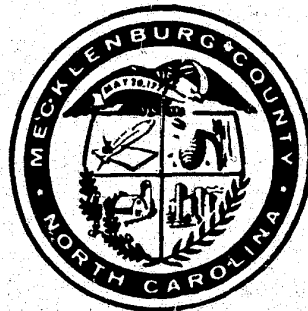


CHILDREN Are Our Most Valuable Resource



**THE MECKLENBURG
YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU**

**A Definitive Report
1973-74**



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**A Definitive Report
1973-74**

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October 15, 1974

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INTRODUCTION

This definitive report on the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau was prepared for the purpose of providing the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners and others with pertinent information about accomplishments which have been made by the Mecklenburg YSB toward achieving its stated measureable objectives and to further apprise the community and government about what the Mecklenburg YSB expects to achieve in the area of direct services and service development during the 1974-75 fiscal year.

The information provided herein should also be useful to officials of governmental units in other North Carolina counties and elsewhere who seek to save human and economic resources by developing alternatives to the juvenile justice system for children.

RATIONALE FOR A YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU
IN CHARLOTTE AND MECKLENBURG COUNTY

The diversion of children from the juvenile justice system, particularly children who have not committed acts which constitute a danger to person or property has become an important goal of many communities.

In its report, Community Crime Prevention (1973, p. 58), The National Advisory Commission of Criminal Justice Standards and Goals elucidates why some communities have developed youth services bureaus as a first step toward offering children an opportunity to be diverted from the juvenile justice system to services they need. The report states:

"When the first juvenile court was established nearly 75 years ago, it was an outgrowth of the movement at that time to advance the welfare of children — in education, protective services, and child labor laws. Its goals were similar to those proposed for youth services bureaus today. One goal was to provide individualized treatment and social services for children coming under the court's jurisdiction, instead of primarily dispensing punishment. Court proceedings were to be informal, non-adversary, and confidential.

Even though initial hopes for the juvenile court were high, history has demonstrated that for many young people juvenile court processing has magnified some of the problems it was created to resolve.

Individualized treatment and service have seldom become a reality for young people adjudicated by the juvenile court. High probation caseloads have allowed little time for adequate services.

One obvious solution might be to increase the capacity of the juvenile court's probation services to supervise more effectively large numbers of young people. However, the evidence indicates that the sanctions

of the juvenile court should be imposed only as a last resort, after all diversionary alternatives have been thoroughly utilized.

Once a juvenile is identified as delinquent, labeling and differential handling allow him fewer opportunities for positive participation in the normal or more acceptable institutions of his community. There are many examples of how the stigma resulting from a delinquency record can produce multiplied handicaps: increased police surveillance, neighborhood isolation, lowered receptivity and tolerance by school officials, and rejection by prospective employers.

Being labeled a delinquent further reduces the self-esteem of the juvenile selected for justice system processing and diminishes his stake in conforming to even minimal community expectations.

Furthermore, there is evidence that the more a juvenile is engulfed in the justice system, the greater are his chances of subsequent arrest.

There are, therefore, many reasons for developing youth services bureaus with a diversionary objective, and with a focus on providing an alternative to the justice system for young people in trouble."

The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice Task Force Report: Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime (1967, p. 19) encourages the utilization of youth services bureaus for dealing with delinquents non-judicially. This report states that the advantages of using youth services bureaus for this purpose avoids for the child the stigma of being processed by an official agency regarded by the public as an arm of crime control, substitutes for official agencies organizations which are better suited for redirecting conduct, and, if locally sponsored, heightens a community's awareness of the need for recreational, employment, tutoring, and other youth development services.

As The Twig Is Bent (1972, p. 4), a report prepared by the North Carolina Bar Association's Penal System Study Committee on the North

Carolina Juvenile Correctional System, emphasizes the urgent need to assure that children are not confined to institutions and stigmatized as delinquent because they happen to be unwanted, have unhappy and unstable family relationships, are poorly motivated, or have specific learning problems. It further states that North Carolina must accept the responsibility for creating a system that has become a large dumping ground for unfortunate children, most of whom are guilty of no crime whatsoever, and strongly recommends that community based resources be developed to serve as alternatives to training school, especially for the undisciplined child.

A Juvenile Delinquency Plan For North Carolina (1972, p. 19), a document accomplished by the Law and Order Division of the Office of Community Resources, North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources, states the need for youth services bureaus is documented by the large number of children being processed through the state's juvenile courts. It states further that a very high percentage of these children are pushed through the juvenile justice system for committing noncriminal acts such as truancy, uncontrollable behavior at home and/or school, or running away from home. The authors of the report conclude that the most effective prevention takes place before a child is adjudicated delinquent, as labeling a child delinquent most often works against the child's chances for successful relationships at home, school, and in his community.

Juvenile Detention In North Carolina: A Study Report (1973, p.115), a report prepared by the National Juvenile Detention Association, strongly

recommends that youth services bureaus be created to serve a variety of functions relevant to delinquency and related problems in the state of North Carolina.

A Report of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Youth Development (1973, p. 1) strongly recommends that community based programs be developed for pre-delinquents, particularly children who commit undisciplined acts.

Sherwood Norman in his book The Youth Service Bureau: A Key To Delinquency Prevention (1972, p. 11-12) states that youth services bureaus are needed to:

1. Provide probation officers a reduction in time consuming "informal adjustment" cases which are more effectively dealt with outside an authoritative framework.
2. Supply police officers with an alternative to detention and court referral when, in the officer's judgment, release with warning is insufficient, but filing a petition is not imperative.
3. Furnish the public schools with an alternative to referring children who are truants, or are exhibiting ineffective behaviors at school, to the juvenile court.
4. Provide citizen volunteers an opportunity to turn from frustration over juvenile delinquency to constructive efforts on behalf of youth and youth serving agencies.
5. Offer the community, as a whole, the opportunity to accept responsibility for assisting its troubled and troubling youth by coordinating services on their behalf rather than relying on court authority.

The National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals, in its book Community Crime Prevention (1973, p. 58), states that there are many reasons for developing youth services bureaus with a diversionary objective, and with a focus on providing an alternative to the

juvenile justice system for young people. The authors of this report suggest that some of the actions of children and parents now subject to definition as delinquency or unfitness should be considered as part of the inevitable, everyday problems of living and growing up, and state further that many of the problems considered as delinquency or pre-delinquency should be defined as family, educational, or welfare problems, and diverted from the juvenile court into other community agencies, such as youth services bureaus. The authors conclude that adherence to these procedures will result in these kinds of problems being absorbed informally into the community, or if they are deemed sufficiently serious, they will be funneled into some type of diversion institution, staffed and organized to cope with problems on their own terms rather than as antecedents to delinquency.

During the period August 1, 1973, through July 31, 1974, Mecklenburg County juvenile court records indicate that four hundred and seventy-three (473) children had "undisciplined" petitions signed against them for being truant, ungovernable at home or school, or running away from home. Although the number of petitions signed against children for truancy during this period decreased from eighty-eight (88) to fifty-five (55), and the number of undisciplined petitions signed against children during the months July 1, 1974, through September 30, 1974, when compared to the same period in 1973, decreased from one hundred and sixteen (116) to sixty-two (62), it is evident the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau continues to be needed to serve as an alternative to the juvenile justice system for children and to promote community responsibility for the identification, development, and

delivery of services needed by children in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, especially services related to diverting children from the juvenile court and/or correctional systems.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

During the period August 1, 1973, through July 31, 1974, the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau was a non-authoritarian agency of county government which served as a buffer between the juvenile justice system and children. It functioned as an advocate for those children who were either involved or were on the verge of becoming involved with the juvenile court and/or correctional systems because they had been truant, or had exhibited behavioral problems at home and/or school, or had run away from their home settings. Children who had committed delinquent acts were also referred to the Mecklenburg YSB; however, in almost all cases delinquent petitions had not been signed against these children because the referral sources, usually the police, their parents, or school personnel, determined that it would not be in the best interests of the child or the community to do so. Mecklenburg YSB referral sources included juvenile court intake counselors, police, parents, school personnel, social services agency personnel, juvenile court counselors, and youth (walk-ins).

Significant objectives for the YSB were to play an important role in diverting a substantial number of children from the juvenile court and/or correctional systems to services they needed and to assist the Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board and Service Area Committees of the Mecklenburg

Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee to expedite the identification, development, and delivery of youth services in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County which could be instrumental in enabling a large number of children to be diverted from the juvenile justice system.

Methods utilized by the Mecklenburg YSB Staff to achieve direct service objectives included providing short-term intensive counseling and case-work services to children which stressed providing parents and teachers with specific procedures they could use to remediate ineffective behaviors of YSB clients, diagnosing specific factors directly related to each child's ineffective behavior, referring children to needed treatment services, and providing appropriate referral sources with information which could enable them to make decisions about a child which were, in the opinion of the YSB Staff, in the best interests of the child.

Procedures employed by the YSB to achieve its service development objectives were numerous. Special importance was given to assisting the Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board and Service Area Committees of the Mecklenburg Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee to develop an effective system of youth services in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

Professional Staff

The Mecklenburg YSB Staff consisted of one (1) Director, one (1) Direct Services Coordinator, one (1) Service Development Coordinator, six (6) Counselors, and one (1) Secretary. (See Attachment A - Mecklenburg YSB Staff Organizational Chart.)

All professional staff members had received graduate training at the Masters level in such areas as Counseling and Guidance, Clinical Psychology, and Special Education. Additionally, all professional staff members had previous experience working with children and possessed competencies in the application of behavioral principles and procedures in home and school settings.

Specific responsibilities performed by each YSB Staff member were:

Position: Director

Responsibilities: This person administered the total program effort. Specifically, he supervised and coordinated the efforts of the Direct Services and Service Development Coordinators, performed tasks directly related to improving the YSB direct services and service development components, and disseminated reliable information to the community and government about children served by the YSB. A major responsibility of the Director was to assist the Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board and Service Area Committees of the Mecklenburg Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee to expedite the identification, development, and delivery of services needed by children in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

Position: Direct Services Coordinator

Responsibilities: This person interviewed all children and parents of children referred to the YSB, supervised and coordinated the efforts of all YSB Counselors, provided inservice training experiences for the YSB Staff, and performed tasks related to improving the YSB direct services

component. (See Attachment B - Mecklenburg YSB Direct Services Coordinator Monthly Report Form.)

Position: Service Development Coordinator

Responsibilities: This person assisted the Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board and Service Area Committees of the Mecklenburg Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee to expedite the identification, development, and delivery of services needed by children in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, recruited and coordinated the YSB Volunteer Program, provided inservice training experiences for the YSB Staff, disseminated reliable information to the community and government about children served by the YSB, and performed tasks related to improving the YSB service development component. (See Attachment C - Mecklenburg YSB Service Development Coordinator Monthly Report Form.)

Position: Counselor

Responsibilities: These persons provided short-term intensive counseling and casework services to children which stressed providing parents and teachers with specific procedures they could use to remediate the ineffective behaviors of YSB clients, diagnosing specific factors directly related to each child's ineffective behavior, referring children to needed treatment services, and providing referral sources with information they could use to make decisions about a child which were, in the opinion of the YSB Staff, in the child's best interests. (See Attachment D - Mecklenburg YSB Behavioral Evaluation Report.)

Measureable Objectives

Measureable objectives for the Mecklenburg YSB during this period were:

1. To divert a substantial number of children from the juvenile court and/or correctional systems to services they needed by:
 - a. Accepting referrals from juvenile court intake counselors, police, school personnel, parents, social service agency personnel, juvenile court counselors, and youth (walk-ins).
 - b. Providing short-term intensive counseling and casework services which emphasized diagnosing factors directly related to each child's ineffective behavior, referring children to needed treatment services, providing parents and teachers with specific procedures which they could use to remediate the ineffective behavior of YSB clients, and furnishing appropriate referral sources with information which, in the opinion of the YSB Staff, was in the best interests of children served by the YSB.
2. To expedite the identification, development, and delivery of services needed by children in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, particularly services related to diverting children from the juvenile justice system. This objective was accomplished by:
 - a. Assisting the Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board and service area committees of the Mecklenburg Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee to develop the 1974-75 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Services Plan.
 - b. Developing a comprehensive inventory of services provided by public and private agencies in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County for children six (6) through seventeen (17) years of age.
 - c. Recruiting and coordinating the efforts of volunteers who served YSB clients.
 - d. Sponsoring workshops and educational programs which offered youth serving agency personnel an opportunity to obtain specific skills and procedures which they could utilize to help parents and teachers improve the behavior of children.

- e. Contracting desperately needed services for YSB clients, with priority given to contracting youth services which were directly related to diverting children from the juvenile court and/or correctional systems (i.e. alternative educational programs).
- f. Working closely with other youth serving agencies in an effort to make their services more accessible to children served by the YSB.
- g. Encouraging North Carolina State Legislators and others to support legislation which had as its purpose both the diversion of children from the juvenile justice system and the development of services related to meeting the special needs of these children.
- h. Disseminating reliable information to the community and the government about services needed by children served by the YSB and evoking their support for the development of such services.

Evaluation

Evaluation services were contracted from the Institute of Urban Studies and Community Service at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Dr. William Wilson, Assistant Professor of Sociology at UNCC and evaluator of the first and second phases of the Mecklenburg YSB, also accomplished this evaluation.

Analysis of pertinent data and description were methods employed to determine the degree to which YSB program objectives had been achieved. No specific measuring devices were utilized. The YSB Director provided the evaluator with pertinent data about each child served by the YSB during the period of August 1, 1973, through July 31, 1974. (See Attachment E - YSB Participant Data Form.)

The evaluation design utilized by Dr. Wilson conformed with standards recommended by the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals in its report Community Crime Prevention (1973; page 809).

Some of these standards are:

1. Evaluation objectives and methods employed to measure the effectiveness of a youth services bureau should be directly related to the bureau's highest priority objectives.
2. Evaluation of the effectiveness of a youth services bureau should focus more on changes in institutions' responses to youths' problems than on behavioral changes in individual youths.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS MADE BY THE MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU
IN THE AREAS OF DIRECT SERVICES AND SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

Direct Services

During the period August 1, 1973, through July 31, 1974, two hundred and thirty-five (235) children were referred to the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau. Referral sources included juvenile court intake counselors, police, parents, school personnel, youth serving agency personnel, juvenile court counselors, and youth (walk-ins). Thirty-nine (39) of these children were either referred immediately to other youth serving agencies or assistance provided by the YSB Direct Services Coordinator proved sufficient to meet the needs of the child and the referral source. One hundred and ninety-six (196) of the two hundred and thirty-five (235) children referred to the YSB were provided short-term intensive counseling and casework services by the YSB Staff. These services, which were delivered by YSB counselors, included:

1. Being accessible to each of their clients on a twenty-four (24) hour a day basis, seven (7) days a week.
2. Offering each of their clients a minimum of two (2) counseling sessions per week. These sessions usually occurred in the child's school setting.
3. Visiting school personnel at each of their client's school for the purpose of making interventions in the child's school setting which could result in positive changes for the child.
4. Visiting each of their client's parents, at the home of the child, for the purpose of making interventions in the child's home setting which could result in positive changes for the child.

5. Referring each of their clients to appropriate social, legal, educational, employment, psychological, medical, and recreational services.

Comment

Caseloads of YSB Counselors usually did not exceed ten (10) children. Involvement of the YSB Staff was limited to a maximum period of four (4) months.

During the period August 1, 1974, through June 30, 1975, YSB Counselor caseloads will continue to remain small. Hopefully, the amount of time the YSB Staff offers intensive services to each child will be reduced. Of course this will be determined by the proficiency exhibited by the YSB Staff in the areas of diagnosis, intervention, and referral and the availability and accessibility of services needed by children this agency serves.

Referral Sources

Juvenile Court Counselors:	72	(36%)
Juvenile Court Intake Counselors:	39	(20%)
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools:	36	(18%)
Parents:	31	(16%)
Police:	9	(5%)
Youth Serving Agencies:	9	(5%)
TOTAL:	196	(100%)

Comment

Fifty-nine percent (59%) or one hundred and fifteen (115) of the one hundred and ninety-six (196) children who received short-term intensive counseling and casework services from the YSB staff were referred to this agency prior to their having an undisciplined or delinquent petition signed against them. By utilizing the YSB as a resource, juvenile court

intake counselors, police, school personnel, parents, and youth serving agency personnel diverted these children from the juvenile justice system. Had the YSB not been available as a resource for these referral sources, one must assume that either an undisciplined or delinquent petition would have been signed against many of these children.

Forty-one percent (41%) or eighty-one (81) of the children who received intensive services from the YSB Staff were involved in the juvenile justice system, many of them deeply involved. For those children who were deeply involved in the juvenile justice system, the YSB, in a number of instances, served as an alternative to incarceration in a state training school.

Referral sources for the thirty-nine (39) children who did not receive intensive counseling and casework services from the YSB Staff are not listed. Some of these referrals were youths (walk-ins). The Mecklenburg YSB Direct Services Coordinator received many telephone requests for assistance. Assistance offered by telephone usually consisted of advising persons as to what youth services were available to help a child and suggestions to the caller concerning what actions he or she might take to remediate a condition which was adversely affecting a child. The YSB Direct Services Coordinator handled a minimum of ten (10) telephone calls per day requesting assistance of the type previously described; therefore, it was computed that the YSB Direct Services Coordinator provided this kind of assistance to a minimum of twenty-four hundred (2400) persons during this period.

Recent actions taken by officials of the Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Police Departments to encourage police personnel to utilize the resources of the Mecklenburg YSB more extensively and the willingness of the juvenile court intake counselors to refer parents to the YSB should result in a larger number of children being referred to the YSB by these sources during the period August 1, 1974, through June 30, 1975. This must occur if a substantial number of children are to be diverted from involvement with the juvenile justice system.

Legal Classifications of YSB Clients

Pre-Petition:	115	(59%)
Post Petition:	30	(15%)
Probation:	29	(15%)
Violation of Probation:	16	(8%)
Conditional Release From a State Training School:	6	(3%)
TOTAL:	196	(100%)

Comment

Fifty-nine percent (59%) or one hundred and fifteen (115) of the one hundred and ninety-six (196) children who received intensive services from the YSB Staff during this period neither had an undisciplined nor delinquent petition signed against them. It is projected that a minimum of seventy-five percent (75%) of all children who will receive intensive services from the YSB Staff during the period August 1, 1974, through June 30, 1975, will be in this category. If this projection is accurate, an enormous amount of human and economic resources could be saved due to the number of children who will probably be diverted from both the juvenile court and correctional systems to services they need.

Behavioral Classifications of YSB Clients

Truant: ¹	30	(15%)
Truant, Ungovernable at school:	12	(6%)
Truant, Ungovernable at home:	13	(6%)
Truant, Ungovernable at school and home:	9	(4%)
Ungovernable at school: ²	12	(6%)
Ungovernable at home: ³	23	(11%)
Ungovernable at school and home:	23	(11%)
Runaway: ⁴	14	(7%)
Runaway, Ungovernable at school:	10	(5%)
Runaway, Ungovernable at home:	13	(6%)
Runaway, Ungovernable at school and home:	7	(4%)
Runaway, Truant:	11	(5%)
Runaway, Truant, Ungovernable at school:	4	(2%)
Runaway, Truant, Ungovernable at home:	6	(3%)
Runaway, Truant, Ungovernable at school and home:	2	(1%)
Pre-Delinquent: ⁵	5	(3%)
Delinquent: ⁶	2	(1%)
TOTAL:	196	(100%)

1. Truant - Any child referred to the Mecklenburg YSB who is absent from school, without sufficient reason, in excess of thirty percent (30%) of the days school is in session shall be classified as a "truant." A child who is absent from school because he has run away from home, but who attends school regularly when he is at home, would not be classified as a truant.

2. Ungovernable at school - Any child referred to the Mecklenburg YSB who is regularly sent to the school office for reasons that would constitute grounds for an undisciplined petition being signed against him or her (i.e. fighting) shall be classified as "ungovernable at school."
3. Ungovernable at home - Any child referred to the Mecklenburg YSB who engages in activities which have been both specifically forbidden by his parents and which constitutes grounds for an undisciplined petition being signed against him or her (i.e. coming in at late hours or staying away from home overnight without the consent of his parents) shall be classified as "ungovernable at home."
4. Runaway - Any child referred to the Mecklenburg YSB who leaves his home setting for an extended period of time (2 or 3 days) without the consent of his parents shall be classified as a "runaway."
5. Pre-Delinquent - Any child referred to the Mecklenburg YSB because he or she has committed a delinquent act, but who has not had a delinquent petition signed against him or her for committing that act, shall be classified as a "pre-delinquent child."
6. Delinquent - Any child referred to the Mecklenburg YSB because he or she has committed a delinquent act, and who has had a delinquent petition signed against him or her, shall be classified as a "delinquent child."

Comment

The labels "truant," "ungovernable at school," "ungovernable at home," and "runaway" are defined in precise behavioral terms.

The definitions formulated for the terms "pre-delinquent" and "delinquent" were based on whether or not an act had been committed by a child which would also be considered a crime if committed by an adult, and whether a delinquent petition had been signed against the child.

Children who received intensive counseling and casework services from the YSB Staff were identified as exhibiting the following behaviors:

Truant:	87	(44%)
Ungovernable at school:	79	(40%)
Ungovernable at home:	96	(50%)
Runaway:	67	(34%)
Commitment of a delinquent act:	7	(4%)

(Note: Some of the children referred to the YSB by juvenile court counselors were children who had been adjudicated delinquent by the juvenile court; however, they were referred to the YSB because they were exhibiting behavior such as being truant, being ungovernable at home and/or school, or running away from home. These children were not classified as "delinquent" or "pre-delinquent" but were classified on the basis of the behavior(s) being exhibited by them which resulted in their being referred to the YSB.)

Ages of YSB Clients

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>
9	5 (3%)
10	9 (5%)
11	12 (6%)
12	18 (9%)
13	41 (21%)
14	64 (32%)
15	45 (23%)
16	2 (1%)
TOTAL:	196 (100%)

Comment

Although seventy-seven percent (77%) or one hundred and fifty (150) of all children who received intensive counseling and casework services from the YSB Staff during this period were ages thirteen (13), fourteen (14), or fifteen (15), it is important to note that the percentage of children referred to the YSB under the age of thirteen (13) has increased from seventeen percent (17%) (18/105) for the period January 1, 1973, through July 31, 1973, to twenty-two percent (22%) (44/196) for the period

August 1, 1973, through July 31, 1974. Hopefully, this trend will continue as the YSB Staff has found that the younger a child, the less difficult it is to assist parents and teachers to improve the behavior of that child. Further, if a child needs to be placed outside his home setting, it is much easier to find an appropriate placement for a child under the age of thirteen (13).

Sexes of YSB Clients

August 1, 1973 - July 31, 1974

Male:	120	(61%)
Female:	72	(39%)
TOTAL:	196	(100%)

January 1, 1973 - July 31, 1973

Male:	54	(51%)
Female:	51	(49%)
TOTAL:	105	(100%)

Ethnicity of YSB Clients

August 1, 1973 - July 31, 1974

Negro:	101	(52%)
Caucasian:	95	(48%)
TOTAL:	196	(100%)

January 1, 1973 - July 31, 1973

Negro:	64	(61%)
Caucasian:	41	(39%)
TOTAL:	105	(100%)

YSB Clients Diverted From The Juvenile Court

During the period August 1, 1973, through July 31, 1974, one hundred and fifteen (115) or fifty-nine percent (59%) of all children who received intensive counseling and casework services from the YSB Staff neither had an "undisciplined" nor "delinquent" petition signed against them. As of July 31, 1974, juvenile court records indicated that ninety-three (93) or eighty-one percent (81%) of these children retained this status while twenty-two (22) or nineteen percent (19%) of these children did have either an undisciplined (11) or delinquent (11) petition signed against them. One hundred and fourteen (114) or ninety-nine percent (99%) of these children had not been incarcerated in a state training school.

Comment

It cannot be said that the Mecklenburg YSB Staff diverted ninety-three (93) children from the juvenile court and correctional systems. It can be stated with verity that these children were in fact diverted from these systems. During the past few years the YSB Staff has found that children who gain access to services they need can be diverted from these systems while those children who are in need of services which are not available for them (i.e. residential treatment centers) many times do become involved in the juvenile justice system.

It should also be mentioned that of the eleven (11) "undisciplined petitions" signed against children provided intensive services by the YSB during this period, most were signed by parents who were either unable or

unwilling to assume responsibility for giving their child adequate supervision and discipline. These parents decided rather to transfer this responsibility to the juvenile court. These actions on behalf of parents placed all responsibility for change on the child and increased the chances of their children becoming more deeply involved in the juvenile justice system. The fact that forty-seven percent (47%) of all children incarcerated in training schools in North Carolina during 1973 were institutionalized for violating conditions of their probation by committing an undisciplined act supports the latter statement.

YSB Clients Diverted From Juvenile Correctional Institutions

During the period August 1, 1973, through July 31, 1974, eighty-one (81) or forty-one percent (41%) of all children who received intensive counseling and casework services from the YSB Staff were referred to this agency by juvenile court counselors; therefore, either an undisciplined or delinquent petition had been signed against them. As of July 31, 1974, juvenile court records indicated that seventy-one (71) or eighty-eight percent (88%) of these children had not been incarcerated in state training schools, while ten (10) of these eighty-one (81) children had been placed in state training schools. Three (3) of the ten (10) children who were committed to a state correctional institution were institutionalized for violating conditions of their probation by committing an undisciplined act. Seven (7) of the ten (10) children incarcerated in state training schools were committed for committing an act that constituted a danger to person or property.

Again, it is stressed that it cannot be said that the Mecklenburg YSB Staff diverted seventy-one (71) children from juvenile correctional institutions. It can be stated, however, that these seventy-one (71) children were not placed in the juvenile correctional system during this period.

The YSB Staff strongly believes that most, if not all, of those ten (10) children incarcerated in state training schools could have been diverted from these institutions had residential treatment centers such as those available through the "Bringing It All Back Home Project" in Morganton, North Carolina, been available to them. It is interesting to note that it costs approximately five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to place a child in one of the residential treatment centers at the Bringing It All Back Home Project; whereas, the North Carolina Office of Youth Development reported that it costs in excess of ninety-five hundred dollars (\$9,500) to incarcerate one (1) child in a state training school for a period of one (1) year. What quantity of economic and human resources will continue to be lost because services children desperately need in order to be diverted from the juvenile court and/or correctional systems are not available to them.

Service Development

During the period August 1, 1973, through July 31, 1974, service development was the most important function of the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau. The YSB Staff worked diligently to assist the community and government to expedite the identification, development, and delivery of services needed by children in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, especially services related to diverting children from the juvenile justice system.

Accomplishments made by the Mecklenburg YSB in the area of service development during this period were:

1. Assisted the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau Advisory Board, a board which was comprised of representatives from most youth serving agencies in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, to formulate a resolution intended to expedite the identification, development, and delivery of services for children in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, particularly services related to diverting children from the juvenile justice system. This resolution was presented to and approved by the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners on March 18, 1974. (See Attachment F - Resolution).

Comment

This resolution called for the creation of the Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board. (See Attachment G - Membership List for the Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board.) This board was given the responsibility for identifying services needed by children in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, especially services related to diverting children from the juvenile court and correctional systems. It was also given the responsibility for mobilizing community support for the development of such services. The Mecklenburg YSAB recently appointed sixty-eight (68)

representatives of public and private youth serving agencies in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County to serve on legal, employment, educational, medical, social, recreational, and psychological service area committees of the Mecklenburg Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee. (See Attachment H - Membership List for the Mecklenburg Youth Services Professional Committee.) Each service area committee is responsible for assisting the Mecklenburg YSAB to identify services needed by children in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

By or before February 15, 1975, the Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board will present to the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners a 1974-75 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Services Plan. This plan will include, as a minimum, the following information:

- a. A description of the specific services identified by the service area committees of the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee as being needed by children in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.
- b. A description of the nature and scope of the problems which the identified services will remediate.
- c. A list of measureable objectives which must be achieved in order for each service identified as needed to be considered successfully implemented.
- d. A description of the methods and procedures which will be employed in order to achieve the measureable objectives established for each proposed service.
- e. An evaluation design which will describe the procedures to be used to measure progress being made toward the achievement of measureable objectives set for the service programs.
- f. A projected-line item budget and budget narrative for each proposed service.

- g. A recommendation as to what agency or agencies should administer each service program and a recommendation as to what sources might be used to finance the proposed services.
- h. A priority listing for the proposed services, with priorities given to those services which could be most instrumental in diverting children from the juvenile court and correctional systems.

The combined resources of the Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board, service area committees of the Mecklenburg Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee, and the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau will be utilized to develop this youth services plan. (See Attachment I - Timetable for Tasks Relating to the Development of the 1974-75 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Services Plan to be Completed by the Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board.)

(See Attachment J - Timetable for Tasks Relating to the Development of the 1974-75 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Services Plan to be Completed by the Mecklenburg Youth Services Professional Committee.)

(See Attachment K - Timetable for Tasks Relating to the Development of the 1974-75 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Services Plan to be Completed by the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau.)

2. Developed a comprehensive youth services inventory entitled An Inventory of Services Provided by Public and Private Agencies in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County for Youth Six (6) Through Seventeen (17) Years of Age: A Referral Guide for Those Who Care About Children. Approximately twelve hundred (1,200) copies of this document were distributed throughout the community.

Comment

This youth services inventory was developed in order to determine what services were available for children in Charlotte and Mecklenburg

County and to facilitate youth serving agency personnel referring children to needed services.

Information pertaining to each agency listed in the inventory was as follows:

- a. Primary agency goals.
- b. Specific services offered to children six (6) through seventeen (17) years of age.
- c. Specific children served.
- d. Major referral sources.
- e. Primary agencies to which clients are referred.
- f. Procedures a child must follow in order to gain access to agency's services.

(Refer to Attachment L - The Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau.)

Splendid cooperation was received from personnel at all youth serving agencies included in this inventory.

3. Coordinated the YSB Volunteer Program in an effort to provide a broader range of services to children served by the YSB. A recent modification in this program by Mr. Elwyn McSwain, YSB Service Development Coordinator, resulted in an increased number of services provided by YSB Volunteers. It is believed that this trend will continue. (See Attachment M - Mecklenburg YSB Volunteer Membership Form.)
4. Recently, the YSB Staff requested staff members at Family and Children's Services and the Mental Health Center to appoint a person from each of their agencies to serve as a liaison with the YSB. The rationale for these requests was to make their treatment services more accessible to YSB clients and their parents. Personnel at both these agencies, particularly Mr. Don Frasier of Family and Children's Services and Mr. John Ellis of the Mental Health Center, have been very cooperative in this venture to make their treatment services more accessible to those who normally would not be receptive to receiving such services.
5. Upon a request from the YSB Staff, Ms. Phyliss Bare and Mr. Pete Couchell, staff members at Family and Children's Services, con-

ducted a group counseling program for parents of children served by the YSB. These services were offered in the evening in order that they could be more accessible to those parents served by the program.

6. Educational services were contracted from the College of Human Development and Learning at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte for forty-two (42) children. Measureable objectives set for this educational program were to increase each child's school attendance and school achievement levels in reading, spelling, and arithmetic. (See Attachment N - A Report on Educational Services contracted from the College of Human Development and Learning at UNCC for children served by the YSB.)

Comment

Most children who participated in this program were either chronic truants and/or had consistently exhibited inappropriate behavior at school. Some of these children were on the verge of becoming involved with the juvenile court and/or correctional systems for exhibiting these behaviors.

7. In accordance with the YSB philosophy of utilizing the resources of existing youth serving agencies to the maximum extent possible, the YSB requested Mrs. Billie Clark, Clinical Psychologist at the Mecklenburg County Juvenile Diagnostic Center, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg school personnel, to provide the YSB Staff with information relating to certain children's intellectual functioning, school achievement levels in reading, spelling, and arithmetic, and visual motor efficiency.

Comment

These persons administered appropriate testing instruments to seventy-three (73) YSB clients. Results of tests administered to these children indicated that forty-six (46) or sixty-three percent (63%) of these seventy-three (73) children read at least two (2) years below their grade level.

8. Optometrical services were contracted from Dr. Olee Olsen for children served by the YSB who were identified by the Clinical Psychologist at the Mecklenburg County Juvenile Diagnostic Center or a Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Psychologist as possibly having a visual motor problem.

Comment

Twenty-two (22) or thirty percent (30%) of the seventy-three (73) YSB clients who were administered tests by psychologists at the Mecklenburg County Juvenile Diagnostic Center and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools were identified as possibly having a visual motor problem which could adversely affect his or her academic performance in school.

9. Psychiatric services were contracted from Dr. Douglas Powers, a child psychiatrist. Three (3) YSB clients were referred to Dr. Powers. Generally only children who were exhibiting extreme self-destructive behavior (i.e. attempted suicide) were referred to this service.
10. Upon a request from the Mecklenburg YSB Staff, Dr. Peter LaMal, Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, developed a "Behavior Improvement Consultant Training Program," which was designed to provide youth serving agency personnel and others with specific skills and procedures they might utilize to improve the behavior of children they serve. This course will be offered through the Institute of Urban Studies and Community Service at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. It will begin November 5, 1974.
11. The Mecklenburg YSB and the Institute of Urban Studies and Community Service jointly sponsored a workshop designed to provide youth serving agency personnel with specific skills and procedures they might use to improve the behavior of children they serve. Dr. Gary Timbers, Dr. Karen Maloney, and Dr. Dennis Maloney, the administrative staff of the "Bringing It All Back Home Project" being operated at the Western Carolina Center in Morganton, North Carolina, conducted this intensive six (6) hour workshop on September 20, 1974. Sixty-three (63) youth serving agency personnel attended this workshop.
12. The Director of the Mecklenburg YSB has been working closely with members of the North Carolina Legislature in an effort to encourage them to develop and support legislation which would enable children, especially juvenile status offenders, to be diverted from the juvenile court and correctional systems to services they need. It is expected that this type of legislation will be introduced during the 1975 legislative session.

(See Attachment O - A Legislative Proposal Relating to the "Undisciplined Child.")

(See Attachment P - A Legislative Proposal Designed to Divert Noncriminal Children from the Juvenile Justice System to Services They Need.

13. The Mecklenburg YSB Staff conducted a course for both parents of YSB clients and parents of children who were involved with the juvenile court. This parent training course was designed to provide parents with specific skills and procedures they could use to improve the behavior of their children. Central Piedmont Community College officials furnished the YSB Staff with a classroom to offer this much needed service.

Comment

In the immediate future, the Mecklenburg YSB Staff plans to develop a "model" parent training program which might be utilized by youth serving agency personnel throughout Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, particularly school counselors and juvenile court counselors, to better serve parents of children who are exhibiting ineffective behavior in their homes, schools, or communities.

14. During the period August 1, 1973, through July 31, 1974, members of the YSB Staff spoke to many groups in the community in order to apprise them about progress being made by this agency to both divert children from the juvenile court and correctional systems to services they needed and to promote community responsibility for the identification, development, and delivery of services needed by children in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Some of these groups included:
 - a. Junior League of Women
 - b. Juvenile Justice Committee of the League of Women Voters
 - c. Parent Act
 - d. Annual Diocesan Conference; Catholic Youth Organization
 - e. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Junior High School Principals
 - f. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Elementary School Principals
 - g. Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Social Workers
 - h. Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Psychologists
 - i. Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Counselors

- j. Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board
 - k. Staff of the Bethlehem Center
 - l. Starmount Neighborhood Club
 - m. Fidelis Club
 - n. Women's Club of the Hickory Grove United Methodist Church
 - o. Junior High School Class of Charlotte Country Day School
 - p. Charlotte Eastern Lions Club
 - q. Charlotte Western Lions Club
 - r. Matthews Lions Club
 - s. West Charlotte Rotary Club
 - t. National Conference of Christians and Jews
 - u. Social Services Board
 - v. Mecklenburg Jaycees
 - w. Masonic Fellowship Club
 - x. Group at Sharon Presbyterian Church
 - y. Mecklenburg Chapter of American Business Women
 - z. Parents Without Partners
 - aa. Group at Pilgrim United Methodist Church
 - bb. Youth Group at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church
 - cc. Men's Club at Back Creek Presbyterian Church
 - dd. Staff Meeting of Caseworkers in the Aid to Families With Dependent Children Division of the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services
 - ee. Staff Meeting of Caseworkers in the Child Welfare Division of the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services
 - ff. Men's Club at Christ United Methodist Church
 - gg. Meeting of the North Carolina Juvenile Correctional Association
 - hh. Classes at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte
 - ii. Classes at Johnson C. Smith University
 - jj. Panel Member in a Conference on "The North Carolina Child In Trouble." This conference was sponsored by the League of Women Voters
 - kk. Radio Talk Show
 - ll. Television Talk Show (Inquiry)
15. In June, 1973, Mecklenburg County was named the winner of four New County Achievement Awards in national competition sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACO). One of these awards was for the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau.

GOALS OF THE MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU
FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 1, 1974, THROUGH JUNE 30, 1975

1. To offer services to a minimum of three hundred and fifty (350) children who are presently involved or are on the verge of becoming involved with the juvenile court and/or correctional systems. Services offered by the YSB Staff could include immediate referral to another youth serving agency, intensive counseling and casework services provided by the YSB Staff, or referral to the YSB parent training program.
2. To increase the number of referrals to the YSB from police and juvenile court intake counselors in order that the YSB Staff will have an opportunity to assist children prior to an undisciplined or delinquent petition being signed against them.
3. To play a role in diverting a minimum of eighty-five percent (85%) of all children referred to the YSB from the juvenile court and/or correctional systems to services they need.
4. To provide excellent assistance to the Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board and Service Area Committees of the Mecklenburg Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee in their efforts both to formulate the 1974-75 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Services Plan and

mobilize community support for the development of services identified in the plan.

5. To develop a 1975-76 comprehensive inventory of all services provided by public and private agencies in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County for children six (6) through seventeen (17) years of age.
6. To coordinate an efficacious volunteer program which will provide a broad range of supportive services to YSB clients.
7. To establish liaisons between other youth serving agencies and the YSB for the purpose of making services of these agencies more accessible to YSB clients and their parents.
8. To request personnel at other youth serving agencies, when appropriate, to develop special programs which will better meet the needs of YSB clients and their parents.
9. To purchase services, when necessary, that will augment the chances of children being diverted from the juvenile justice systems (i.e. educational services for chronic truants).
10. To continue to maximize the utilization of existing youth services by referring children to youth serving agencies as quickly as is possible and by making sure YSB intake procedures are designed to insure that referral sources utilize the resources, when possible, of other youth serving agencies prior to their referring a child to the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau.

11. To sponsor workshops planned to transmit skills and procedures to youth serving agency personnel which they might use to serve children, parents, and teachers with increased effectiveness.
12. To continue to encourage state legislators to develop and support legislation which has as its intent the diversion of children from the juvenile justice system and the development of needed services for those children who are both outside and inside the juvenile justice system.
13. To develop "model" parent, teacher, and child training courses which are designed to teach each of these groups specific skills and procedures which they can use to improve the behavioral responses of persons in their natural environment.
14. To disseminate reliable information to the community and government about children served by the YSB and the progress the YSB is making toward the achievement of its stated measureable objectives.

CONCLUSION

Since November, 1971, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners has given excellent support to the development and implementation of a youth services bureau in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Information contained in this document should offer one an opportunity to determine how effective the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau has been in terms of achieving its stated measurable objectives. Readers of this report will also be given a chance to become familiar with the conceptual framework used to develop and implement this unique youth services bureau model and be apprised of future goals for the Mecklenburg YSB.

Finally, it is strongly emphasized that no one agency or individual is capable of developing an effective system of youth services which will be instrumental in diverting a substantial number of children from the juvenile justice system. This can only be accomplished through the joint efforts of government, juvenile court personnel, police, public and private youth serving agency personnel, school personnel, and the general public. The Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau has received outstanding support from these groups. With their continued backing, it is expected that Charlotte and Mecklenburg County will develop an extremely effective system of services for children, particularly services related to diverting children

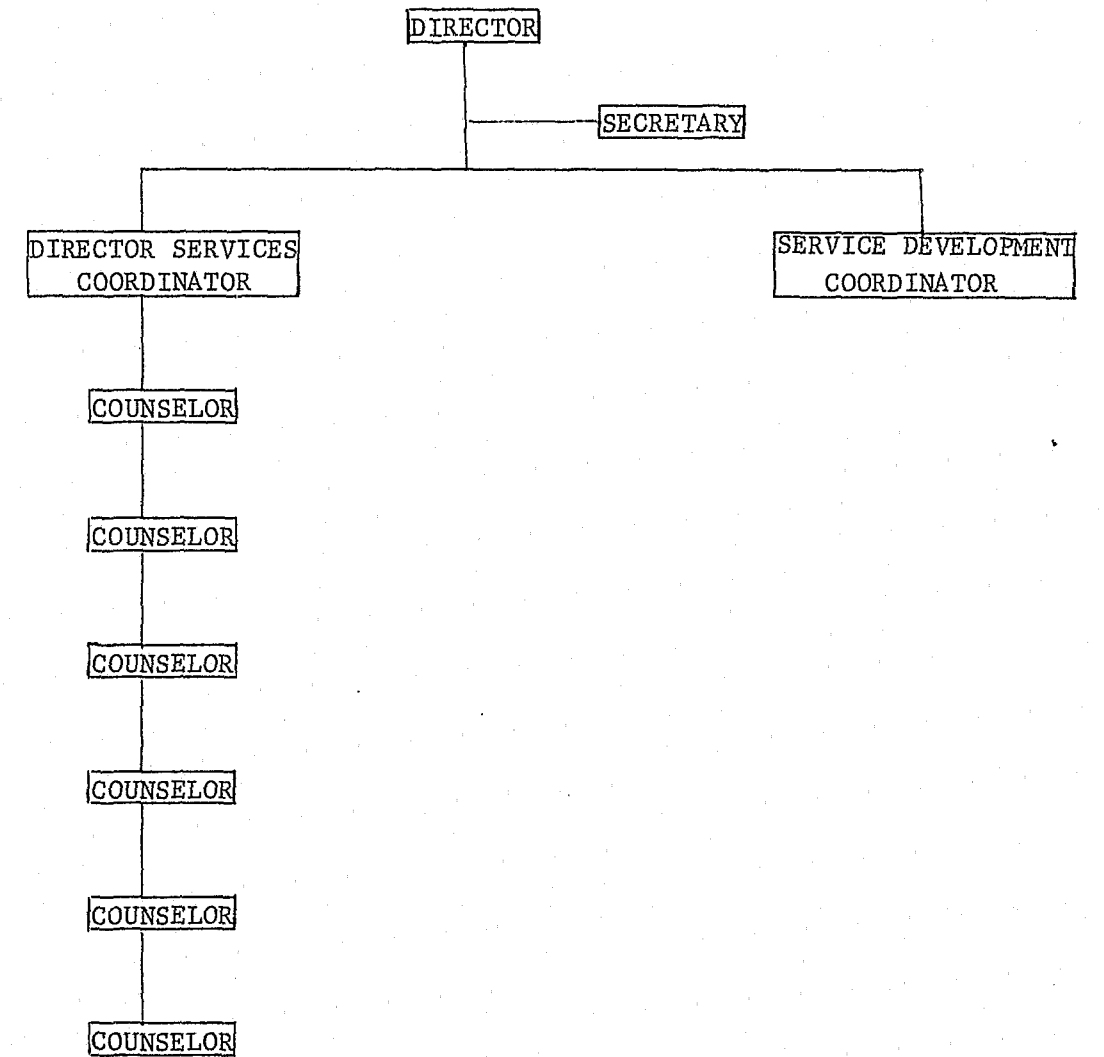
from the juvenile justice system. If this expectation is realized, a significant quantity of human and economic resources should be saved.

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ATTACHMENT A

MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU
STAFF ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ATTACHMENT B

MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU
DIRECT SERVICES COORDINATOR
MONTHLY REPORT FORM

Month: _____ Beginning Date: _____ Ending Date: _____

I. Total number of referrals to the YSB: (Actual Interviews) _____

a. Number of referrals who accepted YSB intensive services: _____

b. Number of referrals who were not provided YSB intensive services, but whose parents indicated willingness to participate in the YSB Parent Training Program: _____

c. Number of referrals who were provided YSB intensive services, but whose parents did not indicate willingness to participate in the YSB Parent Training Program: _____

d. Number of referrals who were provided YSB intensive services and whose parents indicated willingness to participate in the YSB Parent Training Program: _____

e. Number of parents to whom YSB Parent Training Services were delivered: _____

f. Number of referrals who were not provided YSB intensive services, nor their parents provided Parent Training, but who were given some suggestions during intake which they wanted to try themselves: _____

g. Number of referrals who were referred to another agency for service as a result of the intake contact:

Agency	Agency
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

h. Number of referrals who refused YSB intensive services: _____

i. Number of parents of referrals who decided to sign a petition against their child rather than use the YSB intensive services or any other suggested services: _____

II. Number of telephone contacts who were not given an intake appointment, but who were offered assistance in the form of referral to some appropriate existing service and/or verbal suggestions which they might want to implement:

Agency	Agency
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

III. Referral Sources

a. Police:

Officer	Officer
1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10. _____

b. Juvenile Court Intake Counselors: _____

c. Juvenile Court Counselors: _____

d. Parents: _____

e. Social Services Agencies:

Agency	Agency
1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10. _____

f. Youth Walk-Ins: _____

g. Schools:

a. Principals	b. Counselors
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____
8. _____	8. _____
9. _____	9. _____
10. _____	10. _____

c. Psychologists

d. Social Workers

1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____
8. _____	8. _____
9. _____	9. _____
10. _____	10. _____

IV. Number of undisciplined petitions signed in Mecklenburg County during the month: _____ Truancy _____ Other Undisciplined Acts _____

V. Number of delinquent petitions signed in Mecklenburg County during the month: _____

VI. Current YSB Client Data

a. Number of YSB clients who had a petition signed against them during the month.
1. undisciplined petition: _____
2. delinquent petition: _____

Client's name	Counselor's name
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

Client's name	Counselor's name
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____

b. Number of YSB clients who were incarcerated in a state training school during the month.

1. Undisciplined petition: _____

2. Delinquent petition: _____

Client's name	Counselor's name
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

c. Number of agencies or services to which YSB clients were referred during the month which were utilized by them.

Agency	Child	Counselor
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____

Agency	Child	Counselor
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____
13. _____	_____	_____
14. _____	_____	_____
15. _____	_____	_____
16. _____	_____	_____
17. _____	_____	_____
18. _____	_____	_____
19. _____	_____	_____
20. _____	_____	_____
21. _____	_____	_____
22. _____	_____	_____
23. _____	_____	_____
24. _____	_____	_____
25. _____	_____	_____
26. _____	_____	_____
27. _____	_____	_____
28. _____	_____	_____
29. _____	_____	_____
30. _____	_____	_____

Agency	Child	Counselor
31. _____	_____	_____
32. _____	_____	_____
33. _____	_____	_____
34. _____	_____	_____
35. _____	_____	_____
36. _____	_____	_____
37. _____	_____	_____
38. _____	_____	_____
39. _____	_____	_____
40. _____	_____	_____

d. Number of agencies or services to which parents of YSB clients were referred which were not utilized by them.

Agency	Child	Counselor
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____

Agency	Child	Counselor
12. _____	_____	_____
13. _____	_____	_____
14. _____	_____	_____
15. _____	_____	_____
16. _____	_____	_____
17. _____	_____	_____
18. _____	_____	_____
19. _____	_____	_____
20. _____	_____	_____

e. Number of YSB clients referred to YSB agency liaison persons.

1. Family and Children's Services:

Client	Counselor
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____

2. Mental Health Center

Client	Counselor
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____

f. Number of YSB clients referred to schools for testing:

Client	Counselor
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____

g. Number of YSB clients referred to the YSB consulting optometrist for testing:

Client	Counselor
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____

h. Number of YSB clients referred to the Mecklenburg County Juvenile Diagnostic Center Psychologist for testing:

Client	Counselor
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____

VII. Former YSB Client Data

a. Number of former YSB clients who had a petition signed against them during the month:

- 1. undisciplined petition: _____
- 2. delinquent petition: _____

Client's Name	Counselor's Name
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____
11. _____	_____
12. _____	_____
13. _____	_____
14. _____	_____
15. _____	_____
16. _____	_____
17. _____	_____
18. _____	_____
19. _____	_____
20. _____	_____

b. Number of former YSB clients incarcerated in a state training school during the month:

- 1. undisciplined petition: _____
- 2. delinquent petition: _____

Client's Name	Counselor's Name
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____
11. _____	_____
12. _____	_____
13. _____	_____
14. _____	_____
15. _____	_____
16. _____	_____
17. _____	_____
18. _____	_____
19. _____	_____
20. _____	_____

ATTACHMENT C

MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU
SERVICE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
MONTHLY REPORT FORM: _____
Month

Volunteer Data

No. volunteers recruited during this month. _____
Total no. volunteers. _____
Total no. volunteers offering services. _____
Total no. volunteers services provided. _____
(SPECIFY KINDS OF SERVICES OFFERED THIS MONTH.)

Youth Services System Data

Youth Services Action Board

Specify tasks assigned by Director relating to YSAB.
Indicate dates tasks assigned and dates tasks completed.

Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee

Specify tasks assigned by YSB director relating to YSPAC.
Indicate dates tasks assigned and dates completed.

Inservice Training Data

No. parent training sessions¹ conducted # _____
No. teacher training sessions conducted # _____
No. child training sessions conducted # _____
No. youth-serving agency training sessions conducted # _____
No. YSB staff inservice training sessions conducted # _____
No. YSB staff meetings conducted # _____

General Data

No. meetings with other youth-serving agency personnel, etc.
_____ Specify dates meetings occurred, persons met
with, and purposes for meetings.

¹ Session is defined as one class period.

No. speaking engagements # _____ Specify dates, and
number of persons present in each group spoken to _____

State topic discussed.

Indicate specific tasks assigned to you this month, excluding those
already specified on this form. Include dates tasks assigned and
dates tasks completed.

State specific procedures you would recommend we follow in order to
improve the YSB service development component.

ATTACHMENT D

A BEHAVIORAL EVALUATION REPORT
ACCOMPLISHED BY THE
MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU STAFF

General Statement

The YSB Staff strongly recommends that school personnel, social service agency personnel, and juvenile court personnel involved with this child read this CONFIDENTIAL report in its ENTIRETY.

General Information

Name of child: _____
Age: _____ Birthdate: _____ Sex: _____ Race: _____
Address: _____ Telephone: _____
Referral Source: _____ Date of Referral: _____
Legal Status: _____
Behavioral Classification: _____
YSB Counselor: _____
Date of first counselor contact: _____
Date of termination of YSB involvement: _____

Persons in Home

Mother: _____ Place of Employment: _____
Business Phone: _____ Hours: _____ Days off: _____
Father: _____ Place of Employment: _____
Business Phone: _____ Hours: _____ Days off: _____

Siblings and Ages:

Brothers: _____

Sisters: _____

Others	Age	Relationship
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Immediate Relatives Not In The Home	Relationship	Place of Employment	Telephone
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

School: _____ Grade Level: _____

School Contacts: _____

School attendance before YSB participation: _____ %

Other services child is currently involved with or had prior involvement:

Service	Dates of Involvement	Contact Person
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Scores:

WRAT: Reading: _____ Spelling _____ Arithmetic _____
(Achievement Test)

WISC: _____
(Intelligence Test)

Bender Gestalt Test: _____
(Perceptual Test)

Behaviors Which Mediators Desire Target to Increase or Decrease:

Behaviors Desired Increased:

Mediator: _____ Target: _____

Mediator: _____ Target: _____

Mediator: _____ Target: _____

Mediator: _____ Target: _____

Behaviors Desired Decreased:

Mediator: _____ Target: _____

Mediator: _____ Target: _____

Mediator: _____ Target: _____

Mediator: _____ Target: _____

Mediator refers to anyone who possesses target's reinforcers, etc., and who can place reinforcers on contingency. (Parent, teacher, child, etc.)

Target refers to anyone who is exhibiting an undesirable behavior.

Additional Information:

Target:

Mediator:

Pinpointed Behavior:

(Un)Desirable Competing Behavior:

Antecedents to Behavior (Events or situation immediately prior to the occurrence of behavior)
(Refer to Skill Deficiencies and to Environmental Factors)

Home:

School:

Community:

Consequence of Behavior (Positive and negative events following the occurrence of behavior)

Home:

School:

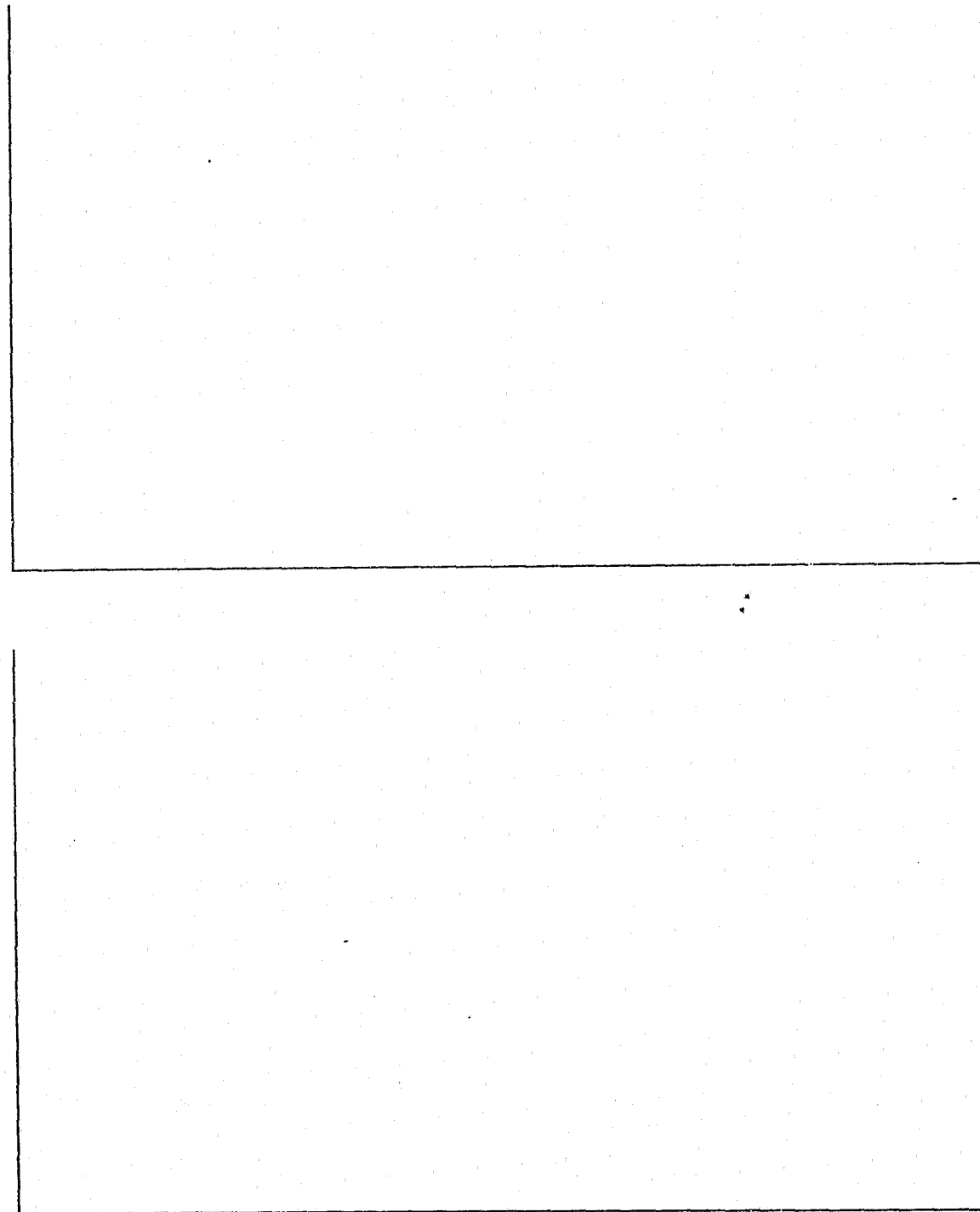
Community:

Change Procedures Utilizing Specific Behavioral Principles
(Refer to Listing of Social and Non-Social Reinforcers)

Results: (Specific Increase or Decrease in Behavior)
(Refer to Behavior Chart)

Results:

BEHAVIOR CHART



Change Procedures Involving Referral to Other Community Services:

Results:

Skill Deficiencies:

Academic:

Social:

Other:

Environmental Factors:

Home:

School:

Community:

Specific Services Needed by Child and/or Family, But Which Were Unavailable Within Their Community:

Diagnosis of Specific Factors Directly Related To Child's Behavior

"A person's behavior is inadequate or deficient in reference to some specific task or situation. Inadequacy of behavior therefore relates both to the available skills possessed by an individual and also to the complexity and demands of the situation (environment) in which he has to function." (Stumphauer, 1973, Behavior Therapy With Delinquents)

Skill Deficiencies Which Influenced Child's Behavior

Academic:

Social:

Other:

Environmental Factors Which Supported Child's Undesirable Behavior Or Reduced The Likelihood The Child Would Perform Desirable Behavior

Home:

School:

Community:

Social and Non-Social Reinforcers Which Might Be Used By Mediators To Influence The Behavior Of Targets

REINFORCERS IDENTIFIED BY POTENTIAL TARGETS

	Child	Parent	Teacher	Other
Social Reinforcers				
Non-Social Reinforcers				

Youth Services To Which Child Was Referred In Order To Remediate Skill
Deficiencies

Referral and Date:

Youth Services To Which Child Was Referred In Order To Influence
Environmental Factors In His Natural Environment

Referral and Date:

Services Needed by Child and/or Family but Which Were Unavailable To
Them Within Their Community

Comments on Interpersonal Contact with Child and/or Parents and/or Teachers During Child's Participation with the Mecklenburg YSB

Relationship:

Positive and/or Negative Changes:

Significant Events:

Direct Services Delivered To Child, Parents, and Teachers by the YSB Staff

No. Counseling Sessions Delivered to Child: _____

No. Home Visitations¹ Made by Counselor: _____

No. School Visitations² Made by Counselor: _____

No. Telephone calls Made By Counselor To Child, Parents, or other Agencies: _____

Services To Which Child and/or Parent Was Referred By YSB Counselor and Which Were Utilized By Them: _____

Services To Which Child and/or Parent was Referred By YSB Counselor and Which Were Not Utilized By Them: _____

¹ A Home Visitation would occur when a YSB Counselor visits a child's home and confers with the child's parents about the child.

² A School Visitation would occur when a YSB Counselor visits a child's school and confers with school personnel about the child.

YSB Volunteer Services Received By Child: _____

No. of Weeks Child Participated With YSB: _____

Recommendation

Specific actions recommended by the YSB Staff and rationales for these proposed actions are:

Action:

Rationale:

Action:

Rationale:

Action:

Rationale:

Date YSB Services Officially Terminated to Child: _____

Today's Date: _____

Counselor: _____

Direct Services Coordinator: _____

Director: _____

ATTACHMENT E

MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU PARTICIPANT DATA FORM

PERSONAL

Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____ Race: _____

ACADEMIC

School: _____ Grade Level: _____
WRAT Scores: Reading: _____ Spelling: _____ Arithmetic: _____
(Achievement Test)
WISC Scores: Verbal: _____ Performance: _____ Total: _____
(Intelligence Test)
BENDER GESTALT TEST Scores: _____
(Perceptual Test)

HOME

Parents in Home: (Names) _____
*Type of Supervision by Parents: _____
Consistent ; Inconsistent
*Degree of Conflict in Home: _____
High Non High

JUVENILE COURT

Legal Status: _____
*Behavioral Classification: _____
Referral Source(s): _____

*Refer to List of Definitions Attached

YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

YSB Counselor(s): _____
Date Accepted: _____ Date Terminated: _____
No. Weeks Participated: _____
Services to Which Client was Referred: _____

% Of Time Participant Attended School Before Involvement with YSB: _____ %
Days
% Of Time Participant Attended School During Involvement with YSB: _____ %
Days
% Of Time Participant Refrained From Being Sent to School Office for
Disciplinary Reasons During Involvement with YSB: _____
% Of Time Participant Came Home at a Time Designated by His or Her
Parents During Involvement with YSB: _____
% Of Time Participant Attended Counseling Sessions During Involvement
with YSB: _____

If Pre-adjudicated, Did Child Become Involved With The Juvenile Court
During or After YSB Participation For Committing an Undisciplined or
Delinquent Act? Yes _____ No _____ Comments: _____

If Pre-adjudicated, Did Child Become Involved With The Juvenile Correctional
System During or After YSB Participation for Committing an Undisciplined or
Delinquent Act? Yes _____ No _____ Comments: _____

If Adjudicated, Did Child Become Involved With the Juvenile Correctional
System During or After YSB Participation for Committing an Undisciplined
or Delinquent Act? Yes _____ No _____ Comments: _____

DEFINITIONS

*Type of Supervision By Parents

Consistent Supervision: A child would be exposed to consistent supervision if the adults in his home setting, who were legally responsible for him, were aware of his daily activities on a continuous basis.

Inconsistent Supervision: A child would be exposed to inconsistent supervision if the adults in his home setting, who were legally responsible for him, were not aware of his daily activities on a continuous basis.

*Degree of Conflict in Home

Non High Conflict: This degree of conflict would exist in a home setting where the adults, legally responsible for a child, do not display either antagonistic, indifferent, or generally rejecting behaviors and attitudes toward the child.

High Conflict: This degree of conflict would exist in a home setting where the adults, legally responsible for a child, display either antagonistic, indifferent, or generally rejecting behaviors and attitudes toward the child.

*Behavioral Classifications

Truant: A child is truant if he is absent from school, without sufficient reason, in excess of thirty percent (30%) of the days school is in session. A child who is absent from school because he has run away from home, but who attends school regularly when he is at home would not be classified as a truant.

Ungovernable at School: A child is ungovernable at school if he is sent to the school office for disciplinary reasons that would constitute grounds upon which an "undisciplined" petition could be signed against him. (i.e. fighting)

Ungovernable at Home: A child is ungovernable at home if he exhibits that he is beyond the control of his parents by engaging in activities which have been both specifically forbidden by his parents and constitute grounds upon which an "undisciplined" petition could be signed against him. (i.e. coming in late hours or staying away from home overnight without the consent of his parents.)

Runaway: A child is a runaway if he leaves his home setting for an extended period of time (2 or 3 days) without the permission of his parents. Usually his parents or the police must apprehend him in order to return him to his home.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MECKLENBURG COUNTY
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28202

720 EAST FOURTH STREET

ATTACHMENT F

A RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE
MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ON MARCH 18, 1974

WHEREAS, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners is aware that at least forty percent (40%) of all children who become involved with the juvenile court and correctional systems could be diverted from these systems if services they desperately need were made available to them, and

WHEREAS, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners is deeply concerned that children, whenever possible, be diverted from the juvenile court and correctional systems to services they need, particularly children who do not constitute a danger to person or property and who have not committed an act that would be considered a crime if they were an adult, and

WHEREAS, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners is committed to assuring that needed services are identified, developed, and delivered for children in Mecklenburg County, particularly services which are related to diverting children from the juvenile justice system.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners create a Youth Services Action Board. The Youth Services Action Board shall:

1. Appoint a Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee. This Committee shall:
 - a. Identify services needed by children in Mecklenburg County, particularly services which enable children to be diverted from the juvenile justice system to services they need.
 - b. Seek to coordinate services offered by their respective agencies in an effort to both close gaps in services and prevent duplication of services for children.
 - c. Have no power to make binding policy decisions.
 - d. Establish a simple and brief, but specific set of by-laws which state the duties of Committee members and the procedures by which the Committee will transact business.
2. Advocate and encourage the implementation of services identified by the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee as being needed for children in Mecklenburg County. The Board will be especially concerned with mobilizing community support for the development of services which are related to diverting children from the juvenile court and correctional systems.
3. Submit a semiannual report to the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners documenting progress made by the Youth Services Board and Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee toward performing their stated function.
4. Have no power to make binding policy decisions.
5. Establish a simple and brief, but specific set of by-laws which state the duties of board members and the procedures by which the Board will transact business.

The Youth Services Action Board shall consist of not less than twelve (12) or more than fifteen (15) members to be chosen by the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners. A list of suggested nominees for the Youth Services Action Board will be submitted to the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners by the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau Advisory Board.

The Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee shall include, but not be limited to, representatives from the following youth serving agencies.

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. Juvenile Court | m. Charlotte Park and Recreation Commission |
| b. Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools | n. Salvation Army |
| c. Department of Social Services | o. Bethlehem Center |
| d. Mecklenburg County Mental Health Center | p. Self-Improvement Center |
| e. Family & Children's Services | q. Charlotte Drug Education Center |
| f. Police (Juvenile Officer) Mecklenburg County | r. N. C. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation |
| g. Juvenile Diagnostic Center | s. Charlotte Speech and Hearing Clinic |
| h. YMCA | t. Nevin's Center, Inc. |
| i. YWCA | u. Mecklenburg County Center for Human Development |
| j. Alexander Children's Center | v. Florence Crittenton Home |
| k. Episcopal Child Care Service Training Institution | w. Open House |
| l. Mecklenburg County Health Department | |

A list of suggested nominees for the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee will be submitted to the Youth Services Action Board by the Director of the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners request the Director of the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau to assist the Youth Services Action Board and the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee to perform their stated functions.

Specific functions the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau shall be requested to perform are:

1. Disseminate reliable information to the Mecklenburg Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee, and the Mecklenburg Youth Services Board, concerning services needed by children served by the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau.
2. Develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory, on an annual basis, of all services available in Mecklenburg County for children ages six (6) to seventeen (17) years of age.
3. Assist both the Committee and Board to transact business at their meetings by developing agenda for meetings, recording minutes of meetings, and supplying information to the Board and Committee about when meetings are to occur and what transpires at those meetings.
4. Assist the Committee and Board by gathering information and writing proposals when requested.

ATTACHMENT G

A MEMBERSHIP LIST OF THE
MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES ACTION BOARD

Mrs. Pat Delaney, Chairperson
4033 Beresford Road
Charlotte, NC 28211
Home Phone: 366-0134

Mr. James Richardson
1739 Northbrook Drive
Charlotte, NC 28216
Home Phone: 399-1555

Liaison Team to the
Social Services Committee

Mrs. Sanford Rosenthal
919 Colville Road
Charlotte, NC 28207
Home Phone: 375-1223

Dr. Mitchell Faulkner
Myers Park United
Methodist Church
1401 Queens Road
Charlotte, NC 28207
Phone: 376-8584
Home Phone: 334-1267

Liaison Team to the
Medical Services Committee

Mrs. Kenneth R. Harris
1901 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28211
Home Phone: 364-2532

Rev. J. A. Frieson
1016 Log Cabin Road
Charlotte, NC 28213
Home Phone: 596-6801

Liaison Team to the
Employment Services
Committee

Mr. William G. Robinson
720 Berkeley Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28203
Home Phone: 332-0902

Mrs. Sally Thomas
3001 Scarlet Circle
Charlotte, NC 28210
Home Phone: 588-2906

Liaison Team to
the Psychological
Services Committee

Mrs. Arthur F. Daniels
719 Jefferson Drive
Charlotte, NC 28211
Home Phone: 366-3251

Mr. John T. Staley, Jr.
Charlotte Police Dept.
825 East Fourth Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 374-2366
Home Phone: 399-3850

Liaison Team to
the Recreational
Services Committee

Mr. Richard Vinroot
2100 Beverly Drive
Charlotte, NC 28207
Phone: 375-5214
Home Phone: 377-2536

Mrs. Marsha Rash
1210 Coddington Place
Charlotte, NC 28211
Home Phone: 364-2692

Liaison Team to
the Educational
Services Committee

Mrs. Marilea Grogan
363 Ridgewood Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28209
Home Phone: 334-7085

Mr. Clifton Johnson
County Office Building
Third Floor
720 East Fourth Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 374-2866
Home Phone: 334-7085

Liaison Team to the
Legal Services Committee

Ms. Charlotte Hampton
2528 Tanglebrook Lane
Charlotte, NC 28216
Home Phone: 392-6064

ATTACHMENT H

A MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR THE SERVICE AREA COMMITTEES OF THE
MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Dr. Carleton Wadkins | Director, Mecklenburg County Center
for Human Development |
| 2. Dr. Jonnie McLeod | Director, Charlotte Drug Education
Center |
| 3. Dr. Maurice Kamp | Director, Mecklenburg County Health
Department |
| 4. Mr. Patrick Thompson | Director, Charlotte Rehabilitation
Hospital |
| 5. Mrs. Patsy Whitfield | Supervisor, Mecklenburg County Dept.
of Social Services - Family Plan-
ning Unit |
| 6. Mr. Jerald Allen | Director, Planned Parenthood of
Greater Charlotte, Inc. |
| 7. Mrs. Jane T. Wolfe | Director, Charlotte Memorial Hospital
Medical Social Service Department |
| 8. Dr. Olee Olsen | Consulting Optometrist, Mecklenburg
Youth Services Bureau |
| 9. Mr. John Allen | Director, Open House, Inc. |

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Mr. James Russell | Director, Self-Improvement Center |
| 2. Mr. Bruce Hooton | Director, Job Corps |
| 3. Mrs. Shannon Andrews | Assistant Director, Employment
Security Commission |
| 4. Mr. Joe Champion | Director, Charlotte-Mecklenburg School
Guidance Services |
| 5. Mr. Gerald Harvey | Director, Myers Street Trainably
Mentally Retarded Center |
| 6. Mrs. Linda Walker | Counselor, Division of Vocational
Rehabilitation |
| 7. Mr. William J. Massey | Director, Nevins Center, Inc. |
| 8. Mr. John McCall | Director, Inter-Agency Youth Center of
the Charlotte Area Fund |

CONTINUED

1 OF 2

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------|---|
| 9. | Mr. Les Easterling | Director, Goodwill Industries of
Charlotte |
| 10. | Mrs. Marlana Ray | Director, Neighborhood Youth Corps |

LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|---|
| 1. | Mr. Terry Roche | Director, Legal Aid Society of
Mecklenburg County |
| 2. | Mr. Sam Killman | Major, Charlotte Police Department |
| 3. | Mr. Robert Dixon | Assistant Chief, Mecklenburg County
Police Department |
| 4. | Mr. Larry Black | District Court Judge |
| 5. | Mr. Eugene Deal | Chief Court Counselor, District Court
Counselor Services |
| 6. | Mr. R. C. Eidson | Captain, Charlotte Police Department |
| 7. | Mr. Don Frasier | Social Worker, Family and Children's
Services |
| 8. | Ms. Mozzelle DePass | Social Worker, Protective Services,
Child Welfare Division, Mecklenburg
County Dept. of Social Services |
| 9. | Mr. William Diehl | Attorney |
| 10. | Mr. D. R. Stone | Major, Charlotte Police Department |

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|--|
| 1. | Dr. Wade Williams | Clinical Services Director, Mecklenburg
County Center for Human Development |
| 2. | Mr. Peter Bishop | Psychologist, Mecklenburg County Mental
Health Center |
| 3. | Dr. Gordon Rettke | Director, School Psychological Services |
| 4. | Mr. Ed Nadelman | Director, Family and Children's Services |
| 5. | Mr. John Baughman | Director, Alexander Children's Center |
| 6. | Dr. Douglas Powers | Mecklenburg County Mental Health Center,
Consulting Child Psychiatrist |
| 7. | Mrs. Gwen Kellerman | Director, Mental Health Association
of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County |
| 8. | Mrs. Billie Clark | Clinical Psychologist, Mecklenburg
County Juvenile Diagnostic |

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|
| 1. | Mr. John Shope | Director, Mecklenburg County Juvenile
Diagnostic Center |
| 2. | Mrs. Bobbie Toatley | Director, School Social Work, Charlotte-
Mecklenburg Schools |

3. Mr. Ed Chapin Director, Mecklenburg County Dept. of Social Services
4. Mr. Ken Sipes Director, Florence Crittendon Services
5. Mrs. Lucy Gist Director, Bethlehem Center
6. Mrs. Thelma Kelier Director of Social Welfare, Salvation Army
7. Mr. Robert Noble Director, Episcopal Child Care Society
8. Mrs. Kathleen Hasty Director, The Children's Home Society of North Carolina, Inc.
9. Mrs. Irene Millroy Director, Contact Telephone Counseling Service
10. Mr. James Burge Counselor, Pines - Rehabilitation Home
11. Rev. Thomas Clements Director, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC, Inc.
12. Mr. Buck Winfield Director, The Relatives

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

1. Dr. Les Bobbitt Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Pupil Support Department, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
2. Dr. O. W. Bidgood Principal, Street Academy
3. Mr. James Emerson Principal, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Evening Optional School
4. Mr. Donald Bynum Director, Charlotte Speech and Hearing Center
5. Mrs. Carolyn Bender Director, Learning Disabilities, Euclid Learning Development Center
6. Ms. Phyliss Lynch Director, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council, Inc.
7. Mrs. Hellena Tidwell Director, Upward Bound, Johnson C. Smith University
8. Ms. Julia Ross Director, Teen-Age Parents Services
9. Mr. Arial Stephens Director, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County
10. Mrs. June Wright Slider Director, Learning Development Foundation, Inc.
11. Mrs. Sadie Grigg Director, Charlotte Day Nursery
12. Mrs. Aurelia Macomson Director, Mecklenburg County Association for Retarded Children, Inc.

RECREATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

1. Mr. Tom Moore Director, Charlotte Parks and Recreation Department
2. Mrs. Micki Riddick Director, YWCA
3. Mr. George Creswell Director, YMCA

4. Mr. Douglas Cofield Director, Mecklenburg County Council-Boy Scouts of America
5. Mrs. Carolyn Dykstra Director, Hornet's Nest Girl Scout Council, Inc.
6. Mr. Roy Alexander Director, Mecklenburg 4-H and Youth Office
7. Mr. Cleve K. Scarbrough Director, Mint Museum of Art
8. Mr. Russell I. Peithman Director, Charlotte Nature Museum
9. Mrs. Ruth Lehman Director, Greater Carolinas Chapter-American Red Cross Youth Services Program
10. Mrs. Kitty Huffman Director, National Conference of Christians and Jews
11. Mr. Charles Cross Director, Charlotte Neighborhood Centers Department
12. Mr. George Michie Director, Big Brothers Association of Charlotte

Note: Youth, some who have been involved in the juvenile justice system, attend meetings of service area committees and have an opportunity to transmit their ideas verbally about needed youth services. All youths who reside in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are encouraged to submit youth service proposals to the Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board. Services identified in these proposals will be considered for inclusion in the 1974-75 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Services Plan.

ATTACHMENT I

TIMETABLE FOR TASKS RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES PLAN TO BE COMPLETED
BY THE MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES ACTION BOARD

Assigned Tasks and Dates These Assigned Tasks are to be Completed

1. By or before August 13, 1974, legal, educational, employment, social, recreational, psychological, and medical service area committees of the Mecklenburg Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Youth Services Action Board.

2. By or before August 13, 1974, the Youth Services Action Board shall appoint seven (7) two-member Youth Services Action Board liaison teams to work with the seven (7) service area committees of the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee.

3. By or before September 1, 1974, the Youth Services Action Board shall provide all members of the service area committees of the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee with information relating to what specific tasks they will be expected to accomplish relating to the development of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Services Plan. The dates on which these assigned tasks are expected to be achieved will also be stated.

4. By or before September 3, 1974, bylaws for the Youth Services Action Board shall be approved by the Youth Services Action Board.

5. By or before September 15, 1974, service area committees of the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee shall be convened by the Youth Services Action Board liaison teams assigned to respective service area committees.

6. By or before November 1, 1974, the chairperson of the Youth Services Action Board shall appoint a committee from the Youth Services Action Board to develop a plan to mobilize community support for the development and implementation of services identified in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Services Plan.

7. By or before February 15, 1975, the Youth Services Action Board shall approve a plan to be followed by the Youth Services Action Board in

its efforts to mobilize community support for the development and implementation of the services identified in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Services Plan.

8. By or before February 15, 1975, the Youth Services Action Board shall submit the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Services Plan to the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Services Plan shall include, as a minimum, the following:

- a. A description of the specific services identified by the service area committees of the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee as being needed by children in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.
- b. A description of the nature and scope of the problems which the identified services will remediate.
- c. A list of measureable objectives which must be achieved in order for each service identified as needed to be considered successfully implemented.
- d. A description of the methods and procedures which will be employed in order to achieve the measureable objectives established for each proposed service.
- e. An evaluation design which will describe the procedures to be used to measure progress being made toward the achievement of measureable objectives set for the service programs.
- f. A projected-line item budget and budget narrative for each proposed service.
- g. A recommendation as to what agency or agencies should administer each service program and a recommendation as to what sources might be used to finance the proposed services.
- h. A priority listing for the proposed services, with priorities given to those services which could be most instrumental in diverting children from the juvenile court and correctional systems.

9. By or before March 1, 1975, the Youth Services Action Board shall submit a report to the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners documenting

progress made by the Youth Services Action Board and the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee toward achieving their stated functions.

COMMENT

At least one member of a Youth Services Action Board liaison team should attend all meetings held by the service area committees to which they have been assigned. Further, at each monthly meeting of the Youth Services Action Board, a member of the liaison team should be prepared to apprise the total membership of the Youth Services Action Board about the progress their service area committee is making toward completing its assigned tasks.

ATTACHMENT J

TIMETABLE FOR TASKS RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES PLAN TO BE COMPLETED
BY THE SERVICE AREA COMMITTEES OF THE MECKLENBURG
YOUTH SERVICES PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Assigned Tasks and Dates These Tasks are to be Completed

1. By or before September 15, 1974, each service area committee of the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee shall have been convened by the Youth Services Action Board liaison teams assigned to the service area committees. Immediately thereafter, service area committees shall begin considering youth service proposals referred to it by the chairperson of the Youth Services Action Board.

Comment

In order to insure that the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Services Plan shall include input from the total community and to make sure that the input forthcoming will provide service area committee members with information which will assist them to identify services needed by children, particularly services related to diverting children from the juvenile court and correctional systems, the following procedures shall be used to develop the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Services Plan.

1. Representatives from any agency, organization, or any private individual shall have an opportunity to submit youth service proposals to the chairperson of the Youth Services Action Board during the period of September 16, 1974, through November 20, 1974.

All persons who submit a Youth Service proposal to the Youth Services Action Board shall be provided an opportunity to discuss their proposal with the service area committee to which the proposal has been referred by the chairperson of the Youth Services Action Board.

2. By or before December 15, 1974, each service area committee of the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee shall submit a document to the Youth Services Action Board liaison team assigned to their committee. This document shall include, as a minimum, the following:
 - a. A description of the specific services identified by a service area committee as being needed by children in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.
 - b. A description of the nature and scope of the problems which the identified services will remediate.
 - c. A list of measureable objectives which must be achieved in order for each service identified as needed to be considered successfully implemented.
 - d. A description of the methods and procedures which will be employed in order to achieve the measureable objectives established for each proposed service.
 - e. An evaluation design which will describe the procedures to be used to measure progress being made toward the achievement of measureable objectives set for the service programs.
 - f. A projected-line item budget and budget narrative for each proposed service.
 - g. A recommendation as to what agency or agencies should administer the service program and a recommendation as to what sources might be used to finance the proposed service.
 - h. A priority listing for the proposed services, with priorities given to those services which could be most instrumental in diverting children from the juvenile court and correctional systems.

ATTACHMENT K

TIMETABLE FOR TASKS RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES PLAN TO BE COMPLETED
BY THE MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Assigned Tasks and Dates These Tasks are to be Completed

1. By or before August 1, 1974, the Youth Services Bureau shall provide the Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board with a comprehensive inventory of all educational, legal, employment, social, recreational, psychological, and medical services which are available in Mecklenburg County for children six (6) through seventeen (17) years of age.
2. By or before August 17, 1974, the Youth Services Bureau shall provide members of the Mecklenburg Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee with a comprehensive inventory of all educational, legal, employment, social, recreational, psychological, and medical services which are available in Mecklenburg County for children six (6) through seventeen (17) years of age.
3. Representatives from the YSB Staff shall attend all meetings of the Youth Services Action Board and service area committees of the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee.
4. Representatives from the YSB Staff shall assist the chairpersons of the Youth Services Action Board and the service area committees of the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee to develop and disseminate agendas for meetings and to provide information to all members of the Youth Services Action Board and service area committees of the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee concerning when meetings are to occur and what transpires at those meetings.
5. Representatives from the YSB Staff shall assist the Youth Services Action Board and service area committees of the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee to gather information and write proposals relating to developing youth services when requested to do so.
6. Representatives from the Youth Services Bureau Staff shall provide information to the Youth Services Action Board and service area committees of the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee about services needed by children served by the Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau.

ATTACHMENT L

MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

720 E. Fourth Street
County Office Building (3rd Floor)
Charlotte, NC 28202

Director: C. Wayne Heasley
Office Hours: 8-5
Telephone: 374-2926

Primary Agency Objectives

1. To serve as a buffer between the juvenile court and correctional systems and children, and function as an advocate for children by:
 - a. Diverting children from the juvenile court and correctional systems to services they need.
 - b. Promoting community responsibility for the identification, development, and delivery of services needed by children in Mecklenburg County, particularly services which are related to diverting children from the juvenile justice system.

Specific Services Offered To Children Ages Six (6) Through Seventeen (17) Years Of Age

1. Intensive counseling and casework services which emphasize the diagnosis of specific factors directly related to each child's ineffective behavior, making interventions in each child's home and school which result in positive changes for the child, referring a child to needed treatment services, and making specific recommendations to referral sources which enable them to make decisions about a child which are in the child's best interests. All YSB Counselors possess specialized training in the diagnosis and treatment of children's personal, home, and school problems and are accessible to their clients twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.

Children To Whom Services Are Offered

1. All children who are presently involved or on the verge of becoming involved with the juvenile court and correctional systems because they have been truant from school, ungovernable at home and/or school, or have run away from home. Children who have committed acts which constitute a danger to person or property, but who have not had a delinquent petition signed against them, are also served by the YSB.

Referral Sources

1. All Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
2. Parents
3. Social Service Agencies
4. Police
5. Juvenile Court
6. Children on a walk-in basis

Primary Agencies To Which Your Agency Refers Children

1. Child Welfare Division of the Department of Social Services
2. Mental Health Center
3. Family and Children's Services

How Can Children Gain Access To Services Offered By Your Agency

1. No fee is required.
2. Participation is voluntary.
3. Parents and child must sign a contractual agreement with the YSB.
4. Call Ms. Cathy Hooper, Direct Services Coordinator, to ascertain specific intake procedures. (374-2926)

ATTACHMENT M

MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ BUSINESS PHONE: _____

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICE APPROACHES APPEALS MOST TO YOU?

___ (1) INTEREST AREA INVOLVEMENT:

The interest area approach involves your indicating the kind of service you would like to share with a child, and our bringing you together with a child who expresses an interest in receiving the kind of service you want to offer. This interest area approach will not necessarily always involve you with the same child. The focal point of the contact is the common interest of both you and the child in a specific activity.

___ (2) INDIVIDUAL CHILD INVOLVEMENT

The individual child approach involves your indicating something about the type of child you might like to work with over an unspecified period of time, and our screening the children we work with in order to make a suitable pairing. This service approach would always involve you with the same child, the focal point here being the creation of a relationship.

VOLUNTEER DATA:

(1) Identify for us the kind of services you might like to share with a child: _____

(2) Approximately how frequently can you share such services? _____

(3) Describe somewhat the kind of child you would be most interested in working with. If such data is unimportant to you, so state:
(a) age range _____ (b) sex _____ (c) race _____
(d) other data important to you _____

- (4) May we initiate contact with you when one of our children expresses an interest in the kind of service you would like to make available? _____
- (5) After introduction, would you feel comfortable contacting the child directly? _____
- (6) Would you feel comfortable permitting the child to contact you directly? _____
- (7) May we discuss with you periodically the child's responses to his involvement with you? _____

ATTACHMENT N

A REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
CONTRACTED FOR CHILDREN SERVED BY
THE MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Introductory Statement

In order to meet the educational needs of children who were either involved or on the verge of becoming involved with the juvenile court and/or correctional systems for being truant and/or exhibiting inappropriate behavior at school, educational services were contracted from the College of Human Development and Learning at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte for forty-two (42) children who were receiving services from the Youth Services Bureau.

Administration of Program

Dr. John Chase, Dean, College of Human Development and Learning at UNCC, and his staff administered the program. Educational services were offered at the following locations:

1. Johnston Memorial YMCA
2. East Trade Street YWCA
3. Salvation Army Center
4. University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Bus transportation was provided for all students unable to assume financial responsibility for their transportation to school.

Children Served By The Program

Children who were either truant and/or exhibiting behavior problems at school participated in this program. Absence of a severe learning disability and a willingness to sign a contractual agreement with the agency providing the service constituted the criteria for admission to the program.

Thirty-seven (37) or eighty-eight percent (88%) of the forty-two (42) children referred to the program remained in the program throughout its duration. Five (5) children were unable to continue in the program for the following reasons:

1. Death due to a drug overdose (1)
2. Exhibition of very aggressive behavior on a continued basis (2)
3. Did not participate in program on a regular basis (2)

Measureable Objectives

Measureable objectives set for the program were:

1. To increase each child's achievement levels in reading, spelling, and arithmetic.
2. To increase each child's school attendance level during his participation in the program as compared to his school attendance level prior to being referred to the program.

Evaluation

Pre-tests and post tests were administered to children served by the program to determine the degree to which the stated objectives were achieved. Results of tests administered are indicated in the chart below:

AGGREGATE ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS OF PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS IN READING, SPELLING, AND ARITHMETIC

	Pre-Test	Post Test	Change +/-
Reading*	5.7	7.7	+2.0
Spelling	4.7	5.5	0.8
Arithmetic	4.1	6.0	+1.9

*Aggregately, participants in the program read 2.1 years below their grade level when they entered the program

AGGREGATE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LEVELS
OF CHILDREN BEFORE AND DURING
PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Number and Percentage of Days Attended Before Participation	Number and Percentage of Days Attended During Participation
1779 of 3045 days (58.4%)	2580 of 3602 days (71.6%)

Concluding Statement

To a significant degree, measureable objectives set for this educational service were achieved. It is evident that a high percentage of children who participated in the program found it meaningful for them.

The successful development and implementation of this educational service could not have been achieved without excellent cooperation and assistance from school personnel, particularly Dr. Les Bobbitt, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Support, School Principals, and School Counselors. The directors of the East Trade Street YWCA, Salvation Army Center, and Johnston Memorial YMCA deserve special praise for providing physical space in which this service could be offered.

Whether or not it will be necessary for the Mecklenburg YSB to contract educational services for its clients in the future will be contingent upon the availability of motivational educational services in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools for children who are chronic truants or who are exhibiting behavior problems at school. The Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Street Academy is an example of the kind of educational service which these children find meaningful. Expansion of the Street Academy will enable many children to be diverted from the juvenile court and/or correctional systems.

ATTACHMENT O

A LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL RELATING TO THE "UNDISCIPLINED CHILD"

Proposed Legislation

In order to divert a substantial number of children from the juvenile court and correctional systems to services they need, particularly children who come to the attention of the juvenile court because they are truant, or beyond the disciplinary control of their parents, or have run away from home, it is hereby proposed that the North Carolina Legislature allocate monies to an appropriate State Department for the purpose of being dispensed to the Board(s) of County Commissioners in any county(s) in North Carolina where a county(s) Board of Commissioners submits certification to the State Department so designated by this act that the following requirements have been fulfilled:

1. Establishment of an agency of county government to be called a Youth Services Bureau.
2. Appointment of a Youth Services Bureau Advisory Board to be comprised of, but not limited to, representatives from all youth serving agencies in the respective county(s) by a YSB.

It shall be appropriate for the Board(s) of County Commissioners in two (2) or more contiguous counties to jointly establish a YSB when the number of children ages six (6) to seventeen (17) years of age is not large enough to justify the establishment of a YSB for one (1) county. Whenever two (2) or more contiguous counties jointly establish a YSB, these counties shall also jointly create a Youth Services Bureau Advisory Board to be comprised of, but not limited to, representatives from all youth serving agencies in those counties served by a YSB. It shall also be appropriate for two (2) Youth Services Bureaus and two (2) Youth Services Bureau Advisory Boards to be established in a single county when that county has included within its boundaries more than one (1) town or city whose resident populations warrant the establishment of a YSB. The State Department allocating funds for the establishment of Youth Services Bureaus shall determine if more than one (1) YSB in a single county is required.

A Youth Services Bureau shall perform, as a minimum, the following functions:

1. Be an agency of county government that serves as a buffer between the juvenile justice system and children by offering short-term counseling and casework services to children who are presently involved or on the verge of becoming involved with the juvenile court or correctional system because they are exhibiting behavior such as being absent from school for a period of time without sufficient reason, being regularly disobedient to his or her parents, running away from home or any other behaviors which, if not remediated, could result in a child becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. The YSB shall maximize utilization of existing services for children available in the county(s) it serves.
2. Be a non-coercive agency that accepts referrals from the juvenile court, schools, police, social service agencies, parents, and children on a walk-in basis.
3. Be an agency which functions as an advocate for children by seeking to divert children from the juvenile justice system to services they need and by promoting community responsibility for the identification, development, and delivery of services needed by children residing in the respective county(s) served by a YSB, particularly services related to diverting children from the juvenile court and correctional systems.
4. Assist the Youth Services Advisory Board to perform its stated functions by:
 - a. Disseminating reliable information to the Youth Services Bureau Advisory Board concerning services needed by children served by the YSB.
 - b. Developing and maintaining a comprehensive inventory, on an annual basis, of all services available for children ages six (6) to seventeen (17) years of age in the county(s) served by a YSB.
 - c. Assisting the YSB-AB to transact business at their meetings by developing agendas for meetings, recording minutes of meetings, and supplying information to the YSB-AB about when meetings are to occur, and what transpires at those meetings.
 - d. Assisting the YSB-AB by gathering information and writing proposals when requested.

Upon submission of certification to the State Department so designated by this act by Board(s) of County Commissioners that the aforesaid requirements have been fulfilled, that State Department will consider funding a Youth Services Bureau established by that county(s).

A Youth Services Bureau Advisory Board shall perform the following functions:

1. Identify services needed by children in the county(s) served by a YSB, particularly services which are related to diverting children from the juvenile court and correctional systems.
2. Seek to coordinate services offered by their respective agencies in an effort to both close gaps in services and prevent duplication of services for children in the county(s) served by a YSB.
3. Be responsible for submitting, on an annual basis, a comprehensive Youth Services Plan for the county(s) served by a YSB. Each Youth Services Plan shall, as a minimum, include:
 - a. The specific services needed by children residing in the county(s) served by a YSB and the number of children who will be served by each service identified as needed.
 - b. A description of the nature and scope of the problems which the proposed services will remediate.
 - c. A list of measurable objectives which must be achieved in order for each service identified as needed to be considered successfully implemented.
 - d. A description of the methods and procedures to be employed to achieve measurable objectives established for each proposed service.
 - e. A description of the evaluation design which will be employed to measure the progress made toward the achievement of stated objectives for each service.
 - f. A proposed line item budget and budget narrative for each proposed service.

The State Department so designated by this act will give consideration to funding all services identified in each county's Youth Services Plan which are consistent with the goals of that State Department.

Rationale for Proposed Legislation

This proposed legislation could reduce by forty percent (40%) the number of children referred to the juvenile court and correctional systems in North Carolina by insuring that children who have not committed acts which constitute a danger to person or property, and who have not committed acts which would be considered crimes if committed by persons above seventeen (17) years of age, do not become involved in the juvenile justice system, but are instead diverted from the juvenile court and correctional systems to services they need.

In 1973, the North Carolina Legislature ratified legislation (House Bill 944) which established a state policy for juvenile cases that involve undisciplined or delinquent children. This policy was designed to encourage the juvenile court to utilize community-based resources for such children. The new law rewrites G.S. 7A-286(3) through (5) to establish a policy that a judge who exercises juvenile jurisdiction over an undisciplined or delinquent child must consider in developing a disposition to meet the needs of a child. The last two (2) sentences in the new state policy contained in the statute are as follows:

"A child should not be committed to training school or to any other institution solely for unlawful absence from school; such a child should generally be helped through community level resources. A commitment to training school or to any state institution is generally appropriate only for a child over ten (10) years of age whose offense would be a crime if committed by an adult and where the child's behavior constitutes some threat to the safety of persons or property in the community so that the child needs to be removed from the community for the protection of the community."

As The Twig Is Bent (1972), a report prepared by the North Carolina Bar Association's Penal System Study Committee on the North Carolina juvenile correctional system, emphasized the urgent need to assure that children are not confined to institutions and stigmatized as delinquent because they happen to be unwanted, have unhappy and unstable family relationships, are poorly motivated, or have specific learning problems. It further states that North Carolina must accept the responsibility for creating a system that has become a large dumping ground for unfortunate children, most of whom are guilty of no crime whatsoever, and strongly recommends that community based resources be developed to serve as alternatives to training schools, especially for the undisciplined child.

Since ratification of the new state policy (1973) concerning the undisciplined and delinquent child and the study accomplished by the North Carolina Bar Association's Penal System Study Committee on the North Carolina Juvenile Correctional System (1972), more children in North Carolina have been adjudicated delinquent for violating conditions of their probation by committing an undisciplined act, and subsequently committed to a state training school, than were incarcerated prior to these important actions being taken. This tragedy is demonstrated by the fact that the North Carolina Office of Youth Development reported in 1970 that thirty-eight percent (38%) of all children incarcerated in state training schools were placed there for violating conditions of their probation by committing an undisciplined act; whereas, during the months May through September, 1973, this percentage had increased to forty-seven percent (47%) or 218/618 children. Seventeen percent (17%) (106/618) of these children were adjudicated delinquent for being found in violation of their probation by being truant during this five (5) month period.

The State Department of Social Rehabilitation and Control reported in 1973 that it costs in excess of nine thousand and five hundred dollars (\$9,500) to incarcerate one (1) child for one (1) year in a state training school. Confinement in a training school offers the undisciplined child an opportunity to become a sophisticated delinquent because he is placed with children who have committed serious delinquent acts, and almost always insures that he will have legal and social stigma attached to him after he leaves an institution. Removing a child from the home and school environments in which he is experiencing problems does not provide him with an opportunity to make a successful adjustment to these settings; consequently, it is essential that community-based programs such as Youth Services Bureaus be developed for the "undisciplined child" in North Carolina.

If the proposed legislation is introduced and ratified, the new state policy regarding the undisciplined and delinquent child, will be adhered to and recommendations by North Carolina Bar Association's Penal System Study Committee will be followed. Also a systematic approach to developing and maintaining community-based services for children in every North Carolina county will be implemented. This will result in an enormous amount of both human and economic resources being saved.

C. Wayne Heasley, Director
Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau
Mecklenburg County Office Building - Third Floor
720 East Fourth Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202
Telephone: (704) 374-2926

ATTACHMENT P

A LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL DESIGNED TO
DIVERT NONCRIMINAL CHILDREN FROM THE JUVENILE
JUSTICE SYSTEM TO SERVICES THEY NEED

Proposed Legislation

It is hereby proposed that the terms "dependent child" (7A-278(3)) and "undisciplined child" (7A-278(5)) as defined in the general statutes of North Carolina be eliminated.

It is further proposed that the term "neglected child" (7A-278(4)) be redefined as follows:

"Neglected child means a child:

1. Who has been abandoned by his parents, guardian, or other custodian.
2. Who is without proper parental care and control, or subsistence, education, medical, or other care or control necessary for his or her well-being because of the faults or habits of his or her parents, guardian, or other custodian, or their neglect or refusal, when able to do so, to provide them; or
3. Whose parents, guardian, or other custodian are unable to discharge their responsibilities to and for the child; and
4. In any of the foregoing is in need of care or supervision.¹

Comment

"Neglected child" as defined above is both comprehensive and precise. It should also be noted that the court, through its jurisdiction over "neglected children" to see to it that remedial measures are taken in a timely and effective manner without labeling a child as truant, runaway, or ungovernable. Generally, it can be said that such conduct reflects failure, or neglect, on the part of our social institutions, whether it be the family, schools, or by exposure to other adverse societal conditions.

¹"Legislative Drafting Guide for Family and Juvenile Court Acts and State Local Programs on Juvenile Delinquency and Neglect," William H. Sheridan and Herbert W. Beaser, unpublished document, Washington, DC, 1974, no page numbers listed.

The term "dependent child" has been eliminated because it is believed that the financial ability of parents to care for their children should not be a factor in removing them from their home.

The term "undisciplined child" has been eliminated as these types of cases, which have come to be known as juvenile status offenders, children who are brought within the jurisdictions of the court for having committed actions which are illegal only for juveniles, involve children whose actions, while they may be indicative of the imperative need of a child to receive some type of care or treatment, do not necessarily pose a threat to society.

If this proposed legislation is ratified, statutes which deal with acts declared to be violations of the law if performed by children but which are not declared to be violations of the law if committed by adults should be specifically amended to provide that the remedy for such behavior, when performed by children, will be the filing of a petition alleging the child to be neglected and that such behavior may be taken into consideration by the court in arriving at its decision with respect to such petition.

Resort to court action to supply the remedial measures needed by "neglected children" should be taken only as a last resort and then only where the authority of the court is necessary to accomplish a specific legal objective; i.e. to effect change in the legal status of a child such as the transfer of "legal custody" or guardianship of the person of the child.²

Rationale for Proposed Legislation

The terms "undisciplined child," "dependent child," and "neglected child" are defined in the General Statutes of North Carolina as follows:

1. "Dependent child" is a child who is in need of placement, special care or treatment because such child has no parent, guardian, or custodian to be responsible for his supervision or care, or whose parent, guardian, or custodian is unable to provide for his supervision or care.

²"Legislative Drafting Guild for Family and Juvenile Court Acts and State Local Programs on Juvenile Delinquency and Neglect," William H. Sheridan and Herbert W. Beaser, unpublished document, Washington, DC, 1974, no page numbers listed.

2. "Neglected child" is any child who does not receive proper care or supervision or discipline from his parent, guardian, custodian, or other person acting as a parent, or who has been abandoned, or who is not provided necessary medical care or other remedial care recognized under State law, or who lives in an environment injurious to his welfare, or who has been placed for care or adoption in violation of the law.
3. "Undisciplined child" includes any child who is unlawfully absent from school, or who is regularly disobedient to his parents or guardian or custodian and beyond their disciplinary control, or who is regularly found in places where it is unlawful for a child to be, or who has run away from home.³

It is clear the definitions for these terms are neither comprehensive nor precise. As a result, many children who are without proper parental care and control, or subsistence, education, medical, or other care or control, necessary for his or her well-being because of the faults or habits of his parents, guardian, or other custodian, or their neglect or refusal, when able to do so, to provide them, ultimately have "undisciplined petitions" signed against them. "Undisciplined petitions" rather than "dependent" or "neglect" petitions are filed more frequently in North Carolina because it is much less difficult to prove that a child has exhibited a behavior such as running away from home than it is to show that a parental response to a child caused the "undisciplined act" to occur. This statement is supported by the fact that approximately forty percent (40%) of all children referred to juvenile courts in North Carolina are referred for committing "undisciplined acts." The North Carolina Office of Youth Development reports that forty-seven percent (47%) of all children placed in state training schools during 1973 were placed there for violating conditions of their probation by committing an "undisciplined act." It costs in excess of ninety-five hundred dollars (\$9500) per year to incarcerate one (1) child in a state training school in North Carolina.

If proposed legislation is ratified by the 1975 North Carolina General Assembly, children who reside in this state will no longer be labeled as juvenile delinquents for exhibiting behaviors which are related to factors

³Rules of Procedures Applicable to Children in the District Court,
Administrative Office of the Courts, State of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC,
1974, p. 60.

at home and/or school beyond their control. Rather, many of these children will be referred to alternative services outside the juvenile justice system. In cases where the jurisdiction of the juvenile court needs to be invoked in order to remediate a condition which is adversely affecting a child, this can be accomplished without a child having a legal or social stigma attached to his or her name and without resorting to incarcerating a noncriminal child in a state training school, an act which almost always results in human or economic resources being wasted.

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END