

WALLA WALLA DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL, INC.

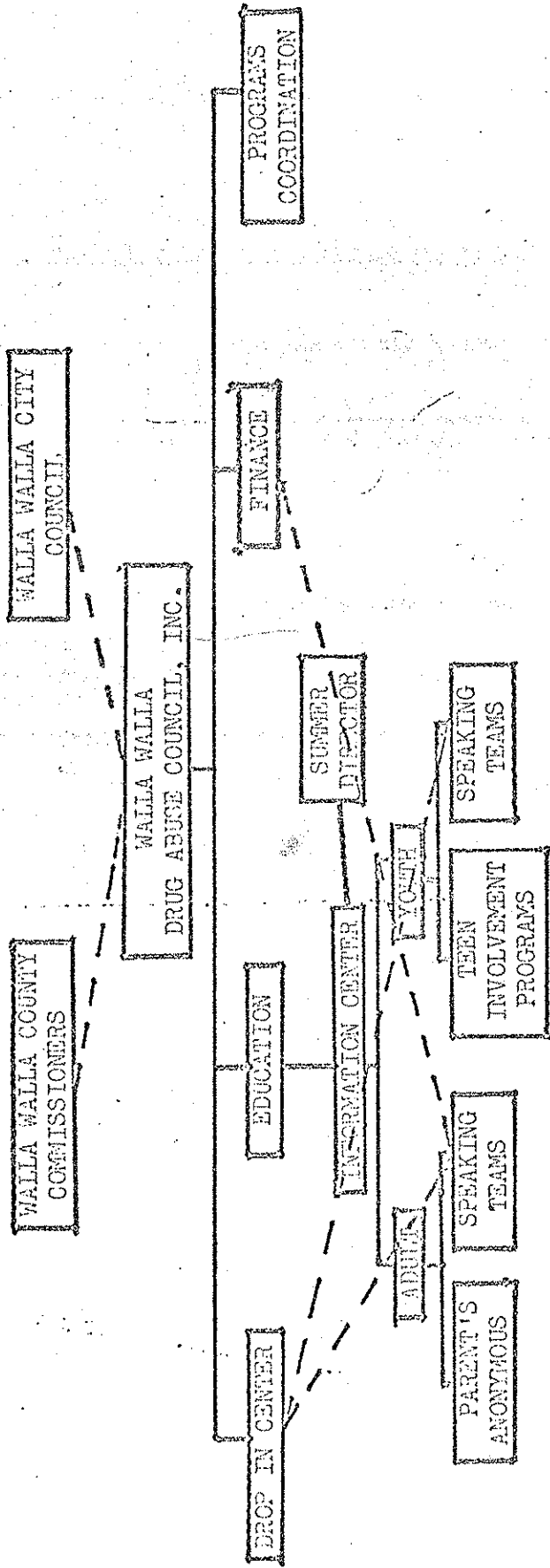
1971 REPORT

Walla Walla Drug Abuse Council, Inc. 1971
Report.

INTRODUCTION

This report of the activities and progress of the Walla Walla Drug Abuse Council, Inc., for 1971 is submitted to the Walla Walla County Commissioners, the Walla Walla City Council, the membership of the Drug Abuse Council and interested citizens of Walla Walla to illustrate the progress of this organization. This report will sketch the history of the Council and describe the programs under its jurisdiction.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE WALLA WALLA DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL, INC.



PURPOSE---The purpose of the Walla Walla Drug Abuse Council, Inc. is to formulate and coordinate a drug abuse program for the City and County of Walla Walla by mobilizing the available resources of the community.

OBJECTIVE---The objective of the Walla Walla Drug Abuse Council, Inc. is to implement the recommendations of the Walla Walla County-City Drug Abuse Council as presented on January 9, 1971.

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HISTORY

The Walla Walla Drug Abuse Council, Inc., was formed in January, 1971 upon the recommendation of a 54 member study committee appointed by the Walla Walla City Council and the Walla Walla County Commissioners to study the drug abuse problem in Walla Walla city and county. The study group was appointed in December, 1969 at the request of Governor Daniel J. Evans. This group studied the local problem in depth for one year and established twenty-three recommendations to assist in the prevention and rehabilitation of the local drug abuse problem.

MEMBERSHIP and OFFICERS

The original fifteen members of the Council were appointed by the County Commissioners and the City Council. The membership shall be the directors duly elected and at least three but not more than four of the membership are to be individuals 19 years of age or under at the time of their election. Five members are to be elected each year for terms of three years and the members shall be residents of Walla Walla County. Ten members of the original Council remain on the Board of Directors. All but one of these changes has been due to accepting different assignments that made it an impossibility to serve on the Council.

The Council was under the able leadership of its president, Larry Brown, assisting Larry were Dick Neher, vice-president, Chris Walker and Betsy Harris, secretary and Jack Engeln, treasurer. Betsy Harris willingly accepted the secretarialship of the Council when Chris Walker left town to attend college.

A list of the current Council is as follows:

	<u>Occupation</u>
Larry Brown, president	Manager, Low Cost Drug Stores
Dick Neher, vice-president	Principal, Walla Walla High School
Betsy Harris, secretary	Teacher-aide, Green Park Elementary
Jack Engeln, treasurer	Pharmacist, Walla Walla General Hospital
Dr. Joseph Barnes	Professor, Walla Walla Community College
Dwight Bond	Health & P. E. Consultant, School Dist. #140
Paul Brown	Student, Walla Walla High School
Nancy Bunt	Director, Campfire Girls
Mrs. Del Lanphier	Homemaker
Pat Oliver	Student, DeSales High School
Steve Ringhoffer	Attorney
Bill Ruther	Businessman
Dr. Quentin Schwenke:	Physician
Mrs. Al Torretta, RN	Registered nurse

The remaining position was created by the resignation of Dr. Philip Barnard of the Mental Health Center and will be filled soon. Other persons that have ably served the Council and had to resign because of a change in position are Donn Adams and Reverend Richard Williamson. Commissioner James Stonecipher and Councilman Dan Swank have served as ex-officio members of the Council.

Many members of the Council are also actively involved with phases of the drug abuse program other than the Council. Bill Ruther, who spends many hours as chairman of the Drop-In Center also initiated the Boy Scouts of America drug program called "Boy Scout Reach-Drug Alert". Jack Engeln has presented numerous programs to professional and civic groups on drug abuse.

The Council held monthly meetings to discuss the drug abuse problem and oversee the various projects under their jurisdiction. Committee meetings were held when the business on hand necessitated such action. All in all, the Council worked diligently to fulfill its purpose to formulate and coordinate a drug abuse program for Walla Walla by mobilizing the available resources of the community.

DROP-IN CENTER, "NEW MORNING"

After the formation of the Council, the first major task that was accomplished was to establish a Drop-In Center. David Burgess was employed to develop, implement and administer a program for serving youth problems by establishing a Drop-In Center. The Center was to provide counseling, referral, community education and research and crisis intervention service for youth of our community.

Dave Burgess has enlisted contacts and developed an effective Drop-In Center. He has maintained an effective liaison with the Council, city and county officials, law enforcement agencies, Mental Health Center and youth. Bill Ruther was appointed by the Council as chairman of the Drop-In Center committee.

The Drop-In Center went into operation the third week in April utilizing a house owned by the county located on the corner of 5th and Poplar. The location was ideal because of its relationship to St. Mary's Hospital, the Mental Health Clinic and the absence of a substantial residential area. The house received minor repairs and was put into operating condition mainly through the efforts of the staff and youth of our community.

Numerous training sessions were conducted for members of the staff. These sessions were under the direction of the Mental Health Center, Middle Earth, the Richland Drop-In Center and the Open Door Clinic in Seattle. As all of the staff is selected by Mr. Burgess, these sessions proved to be most valuable to assist in the efficient operation of the Center.

The Center operated a three part program; a meeting place for youth; an arts and crafts program and referral agency for emergencies. As a meeting place for youth it proved to be very successful. Tabulated on the basis that one different visit each day constituted the daily count, there were 8,413 visits from May 1 through September 30. When re-evaluation of the Center was completed in early October, it was felt the program was well enough established that the daily count was eliminated so the time of the staff could be spent assisting in other phases of the program. The maximum for one day was 131 visits. Many of these visits were by youth that would otherwise be spending their idle time on the streets in the community.

Programs were established in leather work, beading, macrame, metal casting, tie dying and silk screening. Entertainment was provided by guest speakers, musicians, films, etc. Personnel from other agencies in Walla Walla presented programs containing information valuable to our youth. A voter registration drive was conducted in late summer and early fall.

Referrals and emergencies varied from persons overdosing on drugs to social problems. These totaled 54 and in one case it was quite evident that a life was saved by the immediate action of taking an overdose problem directly to the hospital. The major share of the referrals were to the Mental Health Center and the County Health Department.

In November, the Drop-In Center took over the youth employment program formerly operated by the Blue Mountain Action Council. This project is currently being conducted by two staff members from the Center. This program has afforded these young men the opportunity to accept responsibility while providing a definite service to the youth of our community.

The results of the Drop-In Center which has been in operation for only eight months would have to be judged as very successful. A minor problem was corrected in early October when the Center was closed for approximately 5 days for reevaluation of the total program. The problem was corrected by establishing an age limit "under 21 years of age" for admission to the Center without permission of the Director or Chairman. The words of Dave Burgess so pertinently summarize the Center. They are the "existence of such a community concern has seemed astonishing to many young people who use the Center-especially to those for whom feelings of alienation have been habitual".

EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

The Education Committee, through its investigation and with the assistance of Dr. Philip Barnard, a Council member and director of the Mental Health Center, found that there were matching funds available through the Department of Mental Health of the State of Washington for projects relating to the drug abuse problem. Matching funds were received from the Council, Walla Walla College, Whitman College and the Exchange Club to establish an educational project. The total amount budgeted for the project was \$4,000.00.

Dr. Joseph Barnes of Walla Walla Community College was contracted to direct the project. He was assisted by Bill Winters. These gentlemen spent most of the summer compiling information on tapes and slides, previewing and screening written and printed materials on drugs, etc. The proposal was to design and produce audio-visual program packages informing parents of the various aspects of the drug scene in the local area and to inform the community of the purpose and work of the WWDAC, Inc. Smaller audio packages and programs were to be developed relating to specific problems and programs in the local drug scene. A resource file of periodicals was to be established through careful screening of the masses of literature available and presented to the libraries in our area.

This project proved to be quite an extensive undertaking. In January, 1972 the initial phase of this project consisting of a large file of previewed written material and two audio programs titled, "Youth Talk About Drugs" and "Tell It All Brother" will be sent to the recipient agencies. Still in production and expected to be completed soon are two audio-visual presentations on the purpose and work of the Council and the ecology of our area and how it relates to the drug abuse problem.

It is the desire of the Council that these programs will be of benefit to the population of our area, especially the youth. It is the feeling of many of the Council members that the ultimate solution to the drug abuse problem is in education and hopefully this project will assist in the means to this end.

PARENTS ANONYMOUS

The Parents Anonymous, under the direction of Council member Mrs. Al Torretta, was established to educate parents relative to the drug abuse problem and to provide parents and children with a forum to reestablish communication. The program was officially begun in November after a period of planning. To date, it is too new to offer a valid evaluation of the project.

BUDGET and FINANCE

Walla Walla County and the City of Walla Walla jointly financed the Council. The initial request for \$17,400.00 was approved in February and the amount was pro-rated for the remainder of 1971. As indicated in the Educational Project report, additional funds were received from cooperating agencies for this specific project.

The 1972 proposed budget was submitted in September. This proposal was much easier to determine as the actual figures from 1971 were available to assist the Finance Committee. The request is for \$16,470.00 and there is a possibility that a grant from the State of Washington Department of Mental Health for \$4,133.00 will be approved to assist in our budget request as well as a small sum left over from 1971. These additional amounts will be deducted from the proposed request of \$16,740.00.

The possibility of utilizing additional funds from the Law and Justice grant was explored, however, it was determined that funds from this agency would not be available for this project.

ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS

In April, the Associated Students of Whitman College, the Associated Students of Walla Walla College, the Associated Students of Walla Walla Community College and the Walla Walla Drug Abuse Council, Inc., submitted a proposal to the U. S. Office of Education. This proposal would provide the opportunity for our three local colleges to work closely with community leaders to combat the growing proportions of drug abuse in this area. Financial means for projects of this nature were made available through the Drug Education Act of 1970. This proposal was an extensive undertaking and would provide many programs for combatting drug abuse. This proposal was rejected.

During 1972, Whitman College with the cooperation of the Council and presumably the other colleges are going to request a grant for a similar project from the National Institute of Mental Health.

CONCLUSION

The progress of the Walla Walla Drug Abuse Council, Inc., for 1971 would have to be classified as successful. Agencies and individuals have been most cooperative in assisting the Council. The cooperation of the county and city governments has been overwhelming. A major share of the recommendations presented by the original study group have been or are in the process of being initiated. There is conclusive evidence that this program has been of assistance to a number of young persons and their relationship with the drug abuse scene. The Council would like to take this opportunity to express their appreciation to all the agencies and individuals that have been of assistance in the fulfillment of our goals.