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Contact:

LGBT History Project
Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES
CORRECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT
SEPTEMBER 1975 through MAY 1976

Deborah E. Boyle - Convener
Harry E. Smith - Co-convener

This report covers the major activities of the corrections sub-committee since its first meeting in September 1975. Prior to this date most business was handled at regular Task Force meetings.

Initial meetings centered largely around specific complaints received from incarcerated persons. These were all examined and discussed with corrections personnel. There were also some difficulties with certain organizations which were experiencing difficulty visiting some inmates. These problems have been pretty well resolved.

Concern was raised about Gay Literature and its availability in institutional libraries. Bibliographies were distributed to all libraries and coordination with the Department of Education was begun to facilitate improvement in the institutional libraries. The issue of material which may be received by mail by inmates was discussed. It was determined that correctional policy leaves approval of various publications to the discretion of a publications committee at each institution. Continuing efforts are being made by the corrections subcommittee to obtain a standardized list of approved publications from the Bureau of Correction.

In the juvenile area, discussions have focused on the foster home program and the possibility of having homes run by Gays. This is an area of continuing discussion. Lists of institutions for juveniles have been requested by the committee.

During the fall, at the State Gay Conference in Harrisburg a successful workshop was held.

Considerable thought and discussion has been centered around the education of correctional personnel concerning homosexuality. Currently some educational materials are being developed for distribution and for use in training by correctional agencies.

The corrections subcommittee generally meets monthly at the Human Relations Building in Harrisburg. There are three (3) council members on the committee along with three (3) state employees from juvenile and adult corrections. Currently there are approximately six (6) non-council members actively involved. Several other persons are on the mailing list but currently not active.

Goals for the coming year include:

1. Identify and support other organizations involved with prison reforms.
2. Serving as a resource for education to organizations and other agencies dealing with corrections.
3. Follow-up work on individual complaints from persons incarcerated in Pennsylvania.
4. Determine the guidelines for Foster Homes and disseminate this information.
5. Develop materials for the training of employees in corrections, perhaps by obtaining a consultant to develop the materials.