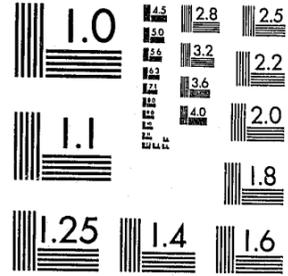


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UTAH PROJECTS
1975-1976

PAT LUKE

UTAH COUNCIL ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

NOVEMBER 1976

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ACQUISITIONS

SPECIAL NOTE TO READERS

The purpose of this document is to aid the project directors and regional planners in the creation of future projects. The document gives an indication of what projects have been funded in the past with the hope that some of them might be replicated in other areas of the state. The document also discusses common problems or pitfalls which project personnel should avoid.

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INTRODUCTION

During fiscal year 1976 many criminal justice agencies in Utah received funds from the Utah Council on Criminal Justice Administration (UCCJA) to improve operations within their agencies. Projects were implemented at both the state and local level.

Some of the projects funded were successful in meeting their objectives while others were quite unsuccessful. Of all the objectives listed in the 27 projects evaluated, approximately two-thirds or 68.4% were achieved. Six grants achieved 100% of their objectives, and 15 (including the 6) achieved 75% or better. Twenty of the projects were recommended for refunding while seven were not.

But what about the project that only met 50% of its objectives or 25% or even 11%? Why weren't they as successful as the project which met 100% of its objectives? Some common reasons why projects fail are listed below.

1. There is often a lack of communication between project personnel. No one is sure just what the other person is doing and how all jobs tie into project performance.

2. It is not uncommon to see one person assume full responsibility for a project--from project administration to preparation of financial reports. This type of action has proven very detrimental to the success of a project.

3. Failure on the part of project personnel to keep credible data hinders project operation. The task of determining whether or not objectives are being met becomes much more difficult when credible data are lacking--there is nothing against which to measure success.

4. In some projects the objectives are too general and vague. This creates a situation wherein the project personnel have no solid path to follow so they first try one direction and then another. Time is wasted, and the grant period is sometimes half over before project personnel decide what is to be done.

5. Often times the methods presented in the grant are not followed. For some reason or another, project personnel feel the methods outlined in the project have no bearing whatsoever on how the objectives should be achieved--so they do it another way; and most of the time this other way fails and the project objectives are not met.

6. Some projects are too comprehensive--they don't set realistic objectives. When this situation occurs, the surface is only touched and objectives are only partially met.

7. The achievement of some objectives depends upon citizen involvement; however, project personnel fail to inform the public of the activity or service being offered. They expect the public to come to them. This is a common problem in many projects and as a result, project objectives are not met.

8. Support personnel hired through the project, are not fully utilized. The purpose of many projects is to hire additional personnel in order that workloads may be distributed more evenly. In some cases this doesn't work--people would rather "do it themselves". As a result, the major purpose of the project is defeated.

Just because a project has problems doesn't mean that it is "doomed" for future funding. One project alone received 16 suggestions for improvement, and it was refunded. The 16 suggestions were incorporated into the second year's project, and the project personnel worked hard at making the project a success. None of this would have been necessary had project personnel been alert to problems early in the project.

It is hoped that project personnel will look for problems early in the grant period and that they will learn from others mistakes as well as from their own.

Summaries of the projects evaluated by UCCJA are outlined on the following pages.

These summaries provide only brief highlights. Additional information can be obtained from:

Pat Luke, Evaluator
Utah Council on Criminal Justice Administration
Room 304 State Office Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
Telephone: 533-5731

SUMMARIES

Information Systems

Law Enforcement Information System (Evaluation completed May 1975)

The Law Enforcement Information System (LEIS) connects law enforcement agencies in Salt Lake County with the state criminal justice information system. This allows access to National Crime Information Center (NCIC) files on wanted persons and stolen property as well as state records on drivers license and motor vehicles.

Terminals are located in the Salt Lake City Police Department, the Salt Lake County Attorney's Office, the Salt Lake County Jail, and the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office. The system also services other law enforcement agencies in the county. Through LEIS over 900 requests for information are made daily.

Access to the automated Offense Name Index System (ONIS) was continued. Both the Salt Lake City Police Department and the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office have automated access to local files on bench warrants, complaints, offenses, victims, and stolen property.

Information is received from the County Data Processing Center describing the patterns of reported crimes by offense, time, and shift. The data were used to correlate crime by area and method to determine if an offender had committed more than one offense.

Automated access to motor vehicle and driver license files was provided. In an average day, 25% of the requests were for NCIS information; 7% were for drivers license checks, 65% were for motor vehicle checks; and 3% were for vehicle identification numbers. The sheriff's office provided file information to nine law enforcement agencies. Approximately 35%-40% of all information was relayed to other agencies. Access to information was made readily available. The average access time for all types of requests was 8.7 seconds. User agencies felt the information received was more accurate and less time consuming.

Utah Criminal Justice Information System (Evaluation completed May 1975)

The UCJIS Network was begun in December 1971 for the purpose of providing Utah law enforcement agencies a multiple agency terminal network system that allows access to national, state, and local files on a 24-hour basis. This was accomplished through the use of remote terminals at strategic geographic locations throughout the state. Law enforcement agencies within a particular area access the network through the agency operating the terminal in that area.

Activities of the grant included:

- Maintenance of Existing Systems
- Ordering Additional Hardware
- Determining the Feasibility of System Security
- Installing Additional Hardware
- Training Users in Terminal Operation
- Testing and Monitoring the System
- Interfacing with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC)

The system expanded as new terminals were set up in operating agencies. NCIC license checks, NCIC activities, state motor vehicle checks, state drivers license checks, and access to Salt Lake City Police Department records were reduced from 3 to 5 minutes to under 10 seconds.

All user agencies contacted agreed that the automated system was far superior to manual operation in terms of time and accuracy.

Police

Utah Police Juvenile Training and Inservice Training (Evaluation completed June 1975)

Juveniles in Utah account for a very significant percentage of arrests; therefore this grant was created in order to increase the juvenile training given to police recruits and to establish more juvenile oriented inservice training.

A Juvenile Specialist training seminar became operational in 1974 and approximately 45 officers attended the seminar. The seminar was highly successful, and it was suggested that future sessions be held so more officers could take advantage of the training. The seminar made the officer more proficient in dealing with juvenile matters.

During the grant period, 150 recruit officers received 40 hours of additional juvenile law enforcement training. Juvenile officers attended a 40-hour seminar dealing with juvenile problems, and 8 hours of juvenile training were provided each region in the state.

An eight hour refresher course was held for lieutenants and captains; and two, one-day management training sessions were held for sheriffs and chiefs. These sessions included four hours of training which dealt exclusively with juvenile delinquency problems.

One, two-day civil procedures seminar was held; and through the efforts of POST and POST certified agencies, inservice training was provided to 1,831 peace officers.

Utah Co. Police Consolidation Program--Records & Communication (Evaluation completed February 1976)

A special study committee of the Central Utah Chief's Association recommended that a consolidated police records and communication system be developed in Utah County. This recommendation was made on the basis of a workload survey and a cost-feasibility study. As a result of this, the Central Utah Chief's Association received funds from UCCJA to develop a central police communications center and information clearinghouse.

A dispatch and communication service was established, and 24-hour dispatching is provided for all municipal agencies in Utah County except Provo and Orem.

Calls reach the officers faster and easier, response time has improved, and there is a greater sense of officer security.

Brigham City Physical Evidence Collection (Evaluation completed February 1976)

The Brigham City Physical Evidence Collection project was designed to provide the Box Elder County area with an efficient method of identification, collection, preservation, and court presentation of physical evidence. The project provided for a mobile evidence collection van, dark room and other laboratory equipment for the Brigham City Police Department. Services were provided to all law enforcement agencies in Region I as well as to agencies in Region II who requested assistance. Through this grant, the Brigham City Police Department progressed toward proficiency in the area of criminalistic services.

The project insured that all physical evidence be submitted to the appropriate laboratory. Previously all evidence was sent to Weber State College, but now only evidence to be presented in court is analyzed.

The project has established a system for secure and efficient storage, classification, retrieval, and disposition of evidence.

Murray Printer Dispatch System (Evaluation completed April 1976)

In November 1975, Murray City Police Department installed in-car teleprinters in each Murray police car. The purpose of the program was to solve the problems of busy voice channels, lack of communication with neighboring cities, unauthorized monitoring of police broadcasts, repeated messages, and the time involved in getting license, vehicle, and warrant checks through the county.

As a result of the grant all emergency calls were dispatched through the teleprinter, thus disallowing any monitoring of Part I crimes in progress. Messages were sent to all cars at once.

The need to repeat radio messages was reduced because all messages were printed. If an officer was away from his car when a message was sent, all he needed to do was check the teleprinter upon his return.

The time taken to obtain registration or wanted information was reduced to seven minutes or less. With the teleprinter the officer not only received the information but it was printed for future reference.

Specialized Law Enforcement Units

Specialized Task Force on the Investigation and Prevention of Burglaries and Larcenies (Evaluation completed October 1975)

A specialized task force for the investigation and prevention of burglaries and larcenies was formed within the Roy City Police Department to deploy officers on the basis of crime analysis; investigate burglaries using undercover activities; and contact merchants and residents regarding crime prevention measures.

As a result of this grant, the clearance rates for burglary and larceny increased by 10%. Arrests for burglary increased 50% and arrests for larceny increased 56%. The dollar value of recovered property increased 264%, and the department increased the number of hours spent in crime prevention conferences.

Sevier County Felony Officer (Evaluation completed November 1975)

Sevier County Sheriff's Office initiated a felony officer program in an effort to increase the arrest rate and reduce the increased number of Part I crimes committed in Sevier County. The program focused on felony arrests and on sellers of dangerous drugs. The program involved two activities--investigation and development of a county informant system for drug pushers.

This project had a favorable impact on the crime rates in Sevier County due to extensive investigations conducted by the felony officer, higher close-out rates, and public awareness programs dealing with crime prevention.

As a continuation of training, the felony officer attended various workshops during the grant period. He also worked on all Part I crimes primarily focusing on burglary, theft, and narcotics investigation.

The clearance rate for reported burglaries increased 8% over the previous year and the clearance rate for reported grand thefts increased 13% over the previous year. The present clearance rate of all other reported Part I crimes was maintained. One hundred percent of all assaults and robberies were cleared.

Millard County Felony Officer (Evaluation completed November 1975)

Millard County implemented a felony officer program in order to increase the number of arrests and reduce the number of Part I crimes committed in Millard County. The felony officer concentrated on Part I crimes, thus leaving the sheriff able to devote more time to administration and other problems.

Iron County Sheriff Alcoholism and Drug Program (Evaluation completed December 1975)

In an effort to reduce the number of repeat alcohol and drug offenders, the Iron County Sheriff's Office developed an alcoholism and drug program. The project provided for one deputy sheriff to investigate alcohol and drug related offenses; participate in prevention programs; serve as a liaison for diversion to rehabilitation; provide inservice training; assume responsibility for alcoholics in the jail; and serve as a part-time jailor when possible.

The project handled 56% of all alcohol related offenses and 55% of all drug related offenses.

A prevention program was initiated concentrating on drug abuse. The deputy held speaking engagements with high school students, scouting organizations, and university and social groups. One of the most beneficial aspects of the prevention program was educating parents concerning the symptoms and solutions to drug abuse.

South Ogden Felony Task Force (Evaluation completed February 1976)

The purpose of the South Ogden Felony Task Force was to reduce the number of felony crimes in the South Ogden area. Two officers were provided to the detective division of the South Ogden Police Department

to serve as a special task force on felonies with burglary being the priority crime. Task force activities included deploying officers on the basis of crime and analysis, responding to all felony crime scenes, and performing surveillance and undercover work.

Local felony problems were identified and rate reduction goals were set. After the first year of operation reported felonies decreased 8%, felony clearance rates increased 3%, and felony arrest rates increased 14%. Arrests for burglary increased 108%, and the dollar amount of recovered stolen property increased 90.5%.

Specialized manpower was provided for immediate response to felonies. The task force officers were highly trained and were readily available to respond to all felony calls.

Corrections

Utah State Prison Diagnostic Unit (Evaluation completed June 1975)

The purpose of the Utah State Prison Diagnostic Unit was to provide diagnostic and evaluation services to all new prison commitments, parole violators returned to the prison, and selected 90-day diagnostic referrals from the district courts. The project provided housing, supervision and casework, psychological, and treatment planning services. Individual responsibility and involvement of inmates was emphasized as was the development of pro-social skills, attitudes, and behavior.

Housing was provided for 620 referrals to the diagnostic center. (This exceeded the intended objective of 567.) All referrals of regular inmates to the diagnostic unit (332) were acted upon by the unit. A total of 227 written psychological evaluations were completed during the grant period, and 313 treatment plans were completed. A total of 214 psychological evaluations were completed. The Adult Probation and Parole staff was provided with 256 institutional behavioral reports.

Data were collected in the areas of diagnostic program evaluation, client characteristic descriptions, and client treatment and training needs. These data are being computerized for further evaluation.

Establishing Neighborhood Probation Units - Team Approach (Juvenile Court) (Evaluation completed September 1975)

This project provided two neighborhood probation units--the Murray-Jordan unit and the Granger-Chesterfield unit. The general purpose of a neighborhood probation unit was to provide court services in an informal setting in the community where the client lives.

A youth was referred to the unit after being placed on probation and after attending a probation orientation (with his parents) at the main office of the 2nd District Juvenile Court. The first meeting at the unit was attended by the client, his parents and probation staff. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint the client and his family with the probation staff, to cover the terms of probation, and to begin assessing the particular needs and problems of the client.

A general course of action was agreed on by unit staff and then followed. Treatment programs were highly individualized and involved a wide spectrum of activities.

Long Term Corrections Program Development (Evaluation completed October 1975)

A long-term corrections program for the Utah County Jail was established to design and implement a jail rehabilitation program with special emphasis on employment and volunteer services. This function was divided into three phases.

Phase I implemented a long-range comprehensive corrections plan at the county and multi-county levels. Phase II provided inmates with access to community resources such as vocational-technical training and job placement. Employment was found for 14 released inmates. Phase III provided every confined inmate an opportunity of receiving visits from a volunteer counselor. This program was designed to bring the total community into contact with the jail institution. The volunteer counselor determined special needs of the inmate, and then efforts were made to meet those needs.

Courts

Research Clerks for District Courts (Evaluation completed July 1975)

The District Court Research Clerk project provided seven 3rd year law students to 2nd, 3rd, and 4th District Courts. The students served as part-time research clerks whose duties were to research cases, write briefs, analyze pending actions, draft statutes, and perform research projects for the Office of Court Administrator (OCA).

Through use of research clerks the majority of judges felt the time needed to dispose of complex cases was shortened. The research clerks provided the district judges with timely legal research. The likelihood of error was reduced, as were resulting appeals and reversals.

The quality of judicial decision also improved. Clerks checked for errors in the judges decision; and accurate information was provided to aid the judge in basing his decisions.

Sixth Judicial District Court Coordinator (Evaluation completed December 1975)

The Sixth Judicial District Court consists of six counties: Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne, Garfield, and Kane. The counties are located in the south-central part of the state and cover approximately 20% of the total area of the state. A full-time court coordinator was hired who performed the following duties:

- Established and maintained scheduling procedures for all counties in the district.
- Acted as a liaison between the district court and prosecuting attorneys, court clerks, and local officials.
- Administered the space available to the court.
- Assisted in planning new constructions and renovations.
- Prepared and submitted reports to the Office of the Court Administrator.
- Assisted the judge in administering the courts budget.
- Acted as an administrative assistant to the judge.

The project had direct impact on the administration of justice in the six counties. Significant improvements in the quality and efficiency of the judicial process were viewed in light of general upgrading of court management activities and a general improvement in public confidence in the courts.

Brigham City Full-Time Prosecutor/Police Legal Advisor (Evaluation completed March 1976)

Box Elder County hired a full-time deputy county attorney to perform the duties of prosecution, provide formal and informal training to officers, and provide legal assistance to officers during investigations.

With the advent of the project, case preparation and screening procedures were improved. System efficiency also improved as complaints were filed faster and easier. The project reduced prosecutor continuances, supported improved scheduling changes, and increased efforts to screen out weak cases.

More time was provided to evaluate cases with officers, and the time between contact and issuance of complaint was shortened. The deputy county attorney was easily accessible to officers and frequently consulted with them during the progress of a case.

Training was provided to law enforcement officers, and a police legal advisor was provided to render opinions and assistance to officers.

Community Crime Prevention

United Crime Prevention Effort (Evaluation completed July 1975)

The United Crime Prevention effort was aimed at reducing burglary, grand larceny, and auto theft due to citizen neglect. A crime prevention program of educating, informing, and motivating the citizens of Salt Lake and Tooele counties to participate in crime prevention efforts was the vehicle to reduce non-forcible burglaries, larcenies, and auto theft. Crime Check was an extension of the above project and was aimed at coordinating the efforts between law enforcement agencies in Salt Lake and Tooele counties to expand their existing crime prevention programs.

According to a survey conducted by Dan Jones and Associates, the use of crime prevention techniques in Salt Lake and Tooele Counties increased overall by 15%.

This project had an impact on making the public aware of the need for crime prevention and motivating citizens to involve themselves in the Crime Check program. Efforts were made towards involving businesses in crime prevention, and developments occurred in obtaining their support.

Utah Anti-Shoplifting Campaign (Evaluation completed March 1976)

The Utah Anti-Shoplifting Campaign was launched in an effort to educate the public about the seriousness of shoplifting and to educate school children concerning the penalties for shoplifting.

Anti-shoplifting presentations were implemented to all junior and senior high schools from Nephi to Brigham City. Community meetings using the same program were also held in nearly every community in Utah. A massive advertising campaign was launched throughout Utah to convey the message of "Shoplifting Doesn't Pay--You Do". This advertising campaign as well as lectures in schools reached a large segment of the youth population. The project was successful in educating youth, parents, and merchants about the crime of shoplifting.

As a result of this project, shoplifting offenses were reduced by 16.5%. The number of convictions for shoplifting increased 10%.

Youth Bureaus

North Utah County Youth Service Bureau (Evaluation completed September 1975)

The North Utah County Youth Service Bureau was originated by the cities of Orem, Lehi, Lindon, Cedar Fort, Alpine, American Fork, and Pleasant Grove as a community-based alternative to the juvenile court. Individuals were contacted and a determination was made as to whether or not further service was warranted. The result would be continued contact by the youth officer, consultation with the youth's parents, or referrals to another agency such as the Division of Family Services.

The purpose of this project was to reduce the number of referrals to juvenile court by handling the less serious offenses within the youth bureau. The result would be more appropriate treatment for youth offenders as well as a subsequent decrease in juvenile delinquency.

Services of equal nature were provided to all cities within the Alpine School District. Project personnel as well as personnel from the various police agencies confirmed the fact that ample services were provided.

Sunset City Youth Bureau (Evaluation completed October 1975)

The Sunset City Youth Bureau was established to focus on increasing juvenile arrests and clearances, improving police-student relations, diverting arrested youth from the juvenile court, and creating alternatives to incarceration of juveniles.

Apprehension of juveniles suspected of committing burglaries, larcenies, vandalism, and assaults increased 10%. Clearance rates of these four crimes increased 5%.

Students were involved in planning recreational activities and community service projects which played an integral role in deterring acts of juvenile delinquency. A youth cadet squad was organized to serve as a liaison between students and police. This brought about better police-student relations.

Alternatives to incarceration of juveniles were developed and promoted. All officers of the Sunset City Police Department were acquainted with youth service agencies in Davis County. These agencies were then used as referral agencies.

Layton City Youth Bureau (Evaluation completed December 1975)

The Layton City Youth Bureau was developed in response to the high percentage of crimes involving juveniles and the high rate of juvenile arrests. Other problems addressed by the project were apathy and misunderstanding towards law enforcement among youth.

The Youth Bureau saw all initial offense reports and specifically reviewed and submitted juvenile referrals. Project personnel also counseled juveniles and their parents, spoke at schools, taught classes, and continued some of the work of the former community relations unit.

Members of the youth bureau were given the necessary training which helped them perform better as youth bureau officers. Separate records were established for adults and juveniles thus improving the departments capabilities in planning and evaluation.

Parents, schools, and juvenile court personnel supported the youth bureau and felt it was most helpful in their decisions concerning young people.

Brigham City Youth Bureau (Evaluation completed March 1976)

The Brigham City Youth Bureau was established to divert youth offenders from Juvenile Court; to reduce juvenile recidivism and ultimately reduce crime.

In 1975 the grant objectives included diverting offenders from Juvenile Court; increasing the number of arrests for and the clearance rates of four target crimes; and improving police-youth communication and understanding.

Reducing Juvenile Crime

Uintah Basin Juvenile Law Enforcement Officer (Evaluation completed May 1975)

The Uintah Basin is composed of Duchesne, Uintah, and Daggett counties. The juvenile law enforcement officer is cross-deputized to serve the sheriff in each of these counties.

The juvenile law enforcement officer received specialized juvenile training from POST and served as a liaison between community leaders and community youth. He lectured at schools, disseminated useful information to the community, and gave class presentations on drug abuse.

As a result of this program, the amount of time that current officers spend on other law enforcement activities increased 10%. Personal contacts with the schools and other social agencies increased, and good relations between police and youth were developed.

Salt Lake County Sheriff's Specialized Youth Unit (Evaluation completed June 1976)

The Salt Lake County Sheriff's Specialized Youth Unit was established to improve coordination between the sheriff's office, court services, school administrators, civic services, the business community and other service agencies in the county.

Lines of communication were established between students and deputies, as were better complimentary lines of communication within the department as a whole.

Roosevelt Juvenile Law Enforcement Officer (Evaluation completed June 1976)

The Roosevelt Juvenile Law Enforcement Officer was established to reduce the percentage of juvenile crimes and to reduce the number of status offense referrals to Juvenile Court.

The project helped to improve coordination and communication among law enforcement agencies, schools, the Division of Family Services, and the Juvenile Court.

Planning

Utah League of Cities and Towns Assistance to Regional Law Enforcement Planning Programs (Evaluation completed August 1975)

The Utah League of Cities and Towns Regional Assistance Project began operation September 1, 1974. The project was initiated in an effort to implement standards adopted by four of the Standards and Goals Task Forces.

The project identified and developed a work plan for implementation of standards at the local level and the league acted as a liaison between UCCJA and elected officials.

Conclusion

The goal of a project is to improve the criminal justice system. If a project is successful, then it has achieved that goal.

If project personnel will strive for positive project performance and learn from the mistakes of others, then future projects will achieve 100% of their objectives.

END