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PRELIMINARY EVALUATION: 5-12-77

YOUTH BUREAU JUVENILE DEPUTY SHERIFF  
JOHNSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
No. 702-75-07-5200-72-01

Background:

A comparison of data from 1973 and 1974 with that of 1968 has shown that the Johnson County Sheriff's Department is continuing to experience significant increases in the number of contacts it has with juveniles involved in criminal or delinquent acts. As the initial grant application pointed out, there were only 35 recorded contacts with juveniles in 1968; however, this figure increased by 420% to 182 contacts in 1973. Based upon this increasing number of contacts, Johnson County predicted an even higher level of juvenile activity and delinquent behavior in future years. As a result, funds were requested from the Iowa Crime Commission for the establishment of a youth bureau office with a subsequent appointment of one of the Johnson County Sheriff's Deputies to the position of juvenile officer. The project was awarded on April 28, 1976 with a start-up date of May 1 assigned.

Objectives:

Two broad objectives were identified in the grant as follows:

- 1) A short-range objective of reducing the actual number of Part I and Part II crimes through increased apprehension of juveniles responsible for such crimes. (Note: it was felt that by apprehending such persons and making appropriate referrals, those involved would be deterred from engaging in such conduct in the future.)
- 2) A long-range objective of sustaining the reduction of UCR reportable crime, achieving better development of information sources and developing more prevention-oriented activities, e.g. school and youth group appearances. (Note: it was mentioned that by consistently making positive contacts during the formative school years and maintaining a positive image, it will have an impact on those youth).

Performance Measures:

During the first two months of the project, Thomas L. Tufford, of the Johnson County Sheriff's Office staff, was appointed as juvenile officer in the youth bureau office. As he spent seven weeks in training at the University of Minnesota in the Juvenile Officer Institute during the initial phase of the grant period, no data were collected during this time.

Determination as to whether the project is meeting its objectives cannot be determined until after the project has been in operation for at least one year. However, it is important to follow the activities of the juvenile officer during the first year of the project to see if other accomplishments, as addressed in the grant, are being achieved. These include such things as developing improved contacts with social service agencies in the county involved in juvenile affairs.

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Consequently, a data collection form was developed by the SPA staff for the purpose of monitoring the performance of the juvenile officer during the first year of the project period (See Appendix I). Statistics were collected on data submitted to the SPA for the nine-month period, July 1, 1976 to March 31, 1977.

The following data was submitted on a quarterly basis regarding the number of youths contacted by the juvenile officer, the total number of cases involving his attention and those cases involving criminal or delinquent behavior during each of the reporting periods:

	PERIOD 1 (July-Sept., 1976)	PERIOD 2 (Oct.-Dec., 1976)	PERIOD 3 (Jan-Mar, 1977)
Number of Youths Contacted	77 (+52%)	117	58 (-50%)
Number of Juvenile Cases involving attention by Youth Officer	43 (-28%)	31	40 (-50%)
Number of Juvenile Cases involving Criminal/Delinquent Behavior	39 (-38%)	24	32 (+25%)

Data reflect a 52% increase in youths contacted between the first and second reporting periods but a 50% decrease between the second and third periods. Moreover, the total number of cases involving attention by the juvenile officer as well as those involving criminal or delinquent behavior both indicated a decrease from the first to the second period (of 28% and 38% respectively) but reflected an increase from the second to the last period (29% and 25%). This data, thus, illustrates that there was a considerable amount of variation in terms of the number of youth contacted during each of these periods; however, of the contacts occurring most recently (N=58) the majority of them (69%) involved some type of attention by the youth officer or criminal/delinquent behavior (64%).

Of those cases involving criminal or delinquent behavior during any of the three periods, the majority were offenses consisting of liquor violations, vandalism, larcenies and burglaries committed by youths. During reporting periods one, two and three approximately 92%, 67% and 79% of all offenses fell within these offense categories. A breakdown of cases into offense categories is given as follows:

Offenses	NUMBER OF CASES		
	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
Liquor	8	5	6
Vandalism	4	5	6
Larceny	5	3	5
Burglary	19	3	10
Runaway	-	4	2
Assault	1	2	-
Arson	1	-	-
Stolen Property	-	-	2
Child Abuse	-	1	1
Sex Offenses	1	1	-
Driving Violation	-	-	1
Drug	-	-	1
TOTALS:	39	24	*34

\*Total number of cases does not correspond with total (32) on previous chart.

Information was provided by the Johnson County Sheriff's juvenile officer regarding the disposition of juvenile cases and is given below.

<u>Dispositions</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CASES</u>		
	<u>Period 1</u>	<u>Period 2</u>	<u>Period 3</u>
Referred to Juvenile Court/Probation	16	11	16
Handled within Dept. and Released	10	9	11
Referred to another Police Agency	0	0	0
Referred to a Social Service, Mental Health or Welfare Agency	1	5	5
Referred to Criminal or Adult Court	1	2	1

This data show that the majority of cases occurring within any of the periods were either referred by the youth officer to juvenile court and put on probation or handled within the department and subsequently released.

In contrast, very few cases were referred to social service, mental health or welfare agency, especially during the first period; however, an increase in such referrals was experienced during the second and third periods. This may indicate that some progress toward reaching one of the sub-objectives has been achieved, i.e. developing improved contacts with various social service agencies in the county involved in juvenile affairs. This was also verified by means of an on-site visit and subsequent meeting with Cpt. Douglas Edmonds, Chief of Administration and Deputy Thomas Tufford, Juvenile Officer, of the Johnson County Sheriff's staff on April 20, 1977. It was mentioned that contacts between the juvenile officer and various social service agencies has improved over time, especially in such cases where procedural changes have been made as with cases involving runaways. Moreover, where contacts were general with such agencies during the beginning of the project period, they have more recently been modified, becoming more information-specific.

A breakdown of the percent of time the youth officer spends on the performance of various activities is given on the following page for each reporting period:

<u>Responsibilities</u>	PERCENT OF TIME		
	<u>Period 1</u>	<u>Period 2</u>	<u>Period 3</u>
Counseling Juveniles in contact with Police	10%	20%	10%
Participation at Juvenile-related events	5%	5%	-
Patrolling	15%	10%	10%
Investigating Juvenile Cases	60%	55%	70%
Appearing in Court	-	-	-
Contacting Other Agencies	<u>10%</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>10%</u>
TOTALS	100%	100%	100%

Even though this data only represents approximations by the juvenile officer as to the amount of his time spent performing various responsibilities, still it indicates that most time continues to be directed toward investigating of juvenile cases with the percent of time spent on other responsibilities remaining relatively low but constant over this nine-month period.

Other information regarding contacts made by the youth officer during each of the reporting periods was also tabulated. It was determined that most contacts on a social, rapport-building basis have remained relatively stable and those involving community-agency contacts have continued to increase over time. However, this data is of dubious value since it is based primarily on recall.

### Conclusion

The desired impact of the program was to reduce the incidence of juvenile involvement in criminal activity and delinquent behavior; in addition, it was also to achieve a higher clearance rate of crimes actually committed by juveniles. However, the collection and examination of recent, monthly UCR data submitted by the Johnson County Sheriff's Office did not reflect any substantive reduction in crime data since the juvenile officer did not assume his position in the youth bureau until returning from training toward the latter part of June of 1976. This is not to assume that the project has not been successful since no dramatic crime-reduction results could be expected during the first year of the youth bureau's operation. This may be a result of many factors, such as the program just getting started and also learning that a considerable amount of experimentation with different approaches in investigative and preventive efforts has been tried.

Through the on-site visit it was learned that the aggressive investigation of several incidents involving juvenile suspects resulted in the clearance of several Part I crimes. Moreover, it was felt that the Sheriff's Office has been pleased with the program and the juvenile officer's counseling work and efforts to divert many juveniles from formal involvement with the criminal justice system.

As there can be no definite conclusions drawn, based on limited crime data, neither can there be any recommendations made as to modification of the program. However, it is felt that the youth bureau program should be continued for another year, with data gathered and submitted to the SPA as specified on the revised data collection form. (Note: based upon the on-site visit and meeting with the juvenile officer regarding his responsibilities, the original data form was modified to allow for the collection of data that more accurately reflects the performance of the youth bureau officer. See Appendix II.)

An examination of data collected from the revised data form as well as crime data taken from the Uniform Crime Reports will allow a more complete evaluation to be performed after the project has been in operation for a longer period of time. Thus, a more complete evaluation will be performed toward the end of the second year of the project.

APPENDIX I

YOUTH BUREAU - JOHNSON COUNTY

Supplemental Information

Please complete the following information for the three month period covered by this progress report:

- 1. A) Approximate the Number of Youths Contacted During the Three Month Period Covered by this Progress Report \_\_\_\_\_
- B) Total Number of Cases involving attention by Youth Officer during the Three Month Period covered by this Progress Report: \_\_\_\_\_
- C) Total Number of Juvenile Cases involving Criminal or Delinquent Behavior for the period covered by this Progress Report: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Break Down Cases into Offense Categories:

<u>Offense</u> (list)	<u>Number of Cases</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- 2. Please breakdown juvenile cases into categories of disposition:
  - a) Referred to juvenile court/probation \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Handled within department and released \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) Referred to another police agency \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) Referred to a social service, mental health or welfare agency \_\_\_\_\_
  - e) Referred to criminal or adult court \_\_\_\_\_

3. Number of juveniles seen who reside in Iowa City or Coralville \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of juveniles seen who reside elsewhere in Johnson County \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of juveniles seen who reside outside Johnson County \_\_\_\_\_

4. Number of juveniles seen who have had previous contacts with other Youth Bureaus in Johnson County \_\_\_\_\_

5. Approximate Percent of time Youth Officer spends:
- a) Counseling Juveniles in contact with the police \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) At Juvenile related events \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) On Patrol \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) Investigating Juvenile Cases \_\_\_\_\_
  - e) Appearing in Court \_\_\_\_\_
  - f) In contact with other agencies \_\_\_\_\_
  - g) Other: (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Is the Youth Officer currently enrolled in college?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Does he have a 2 year college degree?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Is currently pursuing any other kind of training? (Specify)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Please attach a copy of the following UCR forms from January, 1975 to the present if not previously submitted to this office:
- A) Incidence and Clearance by Arrest Part I Crimes.
  - B) Valuation lost by Crime Category; Property Lost and Recovered.
  - C) Arrests by Part I and Part II Crimes.

8. Please enclose a list of contacts made during this reporting period.

- A) # contacts on a social, rapport building basis \_\_\_\_\_
- B) # cases involving preventative contacts where delinquent behavior is threatened or impending, but hasn't yet happened \_\_\_\_\_
- C) # cases involving counseling with youth referred or being seen on an ongoing basis as a result of delinquent behavior \_\_\_\_\_
- D) # community contacts for speeches, panels, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
- E) # contacts with community agencies re policies, procedures, information, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
- F) # contacts with community agencies re specific youth, ie. joint efforts, technical assistance, referrals, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

APPENDIX II

DATA COLLECTION FORM:

YOUTH BUREAU - JUVENILE DEPUTY SHERIFF  
JOHNSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

REPORTING PERIOD: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following information for the three-month period covered by the progress report:

1. How many youths were contacted during this period? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many cases and contacts involved attention by the youth officer? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many contacts were made with youth involved in criminal or delinquent behavior? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many contacts were made with youth not involved in criminal or delinquent behavior? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Give a breakdown of criminal/juvenile offenses involving attention by the youth officer.

List of Criminal Offenses	Number of Cases		List of Juvenile Offenses	Number of Cases	
	(Juv. as Suspect)	(Juv. as Victim)		(Juv. as Suspect)	(Juv. as Victim)
TOTALS:			TOTALS:		

6. Give a breakdown of cases into categories of disposition:
  - a) Referred to juvenile court/probation \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Handled within department and released \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) Referred to another police agency \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) Referred to a social service, mental health or welfare agency \_\_\_\_\_
  - e) Initiated by someone other than the juvenile officer \_\_\_\_\_





**END**