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# A CORRECTIONS STUDY FOR THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS, VI STATE OF MAINE

# **Volume I - Summary Report**

1584Q

BATTEN, BATTEN, HUDSON & SWAB, INC. DES MOINES, IOWA

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#### VOLUME I

#### BRIEF SUMMARY OF CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM

The ensuing comprehensive correctional study of the State of Maine is in response to the Request For Proposal, Bureau of Purchases, dated 6 August 1971, and the Proposal For A Comprehensive Correctional Study submitted by Batten, Batten, Hudson and Swab dated September 1971. Both documents provide for a two-phase approach to the problem:

Phase I -- formulate a statewide, integrated, correctional system for adults and juveniles. \* \*\*

Phase II -- develop a practical and effective implementation plan of the recommended system. \* \*\*

Funds for conducting the comprehensive correctional study (Phase I) were provided by the Maine Law Enforcement Planning and Assistance Agency grant number A299903811.

The report of the comprehensive correctional study (Phase I) is set forth as follows:

Volume I: Brief general summary

Volume II: Recommended correctional system

Volume III: Methodology, Findings and Exhibits

The recommended correctional system was developed to meet the State of Maine's general correctional needs projected to 1985. While it is impractical to attempt to project all possible specific needs and requirements, the study identifies the basic needs and requirements. In addition, the recommended system sets forth a flexible management system capable of adjusting

- \* Request For Proposal, 6 August 1971, Section V -- Statement of Problem
- \*\* Proposal For A Comprehensive Correctional Study,
  Batten, Batten, Hudson and Swab, September 1971, Section II -- Statement of the
  Problem

to specific future needs as they arise. The following philosophy and concepts provide a solid foundation in future guidance and direction of the recommended correctional system for reducing crime and returning offenders to society as meaningful and productive citizens.

Development of community prevention programs.

Greater use of community resources with increased community involvement and responsibility.

Increased arrests and longer sentences.

Increased services to the courts and law enforcement agencies.

Directing expenditures to people and services and avoiding the building of institutions.

The use of suitable existing facilities to avoid new construction whenever practical.

Diverting the mentally ill, alcoholics, sex offenders, and drug addicts out of the correctional system whenever practical.

Maximum use of bail, release on own recognizance, probation and parole whenever practical to avoid incarceration.

Greater concentration of rehabilitation efforts in the area of juvenile and first-time offenders.

Indeterminate sentences (maximum only) to the Bureau of Corrections.

Coeducational juvenile correctional centers.

Research and analysis of the State's future correctional needs indicates that these needs could best be met by establishing three correctional areas. (Reference Figure 1) The recommended correctional areas were developed after consideration was given to balanced offender loads, distance, travel and present state planning regions.

The recommended correctional system requires greater use of community physical facilities and the decreased need for institutions. The primary objective of the study is to provide the State of Maine with an effective correctional system with a minimum outlay of funds for facilities. The recommended correctional system requires the

use of the following facilities:

Lock-up facilities: Municipal or county jails where adults or juvenile offenders may be confined under maximum security conditions (seventy-two hours) until transferred to a more suitable facility. (Reference Figure 4)

Holding facilities: County or municipal jails where adult offenders may be held under maximum security conditions for trial or to serve sentences of less than thirty days. Preferably a holding facility should be a county jail. However, if a suitable county jail is not available in the area of need, a municipal jail is used. A holding facility basically functions as a service facility to the court. Certain holding facilities may also serve as a lockup facility. (Reference Figure 4)

Area Correctional Center: The primary function of an area correctional center is to provide administrative and rehabilitative services to the correctional area. Offenders at the center are maintained under minimum or no security provisions while pursuing work release programs, educational programs, furloughs, probation, parole and other rehabilitative programs. Offenders requiring temporary maximum security may be confined at the Center if maximum security facilities are presently available and transfer to the prison is not practical. The general climate of an area correctional center should provide an atmosphere of minimum supervision and all indications of incarceration such as bars, guards, cells, etc., should be avoided. (Reference Figure 2 and Figure 4)

Area Sub-Centers: A correctional sub-center is an extension of the area center basically due to offender load, distance, travel and availability of community resources. (Reference Figure 2 and Figure 4)

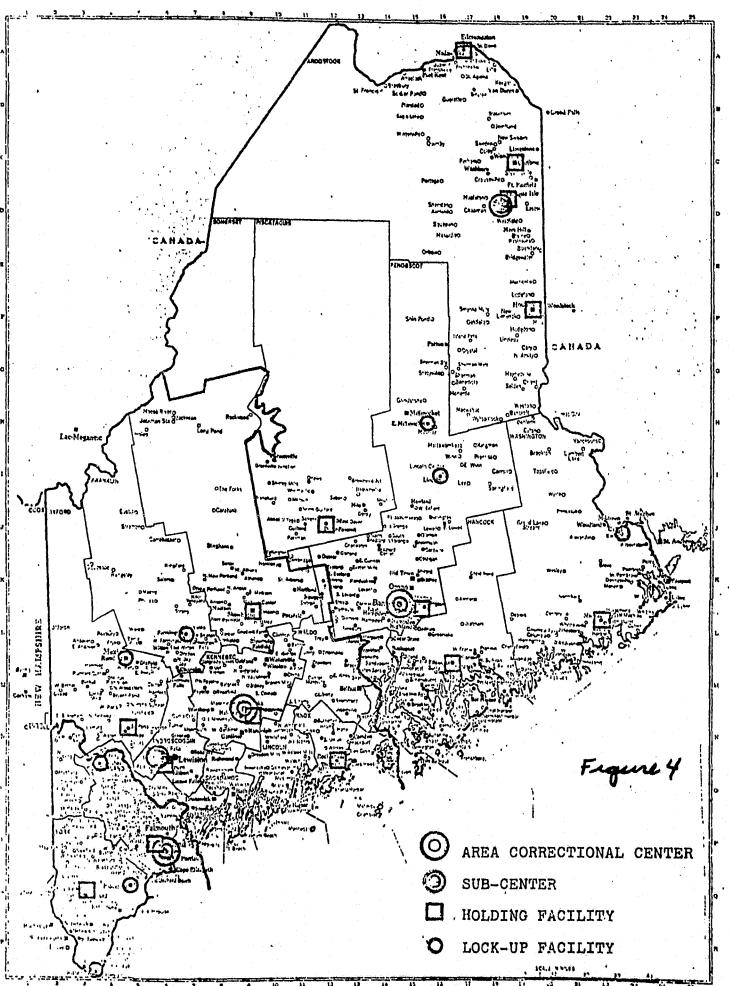
Institutions: The recommended system requires the use of only two institutions, specifically the Men's State Prison at Thomaston and the Women's Correctional Center at Hallowell. Both institutions are used as maximum security facilities. Whenever practical, offenders will be returned to the area center to facilitate their eventual return to the community.

Juvenile Correctional Centers: Specifically juvenile correctional centers refer to coeducational centers at South Portland, Stevens School, and an additional center at Bangor. (Reference Figure 3)

The proposed organizational structure of the Bureau of Corrections provides strong direct leadership for the total correctional system. The success of the system will be greatly dependent upon a high degree of coordination and utilization of community resources, community involvement in corrections, and the research and the development of innovative treatment programs to meet changing correctional needs. Major consideration must be given to the general change of direction of the State's correctional system. By understanding and adopting the general principles, concepts and philosophy of the recommended system, the following results may be anticipated:

- 1. A reduction in crime and the recidivism rate.
- 2. A lower number of offenders confined in maximum security institutions.
- 3. A long-range reduction in capital expenditures for incarceration.
- 4. A more effective use of law enforcement officers.

- 5. A long-range reduction in the cost of prisoner maintenance.
- 6. An increase in the effective use of available resources.
- 7. Prompt diagnosis, classification and treatment of offenders.



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