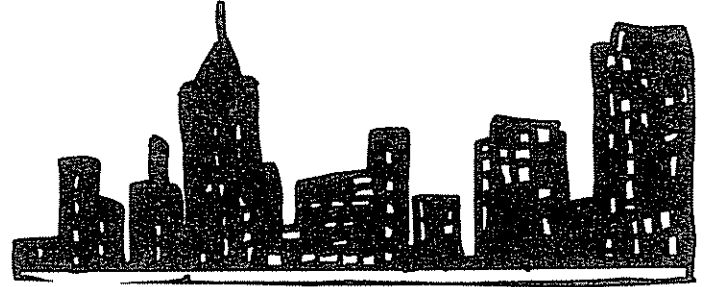


the VERA report

May, 1970



The Manhattan Bowery Project

Two out patients in the Manhattan Bowery Project became the first men referred to Phoenix House last month. The two men who volunteered -- one a drug addict and an alcoholic, the other an alcoholic -- have entered the one-to two-year intensive care program that seeks to treat the patient's syndrome as well as his symptoms. Attempts have been made in the past to place men in Phoenix House, but the men have been hesitant to agree to the lengthy Phoenix House program in which they would be removed from their normal surroundings.

Phoenix House normally requires a two-week, 9 to 5 work day trial period before they will accept a patient into their clinic. However, they have waived this requirement for the Bowery men. It is too early to know how the Phoenix House referrals are faring, but it is hoped that more men will volunteer for this intensive therapy.

Vera project workers have arranged for the men in the MBP clinics to share the Department of Social Services recreation center on the 6th floor of the Men's Shelter. The center has been reserved for Bowery inpatients for one hour twice a week and will be open one evening a week from 5 - 7 for Bowery out-patients. Unfortunately participation is not as great as it might be in the

evening recreation program because the men are justifiably afraid to walk home in the area after dark.

Bowery outpatients joined with men under the care of the Department of Social Services to plan and attend a party at the "Sally" (the Salvation Army Hotel). Approximately 55 Bowery outpatients presently live there. An elected committee decorated the hall and attended to details. The party was paid for out of a self-government fund established by the men living at the Salvation Army Hotel. The fund is comprised of dues the men pay when they are working. The money is used for emergency loans, to "buy" a job, (the same as an employment fee) and, clearly, to bring some joy into the men's lives. At present, the fund is continuing to grow, proving that the men are repaying the loans and paying their dues rather than drinking up their earnings.

By all reports, the party was a success, and other activities of this kind will be planned in the future. At present, the Department of Social Services is looking into the possibility of showing Thursday night films which the Bowery patients would also be able to enjoy.

New staff

Maria Cruz, receptionist
Ann Needham, deck clinic nurse
John Wickens, rescue aid

Vera Publications

Because of the number of requests we receive from all over the country for information on Vera projects, we have begun to print a series of reports. The first report in the Series is The Manhattan Bowery Project. The second is The Manhattan Summons Project.

Copies of both reports are available to you on request. Please call or write Ann Grand at 39th Street.

Urban Technology

Vera is exploring the possibility of providing a link between sources of new technologies and areas of City government with distinct technological needs.

There are two potential projects in urban technology presently being considered. For the first one, Vera hopes to offer the City model provisions for cable television franchises. The second project, which is in its infancy, may attempt to recycle waste paper, glass and metal for the City's outmoded and overburdened sanitation system.

New staff

Rosalind Lazarus
Frank Velie
Randy Bernstein

Court Employment Project

Addiction continues to be a serious problem for the project. Despite efforts to screen out addicts during the intake process, close to one-quarter of all participants are later found to be habituated. Efforts with this group have been markedly less successful. Only 15% of the addicts eventually have the

charges dismissed on the project's recommendation. Dismissal rate for non-addicts is 47%. Addicts account for nearly half of the 13% of the participants rearrested while active in the project.

To encourage more addicts to enter residential treatment facilities, the project has refined its referral system. One project rep, Tom Turner, has been named coordinator of project dealings with such rehabilitation centers as Phoenix House, Odyssey House, Horizon House, Ardis Commune, and Exodus House. Under the new procedure, Tom Turner and the rep assigned to the addict confront him with their knowledge of his habit and urge him to accept treatment. With his consent, he is referred first to a non-residential treatment program where he meets recruiters from residential rehabilitation centers, or he may participate in group encounters. By this method, the project to date has referred 20 participants to non-residential centers, ten of whom have entered residential programs.

Finally, the Manhattan Court Employment Project clubhouse basement has been painted, and staff has installed a new juke box and new sports equipment - a speed bag and a punching bag - donated by the Madison Square Garden Boxing Association. Two reps, Nat Caldwell and Bob McGowan, are currently building a platform for live entertainment.

The project has admitted 1007 participants since its inception. The Court has dismissed the charges against 360 of them. 99 are presently active. 521 have been unfavorably terminated and 27 have been discharged because of ineligibility.

New Staff

Ed Barnett, representative
Penny Florence, screener
Nadine Lesko, from Antioch College, screener
Peter Paden, screener
Sharon Sallit, Antioch College student, screener
Priscilla Worr, a VISTA volunteer, screener
Joseph Pelletteri, representative
Joan B. Skolnick, Admin. Ass't.

Appearance Control Project

Statistics comparing the first two months of 1970 with the same period of 1969 demonstrate a dramatic change in the disposition of cases in Part 1B1 of the Manhattan Criminal Court.

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Cases returned to 1B1 for subsequent appearances	47.9%	17.0%
Guilty plea	2.8	13.6
Adjourned to trial	22.7	49.7
Dismissed	7.9	8.7
Bench warrants and other reasons	18.3	10.6

The project has eliminated the necessity for 1,035 witnesses to appear, 157 of whom were civilians and 878 police officers.

JoAnn Ferdinand joined the staff on March 19 as administrative secretary and office manager.

Bronx Sentencing Project

Andy Schaffer has been serving as acting director of the Bronx Sentencing Project since the beginning of March.

As of April 3, 1182 defendants have been sentenced with a Vera report present, of which 650 carried non-prison recommendations. The Court meted out non-prison sentences or adjourned the case to a community program in 608 or 93.5% of those 650 cases.

New staff

Reginald Savedra, interviewer
MaryAnn Brown, Project secretary
LeRoy Joyce, an employee of VOI now providing field verification services to the Bronx Sentencing Project.

Addiction Research & Treatment Corporation

200 patients are now receiving treatment at ARTC, thus completing Clinic II. The project goal is to treat 500 patients in 5 clinics.

Staff to support Clinic III is now being hired and they hope to start receiving patients in the near future.

In an effort to serve the community and to aid in preventing addiction, ARTC has offered lectures about drugs and drug abuse to local schools and churches. The availability of speakers and displays has been announced through letters to 95 public school principals and 75 clergymen in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Cumberland, Fort Green, East New York, Bushwick and Crown Heights. Eight patients, still undergoing treatment at ARTC, have been hired as community workers in the Education and Prevention Program. These men and women will speak to various groups in the area on addiction. Community workers have now addressed over 40 different groups.

New staff

Veronica Andrews - job developer
Marjorie Bogen - asst. director, staff educ.
Sue Bynum - research assistant
Russell Cox - job developer
Doris Foster - medical technician
Joseph Gabriel - maintenance
Robert Hansen - research assistant
Feurman Jones, Jr. physician
Arnold Keith - community organizer, education and prevention
Billy Lee - group therapist
Barbara Long - administrative asst.
James Malone - group therapist
Ricardo Martinez - clerk-typist
William Moore - counselor
Timothy Ortiz - security guard
Francisco Pireira - maintenance
Barbara Purvis - counselor
Sylvester Trumpet - Administrative asst.
Arnease Williams - secretary
Dorothy Williamson - switchboard operator
Melvin White - office

5 counselors hired for Clinic III:

Nolan Johnson
Winston James
Jeremy Thrilkeld
Reggie Battles
Eva Shinn

Traffic Court Alert

Traffic Court Alert has saved New York City taxpayers \$371,664 in police time for the first five months of its third year. This represents the cost to the City (salary plus fringes) of 5,162 police officers who did not have to appear in Traffic Court. That sum of money is equivalent to the yearly cost of 23 more policemen on the street

New Staff at Vera

Bob Goldfeld - Bob has been promoted to the position of Assistant Director of Vera. He replaces Ken Marion who is now Deputy Police Commissioner for Administration.

Cynthia Okrent - Cindy is secretary to Herb Sturz.

Ann Grand - is working on a supportive work project for Bowery men and also will be responsible for internal administrative duties.