

March 9, 1995 MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Bob Harbison, Leonard Eaton, Sandra Langenkamp and Dorothy Dewitty presented information about early childhood education programs. Harbison, with the Tulsa Children's Coalition, stated one study of such programs showed significant results when high quality learning pre-school programs were taught to low income children between the ages of 3 and 4. He stated that by the time those children were adults, the number of frequent crime offenders was reduced by 80%; increased by one-third the number of high school graduates; and quadrupled the number earning \$2,000 or more per month. The study also showed the crime rate was cut in half and drug-dealing arrests were cut by 60%. He said that early childhood education programs are targeting 7,500 4-year-olds for pre-school counseling. Eaton presented an early childhood education program that would encompass the key elements which are embodied in the concept of the "School of 21st Century" -- including those elements which would affect the 0-6 year-old children, their families and their future success in school and the work place. The cost of the project titled the "School of the 21st Century" would cost Tulsa County taxpayers between \$6 and \$8 million yearly. Harris commented that the new state law is not clear that we will be able to use that law for the purpose of funding early childhood education programs. Dick stated he is very supportive of early childhood education but wants every-one to be aware that (1) there is a finite number of dollars that may be available, (2) the Board has to decide the priorities for using any available funds and (3) the Board would not be discussing a county sales tax election at this time if it were not for the jail issue.

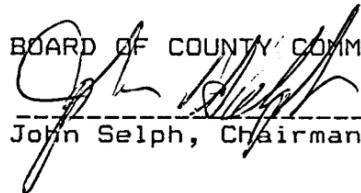
Robert Althoff, David McElwain, Mary Taddiken and Mike Brose pre-sented information about the Mobile Outreach and Crisis Services (MOCS) program. MOCS would aid police in dealing with mental ill-ness crises. MOCS has been operating for 14 months on a limited basis. It would give mental health officials a chance to deal with a family crisis and could aid police who are called to the scene of a mentally ill person. In the long run, more people would be diverted from jail to hospitals for proper treatment. They esti-mate it would cost \$1.5 million yearly to serve Tulsa County.

Ron Ricketts appeared to ask for additional funding for the Juvenile Bureau. He did not provide specific ideas about how much additional money should be available for the Bureau's operations or how any additional funds should be spent. He stated he is concerned about tax dollars and the crime rate in Oklahoma and in Tulsa County. From 1983 to 1992, violent crimes committed by Oklahoma juveniles more than doubled. The Juvenile Bureau received an increase in referrals from 5,000 to 10,000 during that same period. From 1990 to 1994, the caseload for probation counselors jumped from 25 cases to 64 cases. In that same period, the caseload for intake counselors jumped from 50 cases to 70 cases per month. Ricketts stated that if we could successfully intervene at the juvenile level, it could save taxpayers millions of dollars. The Board advised Ricketts and Bill Bledsoe that recommendations for specific programs and additional dollar amounts necessary to fund the Juvenile Bureau operations must be submitted well in advance of the April 13 date in order to be considered by the Board when it sets the ballot language.

Selph thanked everyone for attending and stated that the purpose of the meeting was not to make a decision on any of the matters discussed but an opportunity to start sorting through the various programs.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


John Selph, Chairman

ATTEST:


Joan Hastings, County Clerk

(DETAILS OF THE ABOVE ARE AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK)