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PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
FOR BATTERED WOMEN

A PROGRESS REPORT

Submitted by:

Minnesota Department of Corrections

February, 1978

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STATE OF MINNESOTA

A. Introduction

This report outlines the progress made by the Minnesota Department of Corrections in implementing the provisions of Minnesota Laws, 1977, Chapter 428 concerning the establishment of programs and services for battered women.

The key provisions of Chapter 428 reported on here are:

- The establishment of a statewide Advisory Task Force to the Department of Corrections
- The establishment and adoption of emergency rules concerning the implementation and operation of programs and services for battered women
- The selection of a project coordinator
- The selection and funding of four emergency shelter and support programs
- Development of a data collection method
- Development of a statewide community education program concerning spouse battering

B. Progress to Date (July, 1977 - February, 1978)

1. Establishment and Operation of Advisory Task Force

a. Legislative Mandate

"Within 60 days...the Commissioner shall appoint a nine member Advisory Task Force to advise him on the implementation (of this legislation)" (Section 4, Subd. 1)

b. Selection Procedures

Advertisements concerning the availability of positions on the to-be-formed Advisory Task Force were carried in newspapers throughout the state

- Ninety-four applications were received in response to the advertisement

A screening committee was established to review applications received for the Advisory Task Force

- Membership on this screening committee was made up of persons representing different types of offender and victim programs both from within and outside of the Department of Corrections

-Objective criteria for the selection of the Advisory Task Force members were established by the screening committee and included minority group representation, geographical distribution throughout the state, representatives from law enforcement, existing shelter programs, attorneys, and representatives from the nursing, medical, and social services professions.

In response to the large number of applicants and the extensive criteria used for selection, the Commissioner of Corrections appointed nine persons to the Advisory Task Force as well as nine alternate members and four ex-officio members

Final representation on the Task Force includes both males and females, persons from minority groups, persons from different geographical areas of the state as well as representatives from law enforcement, the law, nursing, social services and shelter care workers

The first meeting of the Advisory Task Force was held on July 12 and subsequent meetings have been held on approximately a bi-weekly basis

c. Current Membership

Membership on the Advisory Task Force is as follows:

-Members

Kenyari Bellfield, Co-Coordinator, Harriet Tubman Women's Shelter - Mpls.
Bryan Brown, Assistant City Attorney - Duluth
Mary Beeman, Olmsted Co. Dept. of Social Services - Stewartville
Jean Wagenius, Homemaker - Minneapolis
Marlene Travis, Upper Mississippi Pathologists - Brainerd
Lucille Zimmerman, St. Paul Ramsey Hospital - St. Paul
David Hubenethe, St. Paul Police Department - Cottage Grove
Marie Funmaker, University of Minnesota - Mpls.
Patricia Murphy, Women's Advocates - Minneapolis

-Alternate Members

Joan Valenti, Women's Advocates - St. Paul
Shirley Oberg, Northeast Minn. Coalition for Battered Women - Duluth
Jackie Sinykin, Bookkeeper - Edina
Lynn Lobitz, Fargo Public Schools - Hawley
Jean Beske, University of Minnesota School of Nursing - Lakeland
Carolyn Bailey, St. Paul Police Department - North Oaks
Patricia Downwind, St. Paul American Indian Center - Mpls.
Candace DeGrazia, Attorney in private practice - Winona

2. Establishment of Emergency Rules

a. Legislative Mandate

"The Commissioner shall...promulgate all rules necessary to implement the provisions of sections 1 to 7, including emergency rules" (section 3, (g))

A draft version of emergency rules were completed by the Department of Corrections staff and provided to the Advisory Task Force for review and comment

- A sub-committee was established by the Task Force for the purpose of reviewing the rules and reporting back to the full group
- Final review by the Task Force and the suggested version of the emergency rules were provided to the Department on August 22, 1977
- These rules were then reviewed by staff in the Attorney General's Office and published in the State Register on September 12, 1977.
- Suggested corrections to the rules were made by the Attorney General's Office, incorporated in the final version, reviewed by the Advisory Task Force and re-published in the State Register on November 14
- These rules are currently in effect and the Advisory Task Force is currently in the process of recommending a final set of rules for promulgation

3. Selection of Project Coordinator

a. Legislative Mandate

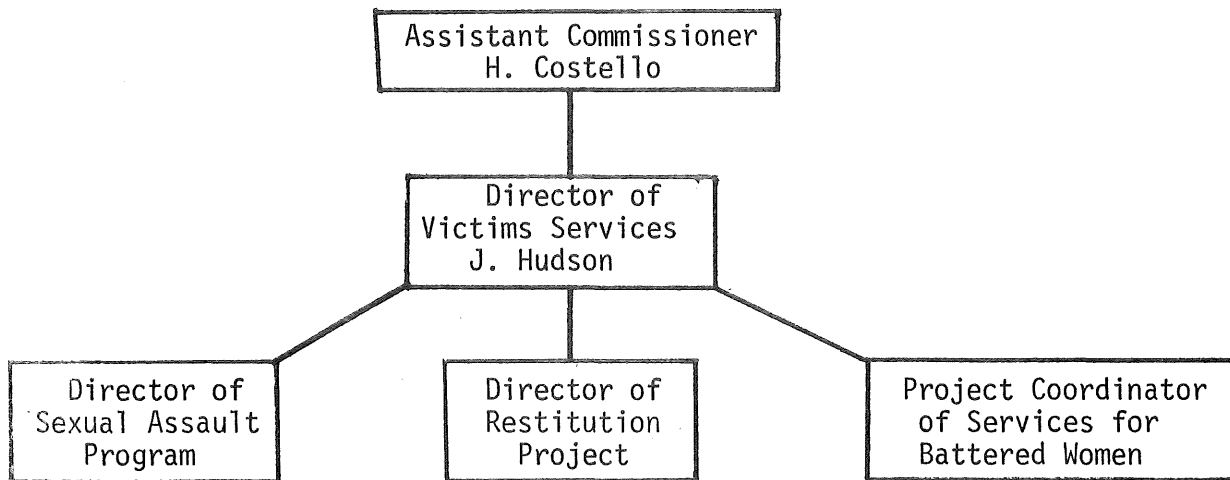
"The Commissioner shall appoint a project coordinator... The project coordinator shall administer the funds appropriated (for this legislation), coordinate the programs funded...and perform other duties as the Commissioner may assign..." (Section 5)

In response to advertisements about the availability about the project coordinator position, approximately 150 applications were received by the Department

The Advisory Task Force appointed a sub-committee to establish formal objective procedures and criteria for the review of applications

- All applications received were carefully reviewed by the sub-committee and formal personal interviews held with the leading candidates
- Five persons were recommended to the Commissioner for the position with the final selection made by the Commissioner in December, 1977
- Ms Ellen Pence, former Director of the Southside Housing Program for the Minneapolis Housing Authority and one of the initial organizers of the Harriet Tubman Shelter was selected and appointed to fill the Project Coordinator position
- Ms. Pence formally assumed her responsibilities in the Department of Corrections in early January, 1978

-The organizational context of the Project Coordinators position is represented as follows



4. Funding of Emergency Shelter and Support Programs

a. Legislative Mandate

"The Commissioner shall designate four pilot programs to provide emergency shelter services and support services to battered women and shall award grants to the pilot programs. Two pilot programs shall be designated in the metropolitan area, composed of Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Dakota, Scott, Washington, and Carver counties. One pilot program shall be designated in a city located outside of the metropolitan area, and one pilot program shall be designated in a location accessible to a predominantly rural population." (Section 2, Subd. 1)

A draft version of a Request for Proposal Statement was provided to the Advisory Task Force at one of the initial meetings

- A sub-committee was appointed by the Task Force for the purpose on suggesting revisions to this statement
- Final version of the Request for Proposal was completed in early October, 1977 and the statement was made available throughout the state on October 10, 1977
- Closing date for the receipt of the proposals was established as November 21, 1977
- Criteria used to review and recommend funding included five points
 - Relationships with Existing Agencies
 - Ability to Implement the Program
 - Nature and Type of Services to be Delivered
 - Personnel
 - Budget Analysis

Fourteen responses to the Request for Proposal were received by the deadline date and the Advisory Task Force established formal procedures and criteria for the review of these

-Proposals were submitted by

YWCA - Mankato
Victim's Crisis Center - Austin
Hope Haven - Cambridge
St. Cloud Area Women's Center - St. Cloud
Women's Resource Center - Marshall
Southwestern Mental Health Center - Luverne
Northeastern Minn. Coalition for Battered Women - Duluth
Mid Minnesota Women's Center - Brainerd
Dodge-Fillmore-Olmsted Community Corrections - Rochester
Anoka Co. Community Action Program - Anoka
Community Action Council - Burnsville
Women's Advocates - St. Paul
Harriet Tubman - Minneapolis
Tri-House - Minneapolis

-Two sub-committees were established composed of Task Force members with members from outside of the seven county metropolitan area responsible for reviewing proposals submitted from within the metropolitan area and members from the metropolitan area responsible for reviewing proposals received from out-state communities

Funding recommendations were made by the Task Force to the Commissioner and final selection made of the projects to receive funding

-The four selected proposals in the amount of funding for the twelve month period, January 15, 1978 through January 14, 1979 are as follows:

Women's Advocates, St. Paul - \$55,000 (currently operating)
The Harriet Tubman Shelter, Minneapolis - \$43,000 (currently operating)
Northeastern Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, Duluth
\$51,000 (anticipate opening in March)
Southwest Women Shelter Inc., Marshall - \$61,000 (anticipate opening in May)

5. Mandatory Data Collection

a. Legislative Mandate

"...every physician licensed to practice in this state, every public health nurse, and every local law enforcement agency shall collect data related to battered women in the form required by rule of the Commissioner." (Section 6, Subd. 2)

A reporting form has been developed for law enforcement agencies and another for physicians, hospitals, and public health nurses

-These forms have been drafted, revised, pre-tested and completed in final form, are being printed and will be available for distribution during the month of February, 1978

- Meetings are being scheduled and held with representatives from prospective reporting agencies for the purpose of familiarizing them with the forms and soliciting their cooperation

C. Future Directions

1. Community Education Program

a. Legislative Mandate

"...the Commissioner shall award grants for the development and implementation of education programs designed to promote public and professional awareness of the problem of battered women."

A draft version of a community education program was completed by the Department of Corrections and is currently being reviewed by the Task Force for comment. The program envisions the use of public media, billboards, and a speakers bureau organized in each of the economic regions of the state.

The Task Force has appointed a subcommittee to work with staff in developing a central library of information for use by individuals and organizations statewide for educational purposes.

Meetings will be held with various organizations throughout the state regarding community education prior to drafting the Request for Proposal forms.

It is anticipated that community education grants will be awarded in July of 1978.

2. Evaluation and Monitoring of Shelters

a. Legislative Mandate

"evidence of the integration of the uniform method of data collection and program evaluation established by the director..."

The nature of the shelters contact with the battered women and her family is significantly different than other social service agencies or law enforcement officers. A data collection system is being developed with the shelters that will give a more detailed picture of both the abuser and the victim.

The staff through quarterly on site visits, review of record keeping and written reports will monitor the grant contracts with the four shelters.

3. Permanent Rules

The Task Force is currently working with the staff in drafting permanent rules.

It is anticipated that the final rules will go into effect 120 days following the Task Force final review.