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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS*8/29 file*

GENERAL OFFICE

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: August 28, 1979

Distribution:

To: Laurel Rans, Deputy Director  
Policy Development DivisionFrom: Sue O'Mara  
Research & EvaluationSubject: Sesame Street  
Attitude Questionnaires

Here are the results of the Sesame Street questionnaires. If there is any further information that you would like from the questionnaires at this point, in addition to the information I am sending, please let me know.

Dict: LR 8/28/79  
Trans: dlw 8/29/79

"Sesame Street Goes to Prison" is now functioning at Dwight and Joliet Correctional Centers in Illinois. These are the first two facilities in Illinois to receive grant money to set up the program. The grant is funded through the cooperation of the Children's Television Workshop, the John Howard Association and the Illinois Department of Corrections.

The Policy Development Division, specifically Research and Evaluation, of the Ill. Dept. of Corrections has worked together with these correctional centers in a mutual interest for the program. A result of this interest will be an evaluation of this program in hopes that this type of cooperation will produce better and more effective programming in the future.

A pre-program type of questionnaire was developed and then distributed at Dwight Correctional Center. This questionnaire figured to help produce a more complete evaluation of the Sesame Street Program. Another questionnaire of a similar nature will follow several months into the program.

This attitude questionnaire/survey was distributed and filled out by both residents and staff alike in an effort to gauge their feelings about the program before it started which would offer a basis of comparison for a similar survey once the program was in full progress. The results of this later comparison would form a basis for determining the effectiveness and usefulness of the program.

The information presented here is just a basic tabulation of all the answers for each individual question--by staff members and then by residents.

The same questionnaire was distributed to the residents and staff however there were some questions that pertained specifically to one or the other group separately. The completed questionnaires were kept and tallied separately by staff and by resident groups in order to see if there was a difference in attitudes between the two groups.

The following information shows the results of the tabulations that were done on those attitude questionnaires.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

I) RESIDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Total Respondents-231

1) How old are you?

Page Dist

17 or less-2	8.6	36 to 45-25	10.8
18-25-99	42.7	46 to 55-8	3.5
26 to 35-89	38.5	56 and older-1	8.6
		no answer-7	

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2) How long have you been a resident at Dwight?

1 year or less-149	64.5	8 to 10 years-1	4.3
2 to 4 years-59	25.5	11 to 15 years-1	4.3
5 to 7 years-9	3.9	more than 15 years-0	
		no answer-12	

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3) Did you see the film "Sesame Street Goes To Prison"?

Yes-68  
No-143  
no answer-20

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4) The program will probably help children learn

A great deal-129  
A little bit-43  
Not much at all-13  
no answer-46

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5) With this program, the amount of time residents with children spend visiting or the number of visits will

Increase-119  
Decrease-6  
Stay the same-68  
no answer-38

6) The program will probably make visiting

Much easier for the visiting room staff-142

The same as its always been for the visiting room staff-47

Much harder for the visiting room staff-8

no answer-34

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7) How much do you know about the Sesame Street Program at Dwight?

A lot-32

A little-98

Not much or nothing-96

no answer-5

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8) Did you go to any of the training sessions?

Yes-17

No-209

no answer-5

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9) How long were you at the training session?

Not at all-157

A few hours-2

More than one day-13

An hour or less-1

A day-1

no answer-57

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10) Are you being trained to work with the kids?

Yes-13

No-199

no answer-19

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11) Would you like to be trained to work with the kids?

Yes-130

No-71

no answer-30

12) Are the requirements for working with the kids too strict?

Yes-18

No-56

Don't know-144

no answer-13

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13) I think residents with children will probably find this program to be

Very helpful-131

Somewhat helpful-67

Not at all helpful-13

no answer-20

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14) The program will probably make visiting

Much easier for the residents with children-161

The same as its always been for the residents with children -31

Much harder for the residents with children-15

no answer-24

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15) The program

Shows that the administration cares a lot about the resident-106

Shows that the administration cares a little about the resident-65

Does not show that the administration cares about the resident-32

no answer-28

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16) For the residents who are working with the kids, the program will probably be

An enjoyable and worthwhile experience-173

Just another work assignment to make some money-18

Just a way to get out of doing other work-3

no answer-37

17) In general

Residents deserve to have more programs-205  
Residents have enough programs-4  
Residents have too many programs-1  
no answer-21

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18) In general, for residents, prison is (choose one)

A place to get some education and training, and maybe start  
a new life when you get out-111  
Just a place to serve time until you can be free again-35  
Just a place to be punished for your crime-29  
Just another way our repressive society discriminates  
against the poor and minorities-31  
no answer-25

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19) Most of the residents who will be working with the kids

Will probably be very helpful to the kids-171  
Will probably be a little helpful to the kids-32  
Will probably not be helpful at all to the kids-4  
no answer-24

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20) The program will probably help

Improve the relationship between staff and residents-114  
Keep the same relationship between staff and residents-78  
Make worse the relationship between staff and residents-8  
no answer-31

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21) If you do or if you did have kids, would you want them  
to go to the Sesame Street Program?

Yes-162  
No-39  
no answer-30

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

II) STAFF QUESTIONNAIRES

Total Respondents-86

1) Sex  
Male-21  
Female-60  
no answer-5

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2) How old are you?

17 or less-0	36 to 45-19
18 to 25-15	46 to 55-21
26 to 35-20	56 and older-9
	no answer-2

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3) How long have you worked in Corrections?

1 year or less-21	8 to 10 years-4
2 to 4 years-29	11 to 15 years-7
5 to 7 years-12	More than 15 years-11
	no answer-2

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4) Which is closest to describing your title?

Business office, commissary, stores-12	Industry-1
Counselors, Recreation, C-10-South-10	Educators-8
Medical Services-2	Dietary-6
Officers, Trainees-36	no answer-6
Lieutenants, Sergeants-5	

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5) Which shift do you usually work?

7 to 3, 8 to 4-52	6 to 2-3
3 to 11-17	10 to 6-2
11 to 7-10	no answer-2



6) Did you go to see the film "Sesame Street Goes To Prison"?

Yes-20

No-65

no answer-1

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7) The program will probably help children learn

A great deal-40

A little bit-22

Not much at all-9

no answer-15

---

8) With this program, the amount of time residents with children spend visiting or the number of visits will

Increase-46

Decrease-2

Stay the same-22

no answer-16

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9) The program will probably make visiting

Much easier for visiting room staff-46

The same as its always been for visiting room staff-11

Much harder for visiting room staff-18

No answer-11

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10) How much do you know about the Sesame Street Program at Dwight?

A lot-11

A little-33

Not much or nothing-40

no answer-2

11) Did you go to any of the training sessions?

Yes-11  
No-72  
no answer-3

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12) How long were you at the training session?

Not at all-59  
A few hours-4  
An hour or less-3  
A day-2  
More than one day-3  
no answer-15

---

13) Would you like to be trained to work with the kids?

Yes-24  
No-54  
no answer-8

---

14) Are the requirements for working with the kids too strict?

Yes-1  
No-23  
Don't know-58  
no answer-4

---

15) I think residents with children will probably find  
this program to be

Very helpful-41  
Somewhat helpful-29  
Not at all helpful-4  
no answer-12

---

16) The program will probably make visiting

Much easier for residents with children-63  
The same as its always been for residents with children-6  
Much harder for residents with children-6  
no answer-11

17) The program

Shows that the administration cares a lot about the residents-64  
Shows that the administration cares a little about the residents-8  
Does not show that the administration cares about the residents-3  
no answer-11

---

18) For the residents who will be working with the kids, the program will probably be

An enjoyable and worthwhile experience-59  
Just another work assignment to make some money-7  
Just a way to get out of doing other work-7  
no answer-13

---

19) In general

The residents deserve to have more programs-55  
The residents have enough programs-14  
The residents have too many programs-7  
no answer-10

---

20) In general, for residents, prison is

A place to get some education and training, and maybe start a new life when you get out-45  
Just a place to serve time until you can be free-18  
Just a place to be punished for your crime-5  
Just another way our repressive society discriminates against the poor and minorities-2  
no answer-16

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21) Most of the residents who will be working with the kids

Will probably be very helpful to the kids-48  
Will probably be a little helpful to the kids-18  
Will probably not be helpful at all to the kids-5  
no answer-13

22) The program will probably help

Improve the relationship between staff and residents-37

Keep the same the relationship between staff and residents-29

Make worse the relationship between staff and residents-7

no answer-13

**END**