### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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## CONSULTANT'S REPORT

# Location of Assignment:

East Central State College Ada, Oklahoma

## Date of Assignment:

March 4-6, 1973

# Submitted by:

James D. Stinchcomb, Chairman Administration of Justice and Public Safety Virginia Commonwealth University 901 West Franklin Street Richmond, Virginia 23220

### Submitted on:

March 19, 1973

During this consultant's trip to Ada, Oklahoma, to assist with criminal justice curriculum development at East Central State College, discussions were held with several faculty members, most particularly O.J. Collins and James West. In addition, a luncheon meeting was held with the college's law enforcement advisory committee. Through this committee, suggestions were made relative to the following:

- East Central's Sociology Department
- Need for expansion of existing police courses
- Educational level of area personnel employed in criminal justice
- Location of correctional institutions
- Status of existing criminal justice programs in Oklahoma.

Mr. K.O. Rayburn of the University of Oklahoma was quite helpful in assessing the total state need and placing institutional competencies in perspective. This consultant has known K.O. Rayburn for some years and regards his views highly as they relate to the state of the art of overall criminal justice education and training in Oklahoma.

The state of the art in Oklahoma indicates sufficient coverage of Bachelor degree approaches to law enforcement, with some fourteen (14) four-year institutions being funded under the federal Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP). An additional five (5) two-year institutions offer the Associate degree in law enforcement, and a new Master's degree (with an emphasis in corrections)

will be initiated next year at Oklahoma State University. This consultant has observed two immediate shortcomings within the state's academic criminal justice offerings: the lack of both undergraduate corrections programs and courses addressing the juvenile justice system.

The need for correctional education was evidenced early in all conversations, and a map was actually prepared which visually demonstrates that, in terms of the physical locations of existing courses, any serious plans on the part of East Central State College to enter into criminal justice education should emphasize correctional rather than police-oriented courses. Several correctional institutions are located in relatively close proximity to the college, (e.g., the state penitentiary sixty miles away in McAllister, the pre-release community center forty miles away in Lexington, the institution in Stringtown forty miles away, and the girls' facility some thirty miles away). Thus, it was recommended that immediate discussions begin regarding the desirability and details of initiating educational programs for the practitioners therein. Contacts between the college and these institutions have existed for some time, and conversations have been under way with several agency heads. In fact, direct relationships already exist under a new rehabilitation degree effort, and the leadership in the rehabilitation area is knowledgeable of both the people and the institutions with which the college must deal. Considering the level of activity already planned and committed within Rehabilitation Services, it can

reasonably be concluded that correctional education is more appropriate at this college than at most, if not all, others in the state. Additionally, it appears that no other institution is even developing a sequence of bachelor-level correctional courses in Oklahoma.

The college's advisory committee should be expanded immediately in order to include the appropriate representatives from correctional agencies to be served. The director of the state system must also be advised of this effort, although that does not pose any major difficulty in view of the considerable planning in which he has participated through Rehabilitation Services.

This consultant recommends that East Central State College explore fully with correctional institution heads the various facets of course and program planning as well as all factors pertaining to a degree or area of concentration (i.e., major). Such considerations normally would encompass:

- Student financial aid (LEEP)
- Off-campus instruction at operating agencies
- Full-time and part-time staffing needs
- Library requirements and costs, including textbooks and audiovisuals
- Correctional career planning for high schools and community colleges
- Job requirements and qualifications for correctional employment

- Feasibility of a staff development program for all correctional employees
- Level of funding internally available for program support
- Level of funding available within Oklahoma's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) allocation.

Within the State of Oklahoma, the juvenile justice system does not appear to be addressed academically. If this is the case, East Central State College might do well to consider an optional undergraduate series of courses aimed at this topical area. An outline was left with the college depicting the material generally included within juvenile justice system courses, and such an option would be supported by the existing degree in Rehabilitation Services.

During this consultant's visit, immediate telephone contact was made with Mr. Derny Pace of the Dallas office of LEAA in order to determine whether East Central State College was eligible to apply for LEEP funds at this time. When it was indicated that an application could be submitted, this consultant's time was allotted to the procedure involved in completing and submitting the LEEP form with proper accompanying support information, including a career catalogue, a listing of several new courses reflecting the Rehabilitation Services Program, and details relating to the existing juvenile court practicum (sociology). Telephone contact was also made with Ms. Nancy Cauthron of the Oklahoma

Crime Commission. These two conversations were important in determining the appropriate role which East Central State College might play in relation to the state's total criminal justice manpower plan and LEEP allocations. They could also be critical should curriculum development funds become available at a later date.

Discussions were held with college administrators on topics directly related to program development. Since library purchases are already being planned, a list of journals for library subscription and a list of suggested references are being furnished by this consultant, and selected textbooks in corrections and law enforcement are being noted on the reference list in the event that new courses will be taught soon. Also, several instructional supportive materials were described, including career books, audiovisuals, and sources of representative course descriptions and teaching outlines.

The college was supplied with names of professors who teach in or direct correctional education programs throughout that general region of the country so that they may be contacted for future staff personnel needs as well as for course outlines and specific reference materials. Actual course titles, descriptions, and other such necessary information for course preparation were not detailed at this time, since it was determined that other considerations were more imminent.

Certain program planning details that will require attention soon after a final decision is made include:

Transfer implications from community colleges for

Associate degree students seeking to continue in criminal justice education

- general education of core courses, both those from the general education field (i.e., sociology, psychology, government) and those which apply throughout the criminal justice process (i.e., law, courts, administration)
- Sequencing of certain levels of courses
- Course prerequisites and appropriate equivalency exams
- Resources required to proceed with an effective degree effort
- Program goals for off-campus instruction
- state's closed circuit television instruction
- The possibility of initiating closed circuit television instruction within correctional institutions
- Areas of concentration within the corrections major
  (i.e., treatment, administration and management, casework)
- Statewide recruitment of pre-service students into corrections careers and the necessary career ladder for such college students
- Correctional internships and job placements.

This consultant agreed to participate in future discussions concerning these issues at such time as East Central State College may desire.

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