

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**Allegheny Regional  
Planning Council**

**1977**

55265

SUMMARY

X

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING PROCESS

FISCAL YEAR 1977 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

V

ALLEGHENY REGION, GOVERNOR'S JUSTICE COMMISSION

MAY 1976

NCJRS

FEB 5 1979

ACQUISITIONS

Prepared by Betty Jean Wallace  
with the assistance of the  
Allegheny Regional Planning  
Council Staff

1425 Park Bldg., 355 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222  
412/391-9684

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
II.	PREVENTION.....	3
III.	VICTIM ASSISTANCE.....	6
IV.	FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR YOUTH.....	8
	A. Residential.....	8
	B. Non-Residential.....	10
V.	FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR ADULTS.....	11
	A. Residential.....	11
	B. Non-Residential.....	12
VI.	POLICE.....	13
	A. Management.....	13
	B. Services.....	14
	C. Communications and Equipment.....	14
VII.	COURTS.....	16
	A. Court Administration.....	16
	B. Prosecution and Defense.....	17
VIII.	CONCLUSION.....	19
X.	APPENDICES.....	22
	A. Appendix A.....	22
	1. Copy of Questionnaire.....	22
	2. Distribution of the Questionnaire.....	24
	B. Appendix B.....	25
	1. Participants in Hearings.....	25
	2. Meetings.....	27

MAY 1976

ALLEGHENY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
Charles O. Rice, Chairman

Harvey Adams  
Joseph P. Catalano  
Anthony F. Clark  
Maurice B. Cohill, Jr.  
Robert E. Colville  
Thomas M. Cooley, II  
Eugene L. Coon  
William J. Coyne  
Margaret S. Cyert  
Walter J. Dabney  
Harry J. Dillmore  
Peter F. Flaherty  
Thomas J. Foerster  
Lloyd H. Fuge  
Joseph M. Gelman  
James F. Howard  
James E. Hurd  
Martha Johnson  
Frederick D. Just  
John Karavlan  
Edward Kearns  
Phyllis T. Kernick

Frank J. Lucchino  
Ian D. MacLennan  
Louis Mason, Jr.  
James F. McFarland  
Gladys McNairy  
Ernest A. Minneci  
Thomas H. Pryor  
Bernard J. Regan  
Eunice Ross  
Raymond A. Schafer, Jr.  
Nathan Schwartz  
Henry R. Smith, Jr.  
Edward Sobehart  
Charles H. Starrett  
Clark Sutton  
William J. Tepsic  
Richard Terrick  
Howard E. Thompson  
William Washington  
Howard White  
Jacob H. Williams  
Walter Wilson

Council Staff

Nancy van Vuuren, Director  
Susan Ferrara, Evaluator  
Linda Oakman, Secretary  
Mary Lou O'Hara, Administrative  
Assistant  
Walter Rowland, Evaluator  
Dennis Starrett, Associate  
Director  
Betty Jean Wallace, Community  
Relations

Commission Regional Staff

Rodney E. Torbic, Regional  
Director  
Walter Crocker, Field  
Representative  
Naomi Baugher, Stenographer  
John L. Gethen, Field  
Accountant  
Betsy Johns, Stenographer  
Carl Rectenwald, Field  
Auditor

## I. INTRODUCTION

In 1977 the Allegheny Region will receive approximately 3.5 million dollars for programs to prevent crime and to improve criminal justice programs and practices in Allegheny County. The Allegheny Regional Planning Council (ARPC) of the Governor's Justice Commission is the planning and funding coordinator for these funds.

Each year the Council prepares an Action Plan indicating how the funds allocated to the Region will be utilized. To make this determination the Council initially prepares a statistical analysis of the criminal justice system in Allegheny County, including crime rates, juvenile and criminal court actions, and sentencing and corrections activities. The Council then seeks information from citizens, community organizations, government agencies and officials, and criminal justice personnel and clients on their perceptions of the needs and problems in the criminal justice system and possible solutions.

In the past this information was obtained through testimony given at formal public hearings held in several high crime areas in Allegheny County. Individuals testified before hearing panels made up of members of the Council, and the testimony was recorded by a court stenographer. Because of the formality involved, many people, especially victims and local residents were reluctant to testify. In an effort to reach more people, a varied approach was tried this year. During February and March informal meetings were held with local elected officials, neighborhood and community organizations, and criminal justice personnel. Council staff talked with the people who attended these meetings about what they saw as problems and needs. In addition 30,000 questionnaires (cf Appendix A) were distributed throughout the County asking people about their own experiences as victims or witnesses of crimes, about what crimes concern them most, and what they think can be done to prevent these crimes - by themselves and their neighbors, by the police and the courts, and by government officials.

The Council also held a meeting on February 18 with residents of the State Correctional Institution at Pittsburgh to learn their views concerning the causes

of crime and ways to prevent crime and reduce recidivism, and to obtain their suggestions for Council action and priorities. Then at public hearings held in the Gold Room of the Court House on February 23 and March 16 public officials, citizens, and community organizations made presentations to the Council on problems and needs they want the Council to address in its 1977 Plan.

The information, concerns, and suggestions provided by the public will be utilized by the members of the Allegheny Regional Planning Council as they prepare the 1977 Action Plan for the Allegheny Region. The draft of the Plan will be submitted to the public in May, prior to the Council's making a final decision at its May 28 meeting. The Council's Plan will then be submitted to the Governor's Justice Commission which in turn submits the Pennsylvania Comprehensive Plan to the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

This summary includes the information gathered through the various segments of the public participation component of the planning process described above. Appendix B provides lists of the persons, organizations, and officials who presented testimony at the hearings and of the organizations and officials with whom meetings were held.

## II. PREVENTION

A chief concern among those responding to the questionnaire distributed by the Council and those testifying at the public hearings was crime prevention. Most felt that the police place too much emphasis on detection and apprehension of criminals rather than on preventing crimes. They also stated that community crime prevention efforts are severely hampered because officials in the criminal justice system are not willing to work with community groups and that community crime prevention is more effective when geared to and achieved by a community for itself.

Several people expressed a definite need for programs to educate and organize communities, businesses, and citizens to protect themselves, their homes and property, and to reduce criminal opportunity. They generally agreed that the first step in community crime prevention is to educate the public on the causes of and ways to prevent crime. Of those who returned the questionnaires and were victims of or witnessed crimes, the majority agreed that many of these crimes could have been prevented by locking car and house doors; installing burglar alarm systems; neighbors watching out for each other and each others property; exercising caution and traveling on the main streets and avoiding alleys and poorly lit areas when walking or driving at night; watching purses closely while shopping; and being more alert. A few individuals felt that the crimes committed were due to inadequate police protection, but most people stated they could have prevented themselves from being victimized. Public education to remind people to be cautious and alert appears to be a basic need.

It was suggested that courses on criminal law and the criminal justice system be taught in the schools to aid in juvenile crime prevention. Juveniles must be taught what laws and values are and their rights and responsibilities toward society. Courses should be developed to train staff in schools and institutions to promote positive self-images and enhance the self-respect of youth. In addition to the regular academic education programs, courses should be developed to encourage and cultivate the creative abilities of young people.

Also of concern in the area of prevention was the problem of rape. There is a need for public information on the prosecution process and training in preventing rape and other kinds of sexual assault, to include instruction in self-defense. Rape was listed on the completed questionnaires as one of the crimes that concerned people most.

More outreach programs were suggested as a means of preventing juvenile crimes in the neighborhood and diverting juveniles from the criminal justice system. Citizens also suggested more programs be provided for youngsters after school hours. Child development programs should be initiated to teach youngsters to communicate with and relate to others in a positive manner.

Job training and employment were mentioned by several persons as a deterrent to juveniles and adults becoming involved in the criminal justice system. Some of the residents at the State Correctional Institution at Pittsburgh (SCIP) stated that their becoming involved in crime was directly related to their inability to get a job. Residents consistently testified that meaningful employment was the key to crime prevention and to reducing recidivism.

Several persons testified that the "neighborhood concept" and neighborhood cohesiveness must be rebuilt before effective neighborhood crime prevention can be achieved. Community residents also need more interaction with and cooperation from police and other criminal justice personnel. In some neighborhoods merchants lock their doors during the hours juveniles are out of school, and people living in the neighborhood are afraid to shop.

Neighborhood Citizen Watch programs such as the Citizens Local Alliance for a Safer Philadelphia (CLASP) block organizing concept were suggested for implementation in Allegheny County. It was also suggested that individuals who are at home during the day act as "block parents" to watch children to and from school. The Council was urged to assist community groups to work together to deal with community problems.

Gun control legislation and changes in the laws governing prostitution, gambling, drunkenness, and other so-called "victimless crimes" to free up the police to deal with more serious crimes were suggested as crime prevention measures by a number of those responding to the questionnaire.

Testimony was given on the urgent need for a "self-help" program to prevent child abuse. It has become evident in recent years that parenting is not inherent and must be learned. Some people have to be taught how to give love and care to their children and to receive love from them. How an individual has been raised will significantly influence the way they will care for their own children. Child abuse must not be confused with conventional spankings for punishment. Abuse results in broken bones, skull fractures, lacerations, bruises, burns, bites, and neglect which includes malnutrition sufficient to cause brain damage, mental retardation, emotional disturbances, and death. The beatings by parents are precipitated by pressure, depression, loneliness, a crisis situation, alcohol, drugs, personality disorders, and lesser mental illnesses. The parents use the children as scapegoats to vent their emotions and the beatings go far beyond the point of discipline. The most disturbing aspect of the child-beating problem is that it apparently continues from generation to generation. The victims of today will probably be the child abusers of tomorrow. Services are needed to bring the child and parents into a treatment relationship before real damage is done.

Parents testifying at the public hearings stated that when they did seek help, the "professionals" looked down on them and, therefore, could not offer them any real assistance. They attested to the need for an informal setting where they can relate to and obtain support from other abusive parents. When a crisis situation arises and they feel hostile toward their children, they have someone to talk to about it and a temporary escape to restrain them from abusing the child.

### III. VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Many victims fear retaliation by the accused and either do not report crimes or fail to follow through on prosecution. The victims of varying crimes testified that they were made to feel like criminals in the prosecution process. The victim needs an advocate, especially in the present system which seems to be geared to protect the offender.

Witnesses from one neighborhood in Pittsburgh said that there are individuals known to residents of the community and to the police as perpetrators of neighborhood vandalism, burglaries, purse snatchings, etc. The police have labeled these acts "malicious mischief" and do not arrest the offender or remove him from the community. Not only does the offender continue the criminal acts, but taunts his victims. People are concerned that these individuals are not dealt with until after they have committed serious or violent crimes.

Victims expressed further exasperation about not being notified by the court of hearing dates when they do press charges. The offender, if arrested at all, returns to the community or is sentenced and the victim never knows the disposition of the case.

Witnesses suggested a victim advocate program, through which a lawyer would be available to the community to assist citizens in pressing for monetary damages when victimized. A restitution program whereby the offender (juvenile and adult) would work within the community to "pay the debt" was proposed, especially for people who have no way of paying for the damage they caused.

Advocates to assist and encourage victims through the various stages of prosecution are essential. In addition it was stated that juvenile victims of child abuse and sex offenses are brought to Shuman Center for hearings and left there alone. In some cases because of lack of money to go back and forth to different proceedings, fear, and personal embarrassment, victims need special support to follow through on prosecution.

Parents of victims of sex offenses expressed deep concern over the humiliation suffered by their children by having to repeat the details of their experiences over and over again - to the police, district magistrate, and court officials. These parents also requested that there be some mechanism provided to lessen the time spent awaiting trial. If the offender is not arrested immediately or is arrested and out on bail, the victim is sometimes forced to face this individual in the community on a day-to-day basis. This, of course, helps to prolong the agony of the experience. In cases where children are involved, a prolonged wait for the trial may cause the child to miss a great deal of school.

Another factor that shocked these parents was that no facilities are provided at Shuman Center or Criminal Court to separate the defendants from the victims while waiting for hearings.

Again this year as in the past witnesses spoke to the need for assistance to victims of sex offenses. A sexual assault and treatment center is needed to attend to the medical needs of victims. Doctors and other hospital personnel should have training in the collection, analysis, and preservation of evidence for prosecution purposes. They also need special training to effect changes in their attitudes toward caring for victims and testifying in court. Although there has been improvement in the attitudes of police and prosecution staff toward victims of sex offenses, on-going training is also needed in this area.

#### IV. FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR YOUTH

A. RESIDENTIAL. Witnesses stressed that recent literature on the treatment of juveniles has increasingly stressed that institutionalization should be utilized as a last resort and only for those individuals who are a threat to themselves or society. The federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 mandates that status offenders (juveniles who are charged with or who have been convicted of offenses that would not be criminal if committed by an adult) be placed in shelter facilities rather than juvenile detention or correctional facilities. It further mandates that juveniles alleged or found to be delinquent not be detained or confined in any institution in which they have regular contact with incarcerated adults. While the intent of this Act is clear, the problem is that there is a lack of alternative facilities and services in order to remove juveniles from institutions and the criminal justice system.

Both Juvenile Court Judge Patrick Tamelia and Dr. Jerome Miller, Commissioner of the Department of Public Welfare's Office of Children and Youth, attested to the need for better and more varied non-institutional programs. More shelter facilities are needed to provide care for status offenders and for those needing short-term removal from the family. During this period the family should receive counseling and be referred to appropriate agencies for additional services as needed. Sixteen group homes have been developed in the last five years in Allegheny County through encouragement from Juvenile Court. Judge Tamelia urged there be a group home connected with each probation office.

More group and foster homes are needed to provide long-term care for children who have to be permanently removed from their own homes. In these homes the child is exposed to a family-like setting and can remain in the community, attend the neighborhood school, and participate in community activities.

Another concern addressed was institutionalization of runaways. Dr. Miller, in particular, urged that the problems which precipitated the running away be addressed, and the child not be kept in a facility with youth charged with Part I or Part II crimes. Youngsters facing

crises at home (drunken or abusive parent(s), family quarrels, etc.), at school, or in the neighborhood also have special needs that are not being met.

Citizens were particularly interested in seeing more half-way houses for young adolescents who are about to be released from institutions but need supportive services for reorientation into the community. Citizens and experts in juvenile treatment agree that the behavior patterns learned in institutions help the individual adjust to life within the institutional settings but are not geared to help the individual readjust to living in the community when released.

There was a general consensus that minimal separation from the community is ideal but in order for community treatment to work, the community must be involved. This raises the problem of educating the public to its responsibilities toward young people and activating community resources and acceptance of community residential and treatment facilities by the public. Community residents can volunteer their homes as crisis and foster homes especially to be available on short notice and can sponsor programs and outings for juveniles in community facilities.

Dr. Miller also expressed concern about the kind and quality of services provided in community facilities. It was suggested that the Department of Public Welfare or the major funding source be held accountable for scrutinizing these services. One witness suggested that City Planning develop zoning for group and foster homes and community treatment centers to avoid saturation of particular areas. This planning should include citizens, residents, and public officials.

Institutional needs discussed by speakers at the public hearings were for a secure facility for girls who are now exhibiting more aggressive and hostile behavior than in the past. The only secure facility presently available for girls is the State Correctional Institution at Muncy. Training requirements for all institution staff was suggested so that they can be more sensitive and responsive to youngsters' problems. Vocational and educational programs within institutions to prepare juveniles for employment were identified as a crucial need.

B. NON-RESIDENTIAL. Most individuals agreed on the benefits of treatment services located in or close to the family setting but view these services as inadequate in terms of numbers and/or effectiveness. Follow-up services, vocational/educational programs, and other social services to bridge the gap between the community and the juvenile are lacking.

One of the Juvenile Court judges commented on the home detention program whereby an individual in need of close supervision remains at home. A worker assigned to the child keeps in constant touch. Day treatment programs are also being initiated. Individuals attend the treatment center during the day - receive counseling, educational and vocational training, and have their meals - but go home in the evening.

One speaker said that other agencies must be stimulated to provide services for juveniles in the community. Alcohol and drug counseling should be available in the local community. The alternative school was suggested for kids who cannot or will not compete in a regular academic setting. These schools should have a low student-teacher ratio and be staffed by understanding teachers, trained in educating troubled youth. According to one speaker, no provisions have been made for the mentally retarded or disabled juvenile delinquent. About 150 kids in a year's period of time who are detained at Shuman fit into this category. Witnesses at the public hearings attested to the urgent need for a program for abused teenagers. These teenagers need to be taught to relate to and how to cope with their parent(s) and to understand why they are abusive. They can also be supportive of each other.

## V. FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR ADULTS

A. RESIDENTIAL. Several of the witnesses stated crime is caused by poverty, ghettos, inadequate housing, lack of education and/or job training. Prison is not a deterrent to crime and does not teach the person to live in the outside world. Institutional treatment and re-habilitation must be geared to equip individuals to return to the community.

Residents at the SCIP emphasized the need for vocational and educational training within and outside the prison to get meaningful employment to reenter society and stay out of prison. They also spoke to the need for funds to pay for books and licenses (plumbing, barbering) since the institution no longer receives funds for this purpose. A liaison between the prison and the business community to offer training in other than manual labor skills is also needed. Pre-release and daily work release programs were also suggested.

Other residents advocated comprehensive treatment to involve family therapy and contact with the community during the rehabilitation process. This may help to keep the family intact while the individual is institutionalized and prepare the individual, the family, and the community for their return. At the present time, the family is not involved in decisions made concerning the individual resident. It was also suggested that the conjugal visiting system be investigated to determine if it could be established in Pennsylvania. Much public education is needed to effect a change in attitude toward the ex-offender and to make communities aware of what they can do.

In another area SCIP residents expressed concern over the lack of current information in the library at SCIP and the County jail on Pennsylvania laws, rules, and procedures covering probation and parole, prisoners' rights while confined to an institution, and how to complete Pardon forms. They also requested that the services of the Public Defender and the Court Bail Agency be made available at SCIP. There are now 12 counselors for 1,000 men at SCIP. Some individuals do not see a counselor for an entire year. It was suggested that the guards receive training as counselors since they

are close to the men and know how they react to different situations.

In most cases residents leaving the institution have little or no money and/or education or job skills. Therefore, they can only obtain menial jobs with low wages. In many instances they have no place to live and cannot afford to pay rent for an apartment. Community-based emergency housing is needed where these persons can live for a minimal amount of money paid on a day-by-day or weekly basis, or for free, until they obtain employment or public assistance. Many residents suggested that half-way houses are needed to provide supportive services and reorientation into the community.

B. NON-RESIDENTIAL. Unemployment is high. The offender has a stigma, according to the men at Western, and lacks education and job skills so is the least likely to be hired for the jobs that are available. There is a general lack of services to link the ex-offender back to the community.

Training for employment was said to be the second most crucial need for those coming out of prison, after employment. Employers need to be educated to the fact that meaningful employment is the key to reducing recidivism and preventing crime. They must be taught to be sensitive to the needs of ex-offenders. Assistance is needed while the person is readjusting to family and community living and trying to hold a job. Family counseling and other follow-up services may be needed.

Another area lacking adequate service is crisis intervention. Crisis situations include: family quarrels; drug, alcohol, and child abuse; homicidal, suicidal or violent behavior, etc. Twenty-four hour on-call service is needed in this area to defuse the immediate situation and provide counseling and referral services to those involved. Not only would the family receive immediate help in identifying and solving its problem(s), individuals might be saved from death, hospitalization, or incarceration.

Other witnesses were concerned about the female offender who has been almost forgotten in the rehabilitative process. Females need emergency housing and training in non-traditional fields. Most female offenders are heads of households and must be able to earn a substantial amount of money to support their families.

## VI. POLICE

A. MANAGEMENT. Police chiefs in one area expressed concern over the problem of politics within the police department and requested clarification of the authority of the mayor, township and borough commissioners, and police chief over operation of the police department. The Pennsylvania Crime Commission suggested that guidelines be provided by the State Legislature for administering police departments and issuing disciplinary action for abuse of police powers. The police and the Commission also suggested that job performance evaluations be implemented to protect the chiefs and officers.

The Pennsylvania State Legislature established mandatory training for police personnel in Act. No. 120, 1974. The Allegheny County Police Training Academy provides a 14-week basic training course for police officers but speakers addressed the need for more in-service training within the police communications regions. Citizens returning the questionnaires were particularly interested in police training in human relations skills. The police department is the major social agency that all citizens can request help from and the only agency available at all times. Citizens feel that there should be less emphasis placed on "how to shoot tear gas and fill out forms" and more on personal contact to promote positive community-police communications.

Witnesses also stressed the need for special training in crisis intervention (dealing with family quarrels; drug, alcohol, and child abuse; delinquent and violent behavior, etc.) for police officers. Statistics indicate that family quarrels are probably the single greatest cause of homicides in the United States. In addition family crisis intervention represents the most dangerous situation for the police officer. Citizens suggested that police be taught to act as mediators and develop skills in effective listening and drawing out the real root of the conflict. The police officer must be sensitive to the situation and individuals involved, especially to be able to recognize whether or not these individuals need to be referred to other social agencies for assistance, treatment, and/or counseling.

The need for funds for trained breathalyzer operators and for ammunition for firearms training, in light of the current requirement for mandatory firearms training, was addressed by several police chiefs.

Training was also requested for regional record-keeping systems to standardize and improve the quality of record-keeping by police departments throughout the County.

B. SERVICES. Citizens in some communities feel they are ready to deal with community problems but lack cooperation and services from the police. The majority of the individuals responding to the questionnaire, and some of those testifying at the hearings, endorsed the idea of "police visibility" as the most positive way to control crime. Beat patrols, especially for high crime areas, were recommended again and again. One community is considering hiring its own beat patrol officer if the City of Pittsburgh will not provide one.

It was also suggested that meter readers be utilized to act as "eyes and ears" in the community for the beat patrol. In areas where there is a beat patrol, it was noted that their schedules should be varied so that would-be criminals cannot anticipate when the patrol officer will be in a certain place.

Other witnesses expressed concern over the need for security for high rises and public housing projects to prevent vandalism and provide a sense of security, especially for the elderly.

The Drug Enforcement Administration asked that local communities donate officers to work overtime, and the DEA would pay for the overtime.

C. COMMUNICATIONS AND EQUIPMENT. Since today's criminal can travel from place to place in such a short period of time, the need for police communications systems was emphasized. The county-wide communications system now being implemented will provide inter-communication capabilities for all police departments in Allegheny County.

Several police chiefs requested that funds be made available for lie detection equipment and to train operators for each of the police communications regions. Some also asked for funds for a mobile crime laboratory in their Region because in some cases the County crime lab personnel do not arrive at the scene of the crime until the following day. Funds were also requested for a central police dispatch staff.

## VII. COURTS

A. COURT ADMINISTRATION. According to the District Attorney about 50% of the cases brought before the Court are suppressed because of search warrants that are not properly filled out. The district magistrates are responsible for filling out these warrants. Since improper procedures at the initial stage of the prosecution process may result in a case being dismissed at a later stage in the process, a magistrate suggested better and extended training be made available to district magistrates. The DA stated he intends to ask the Court to require the signature of an Assistant District Attorney on all search warrants. However, other witnesses stated that there is no need for an attorney to fill out a search warrant and that magistrates' secretaries can be trained to accomplish this task.

The need was also expressed for training magistrates to deal with people, since they handle most domestic problems. If these problems could be settled at this level by the local magistrate, people would not have to become further involved in the criminal justice system.

Several police chiefs raised concerns about the amount of time involved in traveling to Pittsburgh during the evening or on weekends when local magistrates are not available. They stated that an alternate system to provide a local magistrate 24 hours/day should be developed. Some suggestions were for additional magistrates to provide sufficient personnel for 24 hour/day, 7 days/week availability, and payment of overtime to existing magistrates for handling evening and weekend cases. The magistrate workload should also be equalized throughout the County.

Some witnesses discussed the need, based on present investigation of bail bond, to eliminate money bail. In the past bail setting procedures discriminated against the poor. Witnesses attested to the need for maintaining a viable bail bond program that will assure all persons charged with a criminal offense an equal right to bail.

The program should serve all crimes and assure the defendant's appearance in Court on the hearing or trial date. It was further stated that bail services should not be under the jurisdiction of the Public Defender.

Court witness fees was another issue addressed. The present reimbursement does not amount to a police officer's full day daily salary rate, and it was suggested that the rates be compatible with those of the federal courts.

B. PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE. The prosecution load has doubled in the last few years. The Supreme Court ruling for a 180-day limit between filing of the criminal complaint and trial has placed pressure on the District Attorney's and Public Defender's Offices. Speakers at the public hearings and citizens reiterated the need for full-time investigatory and prosecutorial staff, to be available for every step in the court process, including preliminary hearings, for adults and juveniles.

The need for calendar coordination between the District Attorney and the judges was also addressed since they are both involved in all cases.

Citizens responding to the questionnaire felt that there is an insufficient number of judges and prosecutorial staff to provide speedy trials. They also expressed the desire for more uniform and stiffer penalties. Many felt that sentences should be more in line with the type of crime committed and that sentencing should be mandatory. Many favored reinstatement of the death penalty. Several persons were deeply concerned over the inconsistency in sentencing. It was felt that judges should be required to give reasons for sentencing decisions, and these reasons should be subject to the scrutiny of other judges. Residents at the SCIP suggested that judges should be required to visit an individual in the institution prior to granting or denying parole. While most people favored stiffer penalties, some felt that an alternative sentencing program for first offenders should be utilized, but only for those convicted of victimless crimes.

The residents at the SCIP and citizens were especially concerned that the present Court system discriminates against the poor. Speakers said that a person does not get a fair trial unless he/she has money. They further stated that the Public Defender has to work for the same system as the prosecutor and is not allowed to do too good a job. Also, the Public Defenders and judges are all on a first name basis.

Citizens stated that government officials should support law enforcement on all levels, and that they should lead exemplary lives, since society can only be as good as those who govern it.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

One of the chief concerns of individuals participating in this years public participation component of the Council's planning process was crime prevention. Witnesses and citizens emphasized the need to rebuild the "neighborhood concept" and neighborhood cohesiveness, to organize citizens and communities to protect themselves. Public education on the causes of and ways to prevent crime is needed for juveniles and adults. For juvenile crime prevention courses on criminal law and the criminal justice system, on child development, on development of positive self-images were suggested. Citizens also urged more activities for after school hours be provided.

Job training and meaningful employment were listed as the keys for deterring juveniles and adults from criminal activity. "Self-help" programs were recommended for abusive parents so they can relate to and be supportive of each other and have someone to call in a crisis situation to restrain them from abusing their children. Gun control legislation and changes in the laws governing victimless crimes (gambling, drunkenness, prostitution, etc.) to free up the police to deal with more serious crimes were suggested as crime prevention measures.

Assistance to crime victims was the second major issue that concerned many individuals. Speakers at the public hearings and citizens felt that the present system of justice protects the offender and his/her rights. Victims have no rights, no advocate, and are made to feel as though they committed the crime. A restitution program was suggested for perpetrators of neighborhood crimes of vandalism and similar offenses.

Victims of sex offenses need advocates and legal assistance through all stages of prosecution. Hospital personnel, doctors, police, and prosecution staff all need more training to effect attitudinal changes toward

victims of sex offenses and to improve the prosecution of the offender. Juveniles and the elderly need special support to follow through on prosecution. In juvenile cases assistance is needed in expediting trial time so children do not have to miss much school, and so that the child can try to recover from the experience as soon as possible. The need was also expressed for facilities at Shuman Center and Criminal Court to separate the victim/witness and the offender waiting for hearings.

Juvenile authorities and citizens again reiterated the need for better and more variety in alternatives to institutionalization. They recommended community treatment as ideal, but emphasized the need for public education to make the public aware of its responsibilities to its young people. Zoning should be developed for group and foster homes to avoid saturation of particular areas. The Department of Public Welfare, or other major funding source, must be held accountable for the kind and quality of services provided in these facilities. Other agencies must be stimulated to provide specialized services such as alcohol and drug counseling in the community, services for the mentally retarded and disabled juvenile, an alternative school for those who cannot or will not compete in the regular school situation, and programs to assist teenage victims of child abuse to cope with their parents and to be able to understand and relate to them and be supportive of each other.

Institutional needs raised by officials included a secure facility for girls, training for corrections staff, and vocational/educational programs to prepare residents for employment.

The residents need money and supportive services when leaving the institutions. Half-way houses were suggested to give supportive services and help reorient the individuals into the community. Counseling and other follow-up services are needed for individuals trying to readjust to family and community living.

As in the past people again requested more beat patrol officers especially for high crime areas. "Police

visibility" is still thought to be one of the most effective ways to control crime. The need for police training in crisis intervention and human relations was emphasized.

Upgrading of the Court system should include extended training for district magistrates, a viable bail bonding system, full-time prosecution and defense staff, and consistent sentencing.



4. What crimes are you most concerned about?

- Burglary       Robbery       Car Theft       Theft       Prostitution  
 Rape       Assault       Drunkenness       Drugs       Murder  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. What do you think can be done to prevent these crimes?

- a. By Yourself \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. By Your Neighbors \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. By the Police \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. By the Judges and the Courts \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e. By Community Programs \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- f. By the Schools \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- g. By Government Officials \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. How do you think the money available to the Allegheny Region should be used

- a. To Improve Police Services: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. To Prevent Crimes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. To Improve the Court System: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. To "Rehabilitate" Offenders: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What do you think is the most important use for the money? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

APPENDIX A (CONT.)

2. DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRE

Allegheny League of Municipalities  
American Friends Service Committee, Pre-Trial  
Justice Program  
Bell Telephone Company  
Carnegie Library (all branches)  
Churches  
Citizen Education/Action Group for Criminal  
Justice  
Community Organizations, among their members  
Council Members, in their communities  
Hill House Association  
McKeesport Cooperative Service Center  
Port Authority Buses and Timetable Racks  
Pittsburgh Housing Authority  
Pittsburgh Police Citizens Councils  
Thomas Merton Center

APPENDIX B

1. PARTICIPANTS IN HEARINGS

Baldwin, Bishop - Representative of Braddock  
Borough Council  
Baskin, Dwight - Citizen  
Boyd, Sandra - Citizen  
Boykowycz, Kathy - People's Oakland  
Cappy, Ralph - Public Defender  
Carcione, Francine - Citizen  
Cassidy, Ben - Drug Enforcement Administration  
Cody, John - Drug Enforcement Administration  
Colville, Robert - Allegheny County District  
Attorney  
Corcoran, James - Citizen  
Cosbotti, Dominic - Citizen  
Cunningham, Tyrone - Citizen  
Damick, Marion - #6 Police Citizens Council  
Elkins, Dorothy - Citizen  
Grey, Dale - Citizen  
Griffith, Blair - U.S. Attorney for Western  
Pennsylvania  
Haden, William B., Jr. - Citizen  
Hafer, Barbara - Executive Director, Mon Yough/  
Allegheny County Rape Crisis Center  
Hunt, Dorothy - Citizen  
Isaac, Eartha Mae - Mon Yough/Allegheny County  
Rape Crisis Center  
Johnson, Wes - Citizen  
Jordan, Edward - Citizen  
Kay, Dr. - Citizen  
Keir, Joanne - Citizen  
Lee, David - Citizen  
Louik, Michael - Assistant Attorney General,  
Community Advocate Unit  
Maxwell, Robert - Citizen  
McClellan, Edward - Citizen  
McClellan, Margaret - Citizen

PARTICIPANTS IN HEARINGS (CONT.)

Middleton, Robert - Citizen  
Miller, Jerome - Commissioner, Department of Public  
Welfare, Office of Children and Youth  
Miller, Millie - Citizen  
Neiman, Sanford - Director, S.W. Region of  
Pennsylvania Crime Commission  
Nusser, Norman - Citizen  
O'Malley, Jack - Association of Pittsburgh Priests  
Paleos, Sonia - Parents Anonymous, Allegheny County  
Community College  
Pittler, A. Z. - Citizen  
Ray, Robert Allan - Citizen  
Regan, Bernard - President, Pennsylvania District  
Justice of the Peace Association  
Robertson, Ruth - Citizen  
Sinlaf, William - Citizen  
Smith, Landrew - Citizen  
Snowden, Shirley - Citizen  
Spencer, Gwin - Pennsylvania Program for Women  
and Girl Offenders  
Stark, James - Citizen  
Storey, Catherine - Citizen  
Strauss, Samuel - Judge, Criminal Division,  
Court of Common Pleas  
Sumner, Officer - State Correctional Institution  
at Pittsburgh  
Tamelia, Patrick - Judge, Juvenile Section,  
Family Division, Court of Common Pleas  
Thomas, Carroll - Citizen  
Wahrhaftig, Paul - American Friends Service  
Committee  
Webster, Darrell - Citizen  
Wecht, Cyril - Allegheny County Coroner  
Walsh, William - Citizen  
White, Howard - President, Allegheny County  
Chiefs of Police Association  
Wilson, John H. - Metropolitan Tenants Organization  
Wojie, Jean - Perry Hilltop Citizens Group  
Wright, William J. - Citizen

2. MEETINGS

Representatives, McKees Rocks Borough  
Representatives, Braddock Borough  
Representatives, City of McKeesport  
Mon-Yough Police  
Perry Hilltop Citizens  
Steel Valley Council of Governments

Criminal Justice Officials and Personnel  
Criminal Justice Referral Center, Pittsburgh  
CETA  
Citizens



**END**