

142015

**U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice**

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this copyrighted material has been granted by
New Jersey Association on
Correction

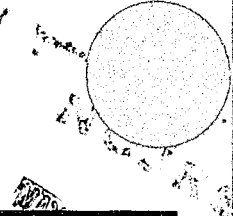
to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the copyright owner.



News and Views

142015



The New Jersey Association on Correction • Vol. 22, No. 2 • January 1993

RECEIVED
NOV 10 1993

A New Approach to Solving Crime: Involve the Community

NJAC's Annual Forum took a turn away from its usual focus on criminal justice issues to look at a broad based approach to solving the crime problem in New Jersey's inner cities. Edwin Stier, former Director of the Division of Criminal Justice in New Jersey, now in private practice, spent the afternoon giving NJAC's members an inside view of the "Fighting Back" program.

Through Fighting Back, the city of Newark has the potential to become a model for social change in the country. The plans currently under consideration for Newark could address the problems of the criminal justice system, the corrections system and the other social institutions that are designed to control the behavior of people in the cities.

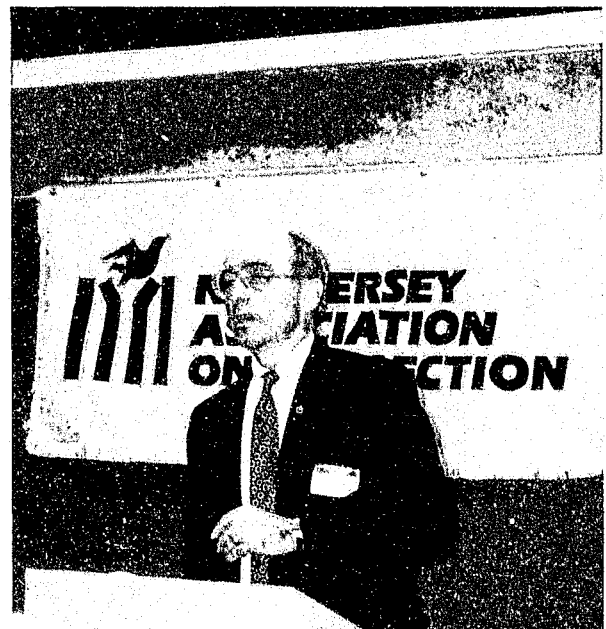
Mr. Stier described his firm belief in the necessity of the criminal justice system but was at pains to note that he differs from many of his former colleagues in that he is unwilling to throw away a whole generation on young minority males. "I believe that we as a society have dumped our problems into the criminal justice system, problems which should not be there and problems that the criminal justice system is not capable of dealing with. If we continue to solve our social problems by adding more resources to our criminal justice system, building more prisons, hiring more police and more prosecutors, the problems are not going to get any better, they're going to get worse and we're going to experience as we have already, a spiraling cost to the criminal justice system to a point where we won't be able to afford it. We're going to polarize our society into those who are supportive of the criminal justice system and those who are victims of our criminal justice system."

Stier believes the criminal justice system is not intended to deal with people whose behavior can be controlled by social institutions in the community. The community itself must have the power to control the behavior of people who make up that community. "Most of the problems in the criminal

justice system are not sociopathic criminals...what they are kids who are out of control because the community does not have the capacity to control their behavior at this point."

What is happening in Newark is people are coming together to take collective action. Even the most disadvantaged in the inner cities have an instinctive desire to work with one another to solve their own problems. Stier noted, "The basic issue is whether we are going to adhere to the traditional approach of institutional control of individual behavior or are we going to shift the balance in favor of community control over individual behavior."

The biggest challenge is found in the professional helping community "Professionals have to overcome layers and layers of prejudice and I don't mean racial prejudice. I mean the prejudice that we who have the means to control our own lives feel towards those who lack the capacity. This is the most difficult problem because those of us who have been most socially conscious, the



Edwin Stier describes the Fighting Back program at the Annual Meeting on Nov. 4, 1992.

most active, may have the deepest prejudice against those we are trying to help. Many of the programs we have devised have an effect of keeping the people that we are trying to serve, dependent, where they become less able rather than more able to take care of the problems that they face."

Stier believes that given the right encouragement and combination of resources that the community can be helped to reestablish the social infrastructure. What the community cannot achieve as individuals they can achieve collectively on the basis of the community values which will begin to control them. The objective of Fighting Back is to strengthen the social infrastructure and empower "social capacity building", the capacity of the community to act collectively in an effective way. "They may not form a community which fits middle class perceptions of the way a community or family should be structured but they will be a tightly knit community, a strong social infrastructure, and they will operate on the basis of the fundamental values."

Fighting Back is sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club of Newark and is funded through the support of several foundations but primarily a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. A two year planning grant enabled the community to develop a plan for the city of Newark to deal with substance abuse. One of the programs which has grown out of this planning process is an outpatient intensive drug treatment program for women with children. This was one of the most serious unmet needs in the community. Under standard conditions, a woman had to choose between her children and treatment. This program allows her to retain her apartment and her children but receive intensive treatment. Her children are also eligible to receive counseling and supportive services as needed. One of the best things about this program is that this is not new money but money that was diverted from existing programming to one which more clearly meets the need of the community as defined by the community.

A similar initiative is about to get underway dealing with juveniles on probation. These are kids who have a pattern of getting into trouble but are not incorrigible. A community board will be formed to help link the probation system directly with the community so juveniles know that it's not only the people at the court house who care about what happens to them but also their neighbors, who are just as concerned, just as demanding of them as the people in the courthouse. The people

in the community have the power to make life better and encourage the juvenile. They also have the power to send him back to the courthouse if he continues in patterns of anti-social behavior.

The spirit of this program can best be summed up by the words of a Newark resident at an early community meeting, "I just want you to know that we may need help but we're not helpless". The desire for change, to become independent, to achieve self-respect, and the capacity to earn a sufficient living to make life better exists in Newark. If that spirit is recognized and acted upon, the criminal justice system may no longer need to be the dumping ground for all of society's failures.

Can Crime Be Non-Political?

The Campaign for an Effective Crime Policy is a public education effort to encourage a more informed debate about crime and criminal justice issues. The group, consisting of over 400 sponsors nation wide, has focused on removing politics from the crime debate and criticizing candidates who use crime for political gain.

Now that the 1992 elections are complete, the Campaign has developed recommendations which they hope will be implemented by members of government. Its proposals focus on a national approach to the prevention and control of violent and other serious crimes as well as an anti-drug abuse policy. First, a national commission on

MEMBERSHIP - WHY?

Because members are our major source of strength. Our growing constituency helps us to influence the decisions which affect crime, delinquency and the criminal justice system in our state.

We ask you to join NJAC today. Our work is supported to a great extent by voluntary contributions which are tax deductible.

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION ON CORRECTION
986 South Broad Street, Trenton, N.J. 08611

Yes, I'd like to participate in the Association's efforts to improve the effectiveness of New Jersey's criminal justice system. Enclosed is my membership check for:

- Free - Inmate \$15 Student/Retiree
 \$20 Regular \$35 Contributing
 \$50 Sponsoring/Organizational

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tel. _____

crime needs to be established to examine the extent of the crime problem, the various causes of crime, proposed responses to crime, and an assessment of the costs and benefits of various proposals. In addition, the government should provide treatment at the request of all drug users and should change its anti-drug funding priorities to emphasize public health approaches.

The campaign calls for more education, drug treatment, and sentencing alternatives and less imprisonment and mandatory sentencing. Currently, local sponsors of the campaign for an Effective Crime Policy are organizing for action on a tri-state basis in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Individuals interested in becoming involved in the campaign should contact Karen Spinner at the New Jersey Association on Correction.

Electronic Monitoring on Hold in New Jersey

Corrections Commissioner William Fauver surprised the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on October 8, 1992, with his decision to phase out the Department's electronic monitoring program. Mr. Fauver claimed that the restrictions being proposed for admission to the program would severely limit the number of inmates eligible for the program, thus making the program too costly.

We agree with the Commissioner to a certain point. The restrictions would have made the program economically unfeasible. However, we believe that the Department should have worked harder to educate the committee and the public about the benefits of the home confinement program.

Both Dr. Joseph Vaughn of Central Missouri State University and Dr. Marc Renzema of Kutztown University challenged the committee's recommendations for restrictions on program admissions when they testified before the committee on October 22, 1992. Each stated that using the offense of commitment as a determining factor in selection was not an accurate predictor of program success due to the amount of plea bargaining that occurs. Other factors should and must be considered. They also dismissed the idea of giving prosecutors and police chiefs veto power over participants.

They spoke of the need for clear goals and objectives and emphasized that electronic monitoring is a technology, not a program in and of itself. An electronic monitoring program that exists

just as a way to relieve prison overcrowding has different goals than one that exists to provide rehabilitation and services to reduce recidivism. There must be agreement about what the program is; there must also be agreement regarding what it will accomplish.

In addition to clear goals, a model program would also include clear lines of accountability, a good management information system and regular auditing of staff performance. Dr. Renzema noted that in the Administrative Office of the Court's Intensive Supervision Program (a national model) no infraction gets a "pass".

While a state run large scale home confinement program is at least temporarily a thing of the past, D.O.C. is hoping to maximize its investment in equipment by encouraging counties to start programs and contract with the state for central monitoring services. They are also considering the use of electronic monitoring for technical parole violators rather than jail or for geriatric inmates.

The final chapter has not been written on electronic monitoring. The knowledge and information is there. We know what went wrong. It's time to let D.O.C. try again without undue political constraints.

Awards Given at Annual Meeting

NJAC's recent Annual Meeting provided the opportunity to recognize staff for achievement

NJAC NEWS AND VIEWS Karen A. Spinner, Editor

Published by the New Jersey Association on Correction for citizens concerned with the criminal justice and penal systems of New Jersey. Correspondence should be addressed to: NJAC NEWS & VIEWS, 986 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ 08611

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT Rev. David H. McAlpin, Jr.	ADMIN. VICE PRESIDENT Charley Flint, Ph.D.
SECRETARY Nancy Hawkins	TREASURER Walter McNeil
Cessie Alfonso Hon. Byron Baer Mary Donohue Dorothea Hubin, Ph.D. Michael Israel, Ph.D. Charles Jones, Jr. Esq. Bonnie Kerness Stephen M. Latimer, Esq. Edward Martone Mario Paparozzi	Charles Reid Sandra Ann Robinson, Esq. Joseph Salemme Marta San Martin Jose Sanchez, Ph.D. Vincent Trivelli JoAnn Tsonton Richard Tucker Karyn Waller, C.P.A. Gerald Weaber

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
James A. Hemm

during the past year. Receiving meritorious achievement awards were: Susan Fleish, Program Supervisor at the Passaic County Womens Center, and Pamalia Davis, Administrative Assistant at PAY (less than one year of service), and Yonsetta (Terry) Lane, Counselor, Mercer Resource Center, Teresa Parsons, Executive Assistant in the Administrative Office, and Muhammad Rida, Senior Case-Aide at Broughton House (over a year of service).

Years of service awards are given at two year and five year intervals. Angel M. Perez, Deputy Director, received congratulations and a pen set to commemorate 15 years of service with the Association. Virginia Hinson, Cook at Clinton House, has been serving the clients for ten years. William Simon, Fiscal Officer in the Administrative Office and Wayne Shead, Counselor at Clinton House, received recognition for 5 years of service.

Two year service certificates were given as

follows: Administrative Office — Connie Heupel, Accounting Assistant; Clinton House — Annie B. Lewis, Case-Aide/Driver, Lawrence Meekins, and Cedric Smith, Case-Aides; Bates House — Laurie Hall, Counselor, and Veronica Sanders, Program Supervisor; Broughton House — Julie Fuller, Cook, Arnold Gadson, Counselor, Muhammad Rida, Senior Case-Aide, Yvette Smith, Senior Counselor, and Trejan Strickland, Secretary; Mercer Resource Center — Yonsetta (Terry) Lane; Passaic County Women's Center — Roberta Champion, Case-Aide, Leticia Fresse, Case-Aide, Loretta Hill, Case-Aide, Darlene Jimenez, Counselor, and Carmeta Parkes, Counselor.

Also honored at the meeting was Marshall Stalley who recently retired from the Board of Trustees after many years of service. Legal Services of Passaic County was given a special award in recognition of their assistance to the women of the Passaic County Women's Center.

Dan Lombardo, CEO of VOA-Delaware Valley (L) and Jim Hamm, NJAC Executive Director (R), discuss community-based corrections issues with Sen. Thomas Cowan at the Coalition of Community Corrections Providers/NJ legislative reception on November 12, 1992.



**NEW JERSEY
ASSOCIATION
ON CORRECTION**

986 South Broad Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08611

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Trenton, N.J.
Permit No. 584

Time Value

NCJRS
ACQUISITION DEPARTMENT #1
BOX 6000
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850-0000