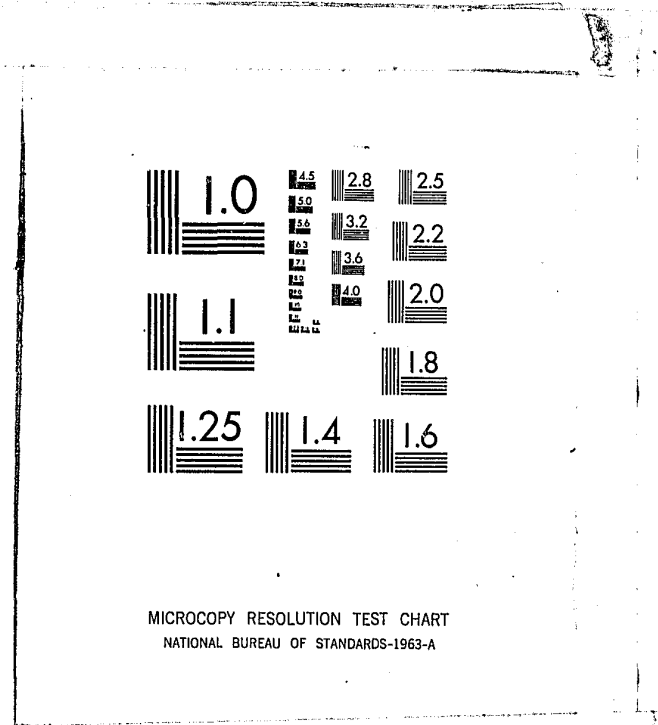


National Criminal Justice Reference Service



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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
STATE OF DELAWARE

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
FISCAL YEAR 1978

SMYRNA, DELAWARE

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

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Departmental Overview

The end of Fiscal Year 1978 marked the third anniversary of the Department of Correction. The Department of Correction has for its purpose the confinement and non-institutional supervision and treatment of offenders, juvenile and adult, as are ordered by the courts. The Department also performs related ancillary services as are mandated by law, such as the Interstate Compact.

The administrator and head of the Department is the Commissioner of the Department of Correction who is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. James T. Vaughn has been the Commissioner since October 4, 1976.

The Department is composed of a central office, an adult bureau and a juvenile bureau. The adult bureau has responsibility for offenders age eighteen and over; the juvenile bureau for those committed prior to their eighteenth birthday. Both bureaus operate institutions and administer services in the community.

The departmental headquarters and that of the adult bureau are located at 80 Monrovia Avenue, in Smyrna. The juvenile headquarters is located at the Ferris Campus, Wilmington. As of June 30, 1978 there were 893 authorized full-time employees within the Department of Correction. There were 123.5 authorized positions in the Office of Administration and Education, 553 positions in the Bureau of Adult Correction and 216.5 positions in the Bureau of Juvenile Correction.

John J. Mulvena is the Chief of the Bureau of Adult Correction. There are five institutions, a work release center and probation/parole services under the supervision of the Adult Bureau Chief. The largest institution is the Delaware Correctional Center at Smyrna with a Federal Court mandated population limit of 650 inmates. The Sussex Correctional Institution at Georgetown is nearing completion of renovation and houses approximately 200 inmates. The Kent Correctional Institution at Dover has been reopened to alleviate the overcrowded situation and houses approximately 50 inmates. The Pre-Trial Annex at Prices Corner houses approximately 55 inmates and the Women's Correctional Institution located at Claymont houses approximately 55 inmates. The Plummer House Work Release Center is located in

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ACQUISITIONS

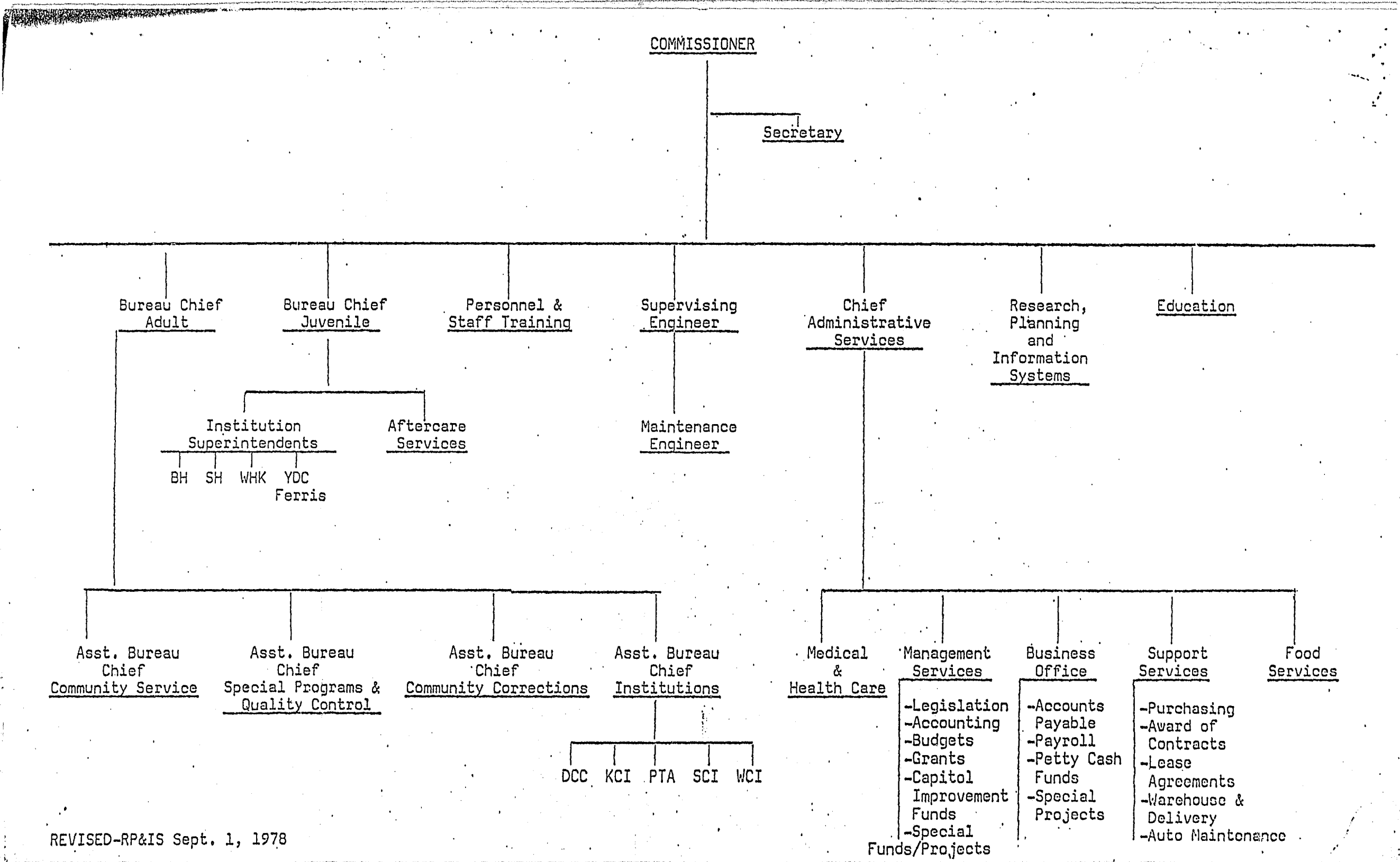
Wilmington and will house 63 inmates. Approximately 500 parolees and 3,500 probationers are under the supervision of the Probation and Parole Unit.

Work Referral and Community Service programs are administered by the adult bureau as alternatives to incarceration. The Pre-Trial Release Unit investigates defendants following arrest and before arraignment, and makes recommendations to the courts relative to the release of the defendants on bail.

Dr. Bruce H. Hobler is the Acting Chief of the Bureau of Juvenile Correction. The Ferris School for Boys is located at Centre and Faulkland Roads, Wilmington. Approximately 130 male youths are committed to the institution with about 30 of the youths housed in a maximum security unit. The Woods Haven-Kruse School for Girls is located at Claymont and the average daily population has declined to approximately 16 girls for several months. The Bureau of Juvenile Correction operates two detention centers for both boys and girls. The Stevenson House is located at Milford and the Bridge House is located in Wilmington. Both institutions are designed to house approximately 20 youths.

Community Based Services, consisting of four inter-related service programs, are also administered by the Bureau of Juvenile Correction. They are After-care (parole), Prevention/Diversion, Alternative Living and Interstate Compact. All of the services are provided on a statewide basis and all staff are available on a 24-hour basis.

The Central Office administration provide supportive staff and resources for both the adult and juvenile bureaus. These include Personnel and staff, Training, Engineering and Maintenance, Administrative Services, Education and Research, and Planning and Information Systems.



REVISED-RP&IS Sept. 1, 1978

Statutory Responsibilities

11 Del. C. 6502 directs that:

"A Department of Correction is established to provide for the treatment, rehabilitation and restoration of offenders as useful, law-abiding citizens within the community. To achieve these purposes more effectively in a coordinated and united manner, the Department shall be completely responsible for the maintenance, supervision and administration of adult detention and correctional services and facilities of the State, which include institutional facilities and probation and parole services. These institutions and services shall be diversified in program, construction and staff to provide effectively and efficiently for the maximum study, care, custody, training, and supervision and treatment of those persons committed to the institutional facilities or on probation or parole, so that they may be prepared for release, aftercare, discharge or supervision in the community. This chapter shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate its purpose."

Objectives

The Office of Administration has as objectives the continuous efforts to improve fiscal control, continuance of training programs, supervision of construction, maintenance and engineering, and improvement of all supportive services to facilitate a more efficient operation of the Department of Correction.

The objectives of the Bureau of Adult Correction are to establish a firm control over the entire adult correction system, resolve the over-population in all institutions, and increase the level of:

1. Safety
2. Security
3. Supervision
4. Structure
5. Services
Medical, motivational, educational, vocational, religious, counselling, psychological, psychiatric, guided group interaction, athletic, recreational and volunteer.

The objectives of the Bureau of Juvenile Correction are:

1. To provide for a comprehensive Assessment, Evaluation and Program Plan for all youth committed to the Bureau.
2. To provide relevant educational experiences, remedial programs and vocational training for all youth.
3. To provide for quality professional medical and dental services through intake evaluation and on an "as needed" basis.
4. To provide treatment and rehabilitative programs through individual and group counselling utilizing the Therapeutic Community concept.
5. To provide follow-up counselling services through Community Based Programs for all youth released from an institutional setting.
6. To provide alternative living programs for those youth who have no home or natural family to return to - Sycamore Street Group Home.
7. To provide vocational counselling and appropriate job opportunities for all youth who are near completion of their tenure with the Bureau.
8. To provide probation services in conjunction with the Family Court up to a maximum of 50 youth. This is accomplished through the Community Based Services Program.

FY 1978 Major Accomplishments

During FY 1978 the Master Plan for the Department of Correction was completed. This was accomplished after numerous meetings involving Governor Pierre S. du Pont, IV, members of the Governor's staff, the Governor's Commission on Criminal Justice, the Office of Management, Budget and Planning, and the Department of Correction. Many problems in corrections were addressed in the Master Plan. They ranged from building programs, bail reform, health care, treatment and classification, prison industries, and security, to probation and parole. Major accomplishments were made in the following areas:

1. Health and medical care upgraded with medical contract to outside contractor.
2. Prison industry building constructed and prison industry programming developed.
3. Classification Officer employed and classification system revamped.
4. Inmate Grievance Officer employed and inmate grievance mechanism developed.
5. Intensive parole unit operationalized.
6. Additional probation and parole officers hired to assist an already overloaded staff.
7. Reduced overcrowded situation at Women's Correctional Institution with use of two cottages.
8. Expansion of educational programs and other programs at the Women's Correctional Institution.
9. Work release programs expanded at Kent Correctional Institution and Sussex Correctional Institution.
10. Review and reorganization of internal procedures and controls within the Department of Correction, including updating of departmental manuals.
11. Sound resolution to housing problems.
12. Development and control of furlough program demanded to control population restrictions.

The Bureau of Juvenile Correction opened and operationalized a 40-bed maximum security unit. An animal husbandry program was completed. A formal working relationship was established with the Bureau of Substance Abuse in order to better coordinate the services for students in our custody. The New Castle County Interagency Task Force on Services to Youth was developed and is comprised of law enforcement officers, school officials and members of both private and public agencies to develop a comprehensive and coordinated service system for youth in New Castle County.

Also, a central office of administration was opened in Smyrna. The necessary administrative services needed to support the needs of both the adult and juvenile bureaus are finally placed in one location and has developed efficiently in the overall operation.

Problems

Maintenance in the institutions continues to be a problem in both the adult and juvenile bureaus. Outdated equipment and supplies have been stored at Ferris School and Woods Haven-Kruse School for a number of years to the extent that most of this has been deemed junk. Recently most of this problem was dealt with as a result of inspections of the institutions. Inspections will continue of all institutions for maintenance and sanitation needs. However, roofs, kitchen equipment, plumbing, painting and mechanical problems still exist. Additional funds and maintenance personnel appear to be the major part of the maintenance problem solution.

Compliance with Federal Court Orders continues to be a problem. This problem has been dealt with to a great extent and completion of building programs now underway should alleviate this situation. However, it appears that changing of standards and regulations by the federal government in the field of corrections will continue as a result of court suits and compliance is often a problem.

A primary operational problem is the "run away" overtime costs in both the adult and juvenile bureaus. Court and Transportation overtime costs and outside hospital security are among a multitude of services causing excessive overtime. Efforts are underway and must be developed to gain absolute control of this serious problem.

Meeting the needs of those inmates requesting participation in educational programs continues to be a problem. Expansion of housing capabilities compounds this problem. Additional teachers are needed to satisfy the low ratio of inmates a teacher may serve due to the level of students. Also, P.L. 94-142 must be complied with.

Status of Long Range Projects

A 64-bed maximum security building is to be constructed on the grounds of the Delaware Correctional Center near Smyrna. It will be located outside of the present compound and will operate as a separate facility. The inmates selected for housing in this unit should be men who have shown a chronic inability to function within the general population of the various adult institutions in the state. These men would include borderline psychotics, men prone to violent acting, those with hysterical reactions to prison (including escape risks), and those described as "behavioral problems." \$3,250,000 has been appropriated for this facility. The facility has been designed and bids were to be received in May 1978. Unfortunately litigation prevented bids from being received and is still pending in Chancery Court. It is anticipated that the court action will be settled and a contract awarded for construction late in 1978. Approximately two years is estimated for construction.

A multi-purpose criminal justice facility will be constructed at the Gander Hill site on 12th Street in the city of Wilmington. The facility will house 300 male and 60 female inmates. The multi-purpose facility will house principally pretrial male inmates and sentenced misdemeanants. It will house both pretrial and sentenced women. Intake services will be provided. A judicial center with one courtroom and space for court-related activities are a part of the multi-purpose criminal justice facility. An architect and construction manager have been selected for this project and design of the project has begun. Funds have been appropriated to begin construction of the multi-purpose facility which is estimated to cost approximately \$19,000,000. The "fast track" method of construction will be used and construction is estimated for completion in mid 1981.

A long range project for the Bureau of Juvenile Correction is the complete renovation and development of 196 acres at Ferris School leading into an agricultural training program. Approximately two years time is estimated for completion of this project.

Also, a project to provide for systematic job counselling and employment opportunities for all youth committed to the Department is being developed. It is estimated that this project may take 12 to 18 months to reach its full effectiveness.

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