THE VERA REPORT

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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 September 19, 1969, 718 defendants had been sentenced with a Vera report present. Of these:

- 403 cases carried non-prison recommendations (unconditional discharge, conditional discharge, fine or probation).
- 378 cases, or 93.8 percent, resulted in non-prison sentences.

Pre-Arraignment Processing Facility. New York City Police
Department reported in September the results of the first six
months of Pre-Arraignment Processing in the Bronx. According to
the provisions of the project, officers who make arrests during
the hours which require arraignment in Manhattan Night Court or
Weekend Court, process the arrests at the 42nd Precinct PreArraignment Facility in lieu of appearing at the Manhattan Court.
The defendants in these cases are delivered to court by escort
officers and are arraigned by processing officers.

- 6,907 arresting officers were processed, in cases involving 9,524 defendants and 3,915 civilian witnesses and complainants.
- Net patrol time conserved by this project totaled 1,867 tours of duty.
- Total value to the City for the first six months of operation was \$228,304.39.
- While not dependent solely on the operation of Pre-Arraignment, arrests in the Bronx increased by 32 percent over the previous year. Complaints of crime recorded in the borough decreased.

A new Pre-Arraignment Processing Facility opened in Queens on October 1, 1969.

Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation. Mayor John V. Lindsay will the open first methadone treatment center on October 7, at 937 Fulton Street in Brooklyn. The voluntary treatment program will admit up to 10 patients a week for the first four to six weeks. The patients, who will all be ambulatory, will receive medical help, counseling, and job development services. The clinic will be open daily from 8:00 A.M. to midnight, with medical staff present at all times. The project is seeking to hire former addicts and residents of the Bedford-Stuyvesant community for staff positions.

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 its inception in February 1968 to September 29, 1969, the Project has admitted 837 participants.

- 152 are active participants.
- 414 have been unfavorably terminated and returned to the court process.
- 252 have had charges against them dismissed.

The Project has instituted a systematic four-step procedure to follow-up dismissed participants:

- 1. Six to eight weeks after their final court appearance, defendants return to the Project to pick up finger-prints, which affords an opportunity to learn how they are doing.
- 3. Six months after a participant's case is dismissed, the Project checks with records of the Social Security Exchange to learn whether he receives welfare. Such a check in February 1969 showed that of the first 100 participants, only three received welfare a full stipend for one and supplementary assistance for two.
- 4. Periodic checks with the Bureau of Criminal Information reveal whether former participants have been rearrested.

To fulfill a fieldwork requirement four New York University sociology students have been stationed at the Manhattan Court Employment Project two days a week to help screen defendants. The course, "Preceptorial in Urban Policy," aims to provide a practical out-of-the-classroom learning experience for students and nonstudents, while involving the university in the community.

Manhattan Bowery Project. As of October 1, 1969, the detoxification center had recorded 5,110 admissions, which represents the treatment of 2,302 men. The outpatient department continues to treat about 90 patients a week, while the deck clinic serves an average of 225 persons a week.

Since the close of the seven-week Bowery Work Training Program this summer, four of the six participants have been hired by a Brooklyn metal parts factory. They continue living together on one floor of a Bowery hotel and receive counseling twice a week at the Project.

A sheltered workshop where Bowery outpatients will assemble and finish wooden toy trucks will soon begin production. Several major New York outlets have placed trial orders for three styles of trucks which will retail for about \$6. each. The work program, which has been developed by Ken Marion and Brian Todes, is expected to last two months, with the last two weeks devoted to evaluation.

Public Opinion Research. Three opinion surveys have been designed by Vera with the cooperation of the City Bureau of the Budget, the Housing and Development Administration, and two opinion research firms, to test the use of opinion surveys as a program planning tool for city administrators.

The surveys, varying in topi—geographic area, type of subcontractor, and survey design, will each be administered to approximately 400 respondents. A survey on police service and narcotics will begin next week in Bedford-Stuyvesant and in Bay Ridge, Queens. A survey on the issues of landlord-tenant relocations and preferences in home renovation will be conducted in a lower middle class area containing mixed public and private housing. Finally, a survey on health and education will be administered to the Tremont section of the Bronx.

New Staff.

Richard E. Ayres, who is developing ideas for a plea bargaining project.

Margaret Connorton, a research assistant, who will concentrate on the judicial process.

Melinda Woodward, who will help develop a proposal for recruiting and training former medical military corpsmen to perform routine and emergency medical services in low income areas of the city.

Marsha Blau, a staff secretary.

Evelyn Gladney, receptionist.

Five staff members have been named to the Methadone Program:

Milton H. Richardson, administrative director.

Dr. Beny Jene Primm, medical director.

Wilfred M. (Fred) Clarke, counselor.

John Newman, assistant to the administrative director.

Laverne Grinnage, secretary to the administrative director.

Additions to the Manhattan Court Employment Project staff include:

Ray Davila, representative.

Susan Adler, Human Services secretary.

Lourdes Hernandes, secretary to Daniel Friedman.

Michael Aronson, screener.

Marta Reyes, switchboard operator.

Helen Barsky, administrative assistant

Four Antioch students assist with screening: Daniel Brustein, Tessie Jones, David Karlins, and Steven Silverblatt.

Four New York University students intern at the project two days a week, as part of a field work course in sociology: Elaine Gantz, Judy Pack; Judy Ruskay, and Linda Miller.

New staff members at the Bronx Sentencing Project are:

Raul Rodriquez, a community referral specialist, who will be working to refer addicts to treatment facilities.

Larry Rabinowitz, who has joined the in-court staff to help with interviewing, screening, and criminal record completions.

Pat Glynn, project secretary.

Research assistants Ricardo Abad and Grant Wlaker, both Fordham University graduate students, who will help to implement the project research design.

Marianne Brown, research secretary.

New staff at the Manhattan Bowery Project includes;

Arlene Kisner, a Social Services Department caseworker.

Charles Lutz, a rescue aide.

Tom Alverson, formerly a rescue aide, is now an outpatient caseworker.