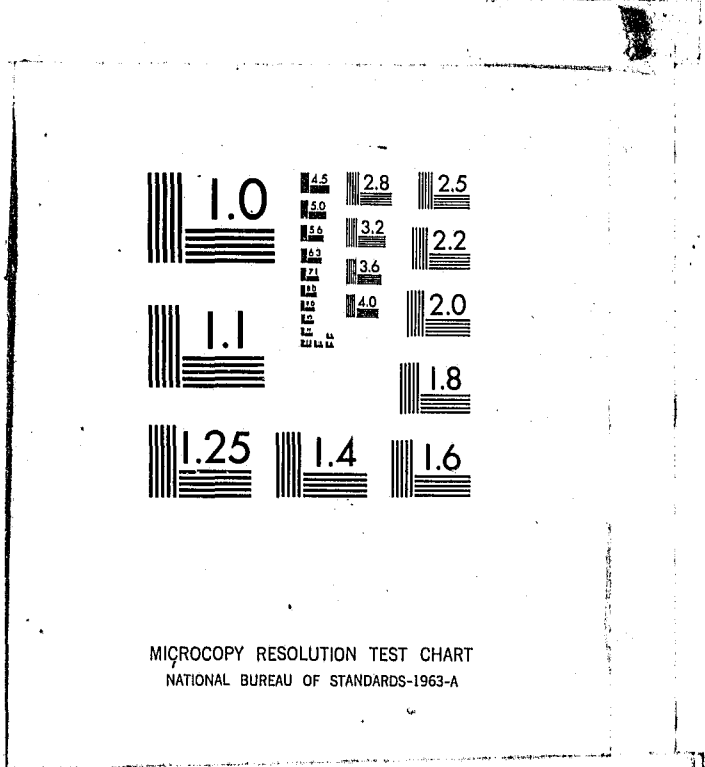


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The Mecklenburg youth Services Action Board

An Assessment of Delinquency Prevention and
Treatment Services Needed in Charlotte
And Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

1978

Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board
Mecklenburg County Office Building (Third Floor)
720 East Fourth Street
Charlotte, North Carolina

AN ASSESSMENT OF DELINQUENCY PREVENTION AND
TREATMENT SERVICES NEEDED IN CHARLOTTE
AND MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

1978

Prepared by

The Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board

February 28, 1978

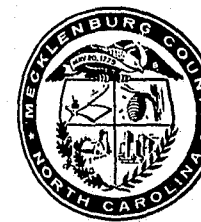
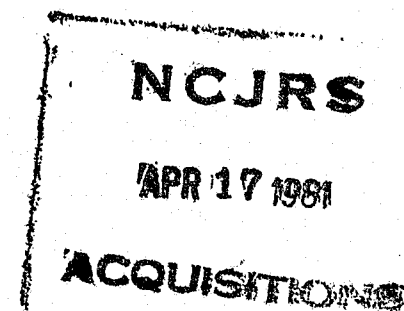
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Mecklenburg Youth Service Bureau,
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Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board

Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Peter A. Foley
Chairman
Mr. William H. Booe
Mrs. Elisabeth G. Hair
Mr. Edwin B. Peacock, Jr.
Mr. Robert L. Walton

March 20, 1978

Mecklenburg Youth Services Action Board

Mrs. Pat DeLaney, Chairman
Judge L. Stanley Brown
Mrs. Thelma Colston
Mr. James F. Foxx, Sr.
Ms. Rosena Gaines
Mrs. Fay Grasty
Rev. Calvin A. Hood
Mrs. Cynthia B. Marshall
Mr. Robert Martin
Ms. Cheryl Northcutt
Mr. William G. Robinson
Mrs. Elizabeth Rosenthal
Dr. Thomas B. Stockton
Mrs. Sally Thomas
Mrs. Ann Wood

Mr. Peter A. Foley, Chairman
Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners
County Office Building - Fourth Floor
720 East Fourth Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

Dear Mr. Foley:

In compliance with HB-456 ratified by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1975, and consistent with the charge given in 1975 by the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, the Youth Services Action Board is submitting An Assessment of Delinquency Prevention and Treatment Services Needed in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (1978).

Address

C/o Mecklenburg Youth
Services Bureau
County Office Bldg. (3rd Floor)
720 East Fourth Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202
704/374-2926

In conducting the 1978 Needs Assessment, the Youth Services Action Board employed the expertise of the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee. The Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee is a twenty-six member committee with representatives from nineteen different youth serving agencies which are most responsible for providing services to youth who typically penetrate the juvenile justice system.

Questionnaires were sent to each Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee member. Each committee member was requested to complete and return the questionnaire by November 30, 1977, and to attend a questionnaire review meeting on December 12, 1977.

The staff of the YSAB (Youth Services Bureau) compiled and organized the responses of the professionals and submitted the information to the Needs Assessment Committee of the YSAB. The Needs Assessment Committee then digested the material, developing specific recommendations and conclusions designed to improve the community's

Children Are Our Most Valuable Resource

Mr. Peter A. Foley
February 20, 1978
Page Two

effort to prevent and treat delinquency (see Recommendations and Conclusions pp. 1 - 2 of this report).

The Needs Assessment Committee submitted the report to the full Board of the YSAB on March 14, 1978. The YSAB approved the report as enclosed herewith, and respectfully submits it to the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners for your approval and support.

Sincerely,

Pat DeLaney

Mrs. Pat DeLaney, Chairman
Mecklenburg Youth Services
Action Board

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Recommendations

The YSAB believes it is in the interest of children and the community that the following recommendations be implemented:

1. The Board of County Commissioners is requested by Resolution to require directors of all youth serving agencies which are wholly or partially funded by the County, or funds the disposition of which is wholly or partially controlled by the County, to submit to the YSAB by or before June 1, 1978, a specific detailed written proposal stating the course of action which that agency can implement to solve the six problems listed on page 13 of this report, as those problems relate to that agency, including specific in-house policy or administrative procedures which can alleviate those problems.
2. The Board of County Commissioners is requested to continue a policy of applying for all state and federal funds which are available to finance the implementation and maintenance of those delinquency prevention and treatment services which the Youth Services Action Board, in consultation with the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee, determines are most needed in Mecklenburg County.
3. The Board of County Commissioners is requested to vote to meet with the local legislative delegation and send letters to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House for the purpose of requesting these persons to support increased appropriation and disbursement of State funds which can be utilized by local units of government to contract with public and private agencies to provide community-based alternatives to the juvenile justice system.

Conclusions

Based upon information provided in the Findings section of this report, and upon responses made by YSPAC members, the YSAB has concluded the following:

1. The conclusions drawn by the YSAB in the 1977 Needs Assessment are still true and legitimate problems for the community:
 - a. The needs of many children would be better served by an increased emphasis on the development and encouragement of parental responsibility.
 - b. The substantive time and services rendered children by existing youth serving agencies are unnecessarily reduced by excessive paperwork and record-keeping required by bureaucratic procedures of those agencies.
 - c. There exists insufficient communication between existing youth service agencies and inadequate awareness by youth service agency personnel of the existence and nature of other youth serving agency resources.
 - d. Hard-core problem adolescents are not wanted or admitted by many agencies. These adolescents have no places to be helped.
 - e. Existing youth serving agencies are overburdened.
 - f. The existence of a multiplicity of youth serving agencies as presently constituted often results in poor coordination of services available and services rendered to the particular child.
2. The Board of County Commissioners should require by Resolution the directors of all youth serving agencies which are wholly or partially funded by the County, or funds the disposition of which is wholly or partially controlled by the County, to submit to the YSAB by or before June 1, 1978, a specific detailed written proposal stating the course of action which that agency can implement to solve the six problems listed as item one of this section, as those problems relate to that agency, including specific in-house policy or administrative procedures which can alleviate those problems.
3. Local government should accept significantly greater responsibility in the area of providing funding and encouraging community involvement in dealing with the problems of youth.
4. There exists inadequate resources within the community to deal with the problems of child abuse and neglect for children ages 0-10, and that such represents an area of concern which the YSAB hopes to address more vigorously (see Appendix E).

Findings

1. Data obtained from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools concerning the number of children enrolled in public and private schools in 1977, indicates that approximately 77,765 children between the ages of 7 and 17 reside in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Of these children, approximately 66,765 fall within the age range of 7 through 15.
2. The age jurisdiction of the juvenile court in North Carolina is 7 through 15 for children alleged to be delinquent, and 7 through 17 for children alleged to be status offenders. Research studies indicate that a community can expect about 4% of its children to be referred to the juvenile court. Based upon data provided by the school system concerning the number of children between the ages of 7 and 17 who attend public and private schools in Charlotte-Mecklenburg (77,765); and data provided by the Chief Court Counselor in Mecklenburg County concerning the actual number of children about whom complaints were received at juvenile court intake during 76-77 (1,750), it appears that in Mecklenburg County, approximately 2% of the children between the ages of 7 and 17 are referred to juvenile court intake, a figure which is about one-half that which research indicates may be expected.
3. The Chief Court Counselor in Mecklenburg County reports that between July 1, 1976 and June 30, 1977, the juvenile court intake staff received 2,264 complaints regarding children 7 through 17 years of age who were alleged to be undisciplined or delinquent. The complaints involved 1,750 different children. Of the 2,264 complaints, 754 (33%) alleged undisciplined behavior. Of the 754 complaints alleging undisciplined behavior, 430 (57%) were diverted at the point of intake. Only 324 (43%) of the complaints alleging undisciplined behavior resulted in a petition.
4. Charlotte City and Mecklenburg County Police arrest reports document that 1,836 arrests of children under 16 years of age were made between July 1, 1976 and June 30, 1977. Some of these children were arrested more than one time; therefore, the actual number of children arrested is less than 1,836. Of the 1,836 arrests of children under 16 years of age, 1,696 (92%) were referred to the juvenile court by police. Some of these children were referred to the juvenile court more than one time; therefore, the actual number of children who were referred to the juvenile court by police is less than 1,696. Of the 1,836 arrests of children under 16 years of age, 140 (8%) were handled within the department and released (to parents, etc.), or had a similar disposition. See Appendix C of this report to ascertain the offenses for which children under 16 years of age were arrested during this 12 month period.
5. Juvenile court records document that between July 1, 1976 through June 30, 1977, 324 juvenile petitions were filed against children alleging the commission of a status offense. The 324 petitions filed against children for allegedly committing a status offense represents a 6% decrease over the same period in 1975-76.

6. Juvenile court records show that 632 misdemeanor and 729 felony offenses were alleged in juvenile petitions filed against children during the period July 1, 1976 through June 30, 1977. This is 27% fewer misdemeanor and 19% fewer felony offenses than were alleged in juvenile petitions filed during the same period in 1975-76. One juvenile petition will frequently allege that a child has committed more than one delinquent act; therefore, the actual number of children who were alleged to have committed these offenses is less than the number of misdemeanor and felony offenses alleged in juvenile petitions.
7. The director of the local detention center reports that 449 children were detained at the detention facility during the period July 1, 1976 through June 30, 1977. Of the 449 children detained, 239 (53%) were placed in detention more than one time during 1976-77. Of the 449 children detained, 227 (51%) were detained because they allegedly had been truant from school (2), out of the control of parents or school personnel (59), or had run away from home (166). Some of the children were detained for violating conditions of their probation (97), or their conditional release from a state training school (7), by committing an undisciplined act.
8. The director of the local detention center reports that 64 children from Mecklenburg County were incarcerated in state juvenile correctional institutions during the period July 1, 1976 through June 30, 1977. This represents a 23% decrease over the corresponding period of time in 1975-76. Of the 64 children incarcerated in state juvenile correctional institutions, 23 (36%) were committed for violating conditions of their probation (13), or their conditional release from training school (10), because they committed an undisciplined act.
9. As indicated by the following data, there has been a reduction in the number of children who have penetrated the juvenile justice system in Mecklenburg County during the period July 1, 1974 through June 30, 1977:

a. Number of juvenile petitions filled against children alleging the commission of undisciplined acts.

<u>1973-74</u>	<u>1974-75</u>	<u>1975-76</u>	<u>1976-77</u>
556	262	343	324

b. Number of misdemeanor offenses alleged in juvenile petitions filed against children.

<u>1973-74</u>	<u>1974-75</u>	<u>1975-76</u>	<u>1976-77</u>
1,116	971	869	632

4

c. Number of felony offenses alleged in juvenile petitions filed against children.

<u>1973-74</u>	<u>1974-75</u>	<u>1975-76</u>	<u>1976-77</u>
1,017	1,091	896	729

d. Number of children detained in the local detention center.

<u>1973-74</u>	<u>1974-75</u>	<u>1975-76</u>	<u>1976-77</u>
686	523	509	449

e. Number of local children incarcerated in state juvenile correctional institutions.

<u>1973-74</u>	<u>1974-75</u>	<u>1975-76</u>	<u>1976-77</u>
113	77	83	64

Methods, Procedures and Findings of the 1978 Assessment of Delinquency Prevention and Treatment Services in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

In conducting the 1978 Needs Assessment in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, the Youth Services Action Board (YSAB) requested the assistance of the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee (YSPAC). The YSPAC is a twenty-six member committee appointed by the YSAB. Each member is a representative of an agency which provides services to youth in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. The agencies represented are those which are primarily responsible for providing services to youth who typically penetrate the juvenile justice system for allegedly committing undisciplined or delinquent acts. Nineteen different youth serving agencies are represented on the YSPAC. See Appendix B of this report for a listing of YSPAC members.

The YSAB requested each YSPAC member to complete and return by November 30, 1977, a questionnaire related to delinquency prevention and treatment services existing and needed in Charlotte-Mecklenburg; as well as child abuse and neglect services needed in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Eighteen (18) of the twenty-six YSPAC members completed and returned the questionnaire. See Appendices D and E of this report for complete listings of delinquency prevention and treatment services, and child abuse and neglect services which YSPAC members individually identified as being needed in the community.

The YSPAC members were requested to attend a questionnaire-review meeting on December 12, 1977 to discuss in more detail the complete listing of needs identified by YSPAC members individually in the original questionnaires. The purpose of the meeting was to consolidate any needs which seemed similar, thus reducing the total number of needs identified and to have each YSPAC member assign a priority to each need in terms of individually perceived value to the community and youth in achieving the objectives of delinquency prevention and treatment; as well as, child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment. Eleven (11) YSPAC members, three (3) YSAB members, and one (1) representative from Centralina Council of Governments attended the questionnaire reviewing meeting.

Each YSPAC member was requested in the original questionnaire and at the questionnaire-review meeting, to respond to specific questions concerning each service identified as a community need; and to assign a numerical priority to each service need. The number one (1) was designated as representing the top priority value, and ascending priority numbers were designated as representing descending priority values. The scoring of the priority designations was accomplished by assigning a point value to each priority number, and subsequently totaling the point values. A priority number of one (1), for example, earned a point value of thirty while a priority number of two (2) earned a point value of twenty-nine, etc. The subsequent point totals then yielded an aggregate numerical value which reflected the priority value of that particular service need to YSPAC members. The higher the numerical score of a given service need, the greater the priority value assigned to that need by the YSPAC.

For those YSPAC members who attended the questionnaire-review meeting, priority designations were taken from the complete listing of delinquency prevention and treatment services, and child abuse and neglect services which were reviewed and consolidated at the questionnaire-review meeting. For those YSPAC members who did not attend the questionnaire-review meeting but who did submit an original questionnaire, priority designations were taken from the originally completed questionnaires.

The YSPAC members were requested to assign priority values to service needs based upon each member's perceived value of a given service to the community and youth in achieving the objectives of delinquency prevention and treatment; as well as, child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment. YSPAC members were specifically requested not to assign a priority value to a particular need based upon the existence or nonexistence of that particular service. The purpose of such a request was to ensure that those services which are viewed by YSPAC members as most basic, receive an accurate priority value assignment. Recognizing that the availability of resources to develop and maintain services frequently determines whether a particular need is filled or not, and recognizing the fact that many of the currently existing delinquency prevention and treatment services identified in the 1977 Needs Assessment still do not have stable funding structures, the YSAB wanted to ensure that no inappropriately high or low priority assignments were made based upon the existence or nonexistence of a particular service. Following such a procedure allows the YSAB to always know the services which YSPAC members view as most basic to delinquency prevention and treatment; as well as, child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment. Therefore, many of the services which received a high priority designation by YSPAC members do in fact exist in the community. The high priority designations in such instances serve to reinforce the fact that those particular services represent crucial community needs.

The 1978 Assessment of Delinquency Prevention and Treatment Services Needed in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, yielded the following data concerning delinquency prevention and treatment services existing and needed in Mecklenburg County. The first eight services described below earned the highest point totals of the 1978 Needs Assessment, and are identical to the services identified in the 1977 Needs Assessment. Included with the data reported, is a brief description of the degree to which implementation of these eight services has progressed in Mecklenburg County.

a. Intensive counseling and casework services

Need: 17/18 (94%) Priority: 1

The Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau was established specifically to provide this services. The YSB furnishes intervention

and referral services and intensive counseling and casework services to children who are exhibiting behaviors which have brought or could bring them under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as undisciplined or delinquent. Services delivered emphasize diagnosing factors relating to each child's ineffective behavior; making interventions in home and school settings which assist children, parents, and school personnel in reducing problem behaviors and increasing desirable behaviors; and referring children and families to appropriate ongoing services. Intensive counseling and casework services are delivered in home and school settings at times convenient for those being served. Parent Skill Development Classes are offered on a weekly basis.

The director of this agency projects that in 1978-79 the Youth Services Bureau Direct Services to Youth Program Component will serve 320 children at a cost of \$175,000. He anticipates that the YSB will be able to meet the demand for the service during the 1978-79 fiscal year.

When asked whether the capacity of the YSB to deliver intensive counseling and casework services should be expanded, 11/18 (61%) of the YSPAC members responding indicated that they would like to see the service expanded.

b. Residential group home treatment units (6-12 months)

Need: 16/18 (89%) Priority: 2

Youth Homes, Inc. was established specifically to provide this service. Youth Homes currently operates 4 group home treatment units for children, ages 10-16, whose behavior makes it difficult for them to successfully adjust to their natural or foster homes. Children served by Youth Homes are provided an opportunity to learn academic, social, and self-help skills which assist them in adjusting successfully to their natural or foster homes, schools, and community. The director of this agency projects that in the 1978-79 fiscal year Youth Homes, Inc. will serve 45 children at a cost of \$220,000. He anticipates that Youth Homes, Inc. will be able to meet the demand for services for girls, but expects that the demand for services for boys will exceed the capacity of the agency during 1978-79.

When asked whether the capacity of Youth Homes, Inc. to provide residential group home treatment services should be expanded, 11/18 (61%) of the YSPAC members responding indicated that they would like to see the service expanded.

c. Alternative remedial education

Need: 17/18 (94%) Priority: 3

c. Alternative remedial education cont'd

The Street Academy was established specifically to provide this service. The Street Academy currently offers alternative educational services to children in grades 7-12 who have academic and social skill deficiencies or who for other reasons are unable to make a successful adjustment to their "home" school settings. Services currently provided by this agency emphasize furnishing individualized instruction to children for the purpose of teaching them the academic and social skills they will need to be successful in their "home" school. The director of this agency projects that in the 1978-79 school year the Street Academy will serve 300 students at a cost of \$314,000. He also projects that 100 students will need educational services offered by the Street Academy during the 1978-79 school year, but will not gain access to the service for lack of space.

When asked whether the capacity of the Street Academy to deliver alternative remedial educational services should be expanded, 9/18 (50%) of the YSPAC members responding indicated that they would like to see the service expanded.

d. Specialized foster care (6-12 months)

Need: 17/18 (94%) Priority: 4

Youth Homes, Inc. has been awarded an LEAA grant to provide specialized foster care in Mecklenburg County. Youth Homes will recruit and train twenty (20) specialized foster parents, providing them with a level of skills and supportive services not routinely available to regular foster parents. Each specialized foster home will provide services to one foster child who cannot function successfully in a regular foster home, but who does not require the added structure of a group home. The service will be available to children in the custody of the Department of Social Services; as well as, to children in the care of their natural parents. The director of Youth Homes, Inc. projects that in the first year of operation specialized foster care services will be provided to 20 children at a cost of \$67,500. He projects that from 50 to 100 children in the custody of the Department of Social Services or their natural parents will need specialized foster care services during the first year the program is in operation.

e. Specialized emergency foster care services (1-60 days)

Need: 16/18 (89%) Priority: 5

North Carolina Lutheran Services to Families and Children is developing four (4), five-person group homes in the community to

e. Specialized emergency foster care services (1-60 days) cont'd

provide emergency placement care, and planning services (for long-term care) for children in the custody of the Department of Social Services. Youth entering the program will be admitted on an emergency basis and will remain for a maximum of sixty days. In addition to receiving quality residential care, planning services will be offered to fully assess the youths' family system and individual needs so that appropriate plans can be developed for his/her future. The director of this program projects that nine months after the start of the program, 120 children will be cared for on an annual basis at an annual cost of \$247,346. The director also indicates that this service will be able to provide emergency residence for 60% of all children determined by service workers to need such care. The director of the Department of Social Services indicates that this program will meet the greatest need of the Department of Social Services. The Department of Social Services will contract with North Carolina Lutheran Services to Families and Children to provide this service.

f. Long-term residential group home treatment services (over 1 year)

Need: 16/18 (89%) Priority: 6

The 1977 Needs Assessment found that there existed a need for long-term residential group home treatment services for some children who required group home treatment services, but who did not have adequate natural homes to work with. The 1978 Needs Assessment reaffirmed the need for this kind of service. No such service has currently been developed in Mecklenburg County.

g. Temporary shelter care (1-90 days)

Need: 16/18 (89%) Priority: 7

The 1977 Needs Assessment found that one agency, Baptist Emergency Youth Care Center, offered temporary shelter care to girls, 6-17 years of age, who have experienced a family crisis and who need short-term placement until such time as a longer term placement can be arranged. This shelter care facility seeks to serve girls from any county in the state who need such service. The agency director projects that during the 1978-79 fiscal year this agency will furnish services to 50 girls at a direct care cost of \$43,567. She projects that 50% of the girls served will be Mecklenburg County residents. She also indicates that the demand for the service for girls has increased and that approximately 30 requests for the service will be made for girls who will not gain access to the service due to space limitations.

The 1977 Needs Assessment revealed a need for Mecklenburg County to develop a temporary shelter care facility to serve both boys and girls and to serve only County residents, particularly those

g. Temporary shelter care (1-90 days) cont'd

youth who do not need to be in the custody of the Department of Social Services. The 1978 Needs Assessment reaffirmed the need for this kind of service. No such service has currently been developed in Mecklenburg County.

h. Emergency shelter care services (1-12 days)

Need: 16/18 (89%) Priority: 8

The Relatives was established specifically to provide this service. The Relatives provides emergency shelter care for youth who have run away from home or are experiencing a crisis at home, and who need a safe legal place to stay. The Relatives was recently licensed for nine beds. The director of this agency projects that in 1978-79 The Relatives will serve 450 youth at a cost of \$110,000. She projects that The Relatives will be able to meet the demand for the service in 1978-79.

When asked whether the capacity of The Relatives to deliver emergency shelter care services should be expanded, 10/18 (55%) of the YSPAC members responding indicated that they would like to see the services expanded.

Fifteen (15) services other than those listed above were identified by YSPAC members as delinquency prevention and treatment services needed in the community. A majority of the YSPAC members responding agreed that these services represented community needs; however, many expressed concern that they could not accurately assign priority values to the services beyond a certain point, indicating that to do so would result in priority value assignments which were rather randomly made. Therefore, the YSAB is of the opinion that submitting this list of identified needs without priority value assignments more accurately reflects that which the YSPAC members are saying, than would a listing containing priority assignments. The YSAB is, therefore, including the entire list of services about which YSPAC members reached some consensus with regard to need.

Since these particular services were not reflected in the 1977 Needs Assessment, no actions have presently been taken by the YSAB to facilitate the implementation of these services; consequently, no description concerning the degree to which implementation of these services may have progressed in Mecklenburg County is included. The YSAB feels, however, that establishing such a listing via the needs assessment process can be immeasurably valuable to the community in determining how resources can best be utilized. This information should be particularly valuable to those professionals who have programming responsibilities within existing youth serving agencies in our community.

- a. Long-term residential group homes, not necessarily treatment oriented.

- b. Comprehensive non-residential services to avoid the removal of children from their homes: Maximum counseling, courses, call-in advice services need to be provided to the families of "delinquent" and "undisciplined" children to improve the home environment. A network of support groups/foster grandparents, stipends/babysitting services, and similar services, and similar benefits can be added to get more cooperation from parents.
- c. An external evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of services rendered by various youth serving agencies.
- d. "Winning Behavior Skills" training for undisciplined and/or delinquent youth, 13-16 years of age. This program consists of a series of workshops containing seven learning modules developed around the winner-loser life style framework. From the standpoint of behavior skills, self-understanding, coping skills and social mobility, this framework is highly operational, easy to understand and relevant to youth from all walks of life, especially youth who are "hard to reach" and "underdeveloped".
- e. Wilderness Therapeutic Units - short-term (3-6 months) and long-term (over 1 year). Programming should be based upon experiential learning concepts with remedial education components.
- f. An inter-agency approach to providing services to alcoholics and children of alcoholics.
- g. A modified vocational program to serve as an alternative for students with vocational interests whose academic needs are not being met by a regular school setting (i.e., especially needed for grades 6-12, regular vocational programs begin with grade 11).
- h. Educational Emphases on Reading: Programming to strengthen basic reading skills is essential to delinquency prevention and treatment services.
- i. Psychiatric consultation for children with problems.
- j. Educational services for children between 14 and 16 years of age who are bound over to superior court and are spending several months in jail.
- k. A comprehensive community program to prevent delinquency should be developed to include:
- A. Increased involvement of the school community in:
1. Awareness of the importance of human relations in school.
 2. Value of effective education goals in moral development, values clarification, coping skills, communication skills.

B. Increased involvement of church communities in supporting all of the aforementioned.

- l. Community education about resources.
- m. Treatment services for children ages 11-13 that are severely emotionally disturbed.
- o. A volunteer program designed to meet the needs of juveniles.

Based upon the 1977 Needs Assessment, the YSAB arrived at six (6) conclusions relative to the delivery of delinquency prevention and treatment services in Mecklenburg County. As a part of the 1978 Needs Assessment, YSPAC members were requested to respond to those conclusions by agreeing or disagreeing with each. Agreement responses ranged from 100% to 61%; thus, indicating a majority consensus that all six conclusions indeed speak to existing problems within the youth service system.

Following is a listing of the six conclusions as a source of reference:

- a. The needs of many children would be better served by an increased emphasis on the development and encouragement of parental authority.
- b. The substantive time and services rendered children by existing youth serving agencies are unnecessarily reduced by excessive paperwork and recordkeeping required by bureaucratic procedures of those agencies.
- c. There exists insufficient communication between existing youth serving agencies and inadequate awareness by youth service agency personnel of the existence and nature of other youth serving agency resources.
- d. Hard-core problem adolescents are not wanted or admitted by many agencies. These adolescents have no place to be helped.
- e. Existing youth serving agencies are overburdened.
- f. The existence of a multiplicity of youth serving agencies as presently constituted often results in poor coordination of services available and services rendered to the particular child.

In concluding the 1978 Needs Assessment, it is appropriate to briefly consider the issue of funding sources, existing and potential, for community-based alternatives to state training schools. The ultimate success of such services rests with the establishment of a stable, adequate funding mechanism which is capable of creating and sustaining those services which communities identify as needed and effective. It now appears that some combination of local, state, and federal resources hold the greatest potential.

The state has set in place the mechanism for entering into a "helping partner" relationship with local governments to share planning and fiscal responsibilities for community-based services. The 1977 General Assembly

appropriated one million dollars for each year of the current biennium for the purpose of increasing the state's support of community-based services.

Mecklenburg County's share of this CBA money is \$46,629.12 for each year of the current biennium. The state is to be commended for moving into this crucial area. However, it is clear that continuing success of this effort is contingent upon increased state participation in the funding of community-based services, and upon county government's recognition and acceptance of the responsibility to meet the needs of its own citizens and more specifically its children who are at the mercy of our accepting or denying responsibility for them.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

MEMBERSHIP LIST OF THE MECKLENBURG
YOUTH SERVICES ACTION BOARD

1. Mrs. Pat DeLaney, Chairman
4033 Beresford Road (28211)
Home Phone: 366-0134
2. Mrs. TheIma Colston
5942 Crestwood Drive (28216)
Home Phone: 392-7623
3. Mrs. Sally Thomas
337 Tranquil Avenue (28209)
Home Phone: 332-5907
Work Phone: 332-1261
4. Ms. Rosena Gaines
2007 St. Paul Street (28216)
Home Phone: 392-5865
5. Mrs. Cynthia B. Marshall
601 Ashworth Road (28211)
Home Phone: 364-3913
6. Dr. Thomas B. Stockton
2335 Richardson Drive (28211)
Home Phone: 364-1610
Business Phone: 376-8584
7. Mrs. Fay Grasty
2421 Croydon Road (28209)
Home Phone: 375-5849
8. Mrs. Elizabeth Rosenthal
919 Colville Road (28207)
Home Phone: 375-1223
9. Mr. William C. Robinson
Wardlow, Knox and Knox
Attorneys at Law
1416 Johnston Building (28281)
Business Phone: 372-1360
10. Judge L. Stanley Brown
Mecklenburg County Courthouse
720 East Fourth Street (28202)
Business Phone: 374-2506
11. Mr. James F. Foxx, Sr.
1937 Crestdale Drive (28216)
Home Phone: 399-6242
12. Mr. Robert Martin
Boyd & Martin Associates, Inc.
951 South Independence Blvd.
Charlotte (28202)
Business Phone: 375-7361
13. Ms. Cheryl Northcutt
Baker I Team
Charlotte Police Department
825 Fourth Street (28202)
Home Phone: 525-5339
Business Phone: 374-2325
14. Rev. Calvin A. Hood
1327 Orvis Street (28216)
Home Phone: 333-4685
15. Mrs. Ann Wood
7504 Valley Brook Road (28211)
Home Phone: 364-1733
Business Phone: 364-7320

APPENDIX B

Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee - Membership List

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Sidney Verbal II, Public Defender
Public Defender's Office
374-3201 | 14. Dianne Austin, Social Worker
Protective Services -
Department of Social Services
374-2950 |
| 2. Sandra Lanier, Counselor
Juvenile Court Counselor Services
374-2866 | 15. Dr. Michael German
Director of Psychology
Mecklenburg County Center for
Human Development
374-2603 |
| 3. Janet Haywood, Supervisor
Mecklenburg County Juvenile Diagnostic Center
875-2922 | 16. O. W. Bidgood, Principal
Lakeview Elementary School
392-3821 |
| 4. Judge James Lanning
District Court Judge
374-2866 | 17. J. D. Hyatt, Investigator
Charlotte Police Department
374-2321 |
| 5. Calvin Wallace, Director
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
Street Academy
333-2102 | 18. Raymond Rorie, Jr., Principal
Smith Junior High School
523-5121 |
| 6. Patrick M. Martin
Direct Services Coordinator
Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau
374-2926 | 19. Lucy Giss, Director
Bethlehem Center
374-1417 |
| 7. Elaine Thomas, Director
The Relatives
377-0602 | 20. Major James C. Arrowood
City Coordinator
The Salvation Army
334-4731 |
| 8. Dan Shearer, Director
Youth Homes, Inc.
374-2570 | 21. Mrs. Billie Clark
Clinical Psychologist
Mecklenburg County Juvenile
Diagnostic Center
875-2922 |
| 9. Marie Knowles, Acting Director
Emergency Youth Care Center
Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina
597-1747 | 22. Ed Nadelman, Director
Family & Children's Services
332-9034 |
| 10. Linda Walker, Associate Director/Counselor
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council
334-3035(36) | 23. Patsy Keith, School Counselor
Wilson Junior High School
394-8175 |
| 11. Mildred Taylor, Social Worker
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
333-7581 | 24. Steve Newman, Director
Charlotte Drug Education Center
374-3211 |
| 12. Dr. Dan Biber, Psychologist
Mecklenburg County Mental Health Services
374-2778 | 25. Roy Alexander, Director
Mecklenburg 4-H and Youth Office
374-2082 |
| 13. Burt Fitch, Caseworker
Foster Care Services -
Department of Social Services
374-2950 | 26. Dennis Smirl (School Psychologist)
5006 Farm Pond Lane - Charlotte 28212
568-7650 (work number) |

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APPENDIX C

NUMBER OF ARRESTS OF JUVENILES UNDER 16 YEARS
OF AGE BY CHARLOTTE CITY POLICE AND MECKLENBURG COUNTY POLICE
DURING THE PERIOD JULY 1, 1976 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1977*

Offense	Sex		Total	Age				Total
	M	F		10 and Under	11-12	13-14	15	
Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter								
Manslaughter by Negligence								
Forcible Rape (Attempted)	1		1			1		1
Robbery	35	3	38		2	19	17	38
Assault Aggravated	19	13	32	1	5	12	14	32
Burglary-Breaking and Entering (Force)	357	22	379	40	57	162	120	379
Larceny-Theft (Except Motor Vehicle Theft)	383	168	551	33	98	232	188	551
Motor Vehicle Theft	46	1	47	1	5	19	22	47
Other Assaults - Not Aggravated	82	32	114	6	19	50	39	114
Arson	9	3	12	1		4	7	12
Forgery and Counterfeiting	3		3				3	3
Fraud								
Embezzlement								
Stolen Property (Buy, Receiving, Poss.)	4	1	5		1	3	1	5
Vandalism	83	5	88	4	24	32	28	88
Weapons: Possessing, etc.	20	5	25		5	13	7	25
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	3	2	5			2	3	5
Sex Offenses (Except Forcible Rape and Prostitution)	8		8		1	6	1	8
Drug Abuse Violations	55	17	72		1	29	42	72
Gambling								
Offenses Against the Family and Children								
Driving Under Influence	1		1				1	1
Liquor Laws	3	1	4			1	3	4
Public Drunkenness	11	2	13		1	3	9	13
Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace	8	3	11		2	3	6	11
Vagrancy								
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	248	132	380	4	26	214	136	380
Curfew and Loitering Laws								
Runaways, Juveniles Apprehended (Under age 16)	16	31	47		2	12	33	47
Total	1395	441	1836	90	249	817	680	1836
	Percent (%)	76%	24%	100%	5%	14%	44%	37%

*This data was obtained from monthly reports prepared by the Charlotte City Police and Mecklenburg County Police of persons arrested who are under 18 years of age.

APPENDIX D

Delinquency Prevention and Treatment Services

- | | <u>Need</u> | <u>Priority</u> |
|---|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Residential group home treatment units (6-12 months) | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |
| 2. Emergency shelter care services (1-12 days) | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |
| 3. Alternative remedial education | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |
| 4. Intensive counseling and casework services | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |
| 5. Temporary shelter care (1-90 days) | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |
| 6. Specialized foster care (6-12 months) | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |
| 7. Specialized emergency foster care services (1-90 days) | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |
| 8. Long-term residential group home treatment services (over 1 year) | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |
| 9. Educational services for children between 14 and 16 years of age who are bound over to superior court and are spending several months in jail

Janet Haywood, Supervisor
Mecklenburg County Juvenile Diagnostic Center | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |
| 10. A job (occupation) program similar to Job Corps for 15 year olds, whose needs haven't been met in an academic setting (i.e., approximately a three-month strictly job oriented program).

a. Janet Haywood, Supervisor
Mecklenburg County Juvenile Diagnostic Center

b. Burt Fitch, Department of Social Services | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |
| 11. A modified vocational program to serve as an alternative for students with vocational interests and academic needs not being met by a regular school setting (i.e., especially needed for grades 8-10, regular vocational programs begin with grade 11). | | |

- | | <u>Need</u> | <u>Priority</u> |
|---|----------------|-----------------|
| 11. (Continued)

a. Patsy Keith, Counselor
Wilson Junior High School

b. Burt Fitch, Department of Social Services | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |
| 12. Vocational training for youth in the 16-19 year old age range.

Elaine Thomas, Director
The Relatives | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |
| 13. Educational Emphasis on Reading: Programming to strengthen basic reading skills is essential to delinquency prevention and treatment services.

Pat Martin, Direct Services Coordinator
Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |
| 14. "Winning Behavior Skills" training for undisciplined and/or delinquent youth, 13-16 years of age. This program consists of a series of workshops containing seven learning modules developed around the winner-loser life style framework. From the standpoint of behavior skills, self-understanding, coping skills, and social mobility, this framework is highly operational, easy to understand and relevant to youth from all walks of life, especially youth who are "hard to reach" and "underdeveloped".

Roy Alexander, Director
Mecklenburg 4-H and Youth Office | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |
| 15. Long-term residential group homes, not necessarily treatment oriented.

Billie M. Clark, Psychologist
Juvenile Diagnostic Center | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |
| 16. Some external evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of services rendered by various youth serving agencies

Billie M. Clark, Psychologist
Juvenile Diagnostic Center | Yes ___ No ___ | ___ |

- | | <u>Need</u> | <u>Priority</u> |
|--|-------------|-----------------|
| 17. Services for juveniles with long-term emotional or mental disorders. A county-based facility would afford these children an opportunity to be visited more often by parents, relatives and friends. This might aid greatly some type of stability.

Sidney Verbal II, Public Defender's Office | Yes ___ | No ___ |
| 18. Treatment services for children ages 11-13 that are severely emotionally disturbed.

Dianne Austin, Social Worker
Department of Social Services | Yes ___ | No ___ |
| 19. Psychiatric consultation for children with problems.

Dianne Austin, Social Worker
Department of Social Services

Burt Fitch, Caseworker
Department of Social Services | Yes ___ | No ___ |
| 20. Intensive family counseling is needed.

Marie Knowles, Acting Director
Emergency Youth Care Center | Yes ___ | No ___ |
| 21. An intensive remediation program held in the summer to provide individual assistance in academics and counseling. Included in this should also be opportunities to explore interests, hobbies and cultural awareness (field trips, etc).

Patsy Keith, Counselor
Wilson Junior High School | Yes ___ | No ___ |
| 22. Comprehensive non-residential services to avoid removal of children from the homes. Maximum counseling, courses, call-in advice services need to be provided to the families of "delinquent" and "undisciplined" children to improve the home environment. Perhaps a network of support groups/ foster grandparents, etc. Stipends/baby-sitting services and similar benefits can be added to get more cooperation.

Stephen Newman and Rita Arundell
Charlotte Drug Education Center | Yes ___ | No ___ |

- | | <u>Need</u> | <u>Priority</u> |
|--|-------------|-----------------|
| 23. An inter-agency approach to providing services to alcoholics and children of alcoholics.

a. Stephen Newman and Rita Arundell
Charlotte Drug Education Center

b. Elaine Thomas, Director
The Relatives | Yes ___ | No ___ |
| 24. A comprehensive program to prevent delinquency should be developed to include:

A. Family support services:

1. Parent education
2. Hotline
3. Support groups
4. Counseling

B. Increased involvement of the school community in:

1. Awareness of the importance of human relations in school.
2. Value of effective education goals in moral development, values clarification, coping skills, communication skills.

C. Increased involvement of church communities in supporting all of the above

Steve Newman
Charlotte Drug Education Center | Yes ___ | No ___ |
| 25. Wilderness Therapeutic Units - short-term (3-6 months) and long-term (over 1 year). Programming should be based upon experiential learning concepts with remedial education components.

Lucy Gist, Director
Bethlehem Center | Yes ___ | No ___ |
| 26. Street workers that can offer youth's more responsible alternatives, counsel, and make referrals.

Elaine Thomas, Director
The Relatives | Yes ___ | No ___ |
| 27. More recreational facilities.

Elaine Thomas, Director
The Relatives | Yes ___ | No ___ |

28. A volunteer program designed to meet the needs of juveniles.

Elaine Thomas, Director
The Relatives

<u>Need</u>	<u>Priority</u>
Yes _____ No _____	_____

APPENDIX E

Child Abuse and Neglect Services for Children Ages 0-10

The charge given to the YSAB in a resolution approved by the County Commissioners in March 1974, is to identify, implement, coordinate and monitor delinquency prevention and treatment services in Mecklenburg County. Consistent with that charge, the YSAB has identified and supported services to meet the needs of youth who are already exhibiting behavior which could involve them in the juvenile justice system as "undisciplined" or "delinquent". The YSAB is not, however, insensitive to the primary prevention needs of the community, particularly as they relate to abused and neglected children ages 0-10. The YSAB requested the YSPAC members, as a separate part of the 1978 Needs Assessment, to identify child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment services needed in Mecklenburg County. The YSPAC members responding to this portion of the Needs Assessment identified as needs of the community 10 services for the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect:

- a. Family Crisis Center - for parents and children who need assistance as a result of abuse and neglect to include: crisis nursery, therapeutic child care, emergency homemaker service, parent aide program.

<u>Need</u>	<u>No Response</u>	<u>Priority</u>
10/10 100%	0	1

- b. Community Education Program about abuse and neglect and services to help.

<u>Need</u>	<u>No Response</u>	<u>Priority</u>
10/10 100%	0	2

- c. Parent-Infant Program (a program to teach appropriate parenting skills to potential child abusers).

<u>Need</u>	<u>No Response</u>	<u>Priority</u>
9/10 90%	1/10 10%	3

- d. Increased protective services staff to enable investigation to be done more thoroughly and quickly.

<u>Need</u>	<u>No Response</u>	<u>Priority</u>
9/10 90%	1/10 10%	4

- e. A Child Abuse and Neglect Needs Assessment should be done. Evaluating and need would then allow for appropriate planning.

<u>Need</u>	<u>No Response</u>	<u>Priority</u>
8/10 80%	2/10 20%	5

- f. Multi-disciplinary team approach in evaluating abuse and neglect cases. The team should consist of DSS workers, hospital social worker, pediatrician, psychologist, lay-member, school personnel. Information from all agencies serving youth should be made available to the group.

<u>Need</u>	<u>No Response</u>	<u>Priority</u>
7/10 70%	3/10 30%	6

- g. Temporary shelter care (1-90 days) for children. Parents should be allowed to use the service without a lot of "red tape".

<u>Need</u>	<u>No Response</u>	<u>Priority</u>
6/10 60%	4/10 40%	7

- h. Immediate psychiatric consultation (family therapy) for families and children.

<u>Need</u>	<u>No Response</u>	<u>Priority</u>
6/10 60%	4/10 40%	8

- i. Emergency Shelter Care (1-12 days). Service should be readily available without a lot of "explaining".

<u>Need</u>	<u>No Response</u>	<u>Priority</u>
5/10 50%	5/10 50%	9

- j. Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline - For reporting purposes and for providing callers with help and information by phone.

<u>Need</u>	<u>No Response</u>	<u>Priority</u>
5/10 50%	5/10 50%	10

It is the desire of the YSAB that this portion of the report assist the community in addressing this most crucial primary prevention area of need.

If the number of abused and neglected children in Charlotte-Mecklenburg can be significantly reduced, certainly, the likelihood of a reduction in the development of delinquent or undisciplined behavior by such children will be increased.

END