

MACON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY SERVICES

A SYSTEM OF SERVING CHILDREN IN CRISIS

1. What is C.E.S.?

It is a system designed to care for children in crisis, children who have been neglected and abused by their family and community.

2. What are the Characteristics of a Desirable System?

Services which are well coordinated and comprehensive in nature should be available any hour of the day or night. There should be a range of services which provide options for care and do not subject a child, unnecessarily, to be removed from his/her home.

3. What are the Essential Components of a Comprehensive System?

- 1) Twenty-four hour Emergency Intake
- 2) Emergency Caretakers
- 3) Emergency Homemakers
- 4) Emergency Foster Family Homes
- 5) Emergency Shelter for Families
- 6) Outreach and Follow-up
- 7) Emergency Shelter for Adolescents

4. Who has the Responsibility for Providing These Services in a Community?

Various religious, private, not-for-profit, and governmental agencies are established by charter or statute to provide many aspects of the essential services.

5. What is the Current Arrangement in Macon County?

A preliminary survey of needs conducted by an ad hoc committee within the past year revealed that there are many services available; however, they are fragmented by competition and jurisdictional limitation. Some new services will need to be developed and others expanded; however, coordination of services is the most obvious missing factor.

6. Who, or What Group, in the Community, is Responsible for Bringing About Changes?

No single individual or organization has that capability. The most likely entity to modify and improve the present situation would be a Comprehensive Emergency Services Advisory Committee.

7. What is the Desirable Membership Composition of Such Committee, and by What Authority will they Serve?

The Committee shall include interested and concerned lay persons, community leaders, and knowledgeable social service professionals who will be appointed by the Council of Community Services of Decatur and Macon County.

8. How will the C.E.S. Advisory Committee be Organized?

Every member of the Committee will be assigned to one of seven sub-committees. A sub-committee will be established for each of the seven components noted in #3, above. The chairman of each of the sub-committees will meet monthly with the C.E.S. chairman to coordinate the thrust of the entire Committee.

9. What Will be the Function of the Individual Sub-Committees?

Each sub-committee will research the need for the particular service, the extent to which it is available and utilized, and the linkages with other services in the community. Where an identified need is not being met, suggestions should be made for meeting it. Where appropriate linkages do not exist, written agreements should be encouraged and developed. Where funding is not available, alternative sources may be explored.

10. What "Authority" or "Power" does the C.E.S. Committee have in Bringing About Needed Changes?

Legally, none. Much of the progress may depend upon the appeal to an organization's interest and concern about improving its services. Some may require stronger persuasion. When all else fails and a particular agency's unwillingness or inability to change prevents the community from providing a comprehensive service to children in crisis, such matter may need to be shared with the community at large via the media.

11. What Should be the Committee's Level of Achievement by Designated Dates?

A survey of the need for each component should be completed by March 1, 1978.

A survey of the availability of services for each component and the extent to which the need is being met should be completed by May 1, 1978.

A review of the existence and effectiveness of linkages between specific components should be completed by August 1, 1978.

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Written agreements should be negotiated and developed between certain organizations by December 1, 1978.

12. What is Envisioned as the Long-range Role of a C.E.S. Committee?

Changing needs and changing conditions will need to be dealt with.

Also, the Committee will need to provide an on-going monitoring role to assure the adherence to agreed upon functioning.

RLH:PIM
November 3, 1977

CES SURVEY OF NEEDS

SERVICES PRESENTLY AVAILABLE IN MACON COUNTY

In a crisis situation, a family may turn to one or more of the following agencies:

Department of Children & Family Services
Decatur Mental Health Center
Parents Anonymous
Family Service
Catholic Charities
Decatur Police Department
Macon County Sheriff
Macon County Probation Department

Of the above agencies, three share responsibility for protective services. They are: Department of Children & Family Services, Decatur Police Department, and the Macon County Sheriff.

The following kinds of services are now available:

Emergency Foster Homes (24 hour) - D.C.F.S., Illinois Status
Offenders Service
Foster Homes (other) - D.C.F.S., Probation Dept., Family Service,
Catholic Charities, Progress Resources Center
Homemakers - D.C.F.S., DOVE, Visiting Nurse Association
Emergency Homemakers - D.C.F.S., V.N.A.
Answering Service (after normal work hours) - D.C.F.S., RAP,
Parents Anonymous, Mental Health Center, RAPE, Ill. Status
Offenders Service
Emergency Intake Service (24 hour, weekend, holidays) - D.C.F.S.,
Mental Health Center, Ill. Status Offenders Service, Dept. of
Corrections Diversion Service
Protective Service Intake (8 a.m.- 5 p.m., Mon. - Fri.) - D.C.F.S.,
Police Dept., Sheriff
Outreach and Follow-through - All of the above
Emergency Shelter for Families - Salvation Army
Institutional Care - Webster-Cantrell Hall
Group Homes - Webster-Cantrell Hall, Progress Resources Center,
Department of Corrections
Treatment Facilities (Older Youth) - Adolf Meyer Center, St.
Mary's Hospital
Counseling for Parent Child Conflicts - Youth Advocate Program,
Catholic Charities, Family Service, Mental Health Center,
D.C.F.S., Parents Anonymous, Ill. Status Offenders Service.

At the present time, the following services are not available:

Emergency Caretakers
Neighborhood Crisis Centers
Twenty-four Hour Walk-in Day Care

The available services listed above are funded from either state or local government monies or from private sources such as direct contributions and the United Way. In some instances, a combination of these sources provides the funding base.

CES SURVEY

STATISTICAL DATA

In 1976, there was an average of 19 children per month on whom neglect-dependent petitions were filed.

There is presently an average of 7 new placements in temporary shelter per month.

At the present time, DCFS receives an average of 15 abuse referrals and 56 family complaints per month.

In 1976, the Decatur Police Department recorded 202 juveniles taken into custody for offenses classified as Beyond Control and/or Runaway. The average was 17 juveniles per month. The average age was 14.7. The median age was 15.

In the same time period there were 52 contacts classified as Dependency and Neglect. This was an average of 4.3 cases per month. The average age was 11.7. The median age was 10.

In 1976, in the Macon County courts, there were 185 petitions filed alleging Neglect. These represented 214 children. There were 8 petitions filed alleging Dependency. These represented 8 children.

In addition, there were 254 petitions filed alleging Otherwise In Need of Supervision (10) or Delinquency (244). These represented 256 children.

In summary, 478 Macon County juveniles were involved in some sort of court contact in 1976.

As of March 10, 1977, 101 new petitions have been filed. As of the same date, there was an additional 60 petitions pending filing with the court. If the present trend continues, the total number of juveniles involved in court contact in 1977 may exceed 500.

In 1976, 257 boys were detained on the 5th floor of the County Building. The average length of detention was 5.6 days. In the same period of time, 125 girls were detained. The average length of detention was 7.7 days.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

At the present time, the only coordination of services for children in crisis appears to be between the Police Department and DCFS, Mental Health Center, and Ill. Status Offenders Services. There is no obvious evidence that other services in the community are coordinated to meet the needs of such children.

In the home intervention is unavailable in this community. There may be a few exceptions by the Mental Health Center Triage Team, but they are exceptions and not the rule.

CES SURVEY

There appears to be no consistent follow-up when referrals are made between agencies. It is conceivable that many families are not served as a result.

The spokesman for the Probation Department emphasized the need for a more appropriate detention facility where delinquent juveniles could be separated from others in custody. The Probation Department has a few foster homes available which can be used for emergency shelter if necessary. Although these generally are enough to meet their needs, having more would protect against the likelihood that a non-delinquent would be placed in detention only for protective shelter.