and then include youth on planning commissions, and policy developing boards.
- C) Community organizations should take the initiative in developing and implementing programs to educate youth in life skills and family living.
- D) Regional level coordinating agencies should be developed to facilitate better use of resources; to emphasize consolidation and coordination of services; screening of programs; and to promote the sharing of resources and information.
- E) All youth programs should include minority input, participation, and representation. Also, the topic of racism should be included as discussion in all youth development programs.
- F) Advocacy efforts should be expanded to include not only professionals but also affected individuals.
- G) Programs in all areas should be implemented at elementary school level with a year-to-year base structure.
- H) Youth problems should not be viewed as separate entities but rather as interrelated components of the whole social demography--i.e., drug abuse may be caused by family problems, et
- I) Public and private agencies should develop partnerships.
- J) The youth service delivery system should be improved to provide more outreach with special attention given to high-risk youth; to eliminate artificial age barriers which prevent youth from seeking professional counseling; to eliminate turf disputes among agencies through consolidation and coordination; and to provide for greater responsibility for school psychologists to do more than just testing.

- K) All major actors within the youth environment should be a part and have responsibility within the problem solving process such as:

<u>ACTOR</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITIES</u>
youth	peer counseling or teaching, learning of life skills
community agencies	support parents and schools, outreach education, information and referral, training and career development, employment education, counseling and parent education.
schools	better education of youth in youth employment, substance abuse and teenage sexuality; vocational education and family life education.
parents	learning good parenting skills, educating their children, working with schools and educating themselves in youth problems.

*One panel voted to drop starred recommendations.

Overall evaluation of the conference was positive: Of the 61 people who rated the conference on its overall effectiveness on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest, 17 people gave a rating of 5 and 27 people gave a rating of 4, for a combined total of 44 responses. There were also a number of written and verbal comments from people who applauded the presence and participation of so many young people.

II. Workshop on Youth Participation in Cults

At a spring meeting of the Regional Advisory Group of the Families With Service Needs project it became evident that there was a need to deal in some way with the subject of young people and cults. Two facts emerged: 1) the subject of cults was a frequent topic of discussion at Douglas House, this region's youth shelter, and 2) many service providers were uncertain how to handle this subject.

In order to deal constructively with the subject of young people and cults, a morning workshop was planned for October 29, 1981. The workshop was sponsored by the Consortium for Youth, which provided necessary technical assistance, the Families With Service Needs Project, and the Consultation and Education Service of the Lower Naugatuck Community Mental Health Center, which also provided assistance in the person of Raymond Joshua Wootton, Pastoral Care Specialist at the center.

Mr. Wootton served as moderator of the panel, which is described below.

The format of the workshop was a panel of speakers, followed by a CBS film entitled "Cults: Choice or Coercion" which examined the techniques used by cults to attract young people. The panel of six people was carefully chosen so that the subject of cults was explored from a variety of perspectives.

Panel members were: 1) Carlos Salguero, M.D., Child Psychiatrist at the Hill Health Center and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Yale Child Study Center in New Haven. Dr. Salguero provided information on the Hispanic view of youth participation in cults; 2) Joel Allison, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist in private practice in New Haven. Dr. Allison was asked to speak on positive and negative reasons for youth participation in cults; 3) Former State Senator Louis Cutillo, of Waterbury, who was chairman of the Connecticut Legislature's Finance and General Law Committee which examined the proposed conservatorship bill. Mr. Cutillo spoke on what could and could not be expected from the legislature as far as action to prohibit cult activity is concerned; 4) Ms. Liz Sabo, a junior at Fordham University and a former member of the Church of Bible Understanding. Ms. Sabo gave her reactions to her own experiences in the mind control techniques used by the cults and by the deprogramming practitioners; 5) Bertha and Bernard Orosz, parents of an ex-cult member, who provide personal experiences and talked about the anxiety involved in rescuing their son from the Unification Church.

After panelists gave their presentations, there was a response period during which panelists interacted with each other and with the audience. Although there were no current cult members present, one member of the audience was Mrs. Helander, whose daughter Wendy has been the subject of national attention because of the indoctrination into the Unification Church and her parents unsuccessful attempts to rescue her. After the CBS film was shown there was further interaction and responses from those attending the workshop.

Because of the intensity of the personal experience of the parents on the panel whose son was a cult member (he no longer is), it was necessary at times to refocus the discussion and put their personal experiences in a larger context.

A variety of handout material (nine or 10 different pieces) was available for those attending the workshop. Although attendance was relatively small (between 20 and 25 people), there was a general agreement that the subject of youth participation in cults had been well covered from a variety of viewpoints.

INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

The Consortium for Youth has worked to ensure interagency collaboration and cooperation in each of the towns it has served. Out of eight towns in which a local Coordinating Committee was formed, seven still have such a local committee, although in some cases the committee has merged with another group or taken on another form. From this, one can assume that Consortium activity has laid a foundation for future cooperation and working relationships between and among agencies.

In Wallingford the Youth Board (this group has functioned as a local coordinating committee, although it was never officially called that) has worked to bring youth-serving agencies together and now oversees all youth-related programs in that town. The reach of the Youth Board extends beyond Consortium funded agencies in Wallingford and includes all agencies concerned with youth. The current project of the Youth Board is a youth needs assessment.

The major focus of Consortium activity in West Haven was building a local response to the Families With Service Needs (FWSN) legislation which decriminalizes status offenses such as truancy and running away from home. Building this local response entailed a considerable amount of networking and collaboration between and among relevant agencies and personnel in West Haven. A small network of host homes (West Haven Host Homes) was established, and arrangements were made for West Haven Youth Service Bureau staff to be on call 24 hours a day to take FWSN cases. Through networking efforts, arrangements were also made with the police department and schools to channel FWSN calls to the Youth Service Bureau.

In Meriden, in recent months, the energies of several agencies were put into a collaborative effort to push for a youth service coordinator's position. Previous support for this position was clearly demonstrated at the June 17 workshop in Meriden on "Meriden's Response to the Families With Service Needs legislation." The Host Homes Committee of the Youth Advocacy Committee (an outgrowth of Consortium activity in Meriden) made the youth service coordinator's position its #1 priority. The Human Services Advisory Board, with recommendations from the Local Coordinating Committee in Meriden, presented a resolution to the City Council to establish such a position - the resolution passed unanimously on September 8, 1981. At the last meeting of the Consortium's Regional Coordinating Board, it was reported that the achievement of the long-sought goal - the establishment of a youth service coordinator's position - was only a step away.

Another example of interagency cooperation was the collaborative effort between the director of the Consortium and a regional networker of the Families With Service Needs project which resulted in a workshop on youth participation in cults. A third agency, the Lower Naugatuck Valley Community Mental Health Center, was also involved in the workshop, which is described in detail in an earlier section of this report.

In Ansonia-Derby, the local coordinating committee is still functioning but is now under the auspices of the Valley Youth Forum. The

Forum, which is currently undergoing a restructuring process, is a group of professionals, lay professionals, and youth who work on the issues and concerns of children, youth, and their families. There are 42 member agencies and programs represented with a core group of 20 active people. A major purpose of the Forum is to keep people aware of available services. A current project of the forum is seeking coordination within each of the five Valley towns to develop a collaborative response to youth who are identified as coming from families with service needs.

CONCLUSION

Any attempt to summarize a four-year project such as the Consortium for Youth in a few sentences or paragraphs is almost to do an injustice to one or more aspects of the project. Further, a final conclusion cannot yet be drawn as to the impact of the Consortium. Only with the passage of time will enough perspective be gained to fully document this impact. However, without waiting to find out what a future chronicle of Consortium history says, it is possible to get some idea of how the Consortium's impact is assessed right now. Several remarks made at the final luncheon of Consortium's Regional Board will serve as a current indicator of how people see the results of four years' work.

Flemming Norcott, one of the first co-chairmen of the Regional Coordinating Board, referred to the difficulty and frustrations of "multi-agency" development, but also noted a large measure of cooperation among Consortium agencies. Judge Norcott also spoke from his perspective on the bench, saying that the concept of youth development and juvenile delinquency prevention is a sound one. He also urged those present not to "drop the ball" by losing ground that has been gained during the life of the Consortium.

William Carbone, now Executive Director of the Connecticut Justice Commission, who was also involved in the organization of the Consortium for Youth, said that no other region in Connecticut has done as much as the South Central Connecticut region regarding shelter arrangements, youth service bureaus, and police. He commented on the obligation to stay in existence as a from of Consortium so that this region's young people will not become victims of neglect. Mr. Carbone then offered the help and support of his agency, noting the support would be in the form of technical assistance or legislative support when needed.

Helmer Eckstrom, first Director of the Consortium, spoke more about the future than the past and he commented on the residual effect of the Consortium. He added that everyone could be proud of the programs and services that were fostered by the Consortium, the solid core of change agents which has been developed, and the fact the Consortium does not leave behind a "monument to bureaucracy."

Edwin Van Selden, an area consultant who prepared the final assessment of the Consortium, commented on the closeknit feeling among Consortium people that was apparent at the luncheon. He said the Consortium was a "process rather than a program" and added that this process will help in shifting the burden of financial support for services from the public to the private and volunteer sectors. Mr. Van Selden closed his remarks by citing Consortium accomplishments which included the delivery of needed services through contractual arrangements and the development of regional programs which crossed town lines. His last comment was focused on the need to "work with our neighbor-our neighbor happens to be us."

END