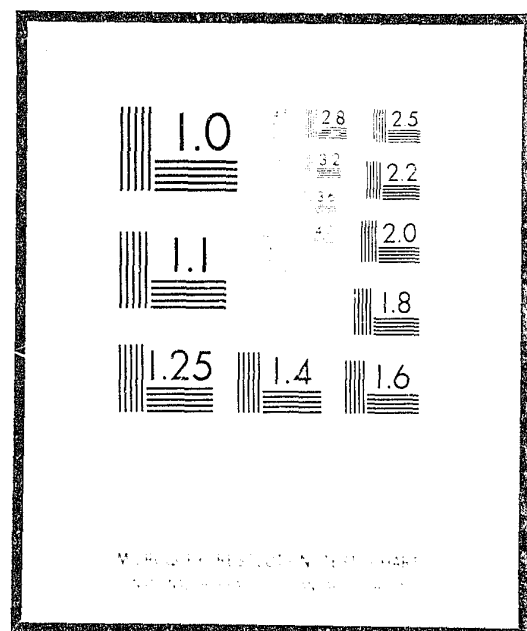


# NCJRS

This microfiche was produced from documents received for inclusion in the NCJRS data base. Since NCJRS cannot exercise control over the physical condition of the documents submitted, the individual frame quality will vary. The resolution chart on this frame may be used to evaluate the document quality.



Microfilming procedures used to create this fiche comply with the standards set forth in 41CFR 101-11.504

Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFERENCE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531

Date filmed

6/14/76

Florida - 11th Judicial Circuit -

ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

## PRETRIAL INTERVENTION PROGRAM REPORT, FOR JANUARY 17, 1972 - JULY 18, 1974

GRADY L. CRAWFORD, CHIEF JUDGE

WILBUR S. MCDUFF, *Executive Officer*  
SIDNEY A. STEINER, *Ass't. Executive Officer*  
ROBERT T. ALTHAUSER, *Ass't. Executive Officer*  
Dade County Courthouse  
Miami, Florida 33130

RICHARD E. GERSTEIN, *State Attorney*  
1351 N.W. 12 Street  
Miami, Florida 33125

THOMAS K. PETERSEN, *Program Director*  
1351 N.W. 12 Street  
Miami, Florida 33125

### Assistant Director

CHERYL A. WELCH

### Program Consultants

RICHARD C. NICHOLS  
DR. JACK R. JACOBS  
KATHLEEN SHEA ABRAMS

### Administrative Assistant

SUSIE RAY

### Counselor Aides

LARRY FOWLER  
MAE JACKSON  
SUE SERINO

### Counselors

L. S. WILLIS  
GWEN DIXON  
DAN RUSSELL  
DONNA CONNORS  
LOIS SMITH  
ROBERT STAMPS  
ANDREA SIMONTON  
JANE ADAMS  
CYNTHIA FIEN  
RODERICK WALLS  
MARIA PASCUAL  
ROSCOE HICKS

### Staff

THELMA WILCOX  
CYNTHIA GREENFIELD  
ELAINE RUSSELL  
SHARON JONES  
ANNA CORDELL

Program Field Office  
677 N.W. 58 Street  
Miami, Florida 33127  
Phone: (305) 751-0848

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. INTRODUCTION .....	1
II. OBJECTIVES .....	2
III. PRETRIAL INTERVENTION IN DADE COUNTY.....	4
IV. RESULTS: JANUARY 17, 1972 — JULY 18, 1974 .....	6
V. COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS.....	13
VI. APPENDIX .....	18
Editorial, Miami Herald, June 12, 1972 .....	19
Article, Miami Herald, June 8, 1972 .....	20
Article, Miami News, November 22, 1972 .....	21
Article, Miami News, December 31, 1973 .....	22
Text of Editorial Broadcast on WPLG TV, January 17, 1974 .....	23
Letter from Chief Judge Thomas E. Lee, Jr. ....	24
Letter from Director E. Wilson Purdy, Dade County Public Safety Department .....	25
Letter from Director Jack Sandstrom, Dade County Corrections & Rehabilitation Dept. ....	26
Letter from U.S. Senator Lawton Chiles.....	27
Letter from U.S. Representative Claude Pepper .....	28

## I. INTRODUCTION

The following report has been prepared as an evaluation of the initial two and one half years of operation of the Dade County Pretrial Intervention Program which began operation on January 17, 1972. The Program was funded by the Florida Governor's Council on Criminal Justice, using funds made available by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). The initial grant application was prepared by the Office of the State Attorney, assisted by the present Program Director and Charles Edelstein of the Miami-Dade Junior College Police Science Department. Federal funding will continue through October, 1974, at which time Dade County will assume the costs of the Program.

The Program was administered by the Office of the State Attorney, in conjunction with the County Manager's Office, until November 1, 1973, when administration was transferred to the Administrative Office of the Courts, Pretrial Services Division. The close working relationship with the State Attorney has been maintained and the Program Director and secretarial staff remain located in the State Attorney's Office.

During the two and one half years since the Program's inception, staff has expanded from an initial four individuals to a current level of twenty seven, including a Director, Assistant Director, Administrative Assistant, twelve Counselors, three Interviewers, four Secretaries and five Interns receiving field training in psychology and social work. In addition, three Consultants provide in-service training, psychological evaluations, and group and individual therapy, as well as research and statistical assistance. The number of cases diverted by the Program from traditional prosecution has increased steadily since the outset, and the current annual rate of defendants diverted is in excess of 900 per year.



*The Program includes twice weekly group and individual counseling. Counselor Cynthia Fien is engaged in an individual counseling conference.*

## II. OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the Pretrial Intervention Program is to offer coordinated services to selected youthful first offenders in the areas of intensive personal counseling, vocational training and job placement, as well as educational assistance and narcotic rehabilitation. These services are made available during the pretrial period, and underlying the formulation of the Program is the hypothesis that youth and a lack of stability bear a close and possibly causative correlation to criminal activity. These services are offered to Program participants while prosecution of the charge for which they have been arrested is deferred for an initial three to six month period. Assuming successful Program participation, the charge pending against the participant is dismissed by the State Attorney, thus building into the criminal justice system an alternative to the three traditional dispositional possibilities (discharge without supportive services, release on probation with minimal support, or incarceration). Thus, the successful Program participant avoids the stigma of a criminal conviction and a criminal record which would prove a subsequent handicap in terms of employment or further education. Assuming the intervention strategy is a successful one, it might be anticipated that the community as a whole would benefit by a reduction in recidivism among participants as well as their improved employability and productivity.

The fact that the period between arrest and trial, a period which may extend to several months in duration, is used to no rehabilitation advantage is a weakness in the criminal justice system which led to the creation of Project Crossroads, in Washington, D.C., and the Manhattan Court Employment Project, in New York City. Both of these Projects made available to the judicial system a coordinate of manpower services as well as counseling and supervision in the period immediately after arrest, and the experience of these successful programs has supplied the model for the Miami Pretrial Intervention Program.

The great majority of first offenders who are residents of Dade County and are charged with non-violent crimes are released from jail during the period between arrest and trial. These releases are without supervision and the community, as a corollary, is without protection; and those community resources and services, the inaccessibility of which may well have contributed to the criminal acts involved, are no more available to the defendant during the period between arrest and trial than they were prior to the alleged criminal act.

In conjunction with the absence of supervision and any use of community resources during the period between arrest and trial, the pretrial



Dade County's Pretrial Intervention Program is housed in storefront offices located in Miami's inner city.



Counselor Gwen Dixon meets with a Program participant and parent.

period also fails to utilize the psychological incentive potentially available in the defendant's realization that a criminal charge has been lodged against him, with the possibility of conviction and incarceration generally a very real one. The experience of the District of Columbia and New York City Pretrial Intervention Projects had been that the threat of a pending prosecution and incarceration may well be more of a deterrent than the outcome of the prosecution itself. The substantial majority of youthful first offenders charged with non-violent crimes are placed on probation, if convicted, and in a great many of such cases, the probation is non-reporting. Probation caseloads are presently extremely large, and it follows that during the probation period, supervision and rehabilitation, through the offer and use of community resources, may well be only minimal for the lesser offender. Also, once the offender has been placed on probation, any rehabilitative incentive available in the threat of a pending prosecution is lost. It is the objective of the Pretrial Intervention Program to utilize this incentive and to make available to participants intensive supervision coupled with a coordinated use of community resources and rehabilitative facilities.

The pretrial intervention strategy makes possible supervision and services during that

period prior to trial, otherwise lacking such safeguards and considerations and, simultaneously, defers the filing and prosecution of the case while an evaluation is made as to whether utilization of the resources of the courts will be required, or whether diversion, without prosecution and the stigmatization of a criminal conviction, will suffice. In a badly overcrowded court system, at a time when the alternative of incarceration is coming to be regarded as increasingly ineffective and is little utilized for non-violent first offenders, and when probation caseloads are so excessive as to make meaningful supervision impossible, an intervention strategy which maximizes supervision and rehabilitative services to those offenders, for whom the criminal court or probation system presently have no response, would appear to represent both a realistic and appropriate alternative to prosecution.

Because the presumption of innocence applies to the period between arrest and trial, Program participation is optional and voluntary, and the right not to participate is explained to all potential participants by their chosen or assigned attorney who must concur in the decision to participate.

### III. PRETRIAL INTERVENTION IN DADE COUNTY

#### A. Antecedents:

The concept of pretrial intervention or pretrial diversion, as it is also called, was initially discussed in 1967 as a rehabilitative strategy of potential value to the criminal justice system by the Presidential Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice. In 1970 the President's Task Force on Prisoner Rehabilitation again suggested the implementation of diversion programs and the viability of the concept was supported by the U.S. Attorney General in 1971 in a speech to the National Conference on Corrections, in which he included pretrial intervention as one of the objectives of the Nixon administration's Justice Department. These endorsements of the diversion principle, as well as the experience of the intervention experiments now in operation, indicate a relatively broad spectrum of support for the diversion strategy on the part of the nation's criminal justice system participants and critics.

Although pretrial diversion of narcotic addicts was formalized in 1966 in the Federal Narcotics Addict Rehabilitation Act, and addict and alcoholic diversion provisions have been in ex-

istence in several states, the initial diversion program oriented toward the general offender population was Operation Crossroads, an experimental program which commenced in January of 1968. Shortly thereafter, the VERA Foundation, in New York, initiated the New York Court Employment Project.

Based upon the reception accorded these two pilot programs, in addition to the Dade County Program, diversion programs now are operational in New Haven, Atlanta, Honolulu, Baltimore, Boston, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Jersey City, Newark, Syracuse, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Columbia, South Carolina, San Antonio, Flint, Michigan, as well as several other municipal areas.

#### B. Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible for participation in the Dade County Pretrial Intervention Program, the defendant must meet the following criteria:

- (1) **Prior Record:** The defendant must have no prior conviction record;
- (2) **Sex — Age:** Males or females between the ages of 17 and 25 are eligible;
- (3) **Charge:** The defendant must be charged with a non-violent offense;
- (4) **Consent:** The victim of the alleged crime and the arresting officer must be consulted in



Besides receiving individual and group counseling, Program participants are placed in employment or vocational training. Staff member Elaine Russell, using a job bank microfilm machine, discusses available jobs with a participant.

participant may have been placed, and at the Program office. Contact with participants is made by the counselors as often as is necessary with a minimum of two contacts per week. A counselor's caseload is not to exceed twenty five participants. Additionally, group counseling sessions are held by each counselor at least one evening per week.

Participant recruitment is effected by a daily review of defendants at Magistrate bond hearings, as well as by referrals made by courts, defense attorneys, the State Attorney's Office and police. Those defendants who are eligible for participation are notified, and a rehabilitative plan is then formulated by Program staff following an in-depth interview of the defendant and an identification of those areas in which Program services seem required. Following approval by the State Attorney's Office, the arresting officer and victim in the case are contacted in writing for their approval, and the filing of the pending charge or charges is then withheld for a three to six month period in order to permit Program participation. At the conclusion of this initial period, a final evaluation is submitted on the basis of which one of four possible courses of action may be followed:

- In the event of successful participation, a No Information of the charge may be recommended by the State Attorney's Office, resulting in dismissal of the charge or charges and preserving for the participants involved a record devoid of a criminal conviction;
- The case may be filed, in the event participation is not deemed to have been satisfactory;
- The case may be filed with a report of satisfactory performance to the trial assistant, in the event filing is deemed necessary, with the satisfactory performance to serve as a determinant in sentencing; or
- Program participation may be extended for an additional period.

In October, 1974, a residence facility will be opened and administered by the Pretrial Intervention staff. This residence is being made available by the Dade County Knights of Pythias who have funded and purchased the facility as a philanthropic venture designed to assist first offenders in the criminal justice system.

Additionally, the Program has entered into agreements with the graduate and undergraduate departments of the University of Miami and Florida International University wherein students in counseling, social work, and criminology are assigned to the Pretrial Intervention Program for work experience and credit.

writing and must concur in approval of Program participation for the defendant; and

- (5) **Residence:** The defendant must be a Dade County resident.

#### C. Structure and Methods:

The primary objective of the Program is to provide, for a three to six month period immediately following arrest, intensive counseling and manpower services as well as referrals to community agencies where warranted. The twelve staff counselors establish and maintain close contact with the participants by means of home visits, visits to the job or training location at which the

**IV. RESULTS:  
JANUARY 17, 1972 — JULY 18, 1974**

The Pretrial Intervention Program began operation on January 17, 1972. During the thirty month period through July 18, 1974, the structure, staffing and procedures for the Program were established, participant intake and servicing commenced and the number of participants has increased at a rate in excess of that anticipated.

During this period, a total of 2,003 cases were identified as potentially eligible for Program participation. Of these, 755 potential participants were ultimately found to be non-acceptable due to failure to respond to the initial letter mailed to them, or during screening, and were not serviced, either because of lack of interest in the Program, lack of need for Program services, or information revealed in the pre-intake investigation of the potential participants. 1,248 cases were accepted for participation and were offered Program services, and 34 more, during the initial twelve months of operation, were randomly assigned to a control group created to aid in Program evaluation. Another 47 potential participants were in pending status while this report was being prepared.

The 1,248 participants were divided into the following groups:

**Group I** consisted of participants whose cases were not filed during Program participation, for a period of three to six months. Participation in Group I must be approved by both the victim, if any, of the alleged crime and the arresting officer, as well as by the State Attorney's Office. Successful participation in Group I results in dismissal of the charge or charges against the defendant.

**Group II** involved participants whose cases were filed and who were not eligible for participation in Group I but who were serviced by the Program in the same manner as Group I participants, with periodic reports of participation made to the Assistant State Attorneys handling their cases. Successful completion by Group II participants results in a withholding of adjudication and a period of probation not to exceed two years.

**Group III** included participants whose cases were judicially disposed of, who voluntarily expressed a desire to continue Program participation and who were accepted for continued participation.

The following shows the number of participants or former participants in each of the above groups, and the number of unaccepted non-participants as of July 18, 1974:

<b>1. Participants:</b>	
Group I	
Active .....	288
Closed by successful program completion and case dismissal.....	592
Closed by unsuccessful participation and reversion to normal channels ..	143
Group II	
Active .....	7
Closed with successful program completion report to prosecutor.....	103
Closed without successful program completion report to prosecutor.....	78
Group III	
Active .....	3
Closed .....	34
Total Participants (Jan., 1972 — July, 1974).....	1,248
<b>2. Non-participants:</b>	
Control group .....	34
Pending .....	47
Not accepted .....	674
Total (Jan., 1972 — July, 1974) .....	755

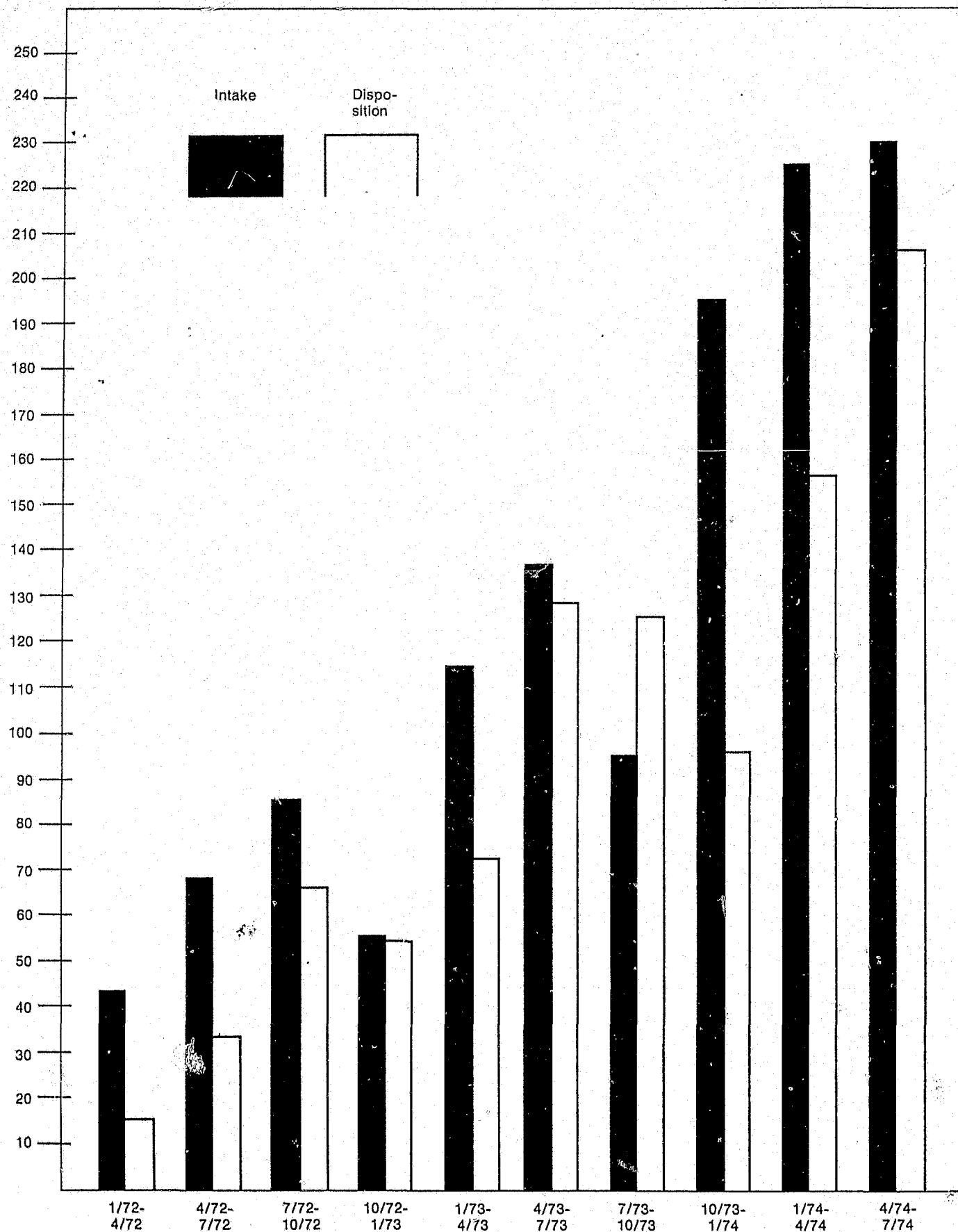
The rates of new case intake and of case disposition during the ten quarters of Program operation are illustrated in the following tables:

1. NEW CASE INTAKE PER QUARTER: JANUARY 18, 1972 — JULY 18, 1974													
Group	1/72-4/72		7/72-10/72		1/73-4/73		7/73-10/73		1/74-4/74		7/74-10/74		Total
	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	
I	20	20	41	19	94	39	81	15	169	207	221	4	1,026
II	3	3	12	3	15	4	15	21	21	11	4	5	184
III	3	3	3	9	4	2	1	5	5	5	3	3	38
Total	43	43	68	85	137	116	97	195	223	228	228	228	1,248

2. CASE DISPOSITION PER QUARTER: JANUARY 18, 1972 — JULY 18, 1974													
Group	1/72-4/72		7/72-10/72		1/73-4/73		7/73-10/73		1/74-4/74		7/74-10/74		Total
	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	
I — Successful	0	5	8	3	31	6	37	9	85	11	8	62	592
II — Successful	4	10	10	5	16	17	17	9	12	4	11	4	103
III — Successful	5	10	12	5	9	14	14	11	2	10	0	0	78
I — Unsuccessful	2	3	5	3	1	2	2	4	5	4	5	4	34
II — Unsuccessful	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
III — Unsuccessful	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	16	34	64	55	72	129	126	95	153	206	206	206	950

**3. COMPARATIVE TOTAL CASE INTAKE AND CASE DISPOSITION  
PER QUARTER: JANUARY 18, 1972 — JULY 18, 1974**



The 1,248 cases that received Program services may be sub-divided as follows:

**Sex**

Male.....	1,052
Female.....	196
	<u>1,248</u>

**Age**

Seventeen .....	337
Eighteen .....	311
Nineteen .....	185
Twenty .....	138
Twenty One .....	106
Twenty Two .....	52
Twenty Three.....	51
Twenty Four.....	23
Twenty Five or over .....	45
	<u>1,248</u>

**Race/Culture**

White .....	730
Black.....	402
Spanish .....	116
	<u>1,248</u>

**Charges:**

Possn. or Sale of Marijuana.....	384
Possn. or Sale of Narcotics.....	176
Larceny.....	151
Breaking & Entering.....	143
Buying, Receiving or Concealing Stolen Property .....	124
Auto Theft.....	64
Forgery .....	39
Carrying Concealed Weapon .....	36
Fraudulent Use of Credit Card.....	24
Attempted B & E.....	15
Assault.....	13
Possn. Narcotic Implement.....	8
Robbery.....	5
Miscellaneous .....	66
	<u>1,248</u>

**PROGRAM SERVICES AND  
RECIDIVISM RESULTS**

**A. Employment and Education:**

As noted previously, a principal objective of the Dade County Pretrial Intervention Program, as well as of pretrial diversion programs in general, is the reduction of unemployment and underemployment and the provision of incentives toward vocational training or continued educational advancement.

In order to evaluate Program activity in these areas, computer analysis, conducted by the Data Processing Center of Florida International University, compared questionnaires administered to successful Program participants upon acceptance for participation and at a follow-up interview three to six months subsequent to Program completion. The following Table presents some principal findings based upon 564 successfully completed cases through January 1, 1974:

	Pre-acceptance	3 - 6 Months Post Completion
Enrolled in School	36.1%	37.2%
Employed	64.0%	86.5%
Unskilled	24.1%	26.9%
Semi-skilled	31.8%	43.1%
Skilled	8.1%	16.5%
Employed Full Time	45.9%	58.4%
Report Liking Job	51.5%	59.5%
Held Present Employment at least Three Months	28.9%	34.6%

**B. Counseling:**

In addition to the placement of Program participants in productive endeavors, all are under the intensive supervision of staff counselors who meet with each participant at least twice weekly, including one individual and one group counseling session. All groups are held in the Program offices, but counselors are encouraged to schedule individual sessions in the field also. Field contacts permit the counselor to ascertain how the participant behaves and relates to others in such places as his home, place of employment or school. While individual counselors have varied preferences of place of contact and wherein individual participants differ as to needs, the Program consultants estimate that counselors conduct an average of 65% of their individual sessions in the Program offices and the remaining average of 35% in the field.

Counseling styles differ widely among the twelve counselors now employed by the Program, as do their backgrounds and training. All counselors are provided with weekly in-service training, conducted by the consultants, aimed at further developing individual and group counseling skills

as well as fostering flexibility in technique according to client needs. Program consultants augment the counseling staff by providing limited individual and group psychotherapy when needed as well as psychometric evaluations and family and marriage counseling for those clients and their families in need of such services.

While there is no evaluative tool designed specifically to measure the effectiveness of the counseling staff, client responses to psychosymptomology questions on the Initial and the four Post-Completion Follow-Up Questionnaires, administered at three month intervals, as well as the Sixteen Personality Factors Questionnaire, a personality test measuring 16 "factors of personality" administered at intake and at three month intervals for one year following, have been useful. As reported in the Eighteen Month Report, reductions of psychosymptomology were noted in Program participants from their Initial Interview to their Post Completion Follow-Ups. The following table presents this data in an expanded form and is compiled from intake data on 388 participants and an average of responses on one or more Follow-Up Interviews, three to six months post-completion, for 257 successful completers. It also presents five additional areas of the psychosymptomology questionnaire in which large

differences did not appear last year. These are the last five listed for which no 1973 data is presented (indicated by a +):

	1973		1974	
	Pre- Acceptance %	3-6 Months Post Completion %	Pre- Acceptance %	3-6 Months Post Completion %
<b>Less Report:</b>				
• Depression	48	17	44.1	15.6
• Nervousness	28	8	28.9	10.5
• Confusion	30	17	25.5	12.8
• Stomach upsets	10	0	12.6	7.0
• Headaches	20	0	27.6	17.1
• Fear	26	0	25.8	10.9
• Loneliness	29	16	17.5	8.9
• Discomfort in large groups	28	9	26.5	19.8
• Feelings of losing control	15	7	15.2	9.7
+ Dizziness	—	—	13.4	7.4
+ Suicidal Ideations	—	—	7.0	2.7
+ Poor memory	—	—	27.1	14.4
+ Feelings of wanting to hurt others	—	—	25.5	17.1
+ Psychiatric/ psychological consultation	—	—	11.9	2.7

These reductions in physical and psychological symptoms are seen as an indicator of the efficacy of Program counseling services despite the fact that no significant data is available at this



The Program engages three consultants, Richard C. Nichols, Dr. Jack Jacobs, and Kathleen S. Abrams (left to right), who provide psychological testing and therapy, family counseling and in-service staff training.

time. The magnitude of pre-post differences does not indicate, nor should it be interpreted to mean, that participants were all emotionally disturbed when identified, but rather to demonstrate, by subjective measures, the effectiveness of counseling services in helping young adults cope more effectively with their environment and the stresses generated by their arrest, as well as helping them deal more efficiently with the world around them. It should be noted that differences in 1973 and 1974 pre-post data tend to indicate a greater incidence of post symptoms in 1974 than 1973. This is due to both the averaging technique utilized in cases where more than one follow-up was available and the significantly larger number of completed cases available for study.

Objective data gathered from analysis of the Sixteen Personality Factors Questionnaire is less definitive than the psychosymptomology data, due partially to the larger number of cases analyzed and partially to current ability to relate it more closely to other data available. While the data currently presents a somewhat different picture than that of last year, when viewed in terms of pre-post differences in scores for successful completers, it is being presented for comparison only. As research with this data continues, one can only note that differences do exist and assume, when

viewed in conjunction with the symptomology data, that Program counseling services account for at least some portion of these noted differences.

Trend toward (unless change preceded by a -)	1973 X change	1974 X change
• More Enthusiastic (less taciturn)	+1.38	- .30
• More Spontaneous (less threat sensitive)	+1.01	+ .23
• More Controlled (less impulsive)	+ .89	+ .24
• More Concrete Thinking (less abstract thinking)	+ .67	- .80
• More Sensitive (less tough minded)	+ .67	+ .30
• More Self Sufficient (less group dependent)	+ .52	- .51
• More Self Assured (less apprehensive)	+ .67	+1.01
• More Emotionally Stable (less affected by feelings)	+ .55	- .41
+ More Relaxed (less anxious-frustrated)	—	+1.32
+ More Forthright & Natural (less shrewd & calculating)	—	+ .61

While the number of successfully completed cases has risen sharply, and more data was available for the foregoing analyses, the reader must interpret the differences presented on psychosymptomology and 16 P.F. factors cautiously. In the absence of comparison to unsuccessful completers who do not accept follow-up questionnaires and with the lack of significance studies, the data only indicates the presence of changes in participants' subjective and objective perceptions of themselves in directions which appear to be beneficial. Program counseling services surely contribute to these differences in a fashion that would probably not have existed had participants not been placed in the Program. Further research is planned to test the significance of these data and to determine which Program service or counseling method most greatly influenced them.

#### C. Recidivism:

An important objective of the Program is to demonstrate a minimal recidivism rate. To assist in the evaluation of this phase of Program performance, a control group comparable in all respects to Program participants was selected pursuant to a research design prepared by Alan Rockway, Ph.D.

Recidivism data is derived from annual record checks conducted on all former Program participants and provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation from the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). The data which follows is based upon the NCIC inquiry conducted in February of 1974 and is based upon all Program participants accepted by the Program through January 19, 1974.



**Recidivism of Pretrial Participants and Controls by Successful, Unsuccessful and Voluntary Groups**

Description	No.	Frequency of Recidivism	%
Group I Successfuls	309	31	10.0
Group II Successfuls	79	13	16.5
Group III Voluntary Completers	26	8	30.7
Group I Unsuccessfuls	82	31	37.8
Group II Unsuccessfuls	64	28	43.8
Controls	34	11	32.4
Total	594	122	

$\chi^2 = 56.54, 5 \text{ d/f}, p .01$

It is apparent that the recidivism rate for successful completers whose charges were dismissed (10.0%) compares favorably to the recidivism data for the control group (32.4%). This data would seem to support the conclusion that a pretrial intervention strategy is in fact effective in reducing recidivism as compared to cases which proceeded to traditional prosecution and disposition.



The Program has a close working relationship with law enforcement agencies in Dade County. City of Miami Police Officer Charles Daniels discusses a participant with Counselor Gwendolyn Dixon.



The Program serves as a training site for interns from a number of area colleges. Student intern Sharon Williams of Florida International University meets with Counselor Lois Smith.

**V. COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS**

An important test of the efficacy of formalized pretrial intervention is that of economy. To be viable, such programs should be no more costly to the criminal justice system than would be the disposition of cases by the traditional means of prosecution followed by incarceration or probation.

Intervention programs are for the most part limited to first offenders while, of course, probation and prison cannot and do not select their intake. For this reason, comparison of these three approaches to rehabilitation in terms of recidivism are, at best, misleading. However, it is submitted that the three treatments can be evaluated in terms of costs of processing through the criminal justice system and in terms of earnings, or loss thereof, of the arrested offender. The following costs must be considered in comparing the three approaches:

Incarceration	Probation	Pretrial Intervention Program
Criminal Act	Criminal Act	Criminal Act
Arrest	Arrest	Arrest
Court costs	Court costs	Program costs
Prison costs	Probation costs	
Loss of earnings		

Since the costs of crimes and of subsequent arrests and bookings may be assumed to be constant, the following analysis will not include these factors. Nor will it include the factor of loss of earnings of the incarcerated offender (and possible welfare costs to society of supporting a family that has been deprived of its income earner), since it is beyond the scope of this report to estimate the relative earnings of an offender on probation or in a Pretrial Intervention Program. Since both probation and pretrial intervention require an offender to work, and in fact place him in employment, it may be assumed that both of these approaches result in a social benefit that is absent when the offender is incarcerated.

This section, then, will confine itself to a discussion of the economic costs of resources used in the criminal justice system and estimate the marginal costs to society for police, courts and personnel. For the purpose of estimating the marginal cost of judicial proceedings, only costs of labor will be included. This method of estimating the court costs will be a simple summation of the personnel involved in a court event and their respective annual salaries divided by the number of cases handled by these personnel in a year.

Since successful completion of Pretrial Intervention Program participation results in a decision

by the State Attorney not to prosecute the offender, the following events are eliminated:

- (1) Clerical preparation of the case by the State Attorney's Office;
- (2) Filing of the case by the Clerk's Office;
- (3) Arraignment and motions;
- (4) Defense and prosecution costs;
- (5) Witness and police officer appearance for depositions and trial (and resulting loss of earnings and inconvenience);
- (6) Court costs;
- (7) Costs of incarceration or probation.

It should be noted that all of these costs are incurred when a case is processed normally, with probation or incarceration the outcome. The benefits derived by eliminating these costs and by diverting a case into pretrial intervention will be referred to herein as the diversion benefit.

As mentioned previously, although the increased earnings benefit will not be dealt with, the Program employment staff develops and maintains contacts with training programs, public and private employers in the community, and the public employment service. The benefits derived from providing job information and placement assistance to participants, thereby reducing the number and length of unsuccessful job searches and increasing earnings over a given period of



Monthly open house meetings are held with parents of the approximately 375 participants who are enrolled in the Program at any given time. Program Director Tom Petersen and Counselor Cynthia Fien meet with a participant and parent at a recent parents' meeting.

time, are evident. The counseling of participants serves to increase motivation, resulting in fewer job changes and shorter periods between jobs. If individuals are placed in training programs or in employment providing on-the-job training, skills and productivity may increase, providing still further benefits.

The budgetary costs of the Pretrial Intervention Program staff during 1972-74 were as follows:

Personnel	\$171,915
Contractual services	36,750
Travel mileage	9,100
Equipment	2,900
Operating expenses	16,450
Total	\$237,115

Based upon the total 595 cases closed as a result of Program participation, the average cost per case is:

$$\frac{\$237,115}{595} = \$398.50$$

**Benefits from Case Diversion to Pretrial Intervention:**

The following analyses assume that recidivism rates among former pretrial intervention participants will be no higher than those of offenders whose cases have resulted in incarceration or probation. As has been demonstrated earlier in this report, this assumption appears to be a valid one to date in the Dade County program. Obviously, the benefit gained from the court and corrections resources where pretrial intervention is used could be rapidly reversed if this type of program led to increased recidivism.

**1. Court Costs through Case Disposition**

The following calculations are designed to estimate the cost of the average case to the criminal justice system. Since cases filed are disposed of in three principal ways, namely, jury trial, non-jury trial and guilty plea, the average case is a composite of these three means of disposition. Obviously, a jury trial is more costly than a non-jury trial involving, as it does, increased court time due to the necessity of selecting jurors, loss of earnings to jurors, etc., which, in turn, is more costly than a guilty plea. The following table presents the means of case disposition from July 1, 1971, to June 30, 1972, in the Dade County criminal courts:

Means of Case Disposal	Number of Cases	Per- centage
Guilty plea	7,360	83%
Non-jury trial	1,290	15%
Jury trial	214	2%
	8,864	100%

The following table presents the various elements, and their costs per year, that comprise the costs of cases in the criminal justice system:

Expense Item	Amount Per Year
Judges' salaries	\$ 142,500
Judges' bailiffs & secretaries salaries	70,000
Clerk's Office	204,800
Witness fees	300,000
State Attorney's Office	1,200,000
Public Defender's Office	500,000
Court reporters	775,000
	\$3,192,300

Dividing this total by the total number of criminal cases per year, we obtain the cost of processing of an average case through the courts:

$$\frac{3,192,300}{8,864} = \$360$$

We must add to this figure the cost of police witnesses per case, which has been estimated at \$44.46. Adding this sum to \$360, the total expense is \$404.46 per case.

**2. Post-disposition Costs**

In addition to the benefits to the criminal justice system incurred by circumventing costs of case processing in the courts, the benefits incurred by case dismissal, following a participant's successful completion of the Program, as compared to the costs of incarceration or probation, must also be included.

In Dade County an average of 63.4% of criminal cases result in probation and 36.6% in incarceration. Since these figures include all offenders, and since pretrial intervention is limited to first offenders, who comprise approximately one-third of all offenders, these percentages should be adjusted to reflect these facts. Therefore, it will be assumed that .366 X 1/3 of the total of first offenders were incarcerated and the remainder received probation. Thus, 12% of first offenders would be incarcerated, and 88% would receive probation. The assumption is herein made that the average length of a first offender's incarceration is six months, and the average length of a first offender's probation is two years.

The 1971 Report of the Florida Probation and Parole Commission estimated the marginal cost of

supervising an additional probationer at \$242 per year and the marginal cost of incarceration of an additional inmate at \$2,219 per year.

Assuming that 12% of the 349 offenders whose cases were dismissed following successful participation in the Pretrial Intervention Program would otherwise have been incarcerated for six months and 88% placed on probation for two years, the following costs may be estimated:

	Number of Cases	Cost per Case	Total Cost
Incarceration	42	\$1,108	\$ 46,536
Probation	307	484	\$148,588
	349		\$195,124

These figures must be discounted, and the rate of discount will be selected at 10%: The calculations assume a six month incarceration and two years of probation:

Incarceration

$$\text{Present value} = \frac{1,108}{(1.10)} = \$997$$

Probation

$$\text{Present value} = \frac{484}{(1.10)^2} = \$400$$

**3. Total Costs: Pre- and Post-dispositional**

The total costs of processing and disposition of the 349 cases who successfully completed the Pretrial Intervention Program may thus be expressed as follows:

$$\text{Pre-disposition costs per case} + \text{Post-disposition costs per case} = \text{Total benefits or:}$$

Pretrial intervention case:	0 + \$398.50 = \$ 398.50 per case
Probation case:	\$404 + \$400.00 = \$ 804.00 per case
Incarceration case:	\$404 + \$997.00 = \$1,401.00 per case

Again, assuming an 88%-12% ratio of probation to incarceration cases, we may calculate total benefits as follows:

Probation cases	= 804 x 307 = \$246,828
Incarceration cases	= 1,401 x 42 = 58,842
Total	\$305,670

**4. Summary**

The above estimates of the costs of handling 349 cases by diversion to a Pretrial Intervention Program and by the traditional means of probation and incarceration may be summarized as follows:

Pretrial intervention costs (349 cases)	\$139,076
Probation/incarceration costs (349 cases)	\$305,670

It is thus less costly to divert a case to the Dade County Pretrial Intervention Program than to process it in the traditional manner with disposition either by probation or incarceration. The following presents the cost-benefit ratio of this diversion aspect of the Pretrial Intervention Project:

Total costs of program	\$139,076
Total diversion benefit	\$305,670
Benefit-cost ratio	2.19

Although the diversion benefit of the Program in itself is economically efficient relative to alternative methods of case processing, it must again be emphasized that a cost-benefit analysis of such a Program is not complete without a consideration of the earnings benefit, resulting from the increased productivity of participants, and the recidivism benefit. Preliminary data generated by the Dade County Pretrial Intervention Program, and presented earlier in this report, would indicate that the increased employability and reduction in recidivism among former participants result in an increase in the cost benefit ratio.

## VI. APPENDIX

Editorial, Miami Herald, June 12, 1972

Article, Miami Herald, June 8, 1972

Article, Miami News, November 22, 1972

Article, Miami News, December 31, 1973

Text of Editorial Broadcast on WPLG TV,  
January 17, 1974

Letter from Chief Judge Thomas E. Lee, Jr.

Letter from Director E. Wilson Purdy,  
Dade County Public Safety Department

Letter from Director Jack Sandstrom  
Dade County Corrections & Rehabilitation Department

Letter from U.S. Senator Lawton Chiles

Letter from U.S. Representative Claude Pepper

# The Miami Herald

JOHN S. KNIGHT, Editorial Chairman

JAMES L. KNIGHT, Chairman

LEE HILLS, Publisher ALVAH H. CHAPMAN, Jr., President DON SHOEMAKER, Editor H. J. JURGENSMEYER, Gen. Mgr.  
GEORGE BEEBE, Senior Managing Editor LARRY JINKS, Managing Editor JOHN D. PENNEKAMP, Associate Editor

6-A

Monday, June 12, 1972

## EDITORIALS

### A Break For First Offenders

**THE PRE-TRIAL** Intervention Program for first offenders is the most hopeful venture we've read of lately for transforming potential criminals into useful citizens.

The rules wisely limit enrollment to candidates most likely to succeed: men and women under age 25 arrested for a non-violent first criminal offense. No drug addicts are accepted, but persons who have experimented with drugs are "considered."

The arresting officer, the victim and the prosecutor all must agree that a suspect should be given a chance in the program instead of going to court.

If a member attends training classes or takes the job found for him, stays out of trouble and convinces his counselor he will go straight, no charges are filed against him. Anyone violating these conditions is prosecuted.

As Herald Staff Writer June Kronholz reported last Thursday, the project's record to date is impressive. Only one member has flunked. The remaining 44 men and four women, two-thirds of them 17- and 18-year-olds, are either working, going to school or getting job training.

Is there a better way to rescue first offenders from a life of crime? If so, we haven't heard of it.

The limited scope of the local program is commendable. Success with a few can point the way to expansion.

The experiment is being carried out through a \$100,000 federal grant, which means the money is being supplied by taxpayers all over the country. They can take a bow, along with the officials who devised this constructive attempt to fill payrolls instead of jail cells.

# Section F

Amusements ..... 5-7F

## First Offenders Program Rescues Career in Army

By JUNE KRONHOLZ  
Herald Staff Writer

William W. Hubbard had never graduated from anything in his life.

A high school dropout with no trade training and no marketable skills, Hubbard had hoped to make the Army a career.



But when he was arrested last Jan. 27 riding in the passenger seat of a stolen 1972 Pinto, even the dream of an Army career began to dim.

UNDER NORMAL judicial procedures, the only way William Hubbard could ever have been accepted by the Army was to prove himself innocent of the stolen car charges.

If he didn't, he faced either jail or probation and more months of wandering the streets looking for a job.

Under a new program initiated by the Dade State Attorney's Office, however — the office that usually prosecutes men rather than tries to rehabilitate them — William Hubbard today is a free man with an Army career ahead of him, three months of training behind him and a diploma on the wall.

Hubbard, 22, of 600 NW 75th St., is the first graduate of the Pre-Trial Intervention Project, a federally-funded program designed to give youthful first-time offenders a chance to clear their records before their cases come to trial.

Under a \$100,000-grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the Pre-Trial Intervention Program already has enrolled 44 men and four women under age 25 to receive special training and counseling.

THE IDEA behind the Pre-Trial Intervention Project is explained by State Attorney Richard Gerstein:

If the project member attends the training classes or takes the job a social worker finds for him, stays out of trouble and proves to his counselors that his first crime will also likely be his last, the state will not file charges against him.

If the project member skips school, doesn't show up for work, fails to attend counseling sessions or gets in trouble with the police again, however, the state will re-open its case and take the former project member to court.

So far, the project's statistics are impressive. In five months of operation, only one participant has been arrested again and that, project director Thomas K. Petersen points out, took place during the young man's first week in the project and "prior to full exposure to the program."

The project, Gerstein adds, is the "only way we're going to be able to handle the increase in crime."

Only men and women under age 25 who are charged with a non-violent first criminal offense are eligible to take part in the program. No drug addicts are accepted, says Petersen, a former assistant state attorney, but men and women who have experimented with drugs are "considered."

To date, two-thirds of the 48 project members have been age 17 or 18, half of them have been white, and before they entered the program 31 of them were unemployed.

SINCE THE program began, Petersen and the three social workers hired for the program have found jobs for 16 young people and trade training programs for seven. Seven more have returned to school, one — Hubbard — joined the Army and three currently are receiving psychiatric or psychological assistance. Only seven still are unemployed.

No one is admitted to the program unless the police officer who arrested him, the victim of his crime and the State Attorney's Office all agree that the Pre-Trial Intervention Program can make a useful citizen out of him.

William Hubbard was selected to join the program the morning after police arrested him while he was joy-riding down NW 75th Street in a rental car stolen in Fort Lauderdale.

Petersen and Richard C. Nichols, the program's consultant, first enrolled Hubbard in an auto mechanics course at Lindsey Hopkins where teachers ranked his performance "excellent to outstanding."

When Hubbard's father died, however, and Hubbard needed work, Petersen next found him a job as a cook-trainee in the New England Oyster House chain where again his performance was praised.

TWO EVENINGS a week after work, Hubbard met with a social worker for counseling sessions and one evening a week participated in a group counseling class — all part of the program.

Now, four months after he first joined the program, Hubbard is its first graduate and a man on his way to an Army career.

"We used the pending case as an incentive," Petersen explains. "We were offering him a clean record, and he took us up on the deal."

# THE MIAMI NEWS

Miami, Fla., Wednesday Afternoon, Nov. 22, 1972

56 Pages

## Pre-trial job plan here works for young first-time offenders

By STEPHEN KARNAS  
Miami News Editorial Writer

If first-time law offenders play their cards right, they can get a job and avoid a stretch in prison. Perhaps most important, they can also avoid the permanent conviction record that often bars them from future job opportunities.

The Pre-Trial Intervention Program kicked off by the state attorney's office early this year offers a realistic opportunity for rehabilitation and job training for youths between the ages of 17 and 25.

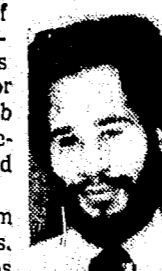
A key to the program is the availability of jobs. "Finding meaningful jobs not only the minimum wage jobs, has been the biggest problem," said Thomas Peterson, project director.

"Peterson said that the project needs about 20 jobs each month.

The Florida State Employment Service has cooperated by compiling lists of potential jobs for the pre-trial program. More recently, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's human resources committee has tapped member businessmen to identify employers willing to accept a first-time offender as an on-the-job trainee.

There are certain requirements and procedures that determine if the offender can take advantage of the program. For instance, the crime must be nonviolent.

The arresting officer as well as the victim of the crime and the offender must accept the pre-trial program which involves employment and regular counseling sessions with social workers hired by the state attorney's office.



KARNAS

The goal is to reduce the recidivism rate by placing first-time offenders in jobs as an alternative to prison. At the end of six months of counseling the youth and watching his work, a member of the state attorney's office evaluates his achievements.

The options for the state attorney's office at the six-month point include prosecution of the case in court, recommendations for leniency in prosecution, suggestions for continued participation in the program, or recommendations that charges be dropped.

Peterson, who resigned as an assistant state attorney to become director of pre-trial intervention, claims a good track record for the project. Out of 191 first-time offenders identified as eligible, 152 have been placed in jobs and are successfully participating in the program. And of the 71 participants who were unemployed or out of school when they joined the program, only seven are still in those circumstances. Forty-seven persons were employed when they entered the program; at the middle of October, 70 were employed.

A control group has been established for comparison purposes. One out of 20 qualified youths is excluded from the project and processed through the courts and jails normally.

"Hopefully, a comparison of the control group with those who get jobs will show that the recidivism rate is lower within our program group and the employment rate is higher than the in control group" said Peterson.

The project was initiated at the request of the state attorney's office with \$100,000 from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. Another \$150,000 is anticipated for the operating expense to continue the program through next year.

First offenders get second chance

# Pretrial sentence: jobs instead of jail

By PATRICA BURSTEIN  
Miami News Reporter

"Let's face it — we are not criminals and don't deserve to have a record," a 19-year-old diesel engineer told three members of his guidance group.

The four of them, picked up individually for possession or sale of marijuana, could have ended up with records had they gone to trial and lost.

But they qualified for the Dade Pretrial Intervention Project, a program which gives some first-offenders a second opportunity. If they successfully complete the program, they have a good chance of never going to trial on the charges.

The diesel engineer has almost completed the program. He and the three other young men standing with him agreed they now recognize the hazards, legal and otherwise, of handling drugs. They had just stepped out of a counseling class of about 15 members.

"One of the strong points," Cheryl Welch, assistant director and formerly a prison rehabilitation worker at the Dade County Women's Detention Center, "is working with a group that is workable."

Eligibility requirements state that participants must not have any previous criminal record; must be between the ages of 17 and 25; and be charged with a misdemeanor or certain third-degree felonies like breaking and entering an auto or possession of marijuana.

The defendant must live in Dade County and be found to be in need of vocational, educational or psychological supervision. Narcotic addicts are not considered for the program.

Since the program was started in January, 1972, about 500 persons have been selected and about 400 have successfully completed it.

"We have a re-arrest rate of about 2 per cent," says Thomas Peterson, an assistant state attorney who resigned to become director of Pretrial Intervention.

The goal of the program is, in part, to reduce the rate of repeat offenses by placing first-time offenders in jobs instead of in jail. At the end of six months counseling the youth and checking his progress, a member of the state attorney's office evaluates his performance.

Says the mother of an 18-year-old charged with marijuana possession, "When my son was arrested, he thought he was really washed out. He was really sick about it. He wants to be a lawyer and couldn't afford a criminal record. Now he has had the opportunity to reconsider and have another chance. He realizes now that there were things he shouldn't have been doing."

Staffed by nine counselors and four counselor's aides, the project requires participants to come for counseling twice a week, once on an individual basis and the second in a group setting. No more than 20 cases are assigned at the same time to any single counselor.

## a WPLG editorial

AN ANTI-CRIME METHOD THAT WORKS

Broadcast: 1/17/74

In the midst of all the bad news about rising crime rates, there is one major piece of good news. An experimental program to get young first offenders out of the crime cycle is working.

The figures that every six months tell us how bad crime is getting also reveal something else: The serious, violent criminal is almost always a repeat offender. Such a criminal has had earlier run-ins with the law. He was arrested and prosecuted, perhaps, but not corrected or rehabilitated.

A Dade County program to intercept those young, first offenders established a two-year record of success this month. The pre-trial intervention program offers accused first offenders a chance to escape trial if they agree, and any victim agrees, that they may be subjected to intensive counseling instruction. And, it works.

The records of four-hundred graduates show that they are twenty times less likely to be arrested again than are those who do not enter the program.

Dade State Attorney Richard Gerstein deserves credit for giving the idea a trial. So does his Assistant, Tom Peterson, who heads the program. The Chamber of Commerce also helped find jobs for participants.

This community hears a lot of rhetoric about crime fighting. It's more gratifying to hear of a solution.

This is a WPLG Editorial.

E-626

BROADCAST HOUSE/3900 BISCAYNE BOULEVARD/MIAMI, FLORIDA 33137/(305) 573-7111

WPLG editorials are presented in the public interest in order to assist our audience in better understanding public issues. We welcome comments on our editorials and encourage presentation of contrasting points of view from responsible spokesmen. We reserve the right to designate spokesmen and to deny such requests if we believe that the viewpoint has been fairly presented.



ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS  
 DADE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
 MIAMI, FLORIDA 33130

THOMAS E. LEE, JR.  
 CHIEF JUDGE  
 WILLIAM A. HERIN  
 SENIOR JUDGE

June 13, 1974

WILBUR S. McDUFF  
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr. Thomas K. Petersen  
 Director, Pretrial Services  
 600 Metropolitan Justice Bldg.  
 1351 N. W. 12th Street  
 Miami, Florida 33125

Dear Mr. Petersen:

Prior to my departure from the bench, I would like to take the opportunity to personally thank you for your dedicated service to the furtherance of the administration of justice.

The Pretrial Intervention Program of Dade County, through your able guidance from its inception, has now become the model for such programs in the nation. You are commended for your capable performance.

You may be assured of the continued support of the office of the Chief Judge and the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS E. LEE, JR.  
 Chief Judge



**METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY • FLORIDA**

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
 1320 N.W. 14TH STREET  
 MIAMI, FLORIDA 33125

**PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT**

December 4, 1972

Honorable Richard E. Gerstein  
 State Attorney  
 Justice Building  
 1351 Northwest 12 Street  
 Miami, Florida 33125

ATTENTION: Mr. Thomas K. Petersen

Dear Mr. Gerstein:

We have reviewed your Third Quarterly Report for the Pretrial Intervention Project.

The dramatically low rate of recidivism is a particularly heartening statistic. We can only hope that the program will continue with its unusually high quality and positive return on the dollar invested.

We are awaiting with great interest your final report and hope that if the twelve-month picture reflects a continuously low recidivism rate, the County will continue the program or an additional grant will be obtained.

Perhaps in the coming three months, you could arrange to make a presentation to the command staff of the Public Safety Department at a time that would be mutually convenient. If you feel that you can make such a presentation, please contact Chief Harold Barney, Executive Assistant, at 377-7818, or Chief James Jorgenson, 377-7558, who will finalize a convenient date.

Best wishes for continued success in this outstanding program.

Sincerely,

E. WILSON PURDY  
 Director

EWP/st



# METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY • FLORIDA

1321 N. W. 13TH STREET  
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33125

CORRECTIONS & REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

November 14, 1972

Thomas K. Peterson, Esquire  
PreTrial Intervention Project  
Office of the State Attorney  
Metropolitan Justice Building  
1351 N. W. 12th Street  
Miami, Florida 33125

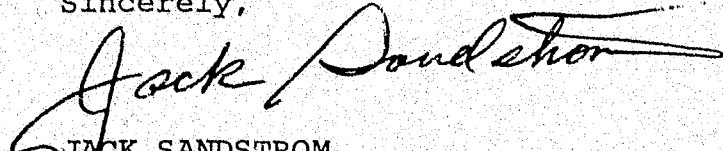
Dear Tom:

The Third Quarterly Report of the Dade County Pretrial Intervention Project is certainly impressive.

Your statistics indicate that youthful offenders can be diverted from the Criminal Justice System with a comprehensive community based approach. The Project truly offers an alternative to incarceration, a much talked about concept that until now had little meaning.

I am prepared to support any effort you make to expand the project.

Sincerely,

  
JACK SANDSTROM  
Director

JS/jo

LAWTON CHILES  
FLORIDA

United States Senate

June 6, 1972

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS  
DEMOCRATIC STEERING COMMITTEE

Mr. Thomas K. Petersen, Director  
Pretrial Intervention Project  
State Attorney's Office  
Metropolitan Dade County Justice Building  
1351 N. W. 12th Street  
Miami, Florida 33125

Dear Mr. Petersen:

Thank you for forwarding to me the First Quarterly Report of the Dade County Pretrial Intervention Project, which is funded by a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

I found the report most interesting and I was certainly impressed with the overall cooperation and participation the project seems to be getting. I could not agree more with your comment that the Project represents a definite asset in the administration of justice in Dade County. I would like to take this opportunity to commend all the people who are responsible in realizing this tremendous success.

Since coming to Congress last year, I have been continually impressed with the need for Federal funding for projects such as this one, as there is much work needed in this area.

I certainly appreciate your taking the time to forward this report and to keep me apprised of this worthwhile and noteworthy operation.

If I can be of any assistance in this or any other project, please do not hesitate to call on me.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Most sincerely,

  
LAWTON CHILES

LC/rlc

REPLY TO: FEDERAL BUILDING, LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33801



CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA., CHAIRMAN

JEROME R. WALDIE, CALIF. CHARLES E. WIGGINS, CALIF.  
FRANK J. BRASCO, N.Y. SAM STEIGER, ARIZ.  
JAMES H. MANN, S.C. LARRY WINN, JR., KANS.  
MORGAN F. MURPHY, ILL. CHARLES W. SANDMAN, JR., N.J.  
CHARLES B. RANGEL, N.Y. WILLIAM J. KEATING, OHIO

Select Committee on Crime  
House of Representatives  
Congress of the United States  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS  
CHIEF COUNSEL

MICHAEL W. BLOMMER  
ASSOCIATE CHIEF COUNSEL

CHRIS NOLDE  
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL

August 15, 1972

Dear Mr. Petersen:

Your letter of August 2 has reached me, together with the Quarterly Report of the Dade County Pretrial Intervention Project.

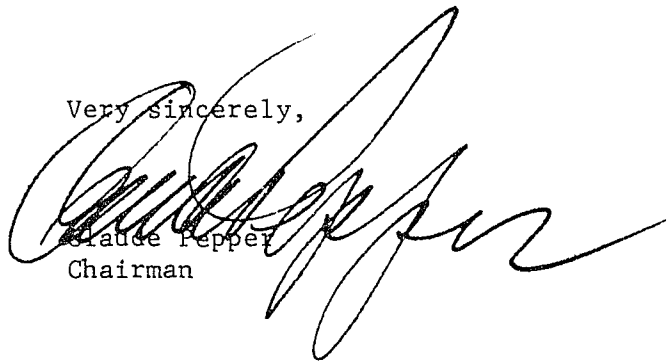
I want to congratulate you on what, from my cursory inspection of the report, appears to be a very successful program.

I have long deplored the totally inadequate approach of our judicial system to the problem of the first offender. To me, the important thing is to salvage, if possible, a potentially productive citizen, not to scar him for life by the stigma of conviction and the hardening experience of incarceration. Let's give him another chance before giving him a record.

The Pretrial Intervention Project seems to be accomplishing the desired result, and I thoroughly approve of it. I'll be interested in receiving subsequent reports from you.

Believe me,

Very sincerely,

  
Claude Pepper  
Chairman

Mr. Thomas K. Petersen  
Office of the State Attorney  
1351 N. W. 12th Street  
Miami, Florida 33125

END