

Finding aid for the Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence Records

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Finding aid written in und

Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections

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Summary Information

Repository: Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections

Creator: Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence

Title: Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence records

Identifier: M027

Date: 1972-1989 (bulk 1976-1981)

Physical Description: 4.40 cubic feet (14 containers)

Language: English

Physical Location

71/2

Overview

The Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence was founded in Boston in 1975 in response to the proposed establishment of a "special unit for violent women" at Worcester State Hospital. Comprising ex-mental patients, mental health workers, and prisoner rights groups, the Coalition launched an extensive letter-writing campaign forcing the Department of Mental Health to hold public hearings on the need for the unit. Widespread opposition to the plan prevented the unit from ever opening. The Coalition went on to protest the development of other "special units" at various Massachusetts facilities before disbanding in 1988.

Overview

The records of the Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence document the group's formation and operation as an anti-violence grassroots organization, its work at various institutions including Bridgewater State Hospital and the Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Framingham, and the activities of various anti-institutional violence and anti-prison groups in the 1970s-1980s. Records include correspondence, financial records, minutes, fliers, brochures, newsletters, press releases, articles, information packets, and testimonies.

System of Arrangement:

Organized into 3 series: 1. Administration; 2. Project Files; and 3. Related Issues.

Conditions Governing Access:

The collection is unrestricted.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the University

Archivist.

Historical Note

The Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence was founded in 1975 in Boston. The group was comprised of ex-mental patients, mental health workers, and prisoner rights groups. The Coalition formed in response to the construction of a "special unit for violent women" from state mental hospitals and state prisons at Worcester State Hospital. Through an extensive letter writing project the Coalition forced the Department of Mental Health to hold public hearings required by the Determination of Need process. Due to numerous testimonies in opposition to the unit and documentation showing the unfeasibility of the unit, it did not receive funding and never opened.

In addition to their work against the Worcester Women's Unit, the Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence attended numerous public meetings and conducted letter writing projects against other "special units." These projects included the Worcester Regional Adolescent Program, an Adult Psychiatric Unit and later a Pediatric Psychiatric Unit at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester and a "special unit for violent women" at the Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Framingham. The group disbanded in 1988.

Bibliography

- History of the Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence [M27, Box 1, Folder 12]

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence
- Mentally ill prisoners -- Massachusetts
- Mentally ill women -- Massachusetts
- Prison violence -- Massachusetts
- Prisoners -- Civil rights -- Massachusetts
- Reformatories for women -- Massachusetts
- Violence in women -- Massachusetts
- Women prisoners -- Civil rights -- Massachusetts
- Women's Educational Center (Cambridge, Mass.)

Collection Inventory

1. Administration, 1976-1988

Arrangement:

Alphabetical

Summary:

The Administration records focus on the group's formation and operation as a grassroots organization. The collection includes correspondence between the Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence and its supporters, politicians, and other anti-institutional violence organizations (Box 1, Folders 5-6); information on the Coalition's publicity efforts, including fliers (Box 1, Folder 24, Box 13, Folder 279, and Box 14, Folder 293) and newsletters (Box 2, Folder 27); material documenting the group's fund raising efforts (Box 1, Folders 10-11); and minutes from the group's most active period, 1976-80 (Box 1, Folders 14-7).

Physical 0.5 cubic ft.**Description:**

Austin, Lee and Sunny Robinson: Interview, n.d.

Box 1 (Mixed Materials)

Chronology of the Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence, 1977

Box 1 (Mixed Materials)

Contacts: Lists (2 folders), n.d.

Box 1 (Mixed Materials)

Correspondence (2 folders), n.d., 1976-1980

Box 1 (Mixed Materials)

Endorsement Letters for the Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence, 1977

Box 1 (Mixed Materials)

Finance

Bank Account Statements, 1977-1978

Box 1 (Mixed Materials)

Donations, 1977

Box 1 (Mixed Materials)

Funding Proposals (2 folders), n.d., 1979-1981

Box 1 (Mixed Materials)

History of the Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence, 1976-1986

Box 1 (Mixed Materials)

Log, ca. 1977

Box 1 (Mixed Materials)

Minutes (4 folders), n.d., 1976-1980	Box 1 (Mixed Materials)
Notes, n.d., 1977, 1988	Box 1 (Mixed Materials)
Orientation: List, n.d.	Box 1 (Mixed Materials)
Outreach: Forms, n.d.	Box 1 (Mixed Materials)
Phone Tree, 1981	Box 1 (Mixed Materials)
Principles of Unity, n.d.	Box 1 (Mixed Materials)
Publicity	
Benefit, 1979	Box 1 (Mixed Materials)
Fliers (3 folders), n.d., 1977-1979	Box 1 (Mixed Materials) Box 13 (Mixed Materials) Box 14 (Mixed Materials)
Graphics, n.d.	Box 1 (Mixed Materials)
Information Packet, 1977	Box 2 (Mixed Materials)
Newsletters, n.d., 1979-1980	Box 2 (Mixed Materials)
Press List, n.d.	Box 2 (Mixed Materials)
Press Releases, 1977-1978	Box 2 (Mixed Materials)
Public Service Announcements, 1977	Box 2 (Mixed Materials)

Volunteers: List, n.d.

Box 2 (Mixed Materials)

2. Project Files, 1973-1989

Arrangement:

Alphabetical

Summary:

Project files are of special interest because they extensively document the work of the Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence. Members retained detailed paperwork on each project. The Coalition worked against proposed "women's violent units" at Bridgewater State Hospital (Box 2, Folders 32-40), Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Framingham (Box 2, Folders 41-50), Metropolitan State Hospital (Box 2, Folders 51-6), and Worcester Women's Unit at Worcester State Hospital (Boxes 6-8, Folders 105-55 and Box 13, Folders 281-4). In addition to their opposition of "special units for violent women," the Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence also worked against an Adult Psychiatric Unit (Box 4, Folders 85-7) and a Pediatric Psychiatric Unit (Box 5, Folders 88-93) at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester. The Coalition documented and worked to stop regional adolescent programs (Box 3-4, Folders 57-84). There is information on several Regional Adolescent Programs, including Centerpoint (Box 3, Folders 58-65), Medfield, Najnah (Box 4, Folders 73-5), Solomon Carter Fuller (Box 4, Folders 80-1), and Taunton. One of the Coalition's largest projects was against the proposed Regional Adolescent Program at Worcester State Hospital (Boxes 5-6, Folders 94-104 and Box 13, Folder 280).

Records for each of these projects include advisory committee minutes; appeals against funding; articles about the proposed units; correspondence between the Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence, politicians and other government officials, between the Coalition and Ten Tax Payer groups (groups of supporters, or opponents, who received information on the proposals, funding, hiring of directors, etc. regarding these units); determination of need applications (A determination of need application is a process for receiving funding; they require public hearings.); evaluation reports; information packets; lists of Ten Tax Payers groups; petitions; staff and summary reports; photographs; and testimonies.

Physical 2.3 cubic ft.**Description:**

Bridgewater State Hospital (9 folders), n.d., 1974-1977

Box 2 (Mixed Materials)

Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Framingham (10 folders), n.d., 1973, 1980-1989

Box 2 (Mixed Materials)

Metropolitan State Hospital (6 folders), n.d., 1978-1979

Box 2 (Mixed Materials)

Regional Adolescent Programs

Analysis of Similarities and Differences Among Regional Adolescent Programs DYS and State Hospital Youth, 1980

Box 3 (Mixed Materials)

Centerpoint (8 folders), n.d., 1977-1980	Box 3 (Mixed Materials)
Evaluations: Notes, n.d.	Box 3 (Mixed Materials)
Evidence of Monitoring and Evaluation Studies of the Regional Adolescent Programs, 1980	Box 3 (Mixed Materials)
Health Systems Agency Staff Report on Regional Adolescent Programs, 1979-1980	Box 3 (Mixed Materials)
Medfield and Taunton Regional Adolescent Programs, 1977-1979	Box 3 (Mixed Materials)
Program Regulations: Regional Adolescent Programs, ca. 1980	Box 3 (Mixed Materials)
Proposed Effectiveness Evaluation, ca. 1980	Box 3 (Mixed Materials)
Sampling of Typical Regional Adolescent Program Clients, 1980	Box 3 (Mixed Materials)
Najnah (3 folders), n.d., 1977	Box 4 (Mixed Materials)
"Regional Adolescent Programs: Treatment or Psychiatric Jail", n.d.	Box 4 (Mixed Materials)
Regional Adolescent Programs (Others), 1978-1980	Box 4 (Mixed Materials)
"A Report to Regional Directors on Regional Adolescent Programs", 1980	Box 4 (Mixed Materials)
Residential Units 12-month Program, n.d.	Box 4 (Mixed Materials)
Solomon Carter Fuller (2 folders), 1977-1980	Box 4 (Mixed Materials)
"A Study of Regional Adolescent Programs: Successes and Failures", 1980	Box 4 (Mixed Materials)

Summative Evaluation of Medfield, ca. 1978

Box 4 (Mixed Materials)

Summative Evaluation of Regional Adolescent Programs, 1978

Box 4 (Mixed Materials)

University of Massachusetts Medical Center Adult Psychiatric Unit (3 folders), 1983

Box 4 (Mixed Materials)

University of Massachusetts Medical Center Pediatric Psychiatric Unit (8 folders), 1977-1980

Box 5 (Mixed Materials)

Worcester Regional Adolescent Program (11 folders), 1978-1981

Box 5 (Mixed Materials)

Box 6 (Mixed Materials)

Testimonies: Audio Cassette, ca. 1980

Box 13 (Mixed Materials)

Worcester Women's Unit (53 folders), n.d., 1973-1980

Box 6 (Mixed Materials)

Box 7 (Mixed Materials)

Box 8 (Mixed Materials)

"Women's Anger and Violence": Audio Cassettes, 1977

Box 13 (Mixed Materials)

3. Related Issues, 1972-1988

Arrangement:

Alphabetical

Summary:

Related issues were used by the Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence for background information, networking, and as a resource library. The material offers a glimpse into the activities of various anti-institutional violence and anti-prison groups in the 1970s and 1980s. Included are articles, brochures, newsletters and reports relating to issues on anti-racism, deinstitutionalization, the Department of Mental Health and of Youth Services (Massachusetts), feminist therapies, involuntary commitment, mental health and mental patients, prisons, psychotherapy, sterilization and women and violence (Box 9-14, Folders 156-300). There is material on several support committees for prisoners including Ella Ellison (Box 11, Folders 228, Box 13, Folder 287), Jay Freeman (Box 11, Folder 233), the Norfolk-Walpole strike (Box 11, Folder 240, Box 13, Folder 288), Willie Sanders (Box 12, Folder 252) and Susan Saxe (Box 12, Folder 246 and Box 14, Folder 300).

Physical 1.6 cubic ft.

Description:

Alliance for the Liberation of Mental Patients, 1980

Box 13 (Mixed Materials)

Angola Solidarity Coalition, n.d.	Box 9 (Mixed Materials)
Anti-Racism Materials, n.d., 1979-1980	Box 9 (Mixed Materials)
"Assaults on Women: Rape and Wife Beating", 1980	Box 9 (Mixed Materials)
Backman Senator Jack: Finding Aid, 1988	Box 9 (Mixed Materials)
"Beacon Hill Update": Newsletter, 1979-1980	Box 9 (Mixed Materials)
Behavior Modification, 1979	Box 9 (Mixed Materials)
Black Young Women in the Community Workshop, 1976	Box 9 (Mixed Materials)
Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of Public Inpatient Mental Health Services (2 folders), 1980	Box 9 (Mixed Materials)
Boston Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, n.d.	Box 9 (Mixed Materials)
Children Psychiatric Standards, 1975	Box 9 (Mixed Materials)
"Children's Campaign '74", 1974	Box 14 (Mixed Materials)
Citizens for Participation in Political Action, 1977	Box 9 (Mixed Materials)
Civil Rights Guidelines, 1980	Box 9 (Mixed Materials)
Deinstitutionalization: Pros and Cons, 1978	Box 9 (Mixed Materials)
Delaney, Debbie: Case Materials, 1977	Box 9 (Mixed Materials)

Department of Mental Health: Budget Hearings

Notes, 1976-1979

Box 9 (Mixed Materials)

Quality Assurance, n.d.

Box 9 (Mixed Materials)

Questions and Answers, 1979

Box 9 (Mixed Materials)

Department of Youth Services (6 folders), n.d., 1977-1980

Box 9 (Mixed Materials)
Box 10 (Mixed Materials)

Elizabeth Stone House, n.d.

Box 10 (Mixed Materials)

Family Advocacy Council, n.d.

Box 10 (Mixed Materials)

Feminist Therapists, 1979

Box 10 (Mixed Materials)

Fernald State School (2 folders), 1978-1979

Box 10 (Mixed Materials)

Florida Citizens Against the Death Penalty, n.d.

Box 10 (Mixed Materials)

Florida Clearinghouse on Criminal Justice, 1977

Box 10 (Mixed Materials)

Girls on Horseback: Photograph, ca. 1958

Box 10 (Mixed Materials)

Hospital Projects, 1977

Box 10 (Mixed Materials)

"Institutions, Etc.": Newsletter, 1980

Box 10 (Mixed Materials)

Involuntary Commitment (2 folders), n.d., 1978

Box 10 (Mixed Materials)

"The Issues of Security in a Community-Based System of Juvenile Corrections", 1977	Box 10 (Mixed Materials)
Jose T. vs. Okin Case, 1980	Box 10 (Mixed Materials)
Massachusetts Accountants for Public Issues, n.d.	Box 10 (Mixed Materials)
Massachusetts Advocacy Center (2 folders), 1975-1975	Box 10 (Mixed Materials)
Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, 1978	Box 10 (Mixed Materials)
Massachusetts Association for Retarded Citizens, 1979	Box 10 (Mixed Materials)
Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women, n.d.	Box 10 (Mixed Materials)
Massachusetts Service Groups, 1980	Box 10 (Mixed Materials)
"Massachusetts Psychiatric Wards", 197?	Box 10 (Mixed Materials)
Mental Health (2 folders), 1976-1980	Box 10 (Mixed Materials)
Mental Patients (4 folders), n.d., 1974-1977, 1985	Box 11 (Mixed Materials) Box 13 (Mixed Materials)
Newsletter: "Acting Out", 1979-1980	Box 14 (Mixed Materials)
National Association of Accountants for the Public Interest, n.d.	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
National Lawyers' Guild (2 folders), n.d., 1977	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
New England Association of Scientologists for Reform Citizens Commission on Human Rights, 1976	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)

New England Human Rights Network, 1978	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
"New Right": Readings, 1981	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
People United for Free Air Waves, n.d.	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Prisons	
African National Prison Organization, n.d.	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
African National Solidarity Committee, n.d.	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
African People's Socialist Party, n.d.	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Alderson Security Unit for Women, 1977-1978	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Boston Bail Project/Bail Funds (2 folders), n.d., 1977	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Children and Prisons, n.d., 1978	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Community Prison Network, 1980	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Connolly, Mary: Case Correspondence, 1980	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
"Control Custody Care Treatment and Instruction of Inmates", 1977-1978	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Correctional Change Group, Inc., 1977	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Correctional Reform Act, 1972	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)

"Doing Time": Newsletter (2 folders), 1978-1980	Box 11 (Mixed Materials) Box 14 (Mixed Materials)
Ella Ellison Support Committee (2 folders), n.d., 1976-1978	Box 11 (Mixed Materials) Box 13 (Mixed Materials)
Families and Friends of Prisoners, Inc. (2 folders), 1977-1980	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Framingham Prison Hospital Wing: Photographs, 1976	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Friendly Visitors, Inc., 1979-1980	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Jay Freeman Defense Committee, 197?	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
JERICHO: Newsletter of the National Moratorium on Prison Construction, 1977-1980	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
"The Kite: Anti-Prison News Journal", 1979	Box 14 (Mixed Materials)
Lewisburg Prison Project, Inc., 1979	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Marion Prison: Court Transcript, 1975	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Massachusetts Women's Bail Fun and Lawyers Network, 1986-1987	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers, n.d.	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
"No More Cages": Newsletters, 1979-1980	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Norfolk Prison Strike Face Sheet, 1978	Box 13 (Mixed Materials)
Norfolk-Walpole Strike Support Committee, 1978	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)

"Olympic Jail, A Mistake", 1978	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Pontiac Prisoners Support Coalition, 1979	Box 11 (Mixed Materials)
Prisons and Criminal Justice System, 1974	Box 13 (Mixed Materials)
"Question Mark": Newsletter (2 folders), 1976-1978	Box 11 (Mixed Materials) Box 14 (Mixed Materials)
Secure Units, 1978	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
Solitary Confinement Abolition Project (2 folders), n.d.	Box 12 (Mixed Materials) Box 14 (Mixed Materials)
Susan Saxe Defense Committee, 1976-1977	Box 12 (Mixed Materials) Box 14 (Mixed Materials)
"Violence and a Violence Center", 1974	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
Walpole Prison (5 folders), n.d., 1977-1980	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
Willie Sanders Defense Committee, 1980	Box 13 (Mixed Materials)
Women in Prison, n.d., 1977-1979	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
Prostitutes' Union of Massachusetts, n.d.	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
Psychosurgery, 197?	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
"Psychotechnology and the UCLA Violence Center", n.d.	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
Psychotherapy, 1974, 1977	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)

Public Health Council (2 folders), n.d., 1980	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
Puerto Rico Solidarity Committee, n.d.	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
Report of the Governor's Determination of Need Task Force, 1980	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
"The Right to Refuse Psychiatric Medication", 1980	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
"Sanity Now": Newsletters, 1977	Box 13 (Mixed Materials)
"Science for the People": Magazine, 1978	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
"Secure Settings", 1975	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
Special Committee to Investigate Seclusion, Restraint and Deaths in State Supported Facilities, 1979	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
"State and Mind": Magazine, 1977	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
Sterilization Regulations, 1978	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
"Stop Psychosurgery", n.d.	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
Task Force on Institutional Abuse, 1978	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
Trial and Error Governor's Conference on Young Women in the Juvenile Justice System, 1974	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
Understanding the Legislature, 1979	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)
Violent Unit Proposals, 1973	Box 12 (Mixed Materials)

"We Are The River": Song, n.d.

Box 12 (Mixed Materials)

Women and Violence Conference, 1978

Box 12 (Mixed Materials)

Women, Inc., n.d.

Box 12 (Mixed Materials)

Women's Center Transsexual Women's Policy, 1978

Box 12 (Mixed Materials)

Worcester Area Community Mental Health Center, 1978

Box 12 (Mixed Materials)

"Worcester County Wrap-Up": Newsletter, 1976-1977

Box 13 (Mixed Materials)

Workshop: Notes, 1977

Box 12 (Mixed Materials)