

When attention is turned to how the particular services discussed above are patterned in the way they appear relative to one another, the most common grouping of the two finds education and employment linked together. Sixty percent of our centers exhibit this pattern. The next most common pattern involves the linkage of employment and welfare or employment and health services. Just over one-half of our centers show one or the other of these patterns. If we turn to patterns involving three services, the most common arrangement finds education, employment, and welfare linked together closely followed by a linkage among education, welfare and health services. Forty-five percent of our centers show the first of these three-service patterns while forty percent show the second. With respect to groupings involving four services, only one seems noticeably frequent—namely, the linkage among education, employment, welfare, and health services. Forty percent of our twenty centers exhibit this pattern. Parenthetically, it might be mentioned that all of the centers in small communities and rural areas exhibit this four-service pattern, and two of the five intermediate size communities show it. It is in the large communities that we find the greatest diversity in service patterning.

With respect to the service patterns described above, a cautionary note should perhaps be added lest one be misled by reading into the findings implications that are not properly there. For example, although the most common pattern involving two services links together education and employment, there is no evidence that these represent a coordinated service package in most of the centers exhibiting this pattern. Quite to the contrary, the two services deal with different clientele. The overwhelming bulk of the education service focuses on children and adolescent youth. It is not education directly geared to developing occupational skills. Indeed, there is little evidence in any of the centers suggesting carefully planned efforts to present well coordinated service programs. This is something often talked about but rarely achieved. At present, with rare exceptions the most that can be said about the coordinating function of neighborhood centers is that they represent a single accessible point for the dissemination of information about services. This is a convenience for clients seeking information and represents a service whose values should not be underestimated. At the same time, however, it is a far cry from the idea that centers should function to coordinate services on "a case" basis. This is a much more difficult task *requiring a high order of professional and technical skills*. Where efforts have been made to set up integrated programs, the impetus seems to have come from planning at the CAA level.

The categories used in the preceding discussion inventorying center services are admittedly broad. This was necessary in order to summarize materials for all of the centers studied. As a concluding statement to this section of the report, however, it might be enlightening to examine a more detailed listing of some of the services reported by our field researchers—that is, specific services that might not come to mind readily when contemplating the broad service categories used for statistical purposes.

Under the rubric of recreation a great variety of activities can be listed. These include efforts to arrange team sports for young people by setting up quasi-leagues for different ages groups. Along the same lines, a number of centers are fostering teen clubs for boys and girls, day camps, teen-age dances, and classes in arts and crafts. Such activities are especially promoted in the summer when the close of school leaves great numbers of young people in a state that might be described as "not so much free as at large." One center has tried to promote family recreation nights at the center in an effort to deal with the poor as family units. This has not been notably successful except among those who already seem to have a healthy family life.

One segment of the poverty population which has frequently been very much neglected is the elderly people. Center services catering to the needs of this clientele element include such things as a medicare alert effort, the establishment of senior citizens' clubs, and the organization of volunteers to visit and lend assistance to those confined to their homes. One center which is located in an area with a high proportion of elderly residents has been quite successful in promoting services of the kind described here.

Another, somewhat distinctive population element in need of special service attention is the ethnic minority and foreign-born element. Centers with substantial numbers of such residents in the neighborhood have frequently set up English language classes and "Americanization" programs for these people. A few centers have tried to help those residents who have run afoul of