

ANNUAL REPORT: 1975

Submitted to: Ford Foundation
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September 22, 1975

INTRODUCTION

The Vera Institute of Justice has completed its third year of providing technical assistance under a grant from the Ford Foundation. The grant has enabled Vera to provide jurisdictions throughout the United States with information about the Institute's New York City pilot projects, and to assist those seeking to implement the pilot projects in their own localities.

Since the inception of the Program in 1972 Vera has provided substantial amounts of technical assistance to 35 innovative efforts in 30 different jurisdictions. Total funding for criminal justice projects receiving assistance was \$7,106,000, and for supported work projects receiving assistance - mainly through the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation - \$6,355,000.

AIMS

Vera Technical Assistance primarily involves the development in other cities of specific projects patterned after one of Vera's New York City pilot programs. Providing technical assistance Vera engages in a joint effort with local officials to evaluate the needs of the local criminal justice system and to design improvements based upon Vera project concepts. Vera provides the experience and techniques refined in the New York City criminal justice system; local officials contribute their knowledge of local needs and capabilities, and the essential political support. No attempt is made simply to duplicate Vera's programs. The goal is to create an atmosphere which encourages innovation and experimentation.

In its first year the Unit provided much of its assistance free of charge to jurisdictions such as Tucson, Arizona and Kansas City, Missouri, where local officials were working to set up Vera-type projects. A few short-term costs reimbursable contracts began to be developed, and one substantial, long-term relationship was begun -- with the Cincinnati, Ohio, Police Division.

In the second year assistance projects were not generally undertaken unless the recipients could pay the costs involved. While many of these projects were still relatively small contracts - (Vera's reimbursements averaging around \$2,000) a few new, more substantial projects were initiated - two year efforts in Virginia Beach, Virginia and in Bristol County, Massachusetts.

During the third year, while continuing to respond to all requests for assistance, the development of several large contracts which could support the technical assistance operation in the event of a scaling down or elimination of the Ford Foundation support became a major focus of technical assistance operations. When Vera offers assistance through staff stationed outside of New York City, as in the new Des Moines effort and Cincinnati, all costs are now covered by contract agreement. The Unit has not reached the point of covering the costs of New York based staff. Total costs recovered during the period July 1974 to June 1975 are expected to be about \$200,000.

THIRD YEAR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

During the 1975 grant year (including July - September), Vera Technical Assistance was provided in three major ways:

I. On-site Assistance

Vera technical assistance staff continued to be stationed on-site in Cincinnati, Ohio, offering technical assistance to the Police Department. During the third year new relationships were developed to provide criminal justice assistance to the National Center for State Courts in Denver, the Iowa State Department of Court Services and the Polk County, Iowa Department of Court Services, which resulted in on-site staff in Denver and Des Moines.

II. New York Based Assistance

Consultant services in planning and operating criminal justice projects were provided pursuant to contractual agreements with five jurisdictions. Two of these contracts were carried over from 1974, and four were initiated in 1975. A sixth project will begin in September 1975.

III. New York Based Supported Work Assistance

Technical Assistance continues to be provided in planning and implementing supported work projects, principally through the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation.

I. Criminal Justice Projects with On-Site Staff

Cincinnati, Ohio

Project Budget: \$2,580,000
Vera Contract: \$ 418,799

Vera's technical assistance relationship with the Cincinnati, Police Division continued through 1975, and is projected to end on December 31 when the grant to the Division from the Police Foundation expires.

Vera has provided staff to fill three positions in the Criminal Justice Planning Section of the Police Division - Chief of the Section and two Planners. During the year one Vera staff member was transferred to a city civil service position to begin the anticipated absorption of the Section into city government by the end of the year.

During its three years of existence the Section has:

- Planned and made operational a 35 bed detoxification unit for derelict alcoholics;
- Implemented a stationhouse release on recognizance program;
- Implemented a warrant service program;
- Helped plan a pre-trial release on recognizance program which is operated by a non-profit corporation;
- Helped plan a project to mediate instead of prosecute misdemeanor complaints filed by civilians, which is operated by the city prosecutor's office;

--- Planned and implemented a Case Information Unit in the Police Division, which provides the Division with data about court dispositions of criminal cases initiated by the Division;

--- Planned and implemented a supported work program for derelict alcoholics; and

--- Helped plan and implement a special facility for juvenile runaways that provides the police with an alternative to instituting juvenile court proceedings.

A project planned by the Section which has not yet been initiated is the Incident Referral Project -- to give police the capability to refer some situations to social services rather than arrest.

During this year considerable effort has been spent on helping the City, and particularly the Police Division, prepare for the end of Police Foundation funding for the Section. While it has not been finally determined whether the planning activities undertaken by the Section in the past three years will continue to be placed in the Division, or elsewhere, it does appear that City funds will be available to make the Section a permanent part of City government.

Polk County, Iowa

Project Budget: \$330,000
Vera Contract: \$ 39,592

As a result of previous assistance in Des Moines (in 1964 Vera helped initiate the Des Moines Pre-Trial Release Project), Vera was selected by the County Board of Supervisors to design and implement an evaluation of the alcohol diversion and treatment program component of the Polk County Department of Court Services. Funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, this project seeks to identify alcohol-abuser defendants awaiting trial who cannot qualify for personal recognizance release and provide treatment in cooperation with the County Hospital.

Iowa Department of Social Services

Project Budget: \$4,500,000
Vera Contract: \$ 45,000

The success of the Des Moines Department of Court Services prompted the 1973 Iowa Legislature to pass enabling legislation and appropriations to establish community-based pre-trial services and corrections agencies in each of Iowa's eight Judicial Districts.

The legislation designated the Iowa Department of Social Services as the State agency to administer the program state-wide and Vera began providing technical assistance to the Department's Community Corrections Division in December 1974. A Vera staff person is assigned on-site to aid the Department in developing alternative funding sources; assist in the development of policy and administrative procedures; and, to assist in the development

of experimental program components. In addition, three Judicial Districts have been designated for direct assistance by Vera to local planners and project operators.

<u>National Center for State Courts,</u>	Project Budget: \$80,000
<u>Denver, Colorado</u>	Vera Contract: \$10,732

In February the National Center for State Courts, headquartered in Denver, received a grant from the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (LEAA) to study what is currently known about the impact of projects patterned after Vera's Manhattan Bail Project, to present detailed descriptions of various forms the projects have taken, and to develop strategies for further research as to the impact of the projects.

The Center sought Vera's involvement in the form of technical assistance, and a staff member was assigned on-site in Denver. New York based Vera staff have participated in advisory capacities to a lesser extent.

The Project will present its final product to NILECJ in September 1975.

II. Criminal Justice Projects Receiving Consultant Services
From New York Based Staff

<u>Bristol County, Massachusetts</u>	Project Budget: \$200,469
	Vera Contract: \$ 14,400

Assistance to the Bristol County Superior Court Diversion Project began in 1974. The Project, patterned after the Manhattan Court Employment Project, selects defendants for community-based counselling in lieu of criminal prosecution. It became operational on July 15, 1975.

Technical assistance provided in planning the project included:

- A study of defendants, bail and sentencing patterns in the Court to determine Project intake criteria;
- Recommending intake criteria and case-flow for the Project;
- The design of an evaluation and management information system for the Project;
- Preparation of a memorandum of legal issues involved in pre-trial diversion projects;
- Drafting of the text of an agreement on confidentiality of client information for execution by the Project and the Bristol County District Attorney; and
- Design of a training program for project staff.

Once the project became operational, technical assistance activities centered upon implementing the evaluation and management information system, and upon problems involving intake and screening criteria and procedures. Assistance is also being offered to help the project implement new statutes regarding the diversion of drug and alcohol abusers.

In February the Project asked Vera to provide technical assistance in expanding the Project to Barnstable County Massachusetts, adjacent to Bristol. A study was undertaken and completed to identify the Barnstable defendants potentially

eligible for the Project so that intake criteria and staffing patterns could be determined.

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Project Budget: \$218,916
Vera Contract: \$ 19,785

Assistance which has been provided to the Virginia Beach Juvenile Status Offender Diversion and Treatment Program terminates in accordance with the contract on August 30, 1975.

This program was designed to intercept status offense cases before they reach Juvenile Court and divert the cases to short-term family therapy. Assistance has involved the review and recommendation of changes in operating procedures; the design and implementation of a data collection system; training in counselling techniques; aiding in the development of an in-house staff training program; and helping the program develop good working relationships with other parts of the juvenile justice system. The result has been a refined referral process, an expansion of types of cases handled, and an increase in caseload.

Durham, North Carolina

Project Budget: None
Vera Contract: \$1,978

In March a visit was made to Durham, North Carolina where the District Attorney had expressed interest in supporting a release on recognizance or diversion program. The District Attorney obtained funding from the County to pay Vera's planning costs in preparing a proposal to design a project.

In order to enable the District Attorney to determine whether a diversion project similar to the Manhattan Court Employment Project would be appropriate for his jurisdiction Vera conducted an analysis of criminal defendants and case dispositions and then designed a Diversion Project, outlining recommended standards of eligibility procedures for the Project, staff job descriptions, and budget.

Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska

Project Budget: \$60,000
Vera Contract: \$12,000

Prior to making final plans for the construction of a new detention facility, partially funded by a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the Douglas County Commissioners asked Vera to recommend alternatives to the use of pre-trial detention. The Commissioners wanted to minimize the projected need for pre-trial detention facilities in their planning.

Vera's recommendations were submitted to the County in July. They included the establishment of a Pre-Trial Services Division in the newly created County Department of Corrections which would assume duties presently undertaken by a Bar Association administered pre-trial release on recognizance agency. The recommendations also included several improvements in the procedures of the ROR function and additional areas of pre-trial services that could be developed by the Division. Vera's report also projected the impact of the use of police citation in lieu of arrest, recently authorized by the Nebraska State

Legislature, and now in early stages of implementation by the Omaha Police Department.

The Commissioners have expressed interest in having Vera's assistance in implementing the recommendations of the Report.

Worcester, Massachusetts

Project Budget: Pending
Vera Contract: \$9,932

The Massachusetts Committee on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice provided Law Enforcement Assistance funds to the District Court of Worcester to plan and implement an adult diversion project. The Court issued a Request for Proposals to provide the project with technical assistance. Vera's Proposal was accepted and technical assistance to the project, still in its planning stage, began in April.

Vera performed a baseline study of cases and defendants coming before the Court in 1974 to guide in the establishment of intake criteria and staffing patterns for the project. Numerous discussions of this study and policy issues have been held and a final proposal has now been submitted to the Committee by the Court for funding.

Newark, New Jersey

Project Budget: Pending
Vera Contract: \$5,000

At the request of the Office of Newark Studies, an agency affiliated with Rutgers University that performs planning for the City of Newark, Vera technical assistance staff met with various officials of the Newark Criminal Justice System to design a planning effort to improve the access of individuals in the criminal justice system to social services.

Vera drafted a Proposal for the project which was funded by the Victoria Foundation of Montclair, New Jersey. The project is just getting underway, staffed by Vera technical assistance staff, and a law school intern working for the Office of Newark Studies.

Tucson, Arizona

Project Budget: 0
Vera contract: \$5,000

In 1972, Vera provided technical assistance to help the Pima County Attorney develop an Adult Diversion Project -- patterned after the New York Court Employment Project. In developing the Project, Vera worked closely with the Tucson Police Department which, in February of this year, asked Vera's help in developing a citation, stationhouse summons and diversion project. The Department has received a grant from the Police Foundation to pay the costs of Vera's help in the planning, and will assign its personnel to participate.

III. New York Based Supported Work Assistance

Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation

Project Budget: \$6,500,000
Vera Contract: \$ 34,962

The major technical assistance effort related to Supported Work was performed together with the newly established national supported work program administered by the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation. MDRC is funding the development of supported work programs in thirteen different jurisdictions. Working at the request of MDRC, Vera staff:

--- Developed and participated in workshops focused on the historical development and experience of the various models of supported work initiated by Vera;

--- Participated in MDRC regional problem solving meetings with jurisdictions then in the planning stage; and

--- Led discussions with planning jurisdictions on supported work operational elements, including: organization structure, staffing and administration, job creation and project management, support service mechanisms, and operational implementation.

In December, an agreement was reached with MDRC to provide technical assistance on a retainer basis. In accordance with this agreement, Vera staff participated in selecting a payroll and general ledger service bureau, and in the design of the management information system. Special studies were undertaken for MDRC with respect to intake and recruitment, project management and cost accounting, and reporting procedures. Recent assistance to MDRC includes participation and leadership at meetings with six operational jurisdictions to introduce and install the management information system, to train staff in the use of forms and procedures, and to monitor the reporting performance of operational projects.

Prior to the establishment of MDRC, assistance in developing supported work proposals was given to organizations in

Seattle, Washington, Cleveland, Ohio, West Virginia, Chicago, Newark, New Jersey, and to the Drug Abuse Control Commission of New York. Consultation was given in Cincinnati in the implementation of a small supported work experiment involving referrals from an alcoholic detoxification program. A two-day training program was developed in New York at Wildcat sites for personnel from the Lower Kensington Environmental Center of Philadelphia.

EFFORTS TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF FUNDING

Vera is currently engaged in discussions and activity designed to secure the long term funding of Technical Assistance. Two principle avenues are being explored: one, to provide broad-based comprehensive criminal justice planning and program support to local jurisdictions in the state of New York on behalf of the Division of Criminal Justice Services, and two, a possible role in the Technology Transfer program of the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, LEAA. If Vera is successful in these or other developments a solid base for other smaller yet equally significant technical assistance activities will exist.