

A special meeting of the Arden Town Assembly was held in conjunction with the Ardentown Town meeting on May 12, 1980 in the YMCA building in Ardentown. Richard Cherrin chaired the meeting. The purpose was "to hear a discussion of the proposed pre-sentence facility for women at the Ardentown YWCA. Present at the meeting were: Penny Contractor, YWCA director, Garlin Gamin, Bureau of Adult, State Correction Agency, Christina Haffer, Criminal Justice Department Martha Louis, Executive Director of Justice Department Winona Banister, Executive Director of the YWCA, Charles Hebner, Representative for Ardentown in Legislature Richard Cecil, Councilman of New Castle for this district.

Although residents of Arden were not permitted to vote, they were requested to express their opinions.

Those present were:

Mary Morley	Virginia Shaw	Bertha Brooks
Joan W. Colgan	John Hewlett	W. E. Davis
Thomas E. Colgan	Rae Gerstine	Frank Herzog
Eugene Shaw	William Press	Reese Davis
Ethel Monfort	Wayne Kershaw	Sally Hamburger
Aaron Hamburger	Vera Berk	Norman Barron
Beverly Gulley	James Gulley	Patricia Press
Paul Thompson	Marjorie Roberts	Hugh Roberts
John Grimaldi	Elvie Grimaldi	Harold Monfort
Cheryl Richardson	Jim Seménick	Beverly Barnett
Don Holcomb	Ruth Holcomb	Cy Liberman
Caroline Liberman	Bill Morley	Mathew O'Conner
John Berk		

Penny Contractor explained the proposed program. Six women would be housed for 24 hours for at least 3 month for job training, structural living, program designed to help woman learn coping with her problems. They would have weekend furloughs to visit. YWCA would totally responsible for security. They would not handle: Shoplifters, forgers, drugs or alcholics.

Christina Haffer siad that these women cases had been presented before a magistrate or municipal court. they are awaiting a decision of the judge either for conviction or acquital. The jails ore overcrowded and ther is no place to put them before court action is taken. They are generally uneducated, young black women who need quidance in planning their future.

Winona Banister Reported that many YWCA's around the country are helping with these group living projects.

There is a funding grant in aid. The YWCA will not make any money, but they need a social service type of program to continue to get money from the United Fund and Government aids.

Thomas Colgan spoke in favor of the plan. He has been involved with many kinds of help for people in need. He does not think any of the Ardens would have to fear either the group or those who might visit them.

John Sullivan, and Mr. van Sant Department of Corrections are in favor of the project.

The residents and leaseholders should be in favor of the project.

Charles Hebner thought he could arrange for legislature to back the program financially through the job corp program.

Some of the questions were who would staff this program. Most of the staff would be from the YWCA personnel. Security would be an alarm system to protect against unnoticed escapes.

The general consensus of the meeting was that everyone needed more information.

A motion was made and passed: "That Ardentown go on record opposing the proposed pre-sentence facility for women women at the Ardentown YWCA. Motion accepted: 32 ayes 12 nays.

Mary Morley
Mary Morley
Secretary of Arden Town Assembly.