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Refunding Report

X

Jail Officer Program

Price County Sheriff's Department

WCCJ Subgrant #77-13K-NW-01-7

DEC 13 1978
DEC 13 1978
ACQUISITIONS

Prepared by

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Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice
Program Evaluation Section
December 1978

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Price County Jail Officer Project
 Progress Toward Goals and Objectives
 4/1/78 - 11/1/78

Objective	Progress	Comments
1. The establishment of appropriate evaluation procedures to determine the educational, employment and recreational needs of each offender.	Fulfilled	1. The Jail Officer conducts an intake interview with every inmate to determine service needs.
2. The development and maintenance of a 70% Huber Law and work release employment level for sentenced prisoners.	Fulfilled	2. One hundred percent of the Huber Law and Work Release inmates have been employed.
3. The availability of local professional counseling services for offenders.	Fulfilled	3. The project has developed and utilized several mechanisms and sources of counseling services.
4. The establishment of a GED program as well as advanced course work with primary emphasis placed on occupation/employment placement.	Fulfilled	4. A mechanism has been established but not used, to provide GED instruction to inmates.
5. Maintenance of regular physical activity, recreation and library access for prisoners.	Fulfilled	5. Every inmate has daily access to library and recreational facilities.
6. The establishment of procedures for providing for prisoners' personal needs (i.e., medical care, financial counseling/bill paying, family, etc.).	Fulfilled	6. The Jail Officer provides special services to inmates on an <u>ad hoc</u> basis.



Project Title: Price County Jail Officer Program
Subgrantee: Price County Sheriff's Department

Funding History:

<u>Grant Number</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>Federal Share</u>	<u>Effective Dates</u>
77-13K-NW-01-7	\$22,386	\$20,147	12/15/77-3/31/79
*78-4A-NW-3265-7	\$19,282	\$15,425	4/1/79-3/31/80

*Requested

I. Project Summary

The Price County Jail Officer Program provides a full-time officer to provide or coordinate services to inmates of the jail. The project attempts to reduce recidivism of jail inmates through the provision of employment, education, counseling, recreational and other services.

II. Purpose of Report

The Jail Officer Program is being evaluated by the Program Evaluation Section (PES) of the Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice (WCCJ). The evaluation design calls for the collection of individualized data on all inmates served by the project over a period of twelve months, beginning April 1978. This report presents a summary of the data collected through October 31, 1978 and is intended to provide the Executive Committee of the WCCJ with information relevant to refunding of the Jail Officer Program. Additional information presented in this report was collected during site visits and telephone calls to the project by PES staff.

III. Summary of Client Data

A. Client Characteristics

Through the end of October the project submitted individual data reports for 94 clients who were held and released from the Price County Jail. This figure does not include every individual held from April 1 - October 31, 1978, but only those with whom the project had contact and who had been released.

Table 1 presents several characteristics of the released clients for whom the project reported individual data. Clients are divided into two groups according to length of stay in the jail. Clients who were released the same day they entered the jail should not be expected to receive the same kinds of services nor to demonstrate the same kinds of changes as those clients held for longer periods of time.

Table 1

Client Characteristics

Characteristic	Released Same Day	% Column	Released After One or More Days	% Column	Total	% Known
<u>Age:</u>						
Under 18	8	(22.2)	8	(13.7)	16	(17.0)
18-21	11	(30.5)	17	(29.3)	28	(29.7)
22-25	5	(13.8)	16	(27.5)	21	(22.3)
26-30	2	(5.5)	9	(15.5)	11	(11.7)
31 +	10	(27.7)	8	(13.7)	18	(19.1)
<u>Sex:</u>						
Male	34	(94.4)	58	(100.0)	92	(97.8)
Female	2	(5.5)	0	--	2	(2.1)
<u>Race:</u>						
White	36	(100.0)	56	(96.5)	92	(97.8)
Native American	0	--	2	(3.4)	2	(2.1)
<u>Education (Grades Completed):</u>						
6 or less	0	--	0	--	0	--
7-9	7	(21.8)	9	(16.0)	16	(18.1)
10-12	4	(12.5)	16	(28.5)	20	(22.7)
High School Grad.	21	(65.6)	31	(55.3)	52	(59.0)
Unknown	4	--	2	--	6	--
<u>Jail Status:</u>						
Awaiting Trial	28	(77.7)	20	(35.0)	48	(51.6)
Huber Sentence	0	--	6	(10.5)	6	(6.4)
Non-Huber Sentence	0	--	6	(10.5)	6	(6.4)
Work Release	0	--	9	(15.7)	9	(9.6)
Other	8	(22.2)	16	(28.0)	24	(25.8)
Unknown	0	--	1	--	1	--
<u>Days in Jail:</u>						
Released Same Day	36	(100.0)	0	--	36	(38.2)
1-5 Days	0	--	36	(62.0)	36	(38.2)
6-15 Days	0	--	10	(17.2)	10	(10.6)
16-30 Days	0	--	1	(1.7)	1	(1.0)
31-90 Days	0	--	6	(10.3)	6	(6.3)
91-180 Days	0	--	2	(3.4)	2	(2.1)
181-365 Days	0	--	3	(5.1)	3	(3.1)
<u>Offense Category:</u>						
Force	1	(2.7)	3	(5.1)	4	(4.3)
Profit (No Force)	2	(5.5)	7	(12.0)	9	(9.8)
Traffic	8	(22.2)	12	(20.6)	20	(21.9)
Traffic-Alcohol	16	(44.4)	8	(13.7)	24	(26.3)
Drugs	1	(2.7)	4	(6.8)	5	(5.4)
Other	6	(16.6)	12	(20.6)	18	(19.7)
None *	2	(5.5)	9	(15.5)	11	(12.8)
Unknown	0	--	3	--	3	--
<u>Employment Status at Intake:</u>						
Employed	18	(90.0)	38	(71.6)	56	(76.7)
Unemployed	2	(10.0)	15	(28.3)	17	(23.2)
Unknown	16	--	5	--	21	--
<u>Employment Status at Release:</u>						
Employed	18	(90.0)	42	(79.2)	60	(82.1)
Unemployed	2	(10.0)	11	(20.7)	13	(17.8)
Unknown	16	--	5	--	21	--

*Status Offense, Hold for Other Jurisdiction, etc.

The data in Table 1 show that most clients were under 25 years of age, were white males and most had been graduated from high school. Relatively few were serving a sentence at the jail, and most were released within five days. The most frequent offense for which clients were held was Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated; relatively few were held for serious offenses. More than three-fourths of the clients were employed when they entered the jail.

B. Services

The Jail Officer Program application specifically mentions the following services will be provided: employment, education, recreation and counseling. Other services are provided on an ad hoc basis. Each of the specific services must be examined individually to determine need and effectiveness:

1. Employment

The overall unemployment rate among clients for whom information was reported declined from 23.2% at intake to 17.8% at release. The project assisted five inmates who were unemployed at intake to find employment while at the jail; one employed inmate lost his job while awaiting trial. Every inmate eligible for Huber or Work Release privileges was employed at release.

2. Education

Almost 41% of the inmates served by the project had not been graduated from high school. It appears there is a substantial need for a GED program. The Jail Officer has informed PES that a mechanism does exist for providing GED instruction to inmates. However, to date it has not been used due to two factors: length of time inmates are at the jail (76.5% were at the jail less than five days) and lack of inmate interest (the only inmate who needed a GED and would be at the jail for more than a few days did not want to participate). The project has had greater success in assisting inmates to enter outside vocational programs, with three inmates beginning training programs while serving sentences.

3. Counseling

Counseling services may be provided by project staff or another agency. The project has identified the Mental Health Center and Alcohol Treatment Center as outside agencies

which have provided counseling services to inmates. All inmates receive some counseling in their initial intake interview with the Jail Officer. Beyond this, 16 inmates were involved in at least one more counseling session, 13 of whom received services from an outside provider. The most frequently specified problem for which counseling was provided was financial. It appears that there may be a need for more specific services in this area, and project staff may wish to explore alternative delivery systems. Recently, an additional counseling component was added to the jail program. Since October 23, 1978 the Mental Health Center has provided weekly group therapy sessions at the jail.

4. Recreation

Every inmate confined to the jail is eligible to participate in the recreation program. Recreational activities include weightlifting, working out on a heavy punching bag, television, library facilities and a ping-pong table.

IV. Problems

In the course of preparing this report one problem surfaced which is related to special requirements of all jail projects funded by WCCJ. The problem involves Special Requirement #2, "All applicants must develop a mechanism to provide for release prior to arraignment as outlined in Objective 3..." (1978 Plan Summary, p. 54). Objective 3, referred to above, states,

"To reduce pre-trial admissions to local jails by 10-20% in 1978 in selected jurisdictions. Projects shall work with local courts to develop a set of objective criteria which could be applied to the accused at the jail and prior to admittance (emphasis added) to determine if the accused may be released on recognizance rather than awaiting arraignment in jail." (1978 Plan Summary, p. 51)

According to project staff, no one has been released on recognizance under the mechanism developed in compliance with this requirement. Further, the criteria for release have only been applied to three inmates, none of whom qualified for release. However, it is clear from the data already presented that more than three inmates should have been screened and conceivably may not have been admitted to the jail.

It appears there is no consistent policy for determining when to apply the Release on Recognizance (ROR) criteria. Establishment and routine application of the ROR criteria can only result in reduced jail populations.

V. Summary

The Price County Jail Officer Program has been operating since April 1, 1978. Since that time a full-time Jail Officer has been responsible for all jail activities and has coordinated the delivery of services to inmates. Special needs that arise are dealt with on an ad hoc basis. The project appears to be meeting all the objectives specified in the grant application inasmuch as service-providing capabilities have been established. (The objectives do not require that a fixed number or proportion of inmates utilize services.) The project has developed well in its first seven months, but it appears that greater effort needs to be directed toward compliance with WCCJ's Special Requirements for all jail projects.

END