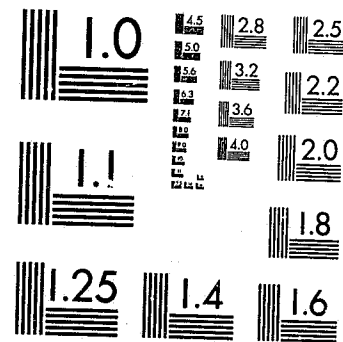


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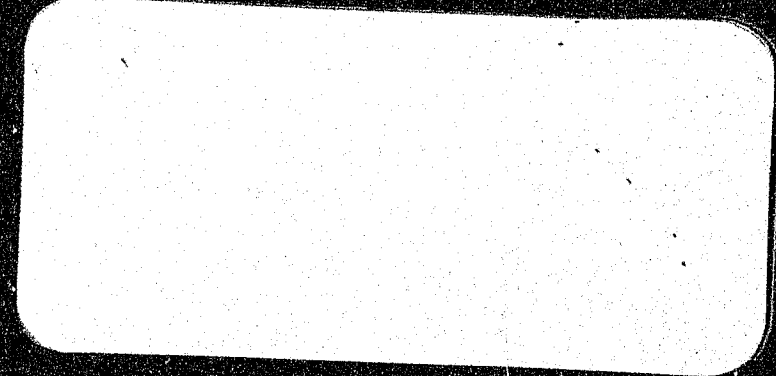
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EVALUATION UNIT
REPORT

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A Report

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of the
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by
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National Institute of Justice

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TODD-WADENA COUNTIES COMMUNITY

CONCERN FOR YOUTH--SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Todd-Wadena Counties Community Concern for Youth is a juvenile delinquency prevention/diversion program in northcentral Minnesota. The program is designed to assist in the reduction of delinquency petitions in Todd and Wadena counties. The intent of this report is to provide an overall summary and description of the Community Concern for Youth program.

In order to help reduce delinquency petitions in Todd and Wadena counties, the program provides services as an alternative to a court appearance for youth who are charged with committing delinquent acts and other youth who are deemed in need of counseling by parents or the school. The program provides counseling to these youth and their parents. In addition, the program diverts youth to other programs if it is felt that another program would better serve their needs.

Some services provided by the project include: long-term counseling, short-term counseling, recreational service, and school advocacy. From January 1, 1977, through June 15, 1979, the average time spent helping a youth was 19 hours while the average cost per client hour of project service was \$33. The average cost per client was \$420.

Most of the clients (98.9 percent) during this time were white and were referred to the Community Concern for Youth by the police/sheriff, school, parents, and other community agents. The reasons for referral to the project range from the commission of a property crime or drug offense to problems with the school and the client's family.

The goal of the Community Concern for Youth states that for at least six months after their completion of the program, referral to juvenile court for youth who have previously participated in the program will be less than 20 percent. As of August 15, 1979, only 20 of the 193 clients, or 10.36 percent, for whom follow-up data are available had been referred to juvenile court. This indicates that the Community Concern for Youth has achieved its desired goal.

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INTRODUCTION

The Todd-Wadena Counties Community Concern for Youth is a juvenile delinquency prevention program serving several communities in northcentral Minnesota. The Community Concern for Youth program provides direct counseling to youth with problems as well as acting as a referral agency.

This report will be descriptive in nature. It is the intent of this report to describe the activities of the program, such as the types of services offered. In addition, clients served by the program will be described in terms of their race, source of their referral, reason for their referral, and their relation to the criminal justice system at time of intake. Costs of operation, size, duration, and goal achievement will conclude this report.

ACTIVITIES

The Community Concern for Youth program works directly with youth who are charged with committing delinquent acts by providing a diversion service prior to court appearances as well as providing an alternative to be used by the court. Counseling sessions are held with each client and his parents to discuss the delinquent behavior displayed by the youth and the reasons which led to that behavior.

There are three youth workers, each of whom serves the area in which

they live.¹ This living situation by the youth workers was thought to be essential to the success of the program because the workers are readily available to their clients and are on call twenty-four hours a day. The counseling work load consists of those youth who have had previous contact with the juvenile justice system as well as youth who are referred by parents, schools, and other agencies because of social and personal problems.

Each youth worker has a Board of Directors for his respective area. The Boards of Directors are comprised of chiefs of police, school principals, city council members, school board members, probation officers, pastors, and private citizens. It is the role of the Board members to provide direction to the program and to serve as public information officers in their communities.

The communities and other youth serving agencies within Todd and Wadena counties appear to be well informed of the Community Concern for Youth as excellent communication and cooperation has been received from law enforcement, schools, families, court, and other community agencies. A unique element of the program concerns the linkage that is maintained between the Community Concern for Youth and other existing juvenile programs. For example, a client may be referred to the Community Concern for Youth because of a family problem supplemented by a drug problem. If the youth worker feels that the juvenile's drug problem would be better served by an alternative program, a referral to that program would follow.

¹One worker deals with youth living in the communities of Menahga, Sebeka, and Wadena; one works with the communities of Hewitt, Bertha, Eagle Bend, Clarissa, and Browerville; and one works with the communities of Long Prairie and Grey Eagle.

Table 1 indicates the services provided to clients by the Community Concern for Youth workers. From January 1, 1977, through June 15, 1979, the youth workers spent a total of 4,600 hours counseling youth. This is 30 percent of the total available program hours.¹ Nearly one-third of those hours were spent in long-term counseling,² 15 percent in short-term counseling, 13 percent in providing recreational service, 9 percent in parent counseling, and 8 percent advocating to school. Other services provided by the project include: chemical dependency information and treatment, educational services, job help, financial counseling, legal services, advocates to police, advocates to court, restitution, diagnostic testing, and other miscellaneous services.

The average number of services provided to a client was 2.8 while the average service time was 6.6 hours. By multiplying these two figures, the average total service time for a client was 18.8 hours.

¹Not all available hours are spent providing counseling to clients. Due to the large geographic area involved, a considerable amount of time is spent traveling between communities and between clients' homes. In addition, time is allotted for completing Crime Control Planning Board data collection forms, preparing case notes, filling out chronological reports, and speaking with parents.

²Long-term counseling is considered counseling for longer than three months, whereas, short-term counseling is considered counseling for three months or less.

TABLE 1
SERVICES PROVIDED BY PROJECT

SERVICE	CLIENTS SERVED	AVERAGE HOURS OF SERVICE	CLIENT HOURS
Long-term counseling	138	10.83	1,494.54
Short-term counseling	107	6.55	700.85
Parent counseling	88	4.84	425.92
Advocacy-school	86	4.05	348.30
Educational services	50	3.87	193.50
Advocacy-police	50	2.64	132.00
Family counseling	42	5.79	243.18
Recreational service	31	19.34	599.54
Chemical dependency information	23	2.78	63.94
Restitution	20	2.45	49.00
Advocacy-courts	17	2.82	47.94
Job help	17	2.35	39.95
Advocacy-general	8	3.75	30.00
General other	8	17.50	140.00
Financial counseling	3	3.00	9.00
Other worker time	3	22.00	66.00
Legal services	2	2.50	5.00
Diagnostic testing	2	11.00	22.00
Chemical dependency treatment	1	5.00	5.00
Medical-dental	1	5.00	5.00
TOTAL			4,620.66

Referring to Table 2, of the 246 terminated clients, 132 clients completed the program. This involves a joint decision of staff and client that the client has completed the program or has resolved the problem(s) for which he entered the project. In addition, 3 clients completed the program through referral. This involves a joint decision of staff and client that the client has completed the program or has resolved the problem(s) for which he entered the project through the use of a referral agency.

Juveniles who did not complete the program include those who moved from the project's immediate area (making travel to the project no longer feasible), were arrested-rearrested or were adjudicated for a new offense, quit school and were terminated by project staff. In addition, clients who were placed in a foster home, shelter home, group home, or other

institution also did not complete the program. Clients who were referred to the program but did not complete the program, and those clients who were withdrawn from the program by their parents were also terminated prior to completion of the program.

TABLE 2
REASON FOR TERMINATION FROM PROJECT

REASON	NUMBER OF	
	CLIENTS	PERCENT
Completed program	132	53.7%
Completed, referred	3	1.2
Moved away	39	15.9
Arrested-rearrested/Adjudicated for new offense	12	4.9
Quit school	12	4.9
Terminated by staff	11	4.5
Placed in home or other institution	8	3.3
Referred, did not complete	7	2.8
Withdrawn by parent	3	1.2
Deceased	2	0.8
Other	17	6.8
TOTAL	246	100.0%

CLIENTS SERVED

From January, 1977, through June, 1979, 366 youths had officially participated in the Community Concern for Youth program. Clients ranged in ages from 6 through 18 years with 91 percent falling in the 12 through 17-year old category.¹ Of the clients, approximately two-thirds (67.8 percent) were male and one-third (32.2 percent) were female, 98.9 percent were white, 0.8 percent were American Indian, and 0.3 percent were of another ethnic background (Table 3).

¹Due to the nature of the program, some youths have been informally referred for short-term counseling with no official record of participation maintained.

RACE	NUMBER OF CLIENTS	
	PERCENT	
White	362	98.9%
Black	0	0.0
American Indian	3	0.8
Chicano	0	0.0
Other	1	0.3
TOTAL	366	100.0%

The sources of client referrals are illustrated in Table 4. Nearly 42 percent (154) of all clients were referred to the program by the police or sheriff, while school officials also played a major role by referring 116 clients (31.7 percent).¹

SOURCE	NUMBER OF CLIENTS	
	PERCENT	
Police, sheriff	154	42.1%
School	116	31.7
Parents, family	47	12.8
Participant (self)	16	4.4
Court services	11	3.0
Court	9	2.5
Other community agency	7	1.9
Welfare	4	1.1
Friend	2	0.5
TOTAL	366	100.0%

The most common reason for referral to the program was the commission

¹Although many clients were referred by the police or sheriff, that does not mean that they were formally involved in the criminal justice system. Rather than officially reprimanding or arresting clients, the police or sheriff would refer these youth directly to the program.

of a property crime¹ (31.1 percent) followed by a drug offense² (15.6 percent) (see Table 5). These nonstatus offenses likely explain the high proportion of police/sheriff referrals.

REASON	NUMBER OF CLIENTS	
	PERCENT	
Property crimes	114	32.0%
Drug offenses	57	16.0
Educational/school	54	15.0
Family problem	45	13.0
Status offenses	37	10.0
Personal problems	26	7.0
Other	26	7.0
TOTAL	359	100.0%

Referring to Table 6, over three-fourths (76.2 percent) of the clients were not involved in the criminal justice system at time of intake. That is, clients were not officially reprimanded and released, arrested, awaiting petition, awaiting disposition, or on supervised probation. Slightly over 10 percent had been formally charged, 9 percent were reprimanded and released, and only two clients (0.5 percent) were awaiting a hearing on a petition.

¹Examples of property crime are theft, shoplifting, vandalism, and burglary.

²Examples of drug offense are distribution and/or possession of major drugs, distribution and/or possession of marijuana. This does not include possession and/or consumption of intoxicants.

TABLE 6 CLIENT RELATION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AT INTAKE		
CLIENT RELATIONSHIP	NUMBER OF CLIENTS	PERCENT
No CJS contact	212	58.0%
Police contact and diversion	67	18.0
Reprimanded and released	33	9.0
Charged	38	10.0
Awaiting petition	2	0.5
Awaiting disposition	6	1.6
Supervise-probation	8	2.2
TOTAL	366	99.3 ^a

^aPercentage does not equal 100 due to rounding.

COST ANALYSIS

Total budget expenditures, which includes monies from LEAA, state, and local funds, was \$186,984.86 for the project's first three years of operation (1977, 1978, 1979).

The number of clients from January, 1977, through June, 1979, was 366. The average number of days that a client participated in the program was 216 while the average number of clients participating in the program during any given month from January, 1977, through June, 1979, was 12. This number was obtained by dividing the total number of clients by the number of operational months ($366 \div 30 = 12.2$).

The average monthly budget for the project was \$5,194.02. This figure was obtained by dividing the total budget expenditures by the number of months for which that money was granted ($\$186,984.86 \div 36 = \$5,194.02$).

The average cost per client was \$420.30. This figure was obtained by dividing the total budget expenditures to June 15, 1979, by the number

of clients to that same date ($\$153,831.36 \div 366 = \420.30). However, the validity of this figure is questionable. The total budget expenditures includes start-up costs which cannot be attributed to clients.¹

The average cost per client hour of project service was \$33.29. This figure was obtained by dividing the budget to June 30, 1979, by the total client hours of service provided to June 15, 1979 ($\$153,831.36 \div 4,620.66 = \33.29).²

GOAL ACHIEVEMENT

In order to determine whether or not a project has had any effect on the problem or problems which the project is attempting to address, the goals of the project must be measurable in some way. The goal of the project is stated as follows:

Referral to juvenile court for juveniles who are referred to the Community Concern for Youth Program will be less than twenty percent for at least six months after completion of the program.

Measurement of referral to juvenile court of clients during or after program participation is based upon the number of clients involved with the juvenile justice system at any of four levels--petition hearing; disposition hearing; supervision-probation; or institutionalized--during a six-month follow-up period. As of August 15, 1979, follow-up data had been collected for 193 clients.

A way to measure the goal is to look at those clients who were not

¹Unfortunately, start-up costs cannot be determined; therefore, the average cost per client is slightly overestimated.

²It should again be noted that the average cost per client hour of project service is slightly overestimated due to start-up costs.

in the criminal justice system at intake separately from those clients who were considered as having official contact with the criminal justice system at intake. Of the 193 clients for whom follow-up data are available, 141 had no official contact with the criminal justice system at intake. Of these clients, 14 (9.9 percent) had been involved in at least one of the four levels within six months of termination from the program. Of the remaining 52 clients who had some kind of official contact with the criminal justice system at intake, 6 (11.5 percent) were involved in at least one of the four levels. Both groups, therefore, fell within the desired range of court referral being less than 20 percent.

END