

## REPORT OF THE EVALUATION OF THE SEED

October, 1972

The intent of the legislature in creating the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services Drug Abuse Program was to "provide a comprehensive program of human renewal for drug dependents in rehabilitation centers and aftercare programs". In order to accomplish this goal, mechanisms were instituted to assist community programs to develop in such a way as to offer maximum service in the area of greatest need. This is accomplished in part through the authority to coordinate, develop and license these programs. Very close cooperation between central office and regional staff of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services Drug Abuse Program and community programs is required. Annual evaluations are conducted for the purpose of licensing and, in addition, statistical reports are furnished to the state authority to determine the scope of the effectiveness of any program. Progress reports are also supplied to all federal funding sources. The Seed is one of the 93 drug abuse programs licensed by the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services Drug Abuse Program. But for many reasons, more publicity, controversy and misinformation has developed around this program than any other in the State. In order to correct this misinformation, hostile criticism and the spreading

controversy over the policies and plans of the Seed, an evaluation committee was appointed by Mr. Frank D. Nelson, Director of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services Drug Abuse Program, to study the problem. The Committee members were chosen to represent *who there?* the fields of health, mental health, social welfare, drug programs, administration and the legislature. In addition, two staff members of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services Drug Abuse Program were assigned to the Committee. Committee members were furnished with some basic factual information about the Seed as well as samples of newspaper articles representative of the issues. The evaluation was planned with Mr. Art Barker, Director of the Seed, and the on site evaluation took place on August 10 and 11.

The Committee spent these two days at the Seed inspecting the facility; talking with Mr. And Mrs. Barker and Sister Theresa, who is professionally trained in guidance and counseling; hearing statements from many parents and staff trainees; attending both day and evening rap sessions and listening to admissions of everything from illegal behavior, including drug abuse and selling, to having an attitude problem; and most important of all, talking with groups of young people currently in the program.

The Seed is a non-residential drug abuse treatment program focusing on the rehabilitation of young (average age 16) poly drug abusers. Approximately 20 of some 90 drug abuse programs in Florida are oriented

-3-

toward the youthful drug abusing population. Each program relies on peer group pressure, many involve parents, none use foster homes to the extent that the Seed does, and each has its own unique approach and contribution to make. The Seed has several sources of funding; \$177,000 from the National Institute of Mental Health, \$35,000 from the Law Enforcement Assistance Act, and the balance from units of local government and private donations. Many of the young people in the program have been referred by the Broward County schools (875 in 1971-72), and by courts in both Broward and Dade County.

Applicants accepted by the Seed are placed on a 12 hour a day regimen, from 10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M., for an initial period of 14 days for voluntary admissions and 30 days for court placements. The daily routine consists of morning, afternoon and evening rap sessions with approximately 500 to 600 participants conducted by a staff member using a microphone. Discussions center around such topics as relations with parents, friendship, loneliness, etc. While in this intensive initial phase of the program, members live in foster homes provided by families having a child in the later phase of the program or who has completed it. Parents are further involved in the treatment process by attending evening meetings twice a week. Many parents volunteer their professional services and skills, prepare meals twice a day, and furnish transportation to and from the program. Upon successful completion of the first phase, the member (or "Seedling") is required to attend evening rap sessions three nights a week and one full day on the weekend. He may have returned to school or job and perhaps to his own home. The decision is made by the staff and is based upon the individual's circumstances.

At the conclusion of the site visit, each Committee member prepared a written report of his own reactions regarding The Seed. The following statements summarize the committee's impressions and recommendations based upon their own direct observations of the operation of the Program during the two day site visit and do not include information from client records [to which they were denied access at that time because Mr. Barker felt the records were confidential and should not be made available. Subsequent to the visit of the committee and the preparation of the report, the client records were examined by staff members of the Office of Drug Abuse. - what is the evaluation

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A SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This program appears to have a great deal to offer young poly drug users and is utilizing the resources of the community optimally in its effort to help young people. Some outstanding strengths of the program are based on the principle of guided group interaction and positive peer group pressure. These techniques are used to instill awareness of individual responsibility, direct the individual toward goals, and orient him toward love and "turning on to life". This process is aided by removing the individual from the environment which contributed to his drug problem and by early involvement of his parents and family. The committee was impressed by the degree of interest and participation on the part of the parents which consisted of taking other children into their homes; preparing food seven nights a week; car pooling those not having transportation; serving on committees necessary for continuing the operation, as well as expanding the program as much as possible in order to provide help to others; providing medical and nursing care at no compensation.
2. Mr. Barker's relationship to other programs in the community and in other counties has become strained because of his claims of success and because of the unwillingness to recognize that they too have a contribution to make in rehabilitation and prevention of drug abuse. The attitude that has developed on both sides has created a climate in which intelligent referrals from one program to another, cooperation

in the utilization of local, state and federal resources has dwindled. In addition to his negative attitude toward other drug programs, he indicates loss of faith in the school system and law enforcement by suggesting the members of these professions are contributing to the drug dependency problem thru providing of drugs to the young people of the community. The committee feels that this is unnecessary for rehabilitation of this young group.

3. The impact of reaching five or six hundred young people is somewhat reduced if they cannot participate in the group session. A smaller group would afford more opportunities for each individual to take part in the discussion as well as receive more attention from the counselor or group leader.
4. It is probably true that young people who have lived with the drug scene and have successfully completed a drug rehabilitation program and are now drug free are well qualified to serve as counselors. However, exposure to other treatment modalities, additional inservice training, and continued supervision and consultation by professionals would enable them to offer much more to the clients.
5. The evaluation committee was impressed with the caliber and stature of community leaders who were presented to attest to the merits of the Seed Program, but regretted that they were disallowed the privilege of speaking individually to clients within the program.
6. Client tracking procedures and other types of record keeping appear to be adequate for the operation of the program, however, subsequent examination of the records by the staff revealed that in some cases

information was absent which would improve the ability of the program to follow its clients after termination. (See Analysis of Records) All terms should be well defined regarding the nature of the client population, criteria used for graduating a child from one phase of the program to another, the status of persons completing the program, and information about clients who leave the program including at what point and for what reasons.

(Attached hereto is an analysis of a random sample of the records of "The Seed" as prepared by the Staff of the Office of Drug Abuse.)

### Analysis of Records

Although the Committee learned a lot about the program through direct observation of its operation, it was the concensus of the members that the report could not be complete without an examination of client records. Therefore, arrangements were made with Mr. Barker for Mr. Moffett and Mr. Durban from the Central Office staff of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services Drug Abuse Program and Mr. Emenheiser, Regional Coordinator, to spend September 28 and 29 examining the records. A scheme was developed for selecting a random sample of approximately 300 client records from a total file of approximately 2,000 records which dated back to the early days of the program in August, 1970, and a recording form with instructions for use was designed. (See Attachment) The identity of the client was not recorded and all reporting is in aggregate statistics. Mr. Barker and his staff were most cooperative and assisted the researchers in every way possible. The data collected was computerized and analyzed by the research staff of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services Drug Abuse Program. Frequency counts were obtained for each of the variables enumerated. Each variable was cross tabulated against the reason for the client leaving the Program, that is, whether it was successful completion or for any other reason.

The age, race and sex of each client was recorded as well as the location of his home and how he was referred to the Seed. We were interested in knowing how long he had spent in the Program and whether or not he had previously received any help with his problem. The number of arrests and convictions were also recorded. Information was obtained about the drugs used; the degree of involvement with the drug was determined by the length of time the drug was used. In addition to obtaining a count of those persons successfully



completing the Program, we recorded those who had left the Program for any other reason including: leaving without approval; being dismissed by the Program; being referred elsewhere, including to other drug programs; being institutionalized, that is, in jail, in a hospital, in a mental institution; or for any other reason. It was also noted whether the client left the program for any of the above reasons during the initial intensive ten am to ten pm phase; during the second phase when a client attends 3 evenings and one day on the weekend; or during any other period. We were particularly interested in any method the Program had developed for following its graduates. We, therefore, asked for the date of last contact with a client who had left the Program and then whether he was living at home, in school, working, on the staff of the Seed, or whether he had become reinvolved with drugs.

#### Client Population Characteristics

The ages of the clients in the Seed ranged from nine years to thirty years with 68% of the clients being 17 years old or less. 95% are 21 or under. Race was not recorded in all instances, in fact, this information was not available in 40% of the records examined, but of those recording race, 96% were white and 4% black. There are approximately 53% males and 47% females. 75% of the people or 203 came from Broward County; 30% coming from Ft. Lauderdale, 13% from Hollywood, 13% from Pompano and 19% from other cities in Broward County; 12% or 33 clients came from Dade County; and 35 or 13% came from all other locations including out of State.

#### Time in Program

The time spent in the Program varied from one day to 270 days. Approximately 10% of the people stayed in the Program less than one week. Another 3% remained for one to two weeks. Another 10% stayed as long as 30 days.

Altogether 23% of the clients stayed with the Program less than one month. 20% of the client records examined showed that the individual was still in the Program. Another 30% had been in the Program from three to nine months with no information obtained from 7%.

#### Referral Source

Clinets come to the Seed from a variety of sources. These statistics indicate that their own outreach program is the primary source of clients with 23% being referred by a Seedling currently in the Program, a friend, a sibling, or self-referred with knowledge of the Program being obtained from the news media. The next two major referral sources are the courts with 14%, and the schools with 13%. Parents bring about 9%, with the Division of Youth Services counselors and the Police being other referral sources. In 29% of the cases, the referral source was not identified.

#### Previous Help

Very little information was obtained about whether a client had received any previous help; whether from another drug program or some other source of help. 5% had been in a drug program previously, 13% had had other kinds of help, about 9% had never sought help before, but there was no information on this question in 72% of the cases.

#### Arrest and Conviction

Most Seedlings, 36%, have never been arrested; 25% had been arrested once; and 14% have been arrested twice. This accounts for 75% of the people in the program although two people had been arrested as many as nine times. 9% have been arrested more than twice. There was no information on 16% of the cases. 156 people or 58% had had no convictions, 12% one conviction with no information on 24% of the people.

### Drug Used

The data on the type of drug used revealed a population of poly drug users; that is, people who have used more than one drug. 170 people or 63% of the clients had used multiple drugs excluding heroin. 16% had used multiple drugs including heroin. Another 1% had used heroin only. No one had used amphetamines only, only one person had used hallucinogenic drugs only, 23 people or 9% had used marijuana only and 1% had used barbiturates only. Use of other drugs such as alcohol, glue and other solvents, and cocaine were reported used by approximately 3%. No information was obtained on drug usage in 7% of the cases. As to the degree of involvement with drugs as measured by time used in months, 11% of the people had used drugs for six months or less; 16% had used drugs for 7 to 12 months, 35% had used for one and half to three years; 16% had used drugs in excess of three years; with 4% using drugs from five to eight years. In 20% of the cases, the length of time the person used drugs was not indicated. 17% of the people were admitted to the Seed Program for an attitude problem only and reported using no drugs at all.

### Termination

112 people or (41%) of the cases were recorded as successfully completing the Program; 45% left the Program for some reason other than successfully completing it; (16% were institutionalized,) that is, they were in a jail, prison, hospital, or mental hospital; 4% were referred to another helping source; and 3% were dismissed. 58 people or 21% left the Program for other reasons. Of these, 43 people or 80% were removed from the Program by their parents. In 14% of the cases, no information was given as to reason for termination. 22% of the people leaving the Program for any reason, including successfully completing it, left during the initial ten am to ten pm phase. 25% left during the second

phase and 40% at some other time. No information was provided as to time of termination in 13% of the cases.

#### Follow-up

Follow-up information was unavailable from the records in 244 or 90% of the cases. In 20% of the cases, or 55 of the 271, the client was currently in the Program, so no follow-up information would be appropriate. Of the 216 people who had left the Program for any reason, 11 were in school, 4 were working, 3 were on the staff of The Seed. One individual who had been reported as successfully completing the Program, was found to be living at home but using drugs on follow-up.

#### Relationship of Reason for Termination with other Variables

In order to identify any variable which might be highly correlated with successful completion of the Program, or for termination for some other reason, each variable was cross tabulated with reason for termination. Age, race, sex or city of origin do not appear to have any bearing on either success or failure in the Program. When referral source was cross tabulated with successful completion of the Program, approximately 47% of those successfully completing the Program were referred from sources other than school, parents, or the courts. An examination of the category "Other" revealed that 23% were the result of the Program's own outreach efforts; 47% of those successfully completing the Program had never been arrested and 23% had been arrested once. 75% of these people had never been convicted of a crime. 72% of the people successfully completing the Program had used a variety of drugs excluding heroin. 21% had used heroin either by itself or in combination with other drugs. Of the people successfully completing the Program, 64% had used drugs (any type) for less than one and a half years. 53% of those who left the Program for any reason had also used drugs for less than one and a half years. 44 people or

17% of the cases sampled were admitted to The Seed for an attitude problem only. Data regarding reason for termination was available on 35 of these individuals and revealed that 50% of those with only an attitude problem successfully completed the Program. Clients were considered as successfully completing the Program during any phase as follows: 18% completed it during the initial ten am to ten pm phase; 26% during the second phase and 56% successfully completed the Program at some other time. Of those individuals leaving for all reasons other than successful completion of the Program, 30% left during the initial phase, 32% during the second phase and 38% at some other time.

All frequency counts are based on an analysis of 271 records. Wherever information was unavailable in a large number of cases, this is indicated. Cross tabulations between reasons for leaving the Program and each of the other variables is based on a varying number of cases either because no information was entered on the record or because the variable is not appropriate for every individual. For example, persons admitted to the Program with a drug problem would be excluded from the category of those admitted with an attitude problem. In order to check the sampling system, a sample of 60 cases was drawn using a different method. An analysis of these data revealed no significant difference from the sample of 271. (See Attachment.)

Enter U for unknown wherever appropriate. Answer every question.

1. Write your first initial and start numbering. Example: H1, H2, H3, P1, P2, P3.
2. Give date of birth in month, day, year. If this form is not used, give age at current admission, U for unknown.
3. Record whatever form they use, U for unknown.
4. Record as M, F, or U for unknown.
5. Record city if known, county as second choice, of clients home.
- 6&7. Record month, day, year for each admission.
8. Compute time in months in program.
- 9 & 10. Check each appropriate category.
11. & 12. Record number of arrests or convictions. 0 for none, U for unknown.
13. Indicate length of time in months for each drug used. Record as many as apply. Leave blank if no drug involvement.
14. Check, leave blank if not recorded as attitude problem.
15. & 16. Check appropriate category for most recent termination.
17. For date of last contact write month, day, year. Check all appropriate categories.

Select sample by choosing any number from 1 - 9. Count that number of folders from beginning of file drawer. Then count 10 from there and select a folder. Select every 10th folder thereafter.

Select any folder. If near beginning of file, go forward, selecting each one under 10 years of age until you have a sample of 10. Repeat for each age group. Alternate going forward and backward. Choose either of the age groupings below depending on time remaining.

10 and under	12 and under
11 to 14	13 to 17
15 to 17	18 and over.
18 to 21	
over 22	