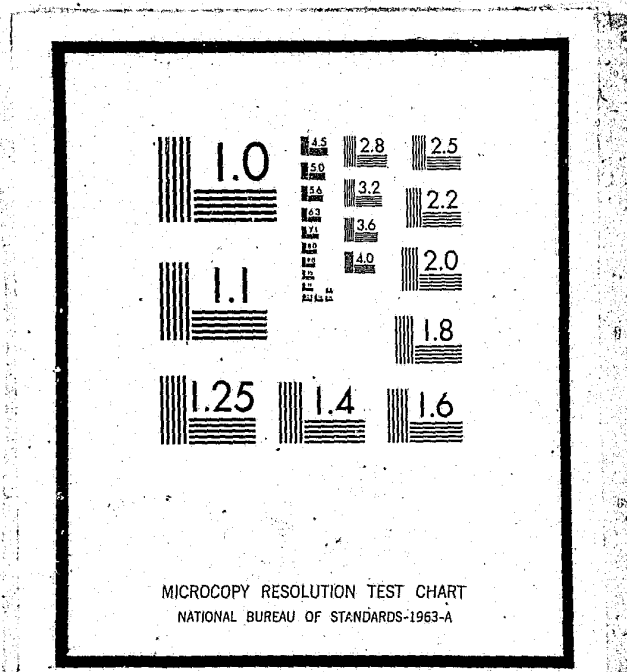


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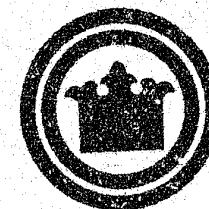
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NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFERENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531

Date filmed

12/18/75

25257



YOUTH SERVICE CENTER

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY - JUVENILE DEPARTMENT
1211 EAST ALDER STREET • SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98122 • (206) 323-9500

November 27, 1974

Model Program Development Division
Office of Technology Transfer
National Institute of Law Enforcement
and Criminal Justice
L. E. A. A.
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is our exemplary project recommendation for the King County (WA) - Juvenile Court Conference Committee Program. - *Exemplary Project Recommendation*

This program has been operating successfully since 1959, and we would like to share it with others.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. Buckland
Buckland

Director of Court Services

SPO
King County, LJPO

EXEMPLARY PROJECT RECOMMENDATION

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Name of Program

King County Juvenile Court Conference Committee Program

2. Type of Program (ROR, burglary prevention, etc.)

Juvenile justice diversion and delinquency prevention.

3. Area or community served

King County, Seattle, Washington

4. Approximate population of area or community served

1,146,000

5. Administering Agency (give full title and address)

King County Juvenile Court
1211 E. Alder Street
Seattle, Wa. 98122

323-9500

6. Project Director (name and phone number; address only if different from 5 above)

Honorable James A. Noe
323-9500

7. Funding agency(s) and grant number (agency name and address, staff contact and phone number)

King County (no grants)

8. Project Duration (give date project began rather than the data that LEAA funding, if any, began)

Program commenced in 1959.

9. Project Operating Costs (Do not include costs of formal evaluation if one has been performed. (See Item 10))

Breakdown of Total Operating Costs, specify time period:

Federal:	None
State:	None
Local:	\$ 42095 (for 1974)
Private:	None
Total:	\$42095

Of the above total, indicate how much is

(a) Start-up; one time expenditures: 0

(b) Annual operating costs: \$42,095

10. Evaluation costs (Indicate cost of formal evaluation if one has been performed)

None

11. Continuation. Has the project been institutionalized, or is it still regarded as experimental in nature? Does its continuation appear reasonably certain with local funding?

Institutionalized.

Yes

ATTACHMENT A - PROGRAM REVIEW MEMORANDUM

(1) Project Summary - brief statement of the project's goals, objectives, and method of operation.

The program goal is to enable local communities to handle minor juvenile problems without outside help and thereby prevent further acts of delinquency. These are children who would receive little or no service from the juvenile court.

Objectives are:

- To establish and maintain community-based conference committees throughout the county.
- To participate in community organization activities to stimulate development of conference committee sponsoring organizations and community resources for youth.

With assistance from the juvenile court, communities develop sponsor groups organized by citizen leadership and made up of a broad representation of organizations, churches, and dedicated citizens concerned with youth. The sponsoring organization informs the community of its own problems, seeks to actually improve opportunities for youth, and develops services and programs locally to assist those who need them.

The community organization sponsors a conference committee, but the juvenile court makes the decision to establish one. The establishment and maintenance of the conference committee is a joint project.

Once the decision is made to establish a conference committee, the selection of 6 to 10 committee members begins with nominations of concerned citizens by the sponsoring organization. Conference committee members are unpaid volunteers. The prospective nominees are carefully screened, oriented, and trained. They are appointed by the juvenile court. They work under the guidance of a Court employee who acts as a consultant to the committee.

The conference committee chairman is appointed by the presiding Judge. The chairman is responsible for coordinating the activity of the committee. The secretary, selected by the committee, handles invitations, scheduling, and record keeping.

Referrals of minor delinquencies are directed to conference committees by authorized public agencies such as police, schools, park departments, and other enforcement agencies.

The committees meet weekly for about four hours and handle three to five cases. Usually a school, town hall, or other public facility is used as a meeting place.

Children and parents referred to the committee receive a letter giving them the choice of appearing before the conference committee or at juvenile court. In each case, the committee talks with the child and parents, assesses the facts, and with the child and family provides helpful resolutions. The child and family may be referred to a community agency or to juvenile court. Arrangements may be made for restitution or counseling. A program in the community may be recommended. The committee may review the plan at a later date to see if the plan is working. All cases are handled with the utmost confidentiality.

The conference committee program is coordinated and maintained by two coordinators and a secretary. These positions were only recently developed after the program had grown in magnitude.

(2) Criteria Achievement - explanation of the degree to which the project meets each of the Exemplary Project criteria - goal achievement, replicability, measurability, efficiency, and accessibility. Cite specific measures of effectiveness, e.g. crime reduction, cost savings, etc.

A- Goal Achievement The project must demonstrate overall effectiveness in the achievement of significant criminal justice objectives.

1- Has the project contributed significantly to the reduction of a specific crime or crimes, or produced measurable improvement in the operations and quality of the criminal justice system?

The program has led to development and use of local community resources such as counseling programs, alcoholism treatment, and drop-in centers. In some cases, the attention of the conference committee insures that the child or parents remain in treatment once it is started. Development of conference committees has resulted in an appreciable increase in the use of existing programs.

Most children seen are those the juvenile court does not have time to see and who properly should be diverted from the criminal justice system. Handling in the community has a positive effect on the child and his family. It also aids the community in identifying its needs.

Some communities claim a reduction in crime or juvenile problems, but we have not done a statistical analysis. Continued growth of the program indicates the community sees it as a successful method for handling youth problems.

2- Has the project been generally more successful than other projects which address the same problem?

Yes, Some local Youth Service Bureaus and Youth Accountability Boards have been less successful.

B. Replicability. The project must be applicable and adaptable to jurisdictions other than the one in which it is operating.

3- Does the project address a problem of reasonably common concern?

Yes. The President's Crime Commission Report recommended diversion of minor offenders from the juvenile justice system and handling by other community based organizations providing services in the gap between law enforcement and the court.

4. Does adequate documentation exist to permit a general understanding of the project's methodology and operations?

Yes. Procedures manual, annual report, handouts for groups interested in forming a conference committee, forms for record keeping, training program for consultants and committee members, video tape of how committee operates, written qualifications for members, job descriptions, etc.

5. Are there special features that appear principally responsible for the project's success; e. g. concept, methodology, administrative expertise, staff commitment? If superior administration and commitment are factors, to what extent is the program likely to be replicable without these factors?

A similar program failed in New Jersey because of a lack of support from the court. The program can succeed anywhere a juvenile court exists as long as the court sponsors and supports the program.

6. What are the restrictions, if any, on size and type of community (e.g. urban vs. rural) for which the program would be appropriate?

The program can be operated in any community where the number of juvenile incidents represents a problem.

- C. Measurability. The achievements of the project must be capable of being objectively measured.

7. Does the program have a built-in evaluation component, and if so, how comprehensive is it?

Currently there are sponsoring organizations in 11 geographical areas with a total of 37 working committees utilizing approximately 210 volunteers.

Data is kept on the activity of each committee: No. of cases handled, referral source, disposition of cases, number of committee meetings held. In the first six months of 1974, 1,238 cases have been handled.

Program goals and objectives are set, evaluated, and reported on annually. Statistics on program activity provide the basis for many conclusions in the report.

There are no specific studies on recidivism, but repeat referrals to the conference committees numbered about 20 out of 1,238 cases from 1/1/74 to 6/30/74.

See attached copy of Annual Report.

8. If there is no formal evaluation procedure, is there objective evidence that the program's goals and objectives are being achieved? If so, what is the evidence?

Certain informal information substantiates goal achievement. In many instances, community resources have been developed as a direct result of conference committees. For example, after many fatherless boys were seen by the Renton Conference Committee a local chapter of Big Brothers was established in Renton, Washington. In Bothell, Wash. a drop-in center, "Inc Spot" was established and rapidly grew into a social service agency for youth. West Seattle Conference Committee found their residents had to travel too far for family counseling, so they persuaded a local social service agency to establish a branch in their area. It grew so fast they now have their own permanent community supported facility - the West Seattle-Burien Mental Health Clinic.

While there are no specific recidivism studies, participating communities claim a decrease in juvenile problems or say they now have an effective tool for helping themselves.

9. Is the project still in operation, and has it been operating continuously for a long enough time to test its utility (typically one year)?

Yes. The first conference committee began in 1959.

- D. Efficiency. The costs of the project must be reasonable.

10. Is there evidence that the project has been cost beneficial, i.e. did the benefits derived from the project justify the expenditures of time, money, and manpower that went into it?

Yes. Until 1973, there was no budget for the program. Regular probation staff and administration did the work of establishing and maintaining conference committees in addition to their other work. Acting as a consultant to a conference committee was a regular duty expected of probation officers from time to time. It requires a commitment of one evening a week.

As conference committee members are volunteers and any conference committee expenses are borne by the community, the committees themselves are no expense to the juvenile court.

We think the investment by the juvenile court is well worth the results.

11. Were other, cheaper, more expensive projects considered as ways of addressing the problem?

No.

E. Accessibility. An outside group of validators must be able to examine the project in detail. Furthermore, if the project is designated as exemplary, law enforcement and criminal justice personnel from other locales who may be interested in undertaking similar programs must be able to visit the project and to consult with those responsible.

12. Is the agency agreeable to having the project submitted to the EXP program for evaluation, publicity, and visitation?

Yes, provided committee activities are not disrupted, and there is no breach of client confidentiality.

13. Is it reasonably certain that the project will continue to exist so that evaluators may collect data; the project can be written up; and the project can be visited by those who learn of it through the EXP program?

Yes.

(3) Outstanding Features- indication of the most impressive feature(s) of the project:

- A- Effective use of volunteers.
- B- The community assumes responsibility for its internal problems.
- C- Promotes identification and solution of community problems.
- D- Improves the relationship between the community and the Court.
- E- Provides quick and effective intervention for minor juvenile offenders.

(4) Weaknesses - frank statement of those areas of project operation that could be improved. (It is assumed that a project will not be recommended if there are critical program weaknesses.)

There is no specific area of the project that needs improvement. There are problems. One of the biggest is that once a community learns of the effectiveness of the committee, referrals are often made faster than a committee can handle them. Recent expansion of committees has overtaxed Court coordination availability for providing adequate on-going training and guidance. Failure to provide adequate program management and support, training, and careful selection procedures for the conference committees could be disastrous. Care must be taken to not over-extend the volunteers and to maintain community support.

(5) Degree of Support - indication of the degree of local support; e. g. criminal justice officials, citizen groups, the news media.

The program by its nature requires extensive community support. Over 210 outstanding citizens are volunteer conference committee members. Eleven different sponsoring organizations are supported by numerous other community agencies including the local police department and other government officials. Additional committees are continually being developed.

To date, the program has received 546 inches of newspaper publicity for 1974.

Please see attached copies of newspaper clippings.

ATTACHMENT C

BUDGET FOR 1974

Conference Committee Coordinator (1 year)	\$ 13,215.00
Conference Committee Coordinator (starting 10/74)	2,580.00
Secretary (1/2 time)	3,750.00
Consultants * (16 @ 3 hours per week) (estimated cost)	17,500.00
*Expendable Office Supplies (estimated cost)	300.00
Workshops ** (estimated cost)	4,000.00
Mileage	250.00
Other staff support (estimated cost)	500.00
Total	\$ 42,095.00

* This is the estimated cost if all consultants' time were paid.
In some cases it is donated.

** Donated by Washington Criminal Justice Education and Training Center

KING COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1973

I. Develop and Maintain Juvenile Court Conference Committees

A. The goal of developing two committees, one in Northeast Seattle and one in Bellevue in 1973 was far surpassed. Four committees were added to Bellevue on 3/5/73; the new one in Northeast Seattle was created with 4 committees on 4/11/73 and 8/1/73; two committees were added to West Seattle on 6/4/73, 8/3/73 and 11/15/73; two committees were added to Renton on 6/4/73, 8/3/73 and 11/15/73; a new committee was added to Highline on 6/4/73 and 8/3/73; a new committee was added to Kent on 11/15/73; work has been started in developing a new committee in Federal Way; and additions were added to Northshore. This is a total of 14 additional committees instead of the two anticipated.

B. The newly created committee in Auburn was brought to full operating level. As last year's report indicates, by the time this committee was officially appointed in the fall of 1972 and the usual administrative details were settled, training was well under way with an accrued backlog of referrals. To accelerate training while working on the backlog, I ran double weekly sessions with the Court Consultant until February 1973. However, by December, I knew the Consultant was resigning from staff, so this meant selecting, appointing and training a new Consultant, which was done by 2/23/73. The sound earlier training held the group, and together with judicious planning, the new Consultant was worked in smoothly at a point where the Committee could change over to weekly sessions.

The planning however, was uncomfortably tight, since I had already started to work with the new additions to the Bellevue Committee and they met the same nights of the week. Again, faced with a backlog (of 250 cases) I made good use of this to accelerate orientation and training and began running double weekly sessions with the Court Consultant in February. The Judicial appointments of the new members occurred on 3/5/73. With an enlarged committee, we began quadruple weekly sessions to overcome the backlog, which meant breaking precedence with our appointment of a second Consultant to a Committee. The newly selected and oriented Consultant was appointed on 4/9/73. Quadruple sessions continued with each Consultant taking one weekly calendar and I took two each week until mid-April.

The timing here was not as smooth as in the case of Auburn in February, because again I knew the Consultant was resigning from the Committee. The selection, orientation and appointment of the new Consultant occurred on 7/3/73, with overlap from me for a better transition. The tightness of my planning for Bellevue was compounded by the need to bring the then sagging Renton Committee up to full operating level. Several problems occurred simultaneously in Renton during the winter and this culminated with the Consultant's resignation. I had to repeat work done in 1972 with the new members since the Renton Committee had gone to double weekly sessions. The new additions to the Committee were deftly handled by a second consultant who was appointed in April and the original Consultant was replaced in May. Both were excellent choices who used close supervision well. This was important because I was already working more than two 18 hour days

each week while closing out a large caseload, the latter completed by March. With the addition of two new committees to Renton in June, August and November, additional work was needed to bring them up to a full operational level this summer and fall, with more remaining. With their backlog sextuple weekly meetings were held from June until fall when they were able to revert to double weekly sessions.

The other problem on timing with the Bellevue Committee was that I had started work with the Northeast Committee in January whose Judicial appointments were made April, despite my opposition. I had not planned this premature a development and opposed it because the sponsorship had not been developed and is still undeveloped but was overruled by the Director. I still believe this was a grave error and one which remains to be completed. Nonetheless, I began orienting and training the group in April while completing work on the Bellevue Committee. I completed this phase with the Northeast Committee by August, with a smooth transition to the newly oriented Consultant who was appointed in July.

With additional committees added to West Seattle in June, August and November to cope with mounting referrals, I spent time bringing this group up to full operating level and ran double (to overcome a backlog) while doing it with the Consultant in October. I continued with needed training by carrying the Committee alone when the Consultant was on an extended vacation until the end of November.

Therefore, in addition to my planned goal of bringing the newly created committee to full operating level in Auburn, I brought five Committees up to full operating level (Auburn, Bellevue, Renton, Northeast and West Seattle).

C. This year for the first time, I initiated a training program for committee members. This has been piecemeal from time to time with role play, lectures and discussions. I began this in 1971 when the Northshore and Shoreline Committees were created and this orientation has been greatly enlarged with appropriate bibliography as needed and with concentration on demonstration of how to interview and diagnose during Committee sessions with clients. At the conclusion of each calendar, we would then evaluate how we did, what to avoid and what were better ways of doing. This served to stimulate learning and enthusiasm beyond my expectations and was most gratifying.

Another big innovation this year was the establishment of Committee Organizational Meetings. I started with Auburn in January. The fifth week in each month was scheduled for a joint meeting of all four Committees to share common concerns, to resolve existing problems, to change administrative procedures, to meet with community leaders to stimulate referrals or iron out problems, to have lectures from resource people or discussions on a particular subject. This has been highly successful and is now used in six areas: Auburn, Bellevue, Kent, Northeast, Renton and West Seattle.

As a result, the stimulation for learning progressed to the point where I began to develop plans for a Workshop for Committee members

last fall. This has taken shape and is set for a one day session on 1/26/74 at Providence Heights. Good resource leaders have been chosen and I will continue to complete final planning for it.

A training program for Court Consultants was prepared in the spring, with the approved plan of hiring a part-time eminently qualified person to conduct the training session in June. As you know, the hiring never materialized, so I undertook to conduct a series of four sessions 6/27 through July with emphasis for the new Consultants, which they sorely needed. The balance of training has been with Consultants at Committee meetings, in individual consultation and in subsequent Consultants' meetings.

The above described training was geared to the 65 Committee members newly appointed this year, in addition to the initial orientation sessions which are unique and the observation scheduling of at least one other Conference Committee. It was also geared to the 8 new Court Consultant appointments.

Additional training was provided to a University of Washington School of Social Work student in a block placement at the Court in Community Organization for six months. I was given this assignment in June. I included him in more than he had time to participate in, but it was mutually gratifying. We both benefitted.

D. An in-house induction and orientation program was initiated. Our new Training Officer has included Conference Committees in the orientation for staff and has personally introduced new staff who take advantage of the orientation to me and I have had the opportunity to amplify. However, staff orientation is voluntary. I would recommend otherwise.

Our Community Liaison Officer includes material in all of the slide tours for the public and new staff, tailoring the discussion appropriately.

E. Methods of recognizing Conference Committee service have been extended in person, in all appropriate memoranda and correspondence. Additionally, Distinguished Service Awards were awarded to four Committee members who gave a total of 40 years of service to Conference Committees. One presentation was made by the mayor and our Director at a City Council meeting, with retired and active members of that Committee invited to be in attendance. Special efforts were made for all Committee members who were personally invited to our Open House this fall and many attended.

There have been several media releases in local community papers with recognition for the fine service rendered. Special tributes were given to Conference Committee members at our joint PTA-King County Juvenile Court all-day program on 9/14/73 at Eames Theater. Plans are in progress to honor all Committee members at the 1/11/74 Retirement Ceremony for our Director, and additionally all Chairmen and Sponsors to Committees will participate in the ceremony.

F. The Conference Committee Manual has not been reissued. Plans for revision are underway. A committee of Consultants was appointed to recommend needed revisions. This was completed in July. However, the manual cannot be reissued until we complete a trial run of new forms to be included and some additional policy and procedural changes currently under discussion. Therefore, the revision is basically accomplished but lacks items described above which should be completed in 1974.

II. Develop Data and Record Keeping

A. A system of informational data gathering on the scope of work of Conference Committees useful for local people has been developed. Our informational bulletin on What is A Juvenile Court Conference Committee was revised and reissued in April 1973. An Information Bulletin on Youth Councils and Juvenile Court Conference Committees was prepared and issued in September 1973. I designed a brochure on how to proceed to form a Conference Committee and this also was printed in September 1973. The 1972 Annual Report pages 22-24 issue this fall describes Conference Committees and gives a most useful survey of children's cases counselled in a year. Copies are attached. These materials have been very helpful for local people. Additionally, I have assisted individual areas with development of resource directories, such as the attached Directory of Eastside Services.

B. A highlight of the year was the development of a proposed system of Conference Committee reporting upon which to have a comparative picture of specific or general kinds of cases dealt with in the local community. The design was started in the spring of 1973, reviewed with Consultants by July and issued to all Conference Committees and Secretaries on 7/23/73 for comment. Since most Committees take a break in August, suggestions for change did not begin to come in until fall. The revision was completed and issued 11/13/73 for a trial run for the months of November and December 1973. I am very proud of the design. It is clear, simple, gives overload, measure of actual work done, a "no show" count and clarifies prior statistical problems with continued cases. A copy

is attached. It gives me a good picture of each Committee's status with clear indications of which Committee is or will be in need of assistance. So far, the response from the secretaries who use it has been overwhelmingly positive. Should it require no additional revision, it will be included as is in the new manual revision.

C. A system of Coordinating Conference Committee data with referral agencies for verification has been initiated. This year our statistical department has been keeping a monthly record of the number of referrals Conference Committees receive from the Juvenile Court and the number referred to the Juvenile Court for me. This should tally with the Conference Committee Monthly Report which now reflects the same items, which additionally shows referrals from other sources. Before the latter was reflected in the Monthly Report, several procedural problems required change. This was worked out with the Juvenile Court Intake Supervisor, the REcords Department and the Committee Consultants by July.

The procedure for referrals from the Juvenile Court now is as follows. The Intake Supervisor selects first misdemeanor offenses and misdemeanors of children who have not been referred to the Court for a year from the mail log for referral to Conference Committees. The referral source receives a disposition slip indicating the matter has been referred to a Conference Committee; the referral is mailed to the Committee Secretary; and in the event there is a social file, the file is routed to the appropriate Consultant for perusal and returned to the REcords Department.

The main problem here is that first time referrals on misdemeanants should go directly to a Conference Committee and not to the Court. This will require ongoing administrative interpretation to local agencies authorized to refer cases to Conference Committees. The Intake Supervisor agreed to note which agencies, including law enforcement, which are not referring directly to Committees, so appropriate follow through by Court administrative channels can be effected. Another problem is that not all Committees notify the original source of the disposition, because the Court does. This procedure has not been finalized and awaits Committee clearances.

My goal of initiating a system was achieved, but requires further refinement.

III. Effect Coordination of Community Activities Leading to the Establishment of Conference Committees

A. A method of awareness and time span of local community organizational activities generated by our staff and others has been developed informally. To keep my hand on the pulse of the community. I am dependent on others for information and for assistance. I maintain this by regular checking in with Conference Committee Consultants who know their areas, with community leaders, with various appropriate staff e.g. Planning Section, Intake Supervisors, Community Liaison, Training Office, media and attending unit meetings.

By the nature of this function the method has remained a loosely structured informal one. I have been amazed with the awareness on the part of line staff to keep me as well posted as they have.

However, I have all too often learned about our agency involvement and commitments in the community, usually in a community meeting. I do need a regular tie-in with staff developments in this area on an administrative level and hope this can be effected in 1974. An example of this need occurred in both Federal Way and Mt. Baker this year. I had been working with both communities under the Director's supervision but was not told that the Court had designated other staff to do the same in both areas. I learned of it inadvertently myself and should have been posted by our agency.

- B. A coordinating plan with our Volunteer Program to reinforce a more eclectic view of the Court to use in discussion in the community has been developed, again on an informal basis. For example, I met with the PTA King County Council Presidents with our Volunteer Program Supervisor and staff on 6/4/73 to describe Conference Committees and how they functioned. Out of the PTA's focus for the coming year on matters concerning juvenile delinquency and Juvenile Court procedures, evolved the PTA-KCJC jointly sponsored 9/14/73 Conference at the Eames Theater in the Pacific Science Center in which Conference Committees were a prominent part of the program. In the three month planning process, the Volunteer Program became well aware of the function of Conference Committees. We have continued to share and divide agency responsibility to the community with respect to our respective roles.
- C. I have effected and performed a communication process to keep all necessary persons informed. This is maintained by regular verbal and written communication to all appropriate persons. The Administrator of Investigation Services to whom you delegated your supervision was kind

enough to compliment me on my communications which he described as "thorough and good." For example, whenever I schedule an Orientation Session all Chairmen, Secretaries and Consultants are notified with the list of nominees from their area and again with subsequent results of the orientation with the final Judicial appointments. Again when Observation Schedules are made, the committees being selected for a particular experience and/or distance involved are cleared for dates they will meet, a cover memo and list of meeting times and place goes to the new appointee; the schedule is vailed to the Secretary of each Conference Committee concerned (the Committee the appointee is attending as well as the one he is from); and to the appropriate Chairmen and Consultants.

D. I have prepared short range projections of future community organizational activities by or in the respective communities, have reported regularly to the Director, to you or the Administrator of Investigation Services and other appropriate persons, actual need for community organization guidance or coordination, where local leaders are willing and able to initiate action or overcome negative forces. I have also largely supplied this guidance to eight out-of-area inquiries for community organization help: two out of country (both British Columbia, Canada); one out of state (New Jersey); five to other counties in the state (two in Pierce, two in Walla Walla, one in Snohomish) and twelve to areas or individuals in King County. Of the latter, ongoing developments evolved in eight areas (Vashon, Enumclaw, Kirkland, Kingsgate, Mt. Baker, Federal Way, Ballard and Laurelhurst).

E. I have maintained communications with community leaders and officials desiring response or assistance in short range or long range community development services from the Youth Service Center, for either Probation attention or Conference Committee development. Through my contacts with community leaders, I often receive requests for many things, e.g. speaking engagements. I consider these as short range services, although some become a part of longer range planning. I will delegate a PTA request for information on Conference Committees to the Consultant in the area, if that Committee is currently working on a communications problem with the schools. This occurred for example in Bellevue with good results and led to subsequent follow-up by the Committee. In another area, my contact with a school official provided the appropriate entree for Probation Staff to follow up, which the staff person was grateful for. Of the 82 meetings I attended in this year, only 6 did not require my giving a speech, providing long range community development services or Conference Committee development. Additionally there are frequent verbal and written communications with community leaders and officials.

SUMMARY

Although I began this job function in March 1973, final approval for my objectives for 1973 were administratively approved 6/5/73. They were honestly arrived at and conceived with what we all determined should be accomplished and realistically could be accomplished, provided my tentative plans for assistance became a reality. By April, it was more than apparent to both of us that it would be humanly impossible to complete the objectives tentatively set, and later approved, without additional help. Our plan to provide this on a part-time basis was not finalized and remains a pending matter. Also, we had no idea that Conference Committees would mushroom in the way they have since June, not only requiring unforeseen work in assisting many committees outside of King County with services; but working with many new committees in King County. We have also seen that nothing succeeds like success in the manner in which local communities have begun to use existing committees. This has meant my adding and training committees as well as assisting established committees reorganize into very active and much larger committees. In addition to this unforeseen expansion, we have also experienced community awareness as never before with the formation of both the County Youth Service Bureaus and the City Youth Service Bureau, requiring dovetailing of our committees' operational methods with them in all areas where they co-exist and in my assisting the others where no committee does exist. Additionally we had an election year with the Mayor's Crime Commission Advisory Council taking most of the time our summer publicity person didn't during the summer months. We also had a shift in Court Intake with regard to dependency referrals.

Thinking over the above trends and now historical developments, I can only say my dogged persistence, belief and pleasure in my job and willingness to work long hours beyond the established work week has produced far more accomplishments toward the set goals than I would have predicted possible. Therefore, I make no apology for incompleting items. I am proud to report that I have worked on all the objectives, have accomplished most of them together with many more than were anticipated, and have plans for completion of the incomplete ones in the near future.

1973 has been a year of unprecedented expansion of our Conference Committees. In 1972 we had nine Conference Committees but Federal Way folded before the end of the year. We began 1973 with eight Committees in Auburn, Bellevue, Highline, Kent, Northshore, Renton, Shoreline and West Seattle. The Northeast Juvenile Court Conference Committee was a new committee created this year.

It was apparent early in the year the existing committees needed expansion to cope with increased referrals. It was also apparent that committees needed to run double to sextuple meetings per week to overcome backlogs and we were bound by the fact that our fine corps of volunteers could not realistically give this much time weekly and by the fact that we can only ask a Court Consultant to serve one night a week. I was also bound by the fact that I could not continue to serve as a co-consultant for two reasons. There were not enough days in the week, nor could I complete my regular work at night in community organizational endeavors. I obviously could not be in two places at the same time.

Coordinating Conference Committees is rather like conducting an orchestra through a complex score, parts of which have to be improved. Given this awakened set of facts, three innovations were established. First, I expanded the Committees from eight to thirty committees in nine areas. I added 14 new whole committees to these areas with sufficient additional Committee members to existing eight Committees to reorganize them into an additional eight committees. Simultaneously, we added a second Court consultant to the three large Committees of Bellevue, Highline and Renton who meet twice each week. Thirdly, I established the Committee Organizational meetings in six areas: Auburn, Bellevue, Kent, Northeast, Renton and West Seattle which were needed and have become highly successful.

This unprecedented expansion in 1973 produced the following: Orientation sessions for nominees were reduced from 7 in 1972 for 167 nominees to 5 for 103 nominees, but appointments of Committee members were increased 57% with 28 appointments in 1972 to the 90 Committee members we began 1973 with and 65 appointments to round out 141 Committee members in 1973. Observation schedules were likewise increased 57% from 28 to 65. Consultant appointments increased 50% from 4 in 1972 to 8 in 1973 with two thirds newly appointed this year. Actually, with 4 resignations, my replacement as Consultant to West Seattle and the addition of 3 co-consultants, 16 Court Consultants filled 12 Consultant roles in 1973. In 1972 there 10 who filled 9 Consultant roles.

There was an increase of 73% in children's cases counselled by Conference Committees, with 841 families in 1972 and 1454 in 1973. Two to six cases were scheduled per session in 437 meetings ranging from 3 to 5 hours a night

in one to six weekly sessions per Committee. This was a 34% increase in meetings over 1972. There were 20 new areas of interest in 1973 (as opposed to 6 in 1972) and ongoing development has evolved in eight areas within the county.

Management of the foregoing required an 82% increase in my attendance at community organization and Conference Committee meetings, with 45 in 1972 and 82 in 1973 and only 6 of the 82 did not require my giving a speech or providing direct consultation services. This took 285 hours of overtime to complete as compared with 322 hours in 1972, a decrease of 11%. The reason for the decrease was that I limited my services to direct community organization and consultation and teaching services, and had a full work week to do it in as opposed to the theoretical half-time position I held in 1972. It is still excessive because as we are all aware it is more than one person can or should provide in a regular work week. I covered more than 2,052 miles to reach these meetings, a 34% increase over 1972 with 1528 miles.

We gave tribute to these magnificent volunteers who serve the Court and their communities at the 9/14/73 PTA-King County Juvenile Court Conference in Seattle. We additionally awarded Distinguished Service Awards in special ceremonies for four retiring members who served a total of 40 years in continuous weekly sessions.

I wish to take this opportunity to conclude with an expression of my pleasure in being assigned this fascinating position, newly established this year, and to give my thanks to all at the Court and in the community

who have contributed so much in making it such a successful and such a rewarding year.

1973 ORIENTATION SESSIONS FOR NOMINEES

1/18/73 Northeast for 14 nominees

5/23/73 General for 21 nominees
 Highline 4
 Northshore 3
 Renton 4
 West Seattle 10

7/23/73 General for 27 nominees
 Shoreline 1
 Federal Way 7
 Highline 1
 Northshore 1
 Renton 13
 West Seattle 4

9/10/73 Federal Way for 19 nominees

9/27/73 General for 22 nominees
 Kent 6
 Renton 12
 West Seattle 4

TOTAL: 5 Sessions for 103 Nominees

1973 APPOINTMENTS OF NEW CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bellevue 16
 Northeast 15
 West Seattle 8
 Renton 8
 Northshore 2
 Highline 4
 Shoreline 1
 Federal Way 7
 Kent 4

TOTAL APPOINTMENTS: 65

1973 OBSERVATION SCHEDULE FOR NEW APPOINTEES

3/9/73 for 16 appointees
 4/12/73 for 15 appointees
 6/1/73 for 15 appointees
 9/27/73 for 12 appointees
 11/26/73 for 7 appointees

TOTAL: 5 schedules for 65 appointees. Additionally, there were several single schedules for appointees who had not observed or for some reason could not attend on dates set.

1973 APPOINTMENTS OF COURT CONSULTANTS TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

- 2/23/73 Vivien Benjamin to Auburn Juvenile Court Conference Committee
(replaced Jim Taylor)
- 4/9/73 Dean Coe to Renton Juvenile Court Conference Committee
(replaced Bernie Jay)
- 4/9/73 Richard Carlson to Bellevue Juvenile Court Conference Committee
(2nd consultant)
- 5/8/73 Patricia Steel to Highline Juvenile Court Conference Committee
(2nd consultant)
- 5/14/73 Dan Steel to Renton Juvenile Court Conference Committee
(2nd consultant)
- 7/2/73 Vale Meade to Northeast Juvenile Court Conference Committee
- 7/3/73 Esther Schmeising to Bellevue Juvenile Court Conference Committee
(replaced Shirley Haddad)
- 9/24/73 Ruth Sherman to Renton Juvenile Court Conference Committee
(replaced Dean Coe)

TOTAL: 8 New Appointments

1973 CONSULTANTS

- Jim Taylor (Auburn) resigned 2/73
- Shirley Haddad (Bellevue) resigned 6/73
- Gary De Witz (Highline)
- Charlotte Hackman (Kent)
- Ove Kilgren (Northshore)
- Bernard Jay (Renton) resigned 3/73
- Helen Irby (Shoreline)
- June Weeth (West Seattle)
- Vivien Benjamin (Auburn)
- Dean Coe (Renton) resigned 9/24/73
- Richard Carlson (Bellevue)
- Patricia Steel (Highline)
- Dan Steel (Renton)
- Vale Meade (Northeast)
- Esther Schmeising (Bellevue)
- Ruth Sherman (Renton)

TOTAL: 16 Filled 12 Consultant Roles (4 Resignations)

1973 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

- 9/11/73 J.J. Fink 14 1/2 years Renton Juvenile Court Conference Committee
- 10/23/73 Rev. Wallace Wilson 6 1/2 years Renton Juvenile Court Conference Committee
- 10/23/73 Mary Burns 14 1/2 years Renton Juvenile Court Conference Committee
- 11/19/73 Ann Berg 2 1/2 years West Seattle Juvenile Court Conference Committee

TOTAL: 4 Who Gave 40 Years of Service

SUMMARY OF CHILDREN'S CASES COUNSELLED BY KING COUNTY JUVENILE

COURT CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

IN 1973

<u>JUVENILE COURT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF MEETINGS</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CASES</u>
Auburn (4)	44	223
Bellevue (4)	81	299
Highline (4)	79	222
Kent (2)	40	151
Northeast (4)	23	45
Northshore (2)	39	105
Renton (4)	70	226
Shoreline (2)	31	72
West Seattle(4)	30	111

TOTAL: 30 Committees in Nine Areas

437 Meetings

1,454 Cases

1973 INTEREST IN NEW AREAS

*	Laurelhurst
*	Kingsgate
5/11/73	Puyallup, Washington
5/16/73	Ballard area
5/18/73	Walla Walla, Washington
5/21/73	Vancouver, B.C.
6/29/73	Edmonds, Washington
8/16/73	Mt. Baker area
8/28/73	Vancouver, B.C.
10/2/73	Kingsgate
10/10/73	Enumclaw, Washington
10/24/73	Walla Walla, Washington
10/29/73	Vashon Island, Washington
10/29/73	Tacoma, Washington
10/31/73	Kirkland, Washington
12/13/73	New Jersey

*Ongoing from Prior Year

1973 MEETINGS ATTENDED
(82)

1/9 Auburn Committee
1/18 Northeast Orientation
1/19 Interlake High School Counselors
1/24 Central Area Mental Health
1/30 Auburn Organizational Meeting
2/6/ Auburn Committee
2/13 Bellevue Organizational Meeting
2/20 Bellevue Committee
2/27 Bellevue Committee
3/1 Bellevue Committee
3/6 Bellevue Committee
3/8 Bellevue Committee
3/13 Bellevue Committee
3/15 Bellevue Committee
3/20 Auburn Committee
3/22 Bellevue Committee
3/27 Bellevue Committee
3/29 Bellevue Committee
4/3 Bellevue Committee
4/6 Bellevue Organizational Meeting
4/10 Bellevue
4/11 Committee of 2000 and Northeast Committee
4/11 Northeast Committee
4/24 Northeast Committee
5/3 LEA Task Force
5/15 Northeast Committee
5/22 Bellevue Committee
5/23 Orientation Session
5/24 LEA Workshop
5/29 Northeast Committee
5/31 Bellevue Organizational Meeting
6/4 PTA King County Council Presidents
6/12 Northeast Committee
6/18 Renton Committee
6/25 Laurelhurst Community Club
6/26 Northeast Committee
6/27 Consultants' Meeting
7/3 Northeast Committee
7/10 Northeast Committee
7/11 Consultants' Meeting
7/12 Conference Committee Publicity Meeting
7/17 Northeast Committee
7/18 Consultants' Meeting
7/19 Conference Committee Publicity Meeting

7/23 Orientation Session
7/24 Northeast Committee
7/25 Consultants' Meeting
7/26 Bellevue Committee
7/30 Federal Way Youth Service Bureau
7/31 Northeast Organizational Meeting
8/13-16 American Correctional Association
8/23 Seattle Crime Commission Advisory Council
8/29 Federal Way Community Meeting
9/4 Renton, Committee
9/10 Federal Way Orientation
9/14 PTA and KCJC Conference: Seattle
9/20 Renton Committee
9/25 Northeast Organizational Meeting
9/26 Auburn Youth Resources Bureau
9/27 Orientation Meeting
10/2 Bellevue Committee
10/5 King County Juvenile Court Open House
10/17 West Seattle Committee
10/18 Bellevue Committee
10/24 West Seattle Committee
10/25 Federal Way Organizational Meeting
10/30 Northeast Organizational Meeting
11/5 Renton Committee
11/7 West Seattle Committee
11/9 Mt. Baker Youth Service Bureau
11/13 Ark
11/13 KOMO Film Preview
11/13 Kent Committee
11/14 West Seattle Committee
11/15 Seattle Crime Prevention Advisory Committee
11/16 Federal Way Youth Service Bureau
11/26 Kingsgate Community Meeting
12/4 Consultants' Meeting
12/10 Federal Way Committee
12/17 Providence Heights
12/19 Consultants' Meeting
12/20 Federal Way Committee

SUMMARY OF MILEAGE AND OVERTIME

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>MILES</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
January (4)	197	17 + 3
February (4)	163	22
March (9)	318	47
April (5)	116	20 + 3
May (6)	102	19
June (4)	55	17
July (8)	37	33 + 4
August (2)	118	7
September (7)	241	21 + 14
October (6)	191	30 + 7
November (8)	320	38
December (3)	194	14
 TOTAL: 66*	 2,052**	 285

*16 Meetings during day shift work hours are not listed; nor is mileage** when I was able to ride with someone else.

WHAT IS A JUVENILE COURT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Conference committees appointed by the Court originated in New Jersey in the early 1950's. The first Juvenile Court Conference Committee in Washington was developed in 1959 in Renton in cooperation with the Renton Mayor's Advisory Committee on Youth Affairs. The intent is to provide a nonadjudicatory and unofficial procedure whereby youth in trouble along with parents can be helped to remedy a delinquency problem in its early stages. The committee is authorized to receive referrals from public agencies such as police, schools, parks, Game Department, etc.

The behavior or offenses justifying conference committee involvement may include but not be limited to the following:

- School Nonattendance and Incurability
- Being Beyond the Control of Parents
- Minor Cases of Malicious Mischief or Vandalism
- Fighting or Creating Unnecessary Noise or Commotion in Public Places
- Neglect or Poor Parental Supervision
- Vagrancy, Trespassing, and Loitering
- Tampering with Fire Alarms
- Petty Thefts and Shoplifting
- Bicycle Violations
- Liquor Violations
- First Time Use and/or Possession of Drugs

No offense of a felony nature or requiring Court adjudication would be referable.

The people selected as conference committee members must be mature, sympathetic, stable and objective parents interested in youth and able to work harmoniously with others. An active committee would meet weekly for a three to four hour period on a scheduled basis and might counsel on three cases in an evening. They and their chairman would not investigate nor conduct hearings but would assemble and assess the facts of the child's behavior and family condition and seek in conference helpful resolutions to the problems apparent in each case. A Court caseworker serves as a regular staff consultant to the committee and a secretary performs the necessary invitations, scheduling and record keeping.

The committee must serve as a helping process although it may refer the child and parents elsewhere for an appropriate service or refer difficult matters to the Juvenile Court. It may make recommendations for remedy to the parents, arrange appropriate restitution, recommend a special school program for the child or commend child to report to the parent and sponsoring community-wide organization corrective measures or development of needed services which come to light in the cases they see.

MJ:ap
3/21/74

Juvenile Court Conference Committee

For more information:

Conference Committee
King County Juvenile Court
1211 East Alder Street
Seattle, Washington 98122

Tel. 323 - 9500



What you can do
to keep youth in
your community

STARTING POINTS FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

- Learn about your community's human needs.
- Find methods and means to improve the social climate for youth.
- Identify your delinquency problems.
- Tackle school dropouts.
- Tackle youth unemployment.
- Educate the total community on these problems with possibilities for correcting them.
- Find other effective people who are concerned with community improvement for youth!

A PARTNERSHIP OF PEOPLE

- Discover how to resolve problems for youth in trouble without outside interference.
- Sponsor a year long program of self-education so that the council can act intelligently.
- Develop people-helping services.
- Coordinate citizen and government leadership into community youth councils.
- Form a partnership with the Court to establish a Conference Committee in your area.
- Sponsor a Juvenile Court Conference Committee to remedy delinquency problems in their early stages.

COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Auburn: Community Concerns
(appointed by Mayor Kersey)

Bellevue: Youth Eastside Service (YES)

Highline: Highline Youth Council

Kent: Kent Activities Council

Northeast Seattle: Northeast Youth Council
(a combination of community councils)

Northshore: Northshore Council for Youth

Renton: Mayor of Renton's Youth Guidance
Committee

Shoreline: Community Development Council
of Shoreline (Code S)

West Seattle: West Seattle Council on Youth
Affairs (Wescoya)

QUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATES FOR JUVENILE COURT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

These criteria for selection have evolved out of previous experience and include the following:

Individuals who are parents themselves and have an interest in children; and a commitment to the welfare of others;

Those who have an attitude of helpfulness and can be non-punitive in the face of deviant or delinquent behavior;

Those who can be supportive when needed or strongly motivating to the child or parents;

Those who are adaptable in social contact and are able to communicate and work in concert with others;

Those with capacity to continue in enthusiastic participation in the face of repetitious and complicated adjustment problems the families reveal;

The chairman will also have leadership and organizational skills and some familiarity with community and social agency functions.

The Appointment will be made by the Judge of the Juvenile Court. Replacements on the committee will be made in the same manner with the same criteria.

Orientation will be provided by the Director of the Juvenile Court, and the staff consultant on a continuing basis. It will include case staffing, discussion of group process, techniques and interviewing, use of community service aids, social agency functions and nature of professional treatment.

It is anticipated the committee will meet weekly in a more or less public building, centrally located and easily accessible. Its letter of invitation to the parents and information inquiry forms and stamps will be furnished by the local Youth Council.

MJ:ap
5/14/73

Several communities have developed Youth Councils organized by citizen leadership and made up of a broad representation of organizations, churches and dedicated citizens concerned with youth. Their job and challenge is to inform the community of its own problems, to actually improve opportunities for youth, and to develop services and programs locally to assist those who need them. Such unified effort to reduce social disorganization and improve the social climate does prevent delinquency and reduce disorganization. Several such community-wide Youth Councils have requested the appointment of a Juvenile Court Conference Committee designed to enable local communities to resolve their own problems for youth in trouble without outside help.

Citizens and local government people are obliged to maintain their own community councils or service organizations. The Juvenile Court will, however, join forces with them and cooperate with such sponsors in the establishment and maintenance of a Juvenile Court Conference Committee.

Local community Youth Councils have grown from different community needs and have developed various people-helping services in their communities. In one area, for example, needs of the Conference Committee pointed up a community need for a family counselling service which the Youth Council established. Later, because the need was greater than the family counselling service could provide, the need for recreational facilities for youth was met by the Youth Council's establishment of a teen drop-in center. Community support is vital to Conference Committee functioning. This was spelled out clearly in one area in which, at the close of the year, the Conference Committee decided to suspend operation for lack of community support from citizen leaders.

Once the decision is made to establish a Conference Committee, the selection of committee members begins with nominations of concerned, dedicated citizens by the sponsoring Youth Council. The prospective nominees are carefully screened, oriented and trained. They are appointed by the Juvenile Court. They work under the guidance of a Court consultant who is appointed to each Committee. This extension of the Court into the community has proved successful. We are continually impressed by the problem remediation they do for the youth in their area.

The key role of the Committee, as a community service, is to help the child and his family find a solution to their problems and remedy minor delinquencies before they become serious enough to require official intervention by the Juvenile Court. This is accomplished through conferences held informally with parents and child. Most of the children referred express frustrating behavior that explodes from unresolved problems in the family or school. All matters considered are held in the utmost confidence, befitting the dignity and rights of all concerned. Referrals of minor delinquencies are made by authorized public agencies including police, school, park departments and other enforcement agencies.

Participation in the program is strictly voluntary, that is, the family has the choice of working with the Committee or seeking Court adjudication. To date, this demonstration of the Court's philosophy that a large number of children can be diverted from the juvenile justice system, has been overwhelmingly positive and the work of the Committee has borne fruit in successfully eliminating hundreds of referrals to the Court by preventative intervention.

The King County Juvenile Court has pioneered in Conference Committees since 1959 when the first one was established in Renton. Ever increasing community interest coupled with the effectiveness of the work done, produced two new Committees last year at Northshore and Shoreline. This year additional teams were added to Bellevue, Renton and West Seattle and two new Committees were formed in Auburn, Bellevue, Highline, Kent, Northeast Seattle, Northshore, Renton, Shoreline, West Seattle. These Committees comprise a fine corps of dedicated volunteers to whom the Court and the community are deeply indebted.

YOUTH SERVICE CENTER

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY - JUVENILE DEPARTMENT
1211 EAST ALDER STREET • SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98122 • (206) 323-9500

GOALS

To provide stimulation, guidance, consultation and conditions under which Committees are encouraged to establish the means to deal with problems of their youth.

OBJECTIVES

- I. Develop and Maintain Juvenile Court Conference Committees
 - A. To develop two additional Conference Committees in 1974 (approximately); one in Federal Way and one possibly in Vashon.
 - B. To bring to full operating level the newly created committee in Northeast Seattle.
 - C. To enlarge Committees in need of additional committees to extend services to the community.
 - D. To arrange and/or conduct sufficient Orientation Sessions for Conference Committee Nominees to sustain necessary replacements and/or additions to Committees.
 - E. To develop new methods of securing Court Consultants to serve Conference Committees.
 - F. To develop a coordinating plan with our Training Office for establishing a training program for Committee members and Court Consultants to work with Conference Committees.
 - G. To extend an in-house induction and orientation program for all staff to learn about Conference Committees.
 - H. To extend methods of recognizing Conference Committee service.
 - I. To revise and reissue the Conference Committee Manual.
 - J. To develop an adequate budget to cover the material and staffing costs to accomplish the above.

II. Develop Data and Record Keeping

- A. To extend existing system of informational data gathering on the scope of work of Conference Committees useful for local people.
- B. To refine current system of Conference Committee reporting upon which to base a comparative picture of specific or general kinds of cases dealt with in the local community.
- C. To develop a method of administrative follow-up for direct referral of first time misdemeanants to Conference Committees rather than via the Court.

III. Effect Coordination of Community Activities Leading to the Establishment of Conference Committees

- A. To continue developing a method of awareness and time span of local community organizational activities generated by our staff and others.
- B. To continue coordination with our Volunteer Program to reinforce a more eclectic view of the Court to use in discussion in the community.
- C. To prepare short range projections of future community leaders and officials desiring response or assistance in short range or long range community development services from the Youth Service Center, for either Probation attention or Conference Committee development.

MJ:ap
5/22/74

Volunteers recruited to help problem kids

By VICKI EDWARDS
World Staff Writer

A group of Harbor citizens concerned about problem youths came one step closer to forming a committee to help these young people at a meeting last night.

Guided by Grays Harbor Superior Court Judge John Schumacher, Juvenile Probation Officer Harold Delia and local attorney Gladys Phillips, the group agreed to begin recruiting interested persons to make a study of the adequacy or inadequacy of youth services and facilities available in the county and to assess what else might be needed to help keep youths out of trouble.

Spearheading the recruitment drive will be local attorney Tom Brown and local attorney and Aberdeen School board member Bob Paek.

THE STUDY GROUP they hope to organize, consisting of court officials, local social agency officials, school leaders, law enforcers, attorneys, parents and interested citizens, may determine from their research that a Juvenile Court Conference Committee is needed in the county to work with youths who might otherwise end up in juvenile court.

About 37 such committees are now operating in King County, and an overview of their progress was given to the audience of about 20 to 25 persons at last night's meeting at Weatherwax High School.

Making the film and lecture presentation was Mrs. Myrtle James, coordinator of the Seattle Juvenile Court Conference Committees. Mrs. James explained the importance of community support and involvement in the success of such committees.

SINCE THE first juvenile court committee was organized in 1939 in Renton, the others have blossomed throughout the Seattle area under the wings of sponsor study groups who have determined that they might be helpful in finding treatment solutions for problem youths.

The King County committees, Mrs. James explained, consist of three to four court-appointed members representing a cross-section of the community, usually chaired by an attorney and serviced by a court consultant.

The committees receive referrals about youths with misdemeanor

problems ranging from truancy to shoplifting to drugs. An invitation which explains the role of the conference group is extended to a youth and his parents to meet with the committee.

THE MEETING takes place: the committee explains itself to the family, talks with the youth alone, talks with the parents alone, privately discusses the youth's problem and possible treatment solutions, then shares these thoughts with the family.

Committee sessions are confidential and no records are kept. Parents and youths are not required to accept committee invitations, but Mrs. James reported that "no-shows" are rare.

Often, she said, sessions end with the parents and their child shaking hands with committee members and thanking them for their help. "What gets through to the family and the kids is the concern of the neighbor," Mrs. James explained.

The committees are "not a court, not a punishment," Mrs. James emphasized. "We have reason to believe that the recidivism rate is very low. None of these kids ever go to juvenile court," she added. Follow-up services are provided if requested by families, she noted.

WHAT HAS happened, Mrs. James said, is that the youth has been helped "without receiving a court record." However, she added, sometimes committee referrals involve serious cases of a felonious nature which must be handled by the courts. Committee members are carefully trained by court officials to distinguish such problems. They are also trained in interviewing and diagnostic counseling techniques.

In addition to working with youths and families, the King County committees look for problem patterns in youths and make recommendations to their sponsor study group for community services and facilities which could alleviate these continuing problems. Mrs. James emphasized the importance of having a sponsor with a solid base, such as a city government, to consider committee suggestions.

Those attending last night's meeting agreed to meet again at 7:30 p.m. October 16 to discuss the sponsor study group recruitment. Persons interested in participating in the group or in finding out more about juvenile court committees may call Harold Delia at 249-4251.

Renton men sell Assembly on court's committee plan

Vashon Beachcomber 1-17-74

For some months Civic Assembly has been investigating "community conference committees," a program sponsored by the juvenile court to help juvenile offenders and their families.

At their meeting last night they heard from two men who had "been there," and moved one step closer to establishing the program on Vashon.

Don Holm and Jack Fink, both from Renton, told the assembly about their experiences while serving on a conference committee in their community.

With a hint of religious fervor, Holm declared, "This is one of the finest opportunities a community has to help themselves meet the needs of people whose needs would not be met any other way."

In between kids whose problems can be solved by parents and schools and kids who "get dumped into juvenile court," said Holm, "is another bunch of kids. They are not in rapport with their parents, school, nor environment. They are not achieving, not stimulated. They don't have much sense of self worth. They have not yet gotten into real trouble, but unless they can be given some sense of self worth, some degree of achievement, they will get into trouble."

Committees are made up of people from all areas of the community, except schools and law enforcement agencies, Holm said. In Renton they have had clergymen, housewives, businessmen, and truck-drivers. Holm himself is a lawyer.

The juvenile court requires that committees be sponsored by an established, organized group. That group then nominates committee mem-

bers who are screened and put through an orientation by the court. A workable committee should have from three to five members, Holm indicated.

Youngsters are referred to the committee by schools, families, police or other agencies. At Renton they have worked with children from age 7 to 18.

After a referral is made, the committee then sends out a request for the youngster and his parents to come in.

"The committee does not have any hammer at all," Holm stated. "Our only recourse is to refer them to juvenile court."

While interviewing a youngster, said Holm, the group tries to go straight down to the basis of what the framework for the child is and how he sees himself in it. They also talk with the parents in an attempt to establish communication between child and parents.

Sometimes "punishments" are imposed. Mentioned were essays on "Why I should not drink" or stipulated hours of community service.

Added Fink, the second Renton man, "These kids are crying for help and dying for discipline."

Holm said that only about 20 percent of the youths appear on repeated charges.

Bob Smith, who lives on the Island, spoke to the Assembly as a probation officer for the King County Juvenile Court. Case workers for the court work with the committees as consultants, he explained, but not in an authoritarian way.

"We view the committees as a vital kind of function. They tend to screen out, provide services, resources and direct assistance to families. They

are helping people whose kid is in trouble with authority systems without getting involved in the authority system," he emphasized. "It's an attempt to keep kids from getting into the court system."

Island police sergeant Mel Woods raised the question of smaller communities such as Vashon, where people are more likely to know one another.

He recalled that when he began working on a committee

not his job "to pin anyone to the cross." Noted Fink, "Anyone who cannot talk with his neighbors and friends has no business on the committee."

The assembly responded to the men's presentation by voting to write to the juvenile court, expressing an interest in forming a similar group here.

New solutions needed to curb juvenile crime, prosecutor says

By KARL THUNEMANN

Finding more effective ways to deal with juvenile crime drew most of the attention of King County Prosecutor Christopher T. Bayley and 22 Kirkland-area residents who met with him Monday morning.

The juvenile crime system is "worthy of maximum attention," Bayley told the group. "Ten years ago it was very paternalistic. Now it operates more like the adults' courts under a different set of rules."

The prosecutor raised hope that a juvenile court conference committee, such as being investigated by a group in the Lake Washington School District, could be responsive to many of the problems raised by persons at the meeting Monday. Such a committee could handle first time offenses without involving the county system.

The meeting was part of Bayley's "day" at the Northeast District Court, located in Redmond. He met with city council members, police and fire officials, city and school administrators and members of the public invited from various neighborhoods in the Kirkland area to discuss law enforcement problems.

As the juvenile criminal system now operates, Bayley told the group, both the state and juvenile defendants are represented by attorneys in court, but the system is not analogous to adult court.

Many cases which should be adjudicated in juvenile court are thrown out short of court because a social worker decides that social causes mitigate the juvenile's actions, Bayley charged.

"I'd like to see it (the system) more accountable," Bayley said. "All serious crimes should be adjudicated."

One problem noted by Bayley is "What do you do with a kid after he's judged delinquent?" Many judges are frustrated, he

said, by a lack of facilities to properly treat juveniles after they go through court.

Two problem areas in juvenile criminal justice, Bayley said, are with first-time offenders and with "hardened" juvenile criminals who commit several serious offenses and are never called to account for their actions in court.

A juvenile court conference committee can be effective in dealing with the former problem, he said. Bayley stressed the need to involve both police departments and the general community in early planning phases of a committee. "It takes a lot of work to make it succeed. If people on the committee aren't willing to put in time on evenings, it won't work."

TRY, an organization which is working to form a juvenile court conference committee in the Lake Washington School District, is meeting tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at Robert Frost Elementary School to hear from juveniles on the role the committee could play.

Prosecutor Bayley, who will probably be running for re-election this year, suggested the committee as a resource in several areas.

One was a neighborhood problem, raised by a Rose Hill resident, who complained of vandalism and trespassing which parents of the responsible children refused to cooperate in solving the problem. A conference committee could bring both sides together and work for a solution, Bayley said.

The school district needs help with truancy cases, said Dr. Dave Ovensell, coordinator of pupil services, but has been told by juvenile court sources that the courts can't handle such minor problems.

Kirkland Police Chief Hal Doss and Park Director Dave Brink also complained of inaction on non-felonious criminal activity by juveniles, and merchant Betty Lightfeldt asked whether the process might be of value in dealing with juvenile shoplifters.

The problem of "hardened" juvenile delinquents is another matter, Bayley said, involving juveniles who are involved in many serious crimes yet never face the consequences of their actions. The system "tells younger people it doesn't matter what you do as long as you're under 18."

Changes in juvenile court procedure result

in nearly all juveniles being represented by the public defender's office, since nearly all are "indigent" when court rules are applied to juveniles themselves, Bayley said. Many defendants will have a second attorney as well, retained by the family.

"Many times the public defender's attitude is 'we'll do anything we can to keep you from being committed,'" Bayley said. This is wrong, he continued, and many cases would be better served if the parties involved sat down to talk about it.

Bayley also heard a complaint that a call to King County police for assistance often requires an hour or two before a car is dispatched.

The prosecutor said that the Department of Public Safety has been working on the problem and the situation is improving, but that recent requests to the county council for additional manpower have not been granted.

Residents of the rural areas like Finn Hill should possibly organize through the schools to combat crimes like burglary in their neighborhoods, suggested Mariene Lewis. She also proposed a program to provide girls from junior high age on up to deal with problems of rape and indecent exposure.

Close cooperation between neighbors can create a neighborhood atmosphere which will heighten awareness of suspicious activity and reduce criminal acts, said Kay Haeggi, a member of the Juanita Bay Valley Association.

Chief Doss said the Kirkland Police Department is working on funding for a federal grant to help coordinate such neighborhood services.

Kirkland Councilman Lee Lanham complimented the county police for recent improvements, but faulted county government for approving huge developments like the Kingsgate-Queensgate complex without providing for extra law enforcement. The county should demand payment from developers, or incorporation or annexation to an existing city to provide police protection, Lanham said.

In another area of concern, senior citizens need help from police in knowing what to watch for in crimes that victimize them, said Kathryn Martin. She asked for a program of help from the police department. Chief Doss said his department would be delighted to help "within our jurisdiction."

Juvenile Court Conference Committee counselling reduces court trauma

Issaquah Press
4-3-74

What happens to juveniles the first time they are apprehended for a minor crime? What happens to their families?

Because of the huge numbers of juveniles being processed through the courts, little or no counselling or follow up help is given to the child or family. The youth is reprimanded and sent back into the community with little or no change in attitudes and little respect for the law. The chances for his repeating the crime are great.

The Juvenile Court has found that by concerned community help and counselling for the child and family the percentage of repeaters is reduced considerably. This is the purpose of the Juvenile Court Conference Committee.

The Conference Committee is composed of concerned, dedicated citizens who are screened, oriented and trained by the Court. They work under the guidance of a Court consultant who is appointed to each committee.

The key role of the committee is to help the child and his parents find a solution to their problems and remedy minor delinquencies before they become serious enough to require official intervention by the Juvenile Court. This is accomplished through conferences held informally with parents and child. All matters discussed are held in the utmost confidence, befitting the dignity and rights of all concerned. The referrals of minor delinquencies are made by authorized public agencies, including police, school, park departments and other enforcement agencies.

Participation in the program is strictly voluntary, that is, the family has the

choice of working with the Committee or returning to the Juvenile Court system. To date the Juvenile Court Conference Committee has proven very successful in eliminating hundreds of referrals to the Court by preventative intervention. The Committee is comprised of dedicated volunteers who perform an invaluable service to their communities.

To form a Juvenile Court Conference Committee a community must demonstrate area wide support. The community must develop a Youth Council organized by citizen leadership and made up of a broad representation of

organizations, churches and dedicated citizens concerned with youth. Community support is vital to Conference Committee functioning.

At this time Chief Prosser has developed an excellent program for the town of Issaquah, but what happens to the rest of our area's youth and their families? Does the Issaquah School District need a Conference Committee? Will the community support this project?

If you would like someone to speak to your organization or if you wish further information, please contact Mrs. (Polly) William E. Cox, Jr. at BA 6-3391.

Eastside Journal
3-27-74

Juvenile court conference committee

... a low-key approach

One of the least trumpeted programs for dealing with juvenile first offenders in the Bellevue area is quietly proving itself to be one of the most effective.

Formed six years ago, the Juvenile Court Conference Committee has adopted a low-key, low-profile approach that is helping to keep over 300 East Side youth out of the courts and out of trouble every year.

The approach is a simple one: use community resources to deal with community problems.

The committee is made up of 17 local residents, all of them volunteers and none of them professionals in the field of juvenile delinquency.

Divided into four teams, each meets twice a month in the city manager's office at Bellevue City Hall to hear cases referred by local police.

A 16-year-old arrested for shoplifting, a 12-year-old who smashed school windows, a 15-year-old picked up on a drug or alcohol charge . . . most are first offenders, with ages ranging from 11 to 18.

The format seldom varies.

The youth arrives with his parents — by invitation, not court order. The invitation can be refused, in which case the case will be referred to Juvenile Court.

Once there, the youth presents his side of the story to committee members while his parents wait outside. Then the situation is reversed. Finally, committee members confer and all sides are brought in for a final discussion. The whole process takes from a half-hour to an hour.

No records are kept, no lawyers are present, no verdict is pronounced on guilt or innocence.

"We're not really interested in guilt or innocence," explains committee chairman Ron Larson. "We're there to look at why it happened, what were the influences behind it, and then what to do next."

The "sentence" may be anything from restitution of stolen or damaged property to

community service in some volunteer capacity, counseling with Eastside Mental Health Center, Youth Eastside Services or a private specialist, or — if the case requires — referral to the juvenile court system.

The latter recourse is used rarely, Larson emphasized.

"Our primary purpose is to keep kids out of the juvenile court system unless it's something we feel we just can't handle," he said. "We tell parents we're a shortstop between what happened, the arrest and a court record."

Although its purpose is to avoid the courts, the committee is nevertheless a legal arm of the juvenile system with similar committees operating in other King County communities. Every member is screened and trained by juvenile court personnel and a court consultant sits in on every meeting. In Bellevue, members are appointed by Youth Eastside Services, the sponsoring agency.

Except for Larson, committee members' names are not released to the general public and the group's activities are deliberately kept low-profile to ensure maximum confidentiality.

But even though they're not professionals, the committee's decisions appear to be paying off. Only three percent of the nearly 300 cases heard in 1973 were arrested again, compared to 20 percent recidivism rate for juveniles who are processed through the courts.

The record is partly due, of course, to the fact that the committee only handles lesser and first offense cases. But Larson and other committee members, as well as local police and parents of youth who have experienced the process firsthand, are convinced that the informal, community approach is a sound one that has "shortstopped" many juveniles from more serious delinquency.

"We're all very busy and if we didn't believe in it, we would have dropped it long ago," said Larson.

Record Chronicle
11-4-73

Three on juvenile panel to be feted

Three retiring members of the Renton Juvenile Court Conference Committee — two of whom have served since 1959 — will be honored tomorrow when the city council convenes at 8 p.m. in the Renton Municipal Building.

The three are Mrs. Mary Burns, J. J. (Jack) Fink, and Rev. Wallace Wilson.

Mrs. Burns and Fink both served on the original conference committee formed at the request of Mayor Avery Garrett.

The Rev. Wilson was appointed in 1967.

Together, they have served a total of more than 35 years attending weekly sessions to hear 1,200 cases of young per-

sons and families with troubles, according to Jean Dunbar, juvenile court liaison officer.

Fink, who is approaching his 76th birthday, has missed only two weeks in his 14 years of service to this community committee.

Carl B. Erickson, director of court services for the King

County Juvenile Court — who with retired Superior Court Judge William G. Long helped originate this committee — will honor these members with a plaque from the board of managers and the juvenile judges committee.

Mrs. Muriel Barrett, the first Juvenile Court Conference Committee consultant — who continued in this capacity with the Renton committee until her retirement as a supervisor from the court in 1971 — will assist in honoring the retiring members. Bernard Jay and Dan Steel, present consultant, will also be present.

Conference committees currently are meeting twice weekly to hear referrals from law enforcement, schools and other official agencies which have contacted youth.

Bellevue-American
May 23, 1974

Students tell TRY:

Youths should initiate, adults facilitate

What young people in this area need is the opportunity to originate and organize the activities they want.

That is what young representatives from Juanita and Redmond High Schools told the group meeting as TRY Thursday night at Robert Frost Elementary School.

TRY is a new group being organized to investigate possible and existing activities and services for youth in the Lake Washington School District. From it, Chuck George, chairman, envisions formation of a community action council which will effectively sponsor such activities as a Juvenile Court Conference Committee.

John Holt, Juanita High School student president, and Carol Zenear, Redmond High School student vice president, spoke to the group.

Holt indicated the greatest need was for summer events including teen dances, sandlot sports and informal music sessions.

"When all you hear kids talk

about is beer parties," she said, "Then I think they need some help."

An exchange about the place of adults in the development of youth activities took place between George and Kevin Thomas, Juanita High student.

"You are asking us to support this group; to get kids to come and be part of the organization," Thomas said. "But I have to know who you are and what you see as the place of this group."

"I haven't an altruistic bone in my body," George answered. "I am in this because I like this community and want to make it the best possible place to live for my kids and my family."

George said two things were needed to get something underway for youth of the area: money and people.

"To get the money — donations or funding — we have

to have an organization," he said. "Some continuing body for communication and stability."

Thomas then asked what part adults would play in the establishment of youth activities and services.

Capt. George Dahl, of the Kirkland Police Department fielded the question replying that "adults would be coordinators".

"I see adults as taking the role of facilitators," Thomas said. "The kids can organize and come up with the ideas but they need the adults to help find the facilities and such."

Hoyt told the group that if there was "any magic way to get kids to participate" it was to let students do the planning and organizing.

"Talk around and get the ideas going," he said. "Get as many gung-ho students to do the planning as you can get. I can't

imagine any other way it could be successful."

The group also heard from Katherine Martin, secretary of the Kirkland Community Center Action Council and volunteer coordinator for the Kirkland Park Department.

"The council is simply a pressure group to get the city of Kirkland to do something," Martin said. "You can only get something going by putting pressure on your government, to make it respond."

George announced that the next TRY meeting would be held April 25 at the Frost School at 7:30 p.m.

"I've been asked what makes me think we can succeed in getting youth activities and services for this area where others have failed," George said. "I had to say I didn't know. But we were sure going to try."

East Side Journal 4-3-74

Taking a positive approach

*Sammamish Valley News
6-5-74*

TRY organized to combat juvenile delinquency

by Linda Marie Hart
SVNews staff writer

"I've always been the kind of person who said, 'If I want a job done, I've got to do it myself,'" says a Kingsgate man who has worked many hours doing a job he sincerely believes needs to be accomplished for Eastside youth.

Chuck George is chairman of a community effort called TRY which is being organized to combat the stubborn problem of juvenile delinquency in the Lake Washington School District by working with youth before they get into trouble.

George, the father of three children, began about three years ago to catch a vision of what he and other TRY organizers think could become an all-encompassing program to help youth, their parents, schools and public service agencies work together on the problem.

At that time he was president of Kingsgate Three and Four, a residential housing area just north of the Totem Lake Shopping Center and east of Interstate 405.

Frustrated by the high rate of vandalism and minor crimes committed by youth which he was asked to deal with by the area's residents, George appealed to King County police. They suggested that juvenile court conference committees could be set up in the school district.

An extension of the King County Juvenile Court, the committees are composed of local citizens advised by a court official who hear misdemeanor cases and recommend solutions. The committees have no legal authority to punish offenders and this is not their purpose.

Myrtle James, King County juvenile

coordinator for the conference committees, explained. "The committees help a child and his family to find a solution to their problems and remedy minor delinquencies before they become serious enough to warrant court intervention."

Cases are referred by law enforcement agencies, fire departments, schools and other civic groups to the citizen panel who are nominated by a sponsoring agency, such as TRY.

The candidates are screened and oriented by the juvenile court staff and appointed by a judge, Ms. James said.

In practice, the committee works with the youth and his parents, most of whom "are very cooperative" when they are asked to appear and discuss the problem, she added.

Committees 'do help'

King County has 34 juvenile court conference committees and according to Ms. James, "Once the community is aware of it (the committee) and uses it, referrals do jump and it is very helpful. Its job is to inform the community of its problems and to develop programs locally for anyone needing them."

George pointed out that while police usually are unable to prevent or apprehend youngsters who commit minor crimes, "So far the juvenile court conference committees seem to be the only method devised which has worked to deal with juvenile crime on this level."

TRY has held a series of meetings during the past few months to receive input from school officials, students, senior citizens, parents and community service agencies such as the Eastside Mental Health Center, Youth Eastside Services and the teen counseling

center, The Inc Spot.

"The meetings went very well," he said, explaining that they gave TRY organizers an overview of youth-related problems on the Eastside, facilities and services available for handling them and what residents would like to see accomplished.

The group now is ready to formally organize and adopt by-laws and membership regulations. George urged interested citizens to attend a meeting June 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Robert Frost Elementary during which what he called "the structural matters" will be decided.

He also stressed that persons interested in learning more about the juvenile court conference committee should attend.

"I think it's important for people to come to give their input into TRY," he said. While he acknowledged that he and several key TRY workers have definite goals for the effort's direction, he added, "I also recognize that other people have opinions and if I were to get voted down I wouldn't feel bad about it."

Goals

Among the goals TRY has set for itself besides sponsoring juvenile court conference committees, probably one for Kirkland and one for Redmond, include:

— Serving as an information clearing house to inform Eastside residents about service agencies such as counseling centers and health clinics. "It's very nice for these services to be available, but they're useless if people don't know about them," he said.

With the help of a student working for her master's degree in social work, George would like to make a directory of these services available to the community.

— Cooperating with STEP, a program set up through the Kirkland Community Action Center to arrange for youth to help senior citizens in a variety of tasks such as shopping and letter writing. The human resources sharing also could be reciprocal, he suggested saying, "Senior citizens have a vast storehouse of information and experience that certainly could be tapped to help youngsters."

— Providing a community forum to handle problems people don't know how to solve or don't know which governmental agency would be able to assist them in solving. He envisions this function of TRY to accomplish the same kinds of solutions as a trouble-shooter column in a newspaper, with TRY adding some organized muscle to break through red tape.

A pilot for United Airlines, George is one of about a dozen others who speak frequently to civic groups and students in the Seattle area about the airline industry and careers in aviation.

From his conversations with students, he has found that young people have many misconceptions about society and business. Consequently, another goal he has set for TRY is that it be an organization "to establish communication within the entire Lake Washington School District community in order to bring young people and adults into closer contact to learn how important they are to each other."

"If young people could recognize the businessman as a human being instead of as a rich man they seem to think he is — if they could get to know him — I think it would cut down on shoplifting."

In addition, George says he thinks, "many of these kids simply just have too much time on their hands and while I don't take the kids off the hook, I think it's incumbent upon the community to keep them busy doing constructive things."

Although funding for TRY has yet to be worked out, George hopes it will be locally funded with "no government strings attached which usually mean an organization has to tow a certain mark of some kind in order to keep receiving funds."

In this time when many people's attitude is "I don't want to get involved," George's enthusiasm and motivation to implement TRY is admirable.

And his hope that his concern for youth is shared by many others is partly why he has devoted so many hours to the effort.

"You can't expect others to do a job if you're not willing or interested enough to do the job yourself," he said.

Citizens prepare to TRY for juvenile court committee

If at first you don't succeed, TRY TRY TRY again.

That's just what TRY plans to do at its first annual meeting Sept. 4.

TRY is the organization which formed in the Kingsgate area last year to explore the possibility of establishing a juvenile court conference committee for the area.

Juvenile court authorities passed several bills that the conference committee should encompass the entire Lake Washington School District, reported Chuck George, president of TRY's board.

That's a big and almost overwhelming job, George said, but the group is ready to go for it, beginning with the meeting Sept. 4. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to fill four vacant seats on the 11-member board of governors.

A juvenile court conference committee involves the use of lay citizens to deal with disciplining first-time juvenile offenders in their own communities, in preference to putting them through routines with juvenile authorities.

George said he personally hoped that TRY could develop as a service group for older adults and coordinating the efforts of other groups involved in similar endeavors.

The meeting will be open to the public. The exact time and location of the meeting have not yet been announced.

Members sought to work with youth and law

By SUSAN GODFREY
First-time juvenile offenders will get another try at the system through "TRY," a citizen group now recruiting members who live in the Lake Washington School District. The group's first meeting is tonight, Sept. 4, at 7:30 p.m. at Rose Hill Junior High School. Guests at the meeting will include Major Fred Pingrey, of the King County Police, who will discuss citizen involvement in the workings of police

departments and juvenile courts; and Myrtle James of the Juvenile Court staff. James is a coordinator for Juvenile Court Conference Committees, which work with youth, parents, courts, and the police in dealing with juvenile offenders in the community. She will answer questions about the JCCC structure. Kirkland Police Captain George Dahl, who has been a participant in TRY activities since its formation last year,

will also be present. In new business, the meeting will open five seats on its 11-member board of governors. Chuck George, 827-2610, is the chairman of the board. They will also adopt bylaws and discuss proposed work. "We don't necessarily want sociologists, teachers, and other professionals, although they would be welcome," said a committee member. "We want concerned people who can meet once a month or every two

months who want to curb youth problems before they get to the courthouse." The emphasis of group action is on getting neighborhood adults to recognize and deal with local youth problems. Rotating committees would be used so that directly involved parents would not necessarily deal with their relatives. Although the group began in the Kingsgate area, its directors now wish to expand its

base to include the entire Lake Washington School District. "To organize an area that size will require an enormous amount of cooperation. We are trying to gain help and representation from schools, parents, PTSA's, churches, civic and service clubs, scouting organizations, athletic groups, merchant associations, fraternal organizations, homeowner associations, and others," George said.

He said a broad base of participation will be needed, in the "follow through" in assisting youth after they are through the court process and attempting to readjust to the community. He said the group's goals also include preventive work, so that youth will direct their energies into more constructive action. "We want to act as a sounding board for problems of young and old alike; to provide a

community forum; to provide counseling and assistance to both young people who have strayed outside the bounds of law and their parents; to bring youth and adults into closer contact and learn how important they are to each other," George said. For further information about the committee, call George at the number above, or committee secretary Joan Carlson, 822-6181.

9-18-74

Sammamish Valley News

Juvenile crime committee slates start in January

A juvenile court conference committee in which Eastside citizens will deal with some youthful offenders rather than having them go directly to the King County Juvenile Court will be operating by January.

Myrtle James of the court staff made that prediction recently to members of TRY Community Action Council, a group formed about a year ago by Kingsgate-area residents concerned about juvenile delinquency.

Mrs. James and Major Fred Pingrey of the King County Police spoke to the group that has been meeting regularly for the past several months to learn about the situation concerning juvenile crime on the Eastside.

Pingrey endorsed the work of similar conference committees in the county and their cooperation with law enforcement officials.

Mrs. James, coordinator of the juvenile court conference committees which bring youth, parents, courts and police together to deal with juvenile offenders in the community instead of in courts of law, talked about responsibilities and functions of the committee.

"We are starting with the formation of one conference committee to serve the area," said Chuck George, president of TRY's board of directors. "But it looks to us as though we will end up forming three to handle the anticipated case-load without burdening conference committee members.

"The three would include one each in Kirkland, Redmond and in the unincorporated area of the district."

On the average, six to eight

persons serve on each committee. TRY has submitted 10 names with resumes to the county court for appointment to the first panel.

"All or none of those names were submitted could be appointed," George explained. "Following an orientation for the appointees, final selection of conference committee members will be made."

After appointments are made, workshops and orientations will be conducted.

"Then the Lake Washington committee can announce itself

ready to accept referrals from the various agencies and to deal with juvenile problems in the area," George added.

Police, courts, social agencies and fire departments will refer first offenders of crimes classified as misdemeanors to the group. Others, including private citizens, homeowner organizations and schools also may recommend certain youth for the conference committee program.

George said anyone interested in serving on a committee or in working with TRY may call him at 827-2616.

END