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## KING COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES

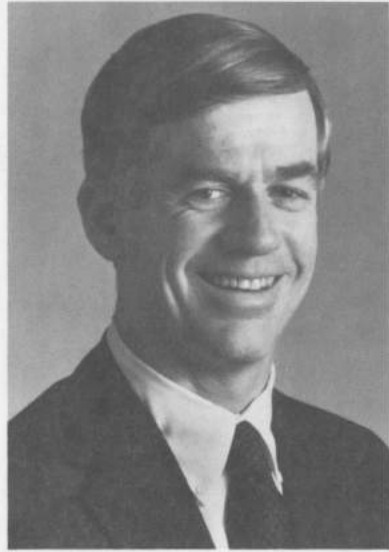
# ANNUAL REPORT 1987

Production by Community Relations Office

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This annual report is presented to the concerned citizens of King County so that you may become more aware of the juvenile justice system and the programs and services provided for troubled youth in our community.

The King County Department of Youth Services is the only County department mandated to provide court, detention and community supervision services to juvenile offenders. The mission of the Department of Youth Services is ultimately focused on public safety. Programs to improve detention conditions, develop alternatives to confinement and increase community involvement will help integrate young offenders into their communities as productive citizens. This report examines the challenges and responsibilities that face the staff and management of the Department as they work to develop those programs.

I urge you to study this document and encourage you to become aware of and involved in King County's positive intervention and reintegration services for juvenile offenders.

Tim Hill  
King County Executive

KING COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON	
Tim Hill, County Executive	
KING COUNTY COUNCIL	
	District
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Cynthia Sullivan	2
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Lois North	4
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Bruce Laing	6
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Greg Nickels	8
Gary Grant	9

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

1987 has been a year characterized by an emphasis on the community's importance in the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders.

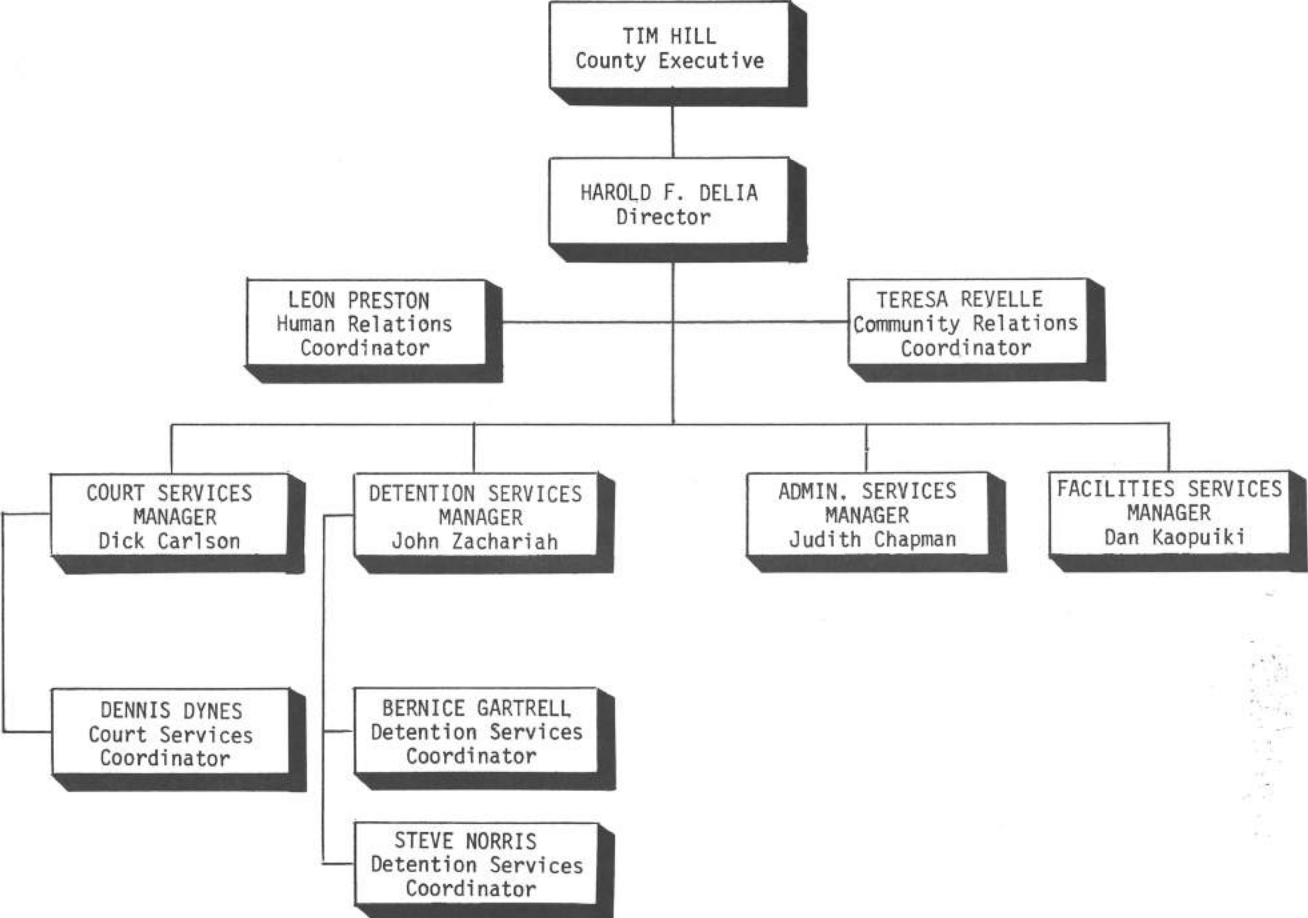
- Plans were made to move Juvenile Probation Counselors' offices to their communities to increase their access to community resources on behalf of youth.
- Operations were reorganized to free Juvenile Probation Counselors from routine paperwork and court work so they might focus on direct work with youth and the community.
- Detention population was reduced by recognizing that some youth are better served in their own communities with special support.

It is clear that all juvenile offenders eventually return to their communities after their contact with the juvenile justice system. By working in partnership with the strengths of the community the Department has identified a promising strategy for better serving these youth.

Harold F. Delia  
Director



# ORGANIZATION



*L. to R. Dan Kaopuiki, Leon Preston, Teresa Revelle,  
Dick Carlson, Bernice Gartrell, Harold Delia, Dennis Dynes*

# MISSION

The mission of the King County Department of Youth Services is:

- To support the King County Juvenile Court by providing intake, detention, and community supervision for juvenile offenders; and
- To provide treatment services to juveniles in the context of detention and community supervision programs; and
- To administer other youth programs assigned by the Executive; and
- To advocate within the Government and Community for youth.

The Department will undertake this Mission with a focus on public safety, the positive integration of youth into their communities, and youth development.

Department programs will respect the dignity of youth and their families, foster youths' desires to be productive citizens, and will reflect community concern for its youth.

## MAJOR DUTIES

With the transfer of the primary responsibility for dependents (including runaways, "incorrigibles," and truants) to the Department of Social and Health Service in 1978 the Department of Youth Services took as its primary responsibility the juvenile offender population of King County. The Department is the largest such juvenile department in the state and processes over one third of all juvenile referrals in Washington.

In general the Department is responsible for ensuring the appointment of legal counsel prior to hearings, the scheduling of hearings, the advisement of all parties of their basic legal rights and responsibilities, the notification of parties about hearings and for making recommendations to the court regarding dispositions. The Department monitors the compliance of all parties with court-ordered time deadlines or requirements.

Juvenile Probation Counselors make sentencing recommendations to the judges on youth appearing for court hearings. These counselors also are assigned youth who are placed on community supervision (formerly called probation) to provide the necessary monitoring of the youths' progress on community service requirements and to aid youth in fulfilling these requirements through counseling and other services.



Department probation counselors act as diversion units for youth on community supervision who commit divertable offenses. Instead of being referred to community agencies for the development and monitoring of diversion agreements, the youth are referred to probation counselors who then perform the same diversion function as the community agencies.

The Department is responsible for the tracking of diversions once the prosecutor has determined a referral to be divertable. Assignments to the various diversion units in the community are made by the Department and the necessary time deadlines for action on the part of the diversion units and the young people are monitored.

The county detention Facility for juveniles, located at 1211 East Alder Street, is part of the Department of Youth Services. There, youth are held for up to 30 days on Court Order, in total or partial confinement. (Partial confinement means the youth stays in detention for a part of a day or week, leaving the facility for work, school or other reasons as specified by a judge.) Short-term detention occurs when a youth requires a secure setting while awaiting court action.

## DIRECTIONS 1987

In 1987 the Department prepared a Five Year Plan to provide direction and guidance in a period of rapid change. The plan identified major issues facing the Department and described specific, measurable goals.

Identified as a major issue in the plan was the poor physical condition of the detention facility. Much work was done in 1987 to determine how best to address this problem: should a new facility be built or the old one remodeled?

Detention population reduction strategies developed in 1986 were implemented in 1987 and resulted in a significant decrease in population.

Detention programs were also addressed in 1987 and marked for current or future work in the plan. Planning for important changes in Detention were completed. Included were the closing of the Special Programs Unit, the initial implementation of the Level System and the establishment of an Orientation Assessment Unit. In December of 1987 these changes were implemented.

Long-term detention planning also occurred in 1987, with research into possible model programs which would result in better service to detained youth. The direction taken was the continuum of care program which will provide a detention program containing a variety of security levels and services.

The plan addressed the need for more attention to community relations and human relations within the Department. Work was done in both areas and planning to establish formally separate programs to emphasize these areas in 1988.

In Court Services emphasis was on increasing the level of direct client services. Areas of activity were the establishment of satellite offices, a centralized restitution monitoring function, expansion of the Sex Offender Treatment Program, and the creation of an outreach program for juvenile prostitutes.

Overall, the plan called for increased agency-wide staff training and evaluation of services. Work was done in 1987 in these areas and will continue.



This annual report highlights the activities of the Department of Youth Services in a year of growth and change, as we approach a new decade.



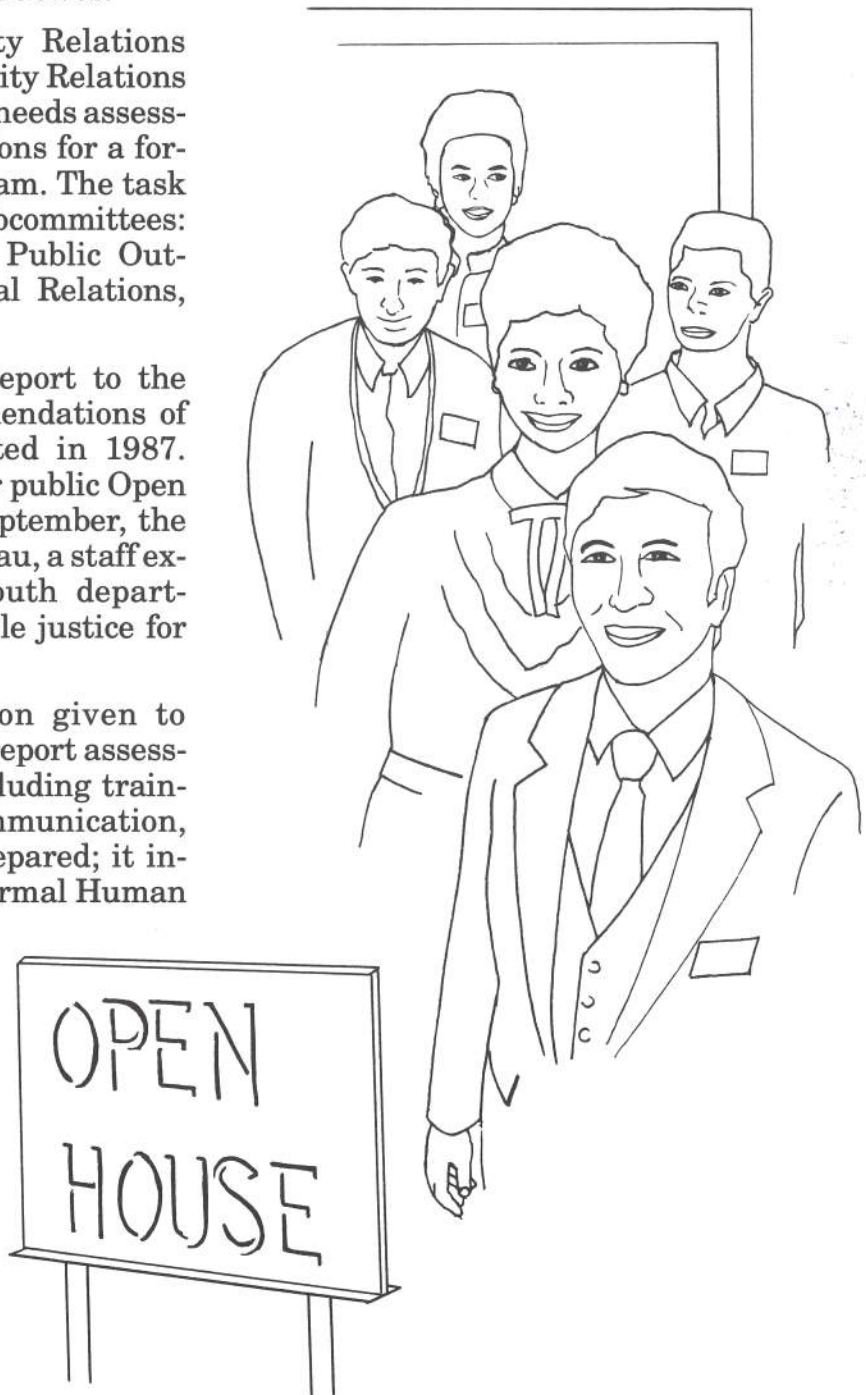
# NEW INITIATIVES

Central to the work of the Department is a focus on people: clients, staff, community. The value the Department puts on people was reflected in two new program initiatives.

Work began on a Community Relations Program in February. A Community Relations task force was established to do a needs assessment and develop recommendations for a formal Community Relations Program. The task force was organized into six subcommittees: Media Relations, Publications, Public Outreach, Legislative, Governmental Relations, and Research.

The task force presented a report to the Director in June. Many recommendations of the task force were implemented in 1987. Among these were the first major public Open House for the Department in September, the establishment of a speakers' bureau, a staff exchange program with other youth departments, and workshops on juvenile justice for King County school children.

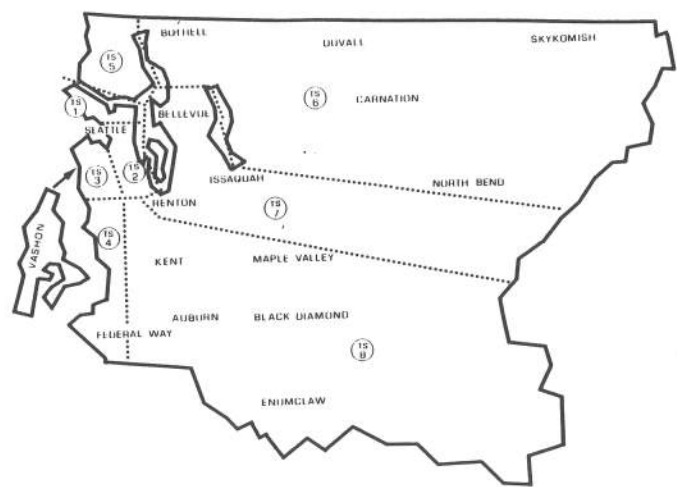
1987 saw increased attention given to Department human relations. A report assessing various employee issues, including training, discipline, evaluation, communication, and professional growth was prepared; it included a recommendation for a formal Human Relations Program.



# COURT SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

Early in 1987 the Court Support Unit was formed to relieve JPCs in Total Service Units of routine paperwork and associated court duties. This unit also performed other functions for JPCs including handling diversions, restitution and review hearings, and parole cases. The intention was to increase the time JPCs had to work with youth and families.

Planning was completed for the establishment of satellite offices for JPCs in the community. The Department has had such an office in North Seattle for many years which has proved to be very effective. The planning will result in the relocation of all probation units into their various catchment areas in the belief that JPCs should be available in their communities to work closely with youth, families, schools and other agencies.



COMMUNITY SERVICE		
	1986	1987
No. Community Service Hours Completed	32,000	24,000
Restitution Dollars	\$135,000	\$150,000

Community supervision Juvenile Probation Counselors (JPCs) have positive impact on youth whether they are first offenders or have repeated many times over. In 1987 the Total Service work units (see map above for their areas of assignment) handled over 8000 referrals for intake services and over 2500 community supervision cases. JPCs helped youth perform over 24,000 hours of community service and pay \$150,000 in restitution to victims.

In addition to these efforts for youth, several initiatives were undertaken in 1987 to strengthen the overall level of service.

Supervision gave special consideration to City of Seattle youth now served by three probation units, examining ways to make services more effective and better address the high rate of reoffending in this population. Planning progressed to where a special unit to serve these youth, to be called the City Unit, is under consideration.

# JUVENILE REFERRALS

	1985	1986	1987
<b>Serious Crimes Against Persons</b>			
Murder/Manslaughter	5	9	3
Assault, Robbery, Kidnapping	288	332	356
Rape	45	31	54
<b>Property Crimes</b>			
Burglary	996	1060	914
Auto Theft	488	525	715
Arson	30	11	38
Malicious Mischief	146	136	120
Theft	72	68	57

## NOTE

The chart reflects a portion of the more frequent felony referrals. TOTAL referrals, all criminal catagories, for the three year period are as follows:

	1985	1986	1987
	15,558	15,906	15,807

# SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM

The Sex Offender Program was established in 1983 to bring specialized services to a group of offenders who have major negative impact on the community.

During the years the program has operated the Department's expertise in working with this population has grown. It is clear that early intervention, careful evaluation and specialized counseling can reduce the reoffense rate of these youths. Statistics show that of the youth referred to the program in 1986 none had reoffended sexually as of October 1988.

In 1987, referrals to the Department for sex offenses increased 30 percent over the previous year. Seventy-three youth were referred to the specialized services provided by the Sex Offender Program. Of these, 85 percent were fully evaluated by the Sex Offender Program. Fifteen percent of the referred cases were either dismissed before evaluations occurred or evaluated by private mental health practitioners.

# EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUTH

The Employment Development for Youth Program continued in 1987, offering a variety of employment and training services to help youth gain paid employment or work experience settings.

Youth in Detention can attend employment education classes, obtain occupational information and vocational guidance services.

The Program focuses on helping youth identify their skills and abilities, develop work skills and grow in responsibility.

During 1987, 436 youths received services in the community through the efforts of this employment development program; and 549 youths received employment services while detained or were referred to local youth

In 1987, Sex Offender Staff provided therapeutic services for 20 youths per month on an ongoing basis. Others were referred to mental health professionals in the community or were sentenced to a state institution. In August the Program began providing community supervision for youth adjudicated for sex offenses. There were an average of 43 youths per month on community supervision for the remainder of the year.

employment sources in the community which would serve them after their release.



A wide variety of employment is available to job seekers.



## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

College students from around the state and other members of the community contributed over 40,000 service hours at the Department in 1987. The majority of volunteers served in Detention, working to assist Juvenile Corrections Officers or as tutors, recreation assistants, or arts and crafts instructors. Other volunteers served as case aides to Juvenile Probation Counselors.

Community volunteers provide Alateen classes and conduct Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings in Detention.

This program demonstrated once again the intense interest and commitment the community feels toward juvenile offenders and the willingness of many people to directly involve themselves in the rehabilitation of troubled youth.



## A NEW DETENTION

When the existing detention facility was built in the mid-1950s and expanded in the early 1970s, it housed dependent and delinquent youth together under a statutory mandate focusing on rehabilitation.

Over the years a different philosophy evolved, influenced primarily by the revision of the juvenile code in 1977. Dependent youth were removed from the detention population, to be served in social service programs administered by the state. Only youth accused of offenses who were considered dangerous or were unlikely to appear for hearings, or youth serving sentences for offenses, could be held in detention.

With this change in population came increased emphasis on security and the behavior management of youth and a focus on accountability for offenses.

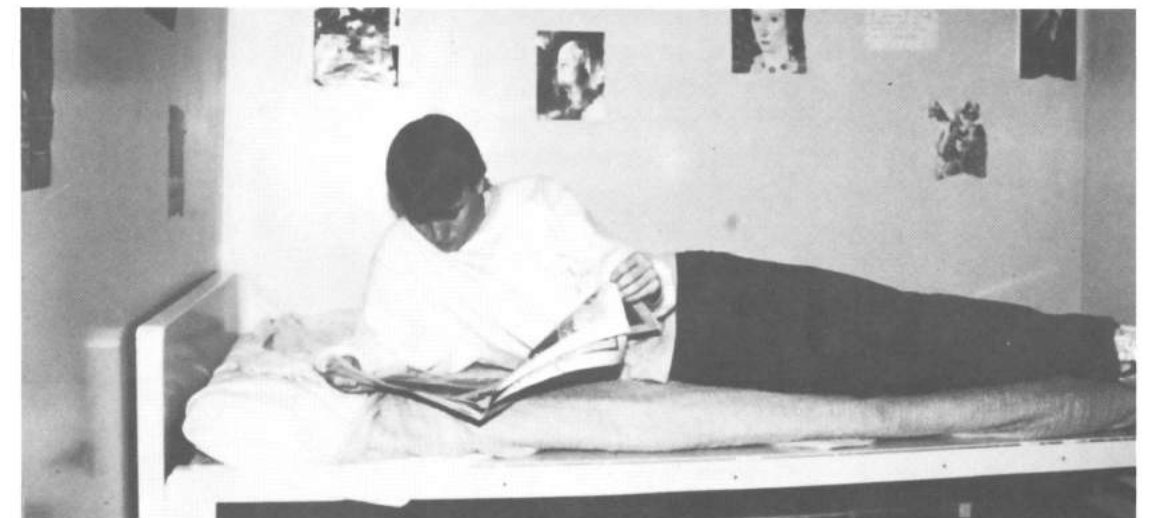
The primary method of controlling misbehavior was to remove the youth from the general population and place him/her in the Special Programs Unit (SPU).

These changes, coupled with a deteriorating physical plant resulted in a detention program which many people — both within the DYS and in the community — believed to be seriously inappropriate.

Strong action was taken in 1987 to improve the Detention Division.

The Department began by studying model programs and facilities and researching state of the art rehabilitative detention programs. Current thinking and research in juvenile detention programming define a program which includes the following elements:

- An environment which replicates as closely as possible the "normal" social environment of the youth's community.
- A careful, thorough assessment of each youth for his/her individual service needs, e.g., drug/alcohol treatment, behavioral risk (aggression, victimization issues), recreational needs, etc. Youth are then placed in detention programming according to their needs.
- Separation of youth from others is only employed under short-term, controlled conditions, and only used to allow youth time to regain control of himself/herself. Isolation of youth is considered harmful and unnecessary.

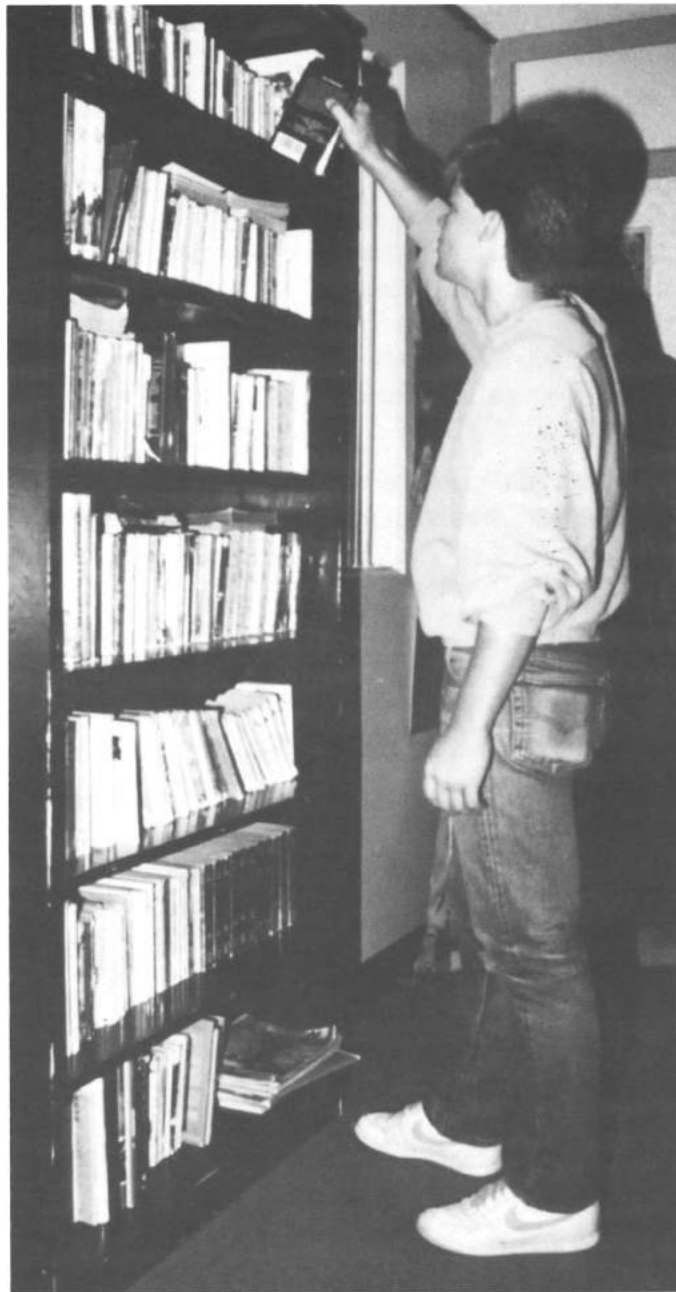


By the end of 1987 the Department had implemented a new detention program:

- To replicate the "real world," the Department places youth in programs that reflect a mix by sex and age.
- To help youth learn appropriate behavior the Level System was implemented, along with skill building training. The Level System works with privilege levels earned through positive behavior.
- To provide in-depth evaluation of each detained youth, the Orientation and Assessment Unit was established. An individual Service Plan is developed for each youth to identify special service needs.
- The Special Programs Unit was closed.

While the new detention program was being implemented, efforts were underway to reduce the population of detained youth. New detention criteria were developed in collaboration with judges, prosecutors and public defenders, which limited detention to youth serving sentences, youth accused of offenses who were dangerous or likely to fail to appear for court, or youth with warrants. Average Daily Population in Detention went from 114 in 1986 to 97 in 1987.

In addition to the new detention program, attention was given in 1987 to the poor condition of the facility itself. Consultants were hired to develop population projections and make recommendations about improvements needed in the physical plant to allow for the best possible detention program. In the near future the facility will be greatly improved due to work done in 1987.



*Detained youth have many recreational and educational choices including plenty of books.*

## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Department's Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in 1978 to bring citizen opinions and suggestions into the programs of the Department and to provide an advisory body for the Director and County Executive on general issues affecting King County Youth.

Members are appointed by the King County Executive for three-year terms. They are selected to reflect the geographic and ethnic diversity of the county.

In 1987 the Citizens Advisory Committee focused their attention on the new detention programming, spending time observing activities, talking to youth and staff, and working with the Director to support the programmatic changes.

Citizens Advisory Committee members serving in 1987 were:

Debra K. Boyer	Frances Lett
Mimi Pautzke Chaves	Fred Maxie
Lee Fletcher-McGookin	Eugene Peterson
John J. Greaney	Joanne Roddis
Patricia Hellwig	Terry Seaman
Barbara Heneghan	Sheila Rae Smith
Monica Leigh	Robert Swanson