



**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM • 1323 WINEWOOD BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
Frank D. Nelson, Director PHONE (904) 488-4306

April 12, 1974

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: O. J. Keller

FROM: Frank D. Nelson

*FAN*  
*W*

SUBJECT: Seed Report

I wanted to call your attention that the "Seed Report" by ACE Consultants has now been released by the Governor's Office.

It appears that a copy was forwarded to Mr. Barker for his use, but our office was not shown the courtesy of being given a copy. Mr. Barker has developed a press release and neither this office nor our regional office could intelligently respond to inquiries made from both programs and the press.

I point this out because we are placed in an embarrassing position of having to talk about a report which we have not seen.

I wanted to document this problem to you and make you aware of my feelings on the manner in which the report was distributed.

FDN/RHW/gw

cc:

Beecher, Dave



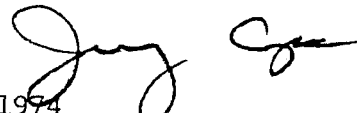
O. J. Keller, Secretary

# OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1323 WINEWOOD BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301 • PHONE (904) 488-7721

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. O. J. Keller and Mr. Frank Nelson

FROM: Jerry Cope 

DATE: April 12, 1974

Attached is information submitted to Governor Askew by Judge Harry Ryder and his subcommittee, including:

- a. the subcommittee report
- b. comments by H. Stephen Glenn on the ACE consultant report. Judge Ryder told Governor Askew that the comments were endorsed by the subcommittee.
- c. the ACE consultant report (copy sent previously to Mr. Nelson). Also included is the Governor's press release.

With regard to the subcommittee report, the recommendations are contained on pp. 6, 9-12, 22-3, 28-9.

Bonnie Armstrong advises that all of the material has been transmitted to the Seed.

JC/ch

cc:  Bonnie Armstrong  
Lou Merritt

Attachment

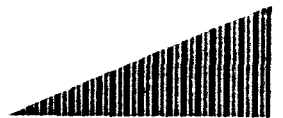
MEMO

TO: Judge Herboth Ryder

FROM: H. Stephen Glenn

DATE: March 1, 1974

RE: Katon Report



In consideration of the fact that the Katon Report on the Licensure of the Seed Inc. will become a public document I am submitting the following criticisms of the report in the hope public discussion of the Seed can be kept on a reasonably responsible level.

I am of the opinion that the basic conclusion of the report with respect to the Florida State Drug Abuse Standards Manual and licensing procedures are sound and supportable. However, the discussion of the Seed Inc. is professionally suspect and open to substantial misuse.

Given the history of public discussion of the Seed, any consultant preparing a report for public consumption should be highly circumspect in his research and commentary and should avoid, at all costs, unsound and unsupportable generalizations. In my estimation the Katon Report seriously violates these standards of professional responsibility and uses language and comparisons which openly impeach its credibility. The following items are presented as the most obvious examples of the above problems.

## Critique of Section I Analysis and Evaluation

1. (P.42) The first sentence states "the Seed, over the course of its three year history, has treated about 5,000 persons." If the data on pages 22-24 is accurate as of October, 1975, the Seed has actually had 4,554 client contacts. If the cohort study reported on pages 38-41 is typical - about 41% (or 1,867) did not complete the program for various reasons i.e., dropped out, were pulled out, referrals, etc. The active caseload in October, 1973 was 1,326 which leaves a total of approximately 1,361 clients or 29% who have completed the program.

2. (P.42) The second sentence states "This was done despite -- ----the fact that other drug free, non-residential treatment programs experienced extreme difficulty in attracting any clients voluntarily into treatment." It should be noted that the "other" programs referred to treat primarily addicts between the ages of 18 and 30 years of age.

According to the data on pages 22-26 only 11% of the Seed's client having lengthy opiate addiction or lengthy criminal histories and those clients over the age of 25 are generally referred to other treatment modalities."

From this it would appear the the Seed has had no more success in attracting clients than any other non-residential treatment program (if you use comparable clients).

The data further indicates that the typical Seed client is between the ages of 13 and 16 (68%) and is either not committed to drugs (41%) or involved short of addiction (48%).

If you compare the Seed with programs which address this same population such as the SPARK program in New York, PRIDE in Dade County Schools, DASEIN in Miami, PREHAB in Arizona, DARTE in Michigan or any of the several dozen others around the country you will find that they have had no difficulty in recruiting truly voluntary clients and all are working beyond their designed capability. Refer to the Congressional Record December 21, 1973 for a discussion of programs of this type. Also note that the SPARK program in New York hit its original static capacity of 1,000 in only 2 months. PRIDE in Dade County Schools has picked up a total of 5,000 clients and 1,300 peer counselors (13-18 year old staff members) in approximately 12 months preceeding January 31, 1974.

All of the above programs have been sources of public controversy and yet have managed to attract thousands of voluntary clients.

I must also point out that the language of the entire paragraph reads like a press release rather than an accurate assessment of a program. In the context of programs addressing a similar population with similar objectives it can be said that the Seed has had an experience remarkably consistent with that of other programs dealing with the non-addicted adolescent.

3. (P.43) The report states that "-----the standards against which the Seed is being judged are derived for stereotypical classical treatment program designs. The Seed, what ever else it may be is "neither a stereotyped program methodology nor assessable by those standards." Then on page 44 it states "By comparison with even some of the more outstanding methadone maintenance programs, this result (referring to 88% success figure) is excellent. The figure is even more impressive when one considers how difficult it is to treat the adolescent population."

a- The contradiction above is unfortunate enough without the inexcusable ignorance betrayed by the comparison. In item 2 above the profile of the Seeds' typical client is discussed. Methadone maintenance, by contrast, treats only the most impacted opiate addict with a lengthy addiction and/or criminal history. The Seed in no way addresses this population and should

therefore never be compared for effects with a Methadone Program or with, any other program that treats addicts.

b- With respect to the difficulty of "treating" the adolescent. Most current studies and program data indicates that the non-addicted adolescent is the most responsive to intervention of all drug offenders. Attached is a summary of a Geomet study of the SPARK Program in New York City. You will note that the success is quite dramatic and consistent and was achieved among its most impacted neighborhoods and family situations in the country. All similar programs around the country are reporting comparable results.

c- With respect to the success rate of the Seed the following items should be kept in mind. (P. 22)  
5% of all clients have not used drugs, 9% have only tried drugs, and 27% have used occasionally for a total of 41% with no significant life style commitment to drugs.



According to the Florida State Incidence Prevalence Study done by Resource Planning Corporation under the direction of Dr. Carl D. Chambers, Florida has patterns of drug use very similar to those found elsewhere in the United States. Dr. Chambers has noted that given 100 persons under 21 who try drugs, 78 will stop of their own accord during early to moderate stages of the remainder 2-3 will eventually become dysfunctional and the remaining 22 will reach various levels short of dysfunctional involvement and will quit only under pressure.

Where this holds true the Seed with its very youthful population could expect a random success probability of 83% (78% plus 5% non-users). Since they refer Dysfunctional addicts we must add an additional 3% to the figure making the random expectation of success seem quite reasonable but not extraordinary unless one insists on comparing it with programs that treat addicts.

d- If we accept Dr. Katon's rationale for using standard treatment effectiveness criteria, and if we accept the comparability of the Seed with Methadone Programs then it should be noted that the treatment effectiveness rate for Methadone Programs is generally determined

by dividing the total number of clients accepted for treatment into the number of clients remaining in the program at 6 months. If we allow for Seed graduates and those held in treatment at 6 months then, according to the cohort study, 163 clients were accepted for treatment of which 54 remained in treatment and 51 had graduated at the end of 6 months for an effectiveness rate of 64% compared with an average, for Methadone Program of 60% (established by Dr. Carl D. Chambers).

4. (P.44) I have already raised the issue of the report's language and incautious generalization but I wish to cite the entire paragraph in the center of page 44 as a particularly disturbing example.

- a. with respect to the potential psychological harm of the Seed process---there is no evidence that Dr. Katon's staff are competent to make such an assessment, nor did competent persons conduct any intensive assessment (as claimed).
- b. The report states that "over 5,000 persons have received treatment" when the number of clients contacted was set by the report itself at 4,554 of which 2,687 were actually "treated" by the Seed.

c. The report states that "every charge leveled against the Seed (e.g. brutality, emotional breakdowns, etc.) proved to be unfounded rumors when checked out....." There is no indication that this "totally clean bill of health" is based on anything more than 11 interviews and the most informal kind of assessment based upon highly selected exposure to Seed selected individuals. To make this kind of generalization would require a complete investigation by competent professionals that would exhaust all available program resources in terms of cost. I am personally aware of psychiatric and hospital records that would call into question the conclusion of the report.

5. (P.63) "It (the Seed) is aimed at a specific target population and cannot help everyone in that group." Persons 9-25 years of age from non-user to addict is not a specific target group.

6. A general comment. The Seed is basically an articulation of one of the oldest addiction treatment methodologies - that of Alcoholics Anonymous.

With a few modifications to fit the adolescent and his family, the program is applying a treatment designed for hard line recalcitrant alcoholics who cannot make it in society and have to depend on an isolated sub-culture for support.

I personally question the validity of applying this methodology to adolescents who are not addicts and who need to learn how to participate in society more fully. The Seed forces them to forego normal interaction with non-seedlings at a critical period in their lives.

Since the Seed has not demonstrated significantly more success than other approaches to the non-addicted adolescent, I have considerable personal concern for the long term effects of this type of program on the type of client it is actually serving.