

Prison

City of Atlanta

Prison Farm

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Table of Contents

I. Introduction

II. Previous Reports Status Report

III. Current Facilities *****

IV. Population ***

V. Budget *

VI. Appendix April 26, 1971 Attachments (2)

Prepared by:

The Mayor's Staff jointly
with the Department of Planning

The City of Atlanta Prison Farm is located on Key Road on 343 acres of city-owned property in unincorporated DeKalb County. The City of Atlanta Prison Farm became operational under the authority of the 1952 Plan of Improvement, legislation dealing with the City of Atlanta and Fulton County responsibilities.

The City of Atlanta Prison Farm is currently operated by the Atlanta Police Department. The Director of the Farm is a Police Department Captain who is on loan or leave of absence to the Prison Farm. Policies and guidance for the operation of the Prison Farm are established by a Prison Committee of the City of Atlanta. This committee is

Table of Contents

	Page
I. Introduction	1
II. Previous Reports	3
III. Current Facilities	6
IV. Population	7
V. Budget	8
VI. Appendix	Attachments (2)

A brief synopsis of each of these reports is provided below.

A. A survey of the Atlanta, Georgia Prison Farm, by the Field Service Division of the International Association of Chiefs of Police was published in February, 1965.

The purpose of this report was to identify and define problem areas related to the Atlanta Prison Farm, analyze each problem, and recommend solutions for each problem. The study identified

essentially the eight problems that are listed below.

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In past years, the City of Atlanta Prison Farm has been studied several times. The International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Community Council of the Atlanta area, and the Division of Mental Health of the Georgia Department of Public Health have studied the Prison Farm and its operations. A brief synopsis of each of these reports is provided below.

- A. A survey of the Atlanta, Georgia Prison Farm, by the Field Service Division of the International Association of Chiefs of Police was published in February, 1965.

The purpose of this report was to identify and define problem areas related to the Atlanta Prison Farm, analyze each problem, and recommend solutions for each problem. The study identified

essentially the eight problems that are listed below.

1. Lack of Planning
2. Failure to define tasks and assign responsibilities
3. Lack of written procedures
4. Lack of a clear chain of command
5. Inadequate housing for inmates, complicated by a lack of health and safety factors
6. An inadequate or non-existent program of medical treatment, recreation, work, counseling, and rehabilitation of inmates
7. An insufficient number of employees
8. A lack of an established, acceptable, and vigorously administered program of recruitment, screening, selection, and training for employees

Recommendations dealt basically with the improvement of current facilities and procedures and not with the overall objectives of the institution.

Previous Reports

(a) Comprehensive Plan for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Chronic Court Offenders in Atlanta and Fulton County, Georgia and prepared by the Community Council of Atlanta and the Metropolitan Atlanta Commission on Crime and Delinquency in 1968. The following is a summary of their final report.

The City of Atlanta has the highest drunk arrest rate in the U. S. Although it is not possible to make an accurate estimate, evidence indicates that there are between 6,000 and 10,000 individuals in the City of Atlanta who are chronic alcoholics and subject to frequent arrest.

The prime responsibility for developing and co-ordinating the proposed comprehensive program for treatment and rehabilitation of chronic alcoholics rests with the state and county health departments. The Fulton County Health Department should be designated to be responsible for overall supervision and administration of the program. An Alcoholism Treatment and Rehabilitation Division should be established within the Fulton County Health Department to act as overall control agency. Operating cost of such a Division is estimated at \$120,715 per year for personnel, supplies and services.

One or more detoxification centers should be established in or near downtown Atlanta to take in all alcoholics who volunteer for treatment or are arrested. The Center should register, examine, diagnose, and treat all who are admitted. Fulton County Health Department should be responsible for such a center.

A twelve to fifteen bed Intensive Treatment Unit should be established at Grady Hospital. This Unit should treat alcoholics whose problems are too serious to treat at a Detoxification Center. Staffing would be provided by Grady and Emory Medical Schools.

A 200 bed short-term in-patient facility should be established at the City Prison Farm, (Ed. Note - This would be in addition to existing facilities and services currently being provided). Fulton County Health Department should have operational responsibility with support from the state and city. It should have a multi-disciplinary staff capable of giving a full range of rehabilitation services.

Short-term intensive treatment should be followed up by a comprehensive system of after-care out-patient services. Four kinds are needed:

1. Out-patient clinics
2. Domiciliaries
3. Community houses
4. Half-way houses

Out-patient clinics and half-way houses are the most important of the four.

Numerous potential Federal, State, and City funding sources are available to assist Fulton County in financing an alcoholic rehabilitation program. The tax would be paid to the State Revenue Commissioner who would remit it to the source county. The remitted revenue could be used only to finance alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation programs.

The total estimated initial capital cost was estimated to be \$437,6000 without half-way houses and \$587,600 with them. The estimated annual recurring costs were \$1,298,814 without half-way houses and \$2,210,814 with them. The total first year cost was estimated to be \$2,648,414. Total estimated annual income to Fulton County from an Alcoholic Beverage Wholesale Tax was \$4,234,700.

Model legislation is included in the Comprehensive Plan.

(Editorial Note: The only implementation of this report has been a greater working relationship between the Police Department and Grady by which police bring some alcoholics to Grady Hospital for detoxification and medical treatment. Alcoholics who don't have to go to jail are referred to the Georgian Clinic. Crisis Intervention Service provides psychiatric help at Grady on an out-patient basis.)

(b) A comprehensive Plan for the Prevention and Control of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence for Georgia was prepared by the Division of Mental Health of Georgia Department of Public Health in 1968. The following is a summary of their final report:

The State, as of December 31, 1967, operated nine alcoholism clinics with a total caseload of 2,684 for that year. One, the Georgian Clinic, is located in the Atlanta area; its caseload was the largest in the system at 773 in 1967.

1. A full range of services - detoxification, diagnostic, medical psychological, social services, and after-care or out-patient care for at least three years.
2. A multi-disciplinary staff --psychiatrist, M.D.'s, ministers, etc.
3. A system of programs which are tailored to meet the treatment needs of the various types of alcoholics.
4. A central referral system to refer alcoholics to various agencies and services available.

The state should be responsible for matching grants to localities for hospitalization and out-patient treatment, consultation and staff development programs, and mechanisms for disseminating information about new treatment techniques.

To help create manpower for alcoholic rehabilitation, it was recommended that universities establish curricula and stipends for students of rehabilitation work, and that hospitals establish internships for such students.

As an aid in financing alcoholic treatment, several Federal programs were identified. The Mental Health Community Centers Construction Act of 1963 provided matching funds for construction and initial staffing of mental health facilities, if they contained the following basic services:

1. In-patient
2. Out-patient
3. Partial hospitalization
4. Emergency services
5. Consultation, education and after-care

The Economic Opportunity Act could provide 90% of general operating costs. The Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 provided 30% construction costs for mental health facilities and 100% operating costs for the first two years, 50% for the next three years. (Note: Part of the metro region is in Appalachia, but the Prison Farm is not.)

In addition to the Federal programs, the report recommends that 10% of the States' annual \$41,000,000 from alcohol tax be put into treatment programs instead of current 2%, but is recommended that adjoining counties co-operate in development and operating of comprehensive alcoholic programs to reduce individual county cost. Finally, localities should consider purchasing services from private agencies to reduce costs.

Current Facilities

The main prison building is a one and two story concrete and concrete and block structure consisting of a men's dormitory, women's dormitory, kitchen, dining room, gym and offices. The main prison building was built in 1944 and the women's block was the most recent addition completed in 1969.

The other buildings comprising the Prison Farm are listed below with type of construction and year of construction.

<u>Building</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Year of Construction</u>
Administration Building	1 story brick	1969
Boiler Room	Concrete	1944
Two warehouses	1 story stone	1927
Barn	Stone	early 1920's
Grain Storage	Wood	Not Available
Hog and grain storage	Wood and metal	1950
Corn storage and mill	2 story stone	1927
Dairy barn	2 story wood	Not available
Milking barn	Wood	1949
Nine small livestock buildings	Concrete block	Various

Population (Inmate)

On December 31, 1969 there were 1,603 men and 96 women at the Atlanta Prison Farm. During the entire year 17,537 men and 1,320 women were held as prisoners at the farm, 85%-90% of whom were chronic alcoholics. The staff consists of two administrators, two clerical, eight nurse matrons and 47 correctional officers who oversee the work details on the farm.

(See attachment)

Budget

Taken from a Status Report on the City Prison Farm dated March 10, 1971, the annual operating budget is \$840,945.28. This figure is the operating budget for the year of 1971. The amount may vary from year to year. (see attached)

City Prison Farm - Current Status Report
March 10, 1971

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET \$ 840,945.28 (1971)

TOTAL VALUE OF LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS \$1,844,641.54

343 acres at \$3,000 per acre \$1,029,000.00
Building Assets 715,641.54

PRISON POPULATION (1969-1970) 17,861 per year

Alcoholics 85%
Other 15%

TOTAL STAFF 59

Forum (Administration and Corrections)

Dairy 11
Swine 1
Shop 1
Maintenance 3

Security

Administration 1
Male Division 25
Female Division 8

Mess Division 5

Clerical

Senior Clerk 1
Typist Clerk 1