

August 1, 1969

News of Vera's projects, research, program plans, and staff will be published at the beginning of each month. The Vera Report, which has been issued in the past but dormant for a year, will be distributed to the staff, members of the Board of Trustees, and friends of the Vera Institute of Justice.

Manhattan Summons Project. The Summons Project substitutes the issuance of a summons in qualified misdemeanor cases for the formal procedures of arrest and detention. In the second year (July 1, 1968 - June 30, 1969). 22,000 summonses were issued, 55 percent more than last year. Each summons is calculated to save five hours of patrol time. Thus 13,750 eight-hour police tours were saved this year by the Summons Project, valued by the City at \$770,000.

Traffic Court Alert. Under this system, the majority of officers scheduled for Traffic Court remains on patrol rather than automatically appearing in court; the officers are on alert, and are summoned to come to court only if needed. In the first eight months of the second year --- October 1968 through June 1969 --- 8,983 officers were on alert and available to go to court; 3,830 or 42 percent were required to appear; 5,153 or 58 percent were not needed in court and remained on patrol. During this period, Traffic Court Alert saved patrol time valued by the City at \$288,568. From October 1967 through June 1968 when fewer precincts were participating in the Alert, 3,436 officers were available for court; 54 percent were required to appear; 46 percent were not required.

Pre-Arrest Processing Facility. The center processes defendants arrested in Bronx County too late for arraignment in day court and who must be arraigned in Manhattan's Night Court. (There is no Night Court in the Bronx). Since most pre-arrest procedures can now be completed at this center,

arresting officers, victims, and witnesses usually are free to leave as soon as the complaint is sworn to. From the project's inception on February 27 to early June, the center saved 2,399 police tours at a cost-effectiveness of \$134,373. Police arrest statistics show an increase in the Bronx in excess of 20 percent since the start of the Project.

The Administration of Justice Under Emergency Conditions. A center for supplying information regarding persons who have been arrested, hospitalized, or relocated during a civil disorder has been planned by Vera under a Law Enforcement Assistance grant. Forms have been prepared, phones installed, and volunteers recruited, and the center (Room 219 at 100 Centre Street) is ready for operation. The Police Department has cooperated with Vera staff to establish guidelines for curfew enforcement and to plan for community representatives to be stationed in detention facilities for rumor control and an information source for prisoners. A manual for center volunteers has been prepared, and pamphlet "What Happens to You if You are Arrested," will explain the rights of the accused, court procedures, bail and sources of aid and information.

Burglary Prevention. In an attempt to make retail stores less vulnerable to burglary, Vera Institute, cooperating with the Mayor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), helped New York City Police initiate the Burglary Demonstration Project in three pilot precincts. Twelve police detectives began in March 1969 advising store owners about security measures and devices. Within 48 hours of a reported burglary, a detective, with the permission of the store owner, inspects the burglarized premises and makes specific recommendation for preventive security devices. The detective returns eight weeks later to see whether the retailer has followed the suggestions and how effective the improvements appear. Vera will assist the Planning and Detective Divisions of the Police Department in evaluating the Project in the fall.

Master Calendar Office. A broad approach to case management problems of the Criminal Court has been conceived in the Master Calendar Office, now being planned under a federal grant received through the State Crime Control Planning Board. The Master Calendar Office will relieve judges, prosecutors and legal aid

attorneys of case-scheduling duties for the various Criminal Court parts. With the experience in court scheduling provided by the nine-month Calendar Control Project, planners for the Master Calendar Office would try several ways of improving court efficiency: splitting court sessions; arranging adjournments in advance of the court date; and establishing alert systems for police and complainants.

Vera Institute and the Mayor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council are also assisting the New York City Courts in planning for the utilization of Electronic Data Processing to simplify calendaring and reduce delays.

Bail-Jumping Study. Vera has undertaken a study of bail jumping in cooperation with the First Department of the Appellate Division, the Criminal Court, the Office of Probation, the District Attorneys of New York and Bronx Counties, the Police Department, and the Legal Aid Society. The study will be submitted to the Court Delay Committee, the Sentencing Committee, and the Criminal Justice Information System Committee of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

Part of the study is intended to relate bail-jumping rates to such variables as:

- (1) crime charged
- (2) condition of release (parole; cash bail or bond amount)
- (3) ROR rating
- (4) number of court appearances in case

Legal Intern. In an effort to expand the role of clinical education New York University Law School has begun an experimental seven-month clinical program, recommended by Vera and the CJCC, with students devoting this summer and next semester to work within the criminal justice system. Students will receive pay for their summer work and full academic credit for the semester. The Law School received \$25,000 from the Council on Legal Education and Professional Responsibility (CLEPR) to conduct the experiment, which is under the direction of Harry Subin.

Public Opinion Research. Under a \$75,000 grant from the Fund for the City of New York, Vera is exploring the feasibility of establishing an Opinion Research Center to provide feedback to City officials on programs in housing, education, crime, health, and anti-poverty. Pilot surveys, using questionnaires designed by City administrators and Vera, will be conducted by two subcontractors in selected geographic, low and middle income areas. It is hoped that the information based on the perceptions and experiences of the community residents will provide data useful to City planners in making public institutions more responsive to community needs.

Teacher Corps Program. Vera Institute has been requested by Teachers Corps to evaluate a Teacher Corps-VISTA project in New York City Reformatory at Rikers Island. Since last September, 15 Teacher Corps interns have conducted a school at the reformatory, and 25 VISTA volunteers in the South Bronx have worked with inmates before and after release to ease problems of re-entry into that community.

Methadone Project. In August 1968 Mayor Lindsay requested Vera to develop a methadone maintenance research and treatment program. Vera planners investigated federal controls over the use of methadone, and consulted physicians, officials of relevant state and city agencies, and private groups. Several meetings were held with the pioneer of Methadone treatment, Dr. Vincent Dole of Rockefeller University and Beth Israel Medical Center. Methadone treatment centers in New York and elsewhere were visited and observed.

On the basis of its investigation, Vera drafted a proposal for incorporating a voluntary methadone program which was approved by the City administration. The first treatment center is slated to open in Bedford-Stuyvesant this fall.

Methadone will be dispensed as part of three treatment plans; (1) maintenance of addicts on doses of methadone sufficient to block the effects of heroin, with no schedule for withdrawing them from methadone use; (2) methadone maintenance and planned withdrawal, probably in the second year of treatment; (3) the use of methadone as a detoxifying agent to achieve drug abstinence within a short period of time.

Project participants will be volunteers from four sources: defendants referred by the courts in a procedure similar to that of the Manhattan Court Employment Project; offenders recruited at Rikers Island penitentiary and the Women's House of Detention; addicts sought out by a street rescue team similar to that of the Manhattan Bowery Project; and addicts who seek treatment on their own.

The Methadone Project will be run by a private non-profit agency known as the Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation. Chairman of the Corporation's board of directors, Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, met for the first time, Tuesday, July 15, with board members Dr. Henry Brill, Dr. Donald Louria, Dr. James P. Curtis, Dr. Robert Morgan, Judge Edward R. Dudley, Judge Joseph B. Williams, Horace Morancie, Arthur Brook, and Herbert Sturz. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Lindsay; Jay Kriegel, assistant to the Mayor; Frederick O'Rourke Hayes, Budget Director for the City of New York; and Dr. Sidney Cohen, Deputy Director of the National Institute of Mental Health.

A sum of \$1,067,000 has been received from the National Institute of Mental Health to cover three-fourths of technical and professional staff salaries. Model Cities will supply \$150,000 and the New York City Supplementary Budget will provide an amount in excess of \$260,000. The Harvard Center for Advancement of Criminal Justice has agreed to conduct an analysis of the Project's impact on crime, and \$105,000 has been secured from the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice for this purpose. Medical and social aspects of the program will be evaluated by the Albert Einstein Medical College.

Manhattan Court Employment Project. After screening defendants in the Criminal Court, the Project staff, with the consent of the District Attorney, requests the Court to adjourn the case for three months. During this time participants are placed in jobs or job training and receive counseling and supportive services.

From inception in February 1968 to July 1969 the Project has admitted 702 participants, an average of ten per week.

129 are active participants

349 have been unfavorably terminated and returned to the court process.

208 or 30 percent of the participants, have had charges against them dismissed.

Initially the Project took only defendants charged with misdemeanors and few with more than minimal records. Forty of the 100 most recently accepted participants were charged with serious crimes, and an equal number had significant prior criminal records.

The counselors--representatives, or "reps," as they are called--were redeployed to spend half their time in field-work in an assigned neighborhood, and half in the Project office. Originally, cases were divided randomly among the reps, and defendants came to the office for counseling. Under the new plan, cases are assigned by area to one of six reps with field work in Manhattan, or the Bronx or Brooklyn rep. Working in the field increases contact with participants and betters the counselors' understanding of the defendants.

In little more than one year, 40 Antioch College students have interned at the Court Employment Project, working as screeners, researchers, data collectors and systems analyzers for up to three terms of academic credit. Recently the Project's Associate Director, Dan Friedman, was appointed an Assistant Professor of Antioch College.

Bronx Sentencing Project. The Bronx Sentencing Project provides brief social history reports and sentence recommendations to judges sitting in adult parts in the Bronx Criminal Court. As of June 20, 1969, 547 cases had been sentenced with a Vera report present; of these:

311 cases carried non-prison recommendations (unconditional discharge, conditional discharge, fine or probation).

287 cases, or 92.3 percent, resulted in non-prison sentences.

The Project has received \$62,000 from the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice for research funds to study the impact of presentence report procedures on sentencing decisions and patterns. Researchers hope to isolate determining factors in good and poor-risk cases in order to refine the Project's evaluation of defendants and to provide better guidelines for the judge's sentencing decisions.

In addition to compiling presentence reports, the Project, with a federal planning grant from the State Crime Control Council, is developing an experimental program to

utilize the community in devising new sentencing alternatives. The Project plans to work closely with a small number of community organizations to assist them in expanding the services they offer in job referral and counseling. Where necessary, the Project staff will help these organizations seek additional funds to expand or refine operations, and work with them to decide how cases will be followed up, how services will be delivered and how Vera and the agencies will relate to the Court. The Project then will refer participants to these community-based agencies for treatment, guidance and other services.

Recently the Project reached an agreement with Hunts Point Multi-Service Center in the Bronx by which Vera will underwrite the cost of a service coordinator, who will be a Hunts Point employee, but available full time to attend to cases referred to Hunts Point from the Sentencing Project.

Manhattan Bowery Project. Six outpatients of the Manhattan Bowery Project began cleaning up Bowery neighborhoods, launching Wednesday, July 23, an Outpatient Work Program which will run through Labor Day, and perhaps longer. In blue uniforms with red and blue MBP emblems, the men are paid to work an eight-to-five schedule. On rainy days they leave clean-up duties to paint the Project's detoxification center on the fourth floor of the Men's Shelter. The Bowery Work Program, directed by Tom Alverson, has been coordinated into the New York City Department of Sanitation's Model Cleanup Program on Manhattan's lower east side. Funded by Vera, the program hopes to demonstrate the capacity of Bowery men to maintain responsible jobs, in order to encourage the City to plan work and job training programs for Bowery men.

Admissions to the Project's detoxification center have passed 4,000. To provide outpatient care for Project patients, a small clinic began operating unofficially last August in space adjoining the recuperative ward. On Tuesday, July 22, the outpatient clinic moved to new quarters on the sixth floor of the Men's Shelter. Two nurses and one case-worker staff the clinic, which treats 100 men a day, ten hours a day, six days a week. The clinic is funded by an expansion grant received last month from the Community Mental Health Board.

St. Vincent's Hospital cooperated with the Bowery Project in opening, in April 1969, an emergency medical

clinic for all Bowery men. The clinic, funded by the New York City Department of Social Services and housed on the first floor of the Men's Shelter, is visited by about 200 men a week--half brought in by a rescue team and half who come on their own.

The limited capacity of the detoxification center permits approximately ten admissions a day to that facility. Since only cases of extreme emergency could be accepted for detoxification, many homeless alcoholics remained on the streets in visible public distress and were still subject to twice-daily paddy wagon roundups. But with the opening of the new emergency clinic, roundup arrests on the Bowery have come to an end. Bowery arrests for disorderly conduct, loitering, and public intoxication in May 1968 totaled 686; in May 1969, arrests had dropped to 118. By the end of its first two months, the emergency clinic has treated over 2,000 men.

Staff. Staff members who have recently joined the Vera Institute include:

David Blackey, assistant administrative director of the Manhattan Bowery Project.

Kenneth Demario, coordinator of Vera's evaluation of the Teacher-Corps-VISTA program at Rikers Island.

Harvard Professor Alan Dérghowitz, Vera's visiting scholar in residence this summer. He is working on his book about predictions of dangerousness and is available to Vera for consultation.

Joel Lieberman, director of in-court operations of the Bronx Sentencing Project.

Mary Myers, developer of the Public Opinion Research Center.

Tom Turner, representative with Manhattan Court Employment Project.

Roger Caban, Robert Coleman, and Ernest Torczyner: Career developers at the Manhattan Court Employment Project.



Emanuel Burke, Department of Social Services supervisor of welfare arrangements at Court Employment Project.

Brett Gorkin, John Field, and Robert Krulwich: VISTA volunteers based at the Court Employment Project for the next year.

Vera's summer assistants are:

Peter Alter, researcher at Bronx Sentencing Project.

Albert Eng, Pedro Morell, and Allen Mansfield: Urban Corps workers at the Manhattan Bowery Project.

Kent Johnson and Mel Immergut in youth services projects with Central Brooklyn Model Cities.

David Gould and Simmie Freeman, helping to complete a national survey of bail reform.

Steven Goldberg, project assistant for the Administration of Justice under Emergency Conditions.

Josie Marshall, helping to prepare the Public Opinion Research program.

Virginia Smith, Theresa Tucker, and Richard Hoe: Urban Corps workers responsible for following up the jumpers of the Manhattan Summons Project. Richard is also engaged in legal research with Vera's Police Liaison Office.

Donna Cassano, Vera's summer receptionist.

Eight students assist Manhattan Court Employment operations: Larry Jones, supervisor of screening; Dianne Nichols; Woody Vandervall; Kris Olsen; Fred Iseman; Herb Bundens; Randy Petsche; and John Dystel, a legal research assistant on loan from the office of the mayor.