

To The Honorable Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor

To The Honorable The City Council

Annual Report of the  
Department of Public Welfare for the  
Twelve Months Ended September 30, 1956

February 7, 1957

To the Honorable Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor, and the Honorable the City Council:

In compliance with the ordinances of the City of Providence, I submit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Public Welfare for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1956.

FOREWORD

An accurate accounting of our annual expenditures is enclosed herewith. It may be noted that the sum total of costs exceeded those of the previous year by \$24,000.00. Home relief increased by \$30,600. but the cost of administration was reduced. The year 1954-1955 was the first of five during which the declining costs trend was reversed and expenditures increased. At that time we pointed out that relief could be found only through an expansion of the labor market. That is no less true today.

It has been an evident and sobering fact that even a minor decline in employment increases our costs considerably. In this respect the flight to the suburbs of "middle income" families has become a relatively new factor in recent years. Some of these families have been replaced by others of lower economic status. Because these are in the marginal labor group their means of self maintenance are readily jeopardized by declines in the employment rate.

The turnover in personnel continues to be the primary problem for staff and administration. Numerous and frequent staff vacancies do not permit the covering of caseloads with the intensity for which we aim. Our staff members have accomplished splendid results in the face of difficulties.

I am grateful and indebted to Your Honor and to you Gentlemen of the City Council for encouragement and support.

Respectfully submitted,

*James V. Mc Govern*  
Director of Public Welfare

IN CITY COUNCIL  
FEB 7 - 1957

READ:  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

*N. Everett Whelan*  
CLERK

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1956

	<u>Personal Services</u>	<u>Services Other Than Personal</u>	<u>Materials &amp; Supplies</u>	<u>Special Items</u>	<u>Equipment Outlay</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Welfare Activities						
Welfare Administration	\$ 33,946.75	\$ 784.99	\$ 377.79			\$ 35,109.53
General Public Assistance Administration	190,068.66	16,898.44	9,667.98		654.39	217,289.47
General Public Assistance Home Relief	<u>229,515.44</u>	<u>229,515.44</u>	<u>139,023.04</u>	<u>1,512,423.45</u>	<u>654.39</u>	<u>1,880,961.93</u>
Total Welfare Activities	\$224,015.41	\$247,198.87	\$149,068.81	\$1,512,423.45	\$654.39	\$2,133,360.93

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURES

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1956

Welfare Activities

Welfare Administration

Personal Services

001 Salaries - Permanent Positions	\$31,369.25
002 Salaries - Temporary Positions	2,577.50
Total	<u>\$33,946.75</u>

\$33,946.75

Services Other Than Personal

109 Fees Not Otherwise Classified - Including Automobile Registration and Licenses	24.00
115 Transportation of Persons - Conventions	59.60
117 Travel Subsistence - Conventions	120.00
144 Repairs to Automobiles and Trucks (Municipal Garage)	581.39
Total	<u>784.99</u>

784.99

Materials and Supplies

211 Motor Fuel	354.64
212 Lubricants	23.15
Total	<u>377.79</u>

377.79

Total Welfare Administration

\$35,109.53

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURES - continued

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1956

<b>Materials and Supplies</b>		
201 Stationery, Printed Forms and Office Supplies	\$2,905.97	
211 Motor Fuel (Public Works Revolving Fund)	1.90	
212 Lubricants (Public Works Revolving Fund)	.18	
231 Medical, Chemical and Laboratory Supplies	8.11	
232 Pharmaceuticals	47.74	
241 Fuel	5,577.86	
244 Household Supplies and Minor Equipment	849.62	
261 Gravel, Sand and Stone (Public Works Revolving Fund)	2.00	
262 Cement, Plaster and Related Products	1.41	
266 Lumber and Hardware	67.18	
267 Paint and Painters Supplies	190.84	
268 Plumbing and Electrical Supplies	15.17	
Total	9,667.98	
<b>Capitol Outlay</b>		
501 Office Furniture, Machinery and Equipment	645.00	
531 Household and Laundry Equipment	9.39	
Total	654.39	
Total - General Public Assistance Administration		\$217,289.47

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURES

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1956

General Public Assistance-- Home Relief Grants

Services Other Than Personal		\$42,554.00
102 Medical Services		302.50
116 Transportation		35.01
131 Heat, Light and Power		1,889.12
169 Rental Not Otherwise Classified		168,912.33
184 Hospitalization		15,787.48
185 Burials		35.00
199 Miscellaneous Services Not Otherwise Classified		35.00
Total		\$229,515.44

Materials and Supplies

204 Wearing Apparel and Personal Supplies		367.96
231 Medical, Chemical and Laboratory Supplies		8,474.93
232 Pharmaceuticals		28,994.35
241 Fuel		2,204.20
242 Food		98,893.60
244 Household Supplies and Minor Equipment		88.00
Total		139,023.04

Special Items

351 Cash Direct Relief		
Total		1,512,423.45

Total - General Public Assistance - Home Relief Grants

\$1,880,961.93

GRAND TOTAL - WELFARE ACTIVITIES

\$2,133,360.93

BUREAU OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Record of Cases  
October 1, 1955 to September 30, 1956

Non-support of Families.....	179
Illegitimacy.....	142
Minor's Permit to Marry.....	4
Report on Reciprocal Legislation.....	10
Lawyer's Referral.....	6
Warrants issued.....	58
Arraignments.....	41
Appeals.....	2
Trials.....	25
Releases.....	9
Discontinued Cases - Miscellaneous.....	161
Discontinued Cases - Court.....	11

CASH RECEIVED

Non-support arrangements-----	\$33,974.43
Illegitimacy payments a/c-----	17,022.50
Final settlements on Illegitimacy cases-----	7,850.00
Hospital payments on Illegitimacy cases-----	<u>4,036.87</u>
Total-----	\$62,883.80

DEXTER ASYLUM

Table showing by months the number of persons admitted, the number discharged, the number of deaths, and the total number remaining, both men and women.

For the Fiscal Year 1955 - 1956

	Admitted	Discharged	Died	Remaining	Men	Women	Native Born	Foreign Born
<u>1955</u>								
October	0	1	0	27	15	12	21	6
November	0	0	0	27	15	12	21	6
December	0	0	0	27	15	12	21	6
<u>1956</u>								
January	0	0	1	26	15	11	20	6
February	0	0	0	26	15	11	20	6
March	0	0	0	26	15	11	20	6
April	0	0	0	26	15	11	20	6
May	0	0	0	26	15	11	20	6
June	0	0	0	26	15	11	20	6
July	0	0	0	26	15	11	20	6
August	0	0	0	26	15	11	20	6
September	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	25	15	10	20	5
Total	0	2	1					

There was one less admitted during the past year than in the previous fiscal year; two less discharged and six less in number of deaths.

DEXTER ASYLUM

A table showing the total expenditures, the total receipts and the net expenditures of the Institution every three months during the Fiscal Years 1954 - 1955 - 1956.

Fiscal Year 1955 - 1956

<u>Quarter Ending Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Institution Expenses</u>	<u>Other Receipts</u>	<u>Board of Residents</u>	<u>Net Cost</u>
December '55	\$22,284.12	\$ 5.70	\$1,111.71	\$21,166.71
March '56	24,928.70	45.91	931.71	23,951.08
June '56	23,548.47	22.84	1,597.71	21,927.92
September '56	<u>24,034.78</u>	<u>9.97</u>	<u>937.71</u>	<u>23,087.10</u>
Total	\$94,796.07	\$84.42	\$4,578.84	\$90,132.81

Fiscal Year 1954 - 1955

December '54	\$21,924.45	\$10.12	\$1,632.43	\$20,281.90
March '55	24,036.99	11.77	1,100.17	22,925.05
June '55	23,117.03	6.68	1,210.14	21,900.21
September '55	<u>24,063.37</u>	<u>35.90</u>	<u>1,010.71</u>	<u>23,016.76</u>
Total	\$93,141.84	\$64.47	\$4,953.45	\$88,123.92

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The Statistics for Dexter Asylum for the Fiscal Year 1955 - 1956

The number of residents October 1, 1955	28	
" " " " admitted during year	<u>0</u>	
Total		28
The number of residents discharged	2	
" " " " died	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
" " " " remaining Sept.30,1956		25

Average Number of Residents 26

Total Expense of Dexter Asylum for Fiscal Year		\$94,796.07
Received for Board of Residents	\$4,578.84	
Other Receipts	<u>84.42</u>	
Total Receipts -----		<u>4,663.26</u>
Net Expense -----		\$90,132.81