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SEARCH

Criminal Justice News and Analysis

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HELP FOR INDIANS IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW

The Majel Indian Center at 1623 5th Avenue, San Diego performs a wide range of services for Indians throughout the county. One of the newest of these is an outreach program operated by Florence Barrett and Steven Stallings, the Center's Correctional Program Consultants.

Flo and Steve work directly with Indians who are now in custody, on parole or probation, or have some other problem of a legal nature. Their work involves a number of varied activities from home visits to interceding for Indians in trouble with the criminal justice agencies. In addition, they provide orientation to agency personnel about Indian culture and the special problems of Indians in their contact with the justice system. On the other side, they brief Indians as to their rights and responsibilities under the law.

More information can be obtained at the Majel Center or by calling Flo or Steve at 233-6318.

RECORD NUMBER OF WOMEN COMPLETE POLICE ACADEMY

The 73rd recruit class of the San Diego Police Academy was graduated June 22, 1972. The class included twenty-four people from the San Diego Police Department including seven policewomen, the largest group of women ever to complete the program. Two of these will be uniformed officers working for the first time at the same level as a police patrolman. They are scheduled for assignment with the city schools and colleges.

Another first was the presentation of the J. W. Seaton Foundation Honor Man award to a woman, Judy James.

LIAISON LEAGUE EXPANDS TO SERVE MEN, TOO

The Liaison League for Rehabilitation, Inc., originally formed to work with women prisoners, has started a similar component for men. According to Correctional Counsellor Richard Shope of County Jail, "sponsors" are recruited on the outside to work on a one-to-one basis with jail inmates, first for a period up to six months prior to release, then for six months afterwards.

Potential sponsors are subjected to a strict background check, are then given a three-hour tour of the jail, and finally receive classroom orientation on corrections, security, and the objectives and details of the program. They are then assigned to an inmate who himself has been screened as to his potential to benefit from this type of service.

The sponsor then visits the inmate at least once a week in jail for the period leading up to his release. He helps the inmate with personal and family needs, and lays the groundwork for employment and the resumption of a normal life. In the post-release period the sponsor provides general guidance, a friendly ear when necessary, and does whatever he can to help the man re-establish himself as a functioning, productive member of the community.

At present there are only three sponsors working with male inmates. Shope says the League wants to start off slowly and grow as they establish their effectiveness. For further information call Dick Shope at 232-3811, ext. 268.

DIOCESE SPONSORS EVENING LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Catholic Community Services' Padre Hidalgo center has added legal services to its list of grassroots oriented programs. Charles Abdelnour, Legal Services Director, says this new effort has been operating only about one month on Wednesday evenings 6:30-9:30 p.m. and already they have handled over 100 cases.

Abdelnour provides administrative coordination, the center's field representatives provide counseling and nonlegal follow-through and lawyers in private practice around town donate their time for the legal work. The program works closely with the Chicano Federation which has placed a part-time investigator at the center. They also have close contact with Legal Aid Society and Defenders, Inc.

Since no Federal money is involved, the program has set its own eligibility criteria, which are more liberal than those of OEO. Their poverty guidelines for maximum income are about 20 percent higher. The types of cases handled so far have included immigration problems, consumer fraud, debt/credit, domestic relations, tenant/landlord, and administrative matters with such agencies as the Social Security Administration, Welfare Department, and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Their number at Hidalgo Center is 239-6291.

POLICE TRY TO BREAK IVORY TOWER BARRIER

Police officers and ex-officers from the San Diego Police Department have been teaching credit courses in colleges and universities throughout the San Diego area for some years now. But they have been teaching such courses as Police Science, and teaching exclusively to other officers or to police officer trainees. The first exception to this rule came this year in UCSD's Department of Sociology.

A course called Law and Society has just been completed by Inspector Bill Kolender with two captains and one lieutenant acting as teaching assistants. Of the 97 students enrolled in the four sections of the class, none were law enforcement personnel, just people interested in, some critical of, cops and how they operate. The subject matter included an in-depth analysis of the functions of a municipal police department, its philosophical framework, and its relationship to the community.

Kolender sees the experience as a very productive one. One suggestion made by a student is being given serious consideration by the Department, he says. This was that new law enforcement statutes which have widespread community impact contain a built-in provision or periodic community evaluation as to their appropriateness in the light of changing social values. Another measure of the course's success was the positive feedback from students. This has resulted in the course being rescheduled, budgets permitting, for January 1973.

CCCJ LOCAL BOARD SEATS COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

The San Diego Regional Criminal Justice Planning Advisory Committee (CJPAC) is composed of twenty local government and agency officials and five community representatives. Until now the community positions have been filled on a temporary basis only. At its June 21st meeting, CJPAC officially appointed five people to those spots, each with the right to choose his or her own alternate.

Those named were John Robbins, Dr. Martin Chamberlain, Tony Raygosa, Hope Logan, and Arturo Madrid. This action marked the completion of a long process in which the County Human Relations Commission screened a list of nominees, then chose ten names for submission to CJPAC. CJPAC in turn chose five of the ten names by secret ballot and appointed those persons for staggered terms of one, two, and three years of service. The community reps are expected to present the private citizen's viewpoint about justice agency operations in order to incorporate that perspective into the regional planning process.

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Special Report

THE DETOX CENTER — FOUR MONTHS LATER

Law enforcement and corrections people have long agreed that the practice of arresting and jailing public drunks has done little good either for the offender or for the society we are trying to protect. The offender is thrown in with convicts and people suspected of all sorts of criminal violations, an experience which can only serve to embitter him and perhaps draw him into the commission of serious crime. No attempt is made at treatment or rehabilitation, so he is likely to be recycled again and again through the same hapless process. For the agencies involved — police, sheriff, courts — the drunk creates a huge workload which in turn keeps them from concentrating on crimes which truly threaten society.

But what are the alternatives?

One possible answer is the Alcoholic Detoxification Center, commonly known as the Detox Center. Run by the County Health Department, the facility opened for business on February 15, 1972, and now has a service capacity of 100 patients.

While the service is always on a free and voluntary basis, more than half of the 1400 people admitted during the first three months were referred by police departments throughout the county. These referrals occurred without an official arrest and without the traditional booking into County Jail. Negotiations are now under way for a similar arrangement with the County Sheriff, whose staff patrols the outlying areas not covered by municipal police. Whether this diversion program will begin to reduce the overcrowded jail problem it is too soon to tell, but that aspect is being closely monitored.

The Detox Center has a staff of 32 people including administrative and medical personnel, food service workers, and two counsellors who are themselves recovered alcoholics. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with qualified people on constant duty.

Those admitted must be male, intoxicated but conscious, cooperative, and without acute medical or psychiatric problems or major injuries. People not meeting these characteristics are referred to University Hospital, Community Mental Health, or some other appropriate agency for treatment.

After admission the typical patient routine includes a drying out period, then a group orientation session, followed by individual counselling to determine the patient's particular needs. The average stay at the Detox Center itself is 2½ days. After that he is referred to one of the dozen or so programs around the county dealing with alcoholic rehabilitation on a long-term basis. The largest and best-known is Alcoholics Anonymous, which now holds meetings at the center three days a week.

Center Superintendent Walter Kimsey estimates that some 80,000 adults in San Diego County have a serious drinking problem. Obviously, with 100 beds the Detox Center is barely scratching the surface of the problem. County Health Care Agency Administrator William Markey and his staff are now preparing a grant proposal to the National Institute of Mental Health requesting some $5,000,000 for what is

titled a County-wide Comprehensive Alcoholism Program. This package includes plans for half-way houses, expanded and decentralized detox facilities, outpatient rehabilitation clinics, and evaluation and development systems. But its central purpose is to coordinate and consolidate all rehabilitation and treatment activities for problem drinkers throughout the County, and to supplement existing programs wherever necessary.

TO SUBMIT NEWS OR COMMENTS TO SEARCH, CALL JEFF GHELARDI, CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING – 239-7711, EXT. 1200.

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