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AN EVALUATION
X OF THE
LEBANON DISTRICT COURT
"PART-TIME PROBATION OFFICER"

GRANT NUMBERS

76-I-2047 F12
78-I-2047 F07

PROJECT PERIOD

January 6, 1978 - January 30, 1979

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NEW HAMPSHIRE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

December 11, 1978

48035

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BACKGROUND

In 1959, the Lebanon District Court appointed Patrick Walsh to provide local probation services on a part-time basis, in accordance with New Hampshire RSA 504:13 and with the approval of the New Hampshire Department of Probation. In 1975, it was determined that increased local probation services were needed, and in an effort to defray the initial costs of increased services, the court requested funding from this agency. In December, 1975, the court was awarded a grant in the amount of \$9,591 in federal funds and \$533 in state funds. The sub-grantee provided a \$6,000 local match. The project was favorably monitored and evaluated during the first year of operation.

Second year funding was awarded on December 3, 1976, continuing the project until December 31, 1977. The second year grant, provided \$6,558 in federal funds and \$365 in state funds for which there was a \$6,923 local match. The project was evaluated in the second year of funding and found to be a necessary and beneficial addition to the court, but third year funding was not recommended because of a shortage of funds in the program area. However, this funding problem was resolved internally by re-allocation, and on April 27, 1978, this agency approved a split grant award apportioned as follows:

	<u>76-I-A 2047 F12</u>	<u>78-I-A2047 F07</u>	<u>Combined</u>
LEAA	\$2,143	\$1,070	\$ 3,213
GCCD	119	60	179
Subgrantee	<u>6,786</u>	<u>3,391</u>	<u>10,177</u>
TOTALS	\$9,048	\$4,521	\$13,569

The total amount of allocated funding is for personnel services. The grant period was established as April 27, 1978 - January 30, 1979.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The jurisdiction of the Lebanon District Court includes the city of Lebanon and the towns of Grafton and Enfield, with a total population of 14,780. The juvenile population is increasing at a rate faster than that of the adult population.

The local probation officer supervises persons placed on probation by the district court, conducts pre-sentence investigations of offenders, and prepares reports for the court on juveniles and adults within the supervision of the court. Persons within the Lebanon Judicial District who are placed on probation by the Superior Court are supervised by the state Department of Probation and are not the responsibility of the Lebanon local officer.

This project continues the employment of Mr. Patrick Walsh as the part-time probation officer. Mr. Walsh has served the court as probation officer and clerk since 1959. Prior to undertaking responsibilities as probation officer, he served the city as recreation director. He is a qualified municipal probation officer under the laws of New Hampshire and the regulations of the state Department of Personnel (New Hampshire R.S.A. 504:13). The present secretary, Ms. Jan Daley, is the third to work under the grant, having recently replaced Miss Susan Moody, who began work in March, 1976 after her predecessor resigned. All secretaries under the grant were hired in accordance with the required procurement and selection process. Ms. Daley works from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

on Mondays and Fridays and until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Office space is provided in the Lebanon City Hall adjacent to the court facilities.

Mr. Walsh works a minimum of twenty-eight hours per week in a salaried position, and Ms. Daley works a twenty-two hour week at the rate of \$3.20 per hour.

PROJECT OPERATION

Mr. Walsh has remained as part-time probation officer during the project period, and he also serves as the court clerk. He attends all court sessions involving clients within his supervision, and conducts case investigations and meetings with probationers. Because he must adjust his probation work schedule to facilitate meetings with other officials and with probationers, it often becomes necessary for him to work in the evenings and weekends. Mr. Walsh's duties as clerk of court consume the rest of his working hours.

The changeable nature of Mr. Walsh's workday makes it necessary for him to keep detailed work records and case files. Mr. Walsh requires each probationer to comply with a visitation schedule which is established with regard to the facts and circumstances of the individual case, but as a general rule, each new probationer reports to Mr. Walsh weekly for the first month of probation and every two weeks thereafter. In all cases, Mr. Walsh makes frequent telephone and personal contacts with persons within his supervisory responsibility and regularly visits their homes, schools, and places of employment. When appropriate and possible, Mr. Walsh finds employment for juveniles and adults under his supervision through personal contacts, the Comprehensive Education and Training Act (CETA) program, and other service agencies and organizations. Mr. Walsh maintains professional contact with

foster homes, shelter care facilities, and other human service organizations, often combining efforts with the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Welfare, and facilities such as Marathon House, Odyssey House, and Youth House. He works closely with the state Probation Department and meets with representatives of that department weekly.

The most recent quarterly progress report submitted to this agency presents the following workload data for the period of July 1, 1978 through September 30, 1978.

<u>New Cases Entered</u>		<u>Cases Closed</u>	
Adult	3	Adult	4
Juvenile	17	Juvenile	6
TOTAL	20	TOTAL	10

Pre-sentence Investigations Conducted

Adult Male	3	Juvenile Male	8
Adult Female	0	Juvenile Female	4
TOTAL	3	TOTAL	12

Open and Active Caseload on September 30

Adult Male	21	Juvenile Male	30
Adult Female	1	Juvenile Female	7
TOTAL	22	TOTAL	37

Other Matters

Three male juveniles were committed to the Youth Development Center

At the end of the quarter prior to that represented above there were 49 active cases, 27 of which were juvenile cases. At the end of the first quarter of 1978, there were 61 open and active cases, 35 of which were juvenile cases. Since September 30, the caseload has grown again, and it now stands at 52 open and active. September and October are customarily light months for the caseload, as the number of active juvenile cases diminishes slightly at the opening of school.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This project is fully meeting its objectives as they are proposed in the grant application, and its business is conducted efficiently and professionally in all respects. Mr. Walsh's caseload, although full, is manageable. All files and records are conscientiously maintained. Precise financial and progress reports have been submitted to this agency in a timely manner since the initial grant award in 1975.

Although Mr. Walsh is scheduled to work a twenty-eight hour week in this part-time position, he in fact routinely works a total of thirty or more hours per week in his capacity as probation officer. He expects that in the near future the caseload in the court will grow to a size and complexity making necessary full-time local probation services. Lebanon is presently going through a period of significant population growth and property development. Juvenile matters have become more complex and time-consuming. In short, the circumstances of the times indicate that the workload of the court will continue to grow and with that will develop a greater dependency by the court on local probation services.

In addition to meeting with Mr. Walsh for this evaluation, the writer met with Lebanon District Court Justice William Lovejoy, the Project Director. Judge Lovejoy remarked that local probation services are crucial to the efficient conduct of business in his court, and that Mr. Walsh's office

has provided first-rate services. Judge Lovejoy concurs in Mr. Walsh's observation that the need for full-time local probation services will be a reality in the reasonably near future. It is also Judge Lovejoy's observation that the Lebanon District Court could not by itself have absorbed the increased financial burden of the 1975 expansion of local probation services. Funding from this agency for the past three years has been vital to the success of the project, and refunding difficulties encountered in 1977 temporarily jeopardized the maintenance of effort. The city is now prepared to finance local probation efforts at the present level; however, Judge Lovejoy anticipates the possibility that the aid of this agency will again be sought when the time comes to further increase local probation services in Lebanon.

The writer concludes that the success of this project and its demonstrated public and judicial support merit favorable future consideration, in accordance with established Commission policy.

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