

ASSESSMENT OF DISPLACED HOMEMAKER
SERVICES AND PROGRAMS
IN OKLAHOMA

By

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This study was concerned with programs and services available to displaced homemakers in the state of Oklahoma. The primary objective is to determine if Oklahoma's displaced homemaker programs meet the needs of Oklahoma's displaced homemakers.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Based on the 1980 census report, the author estimated a minimum of 38,000 displaced homemakers in Oklahoma. In 1980 there were an estimated 4,000,000 displaced homemakers nationwide (Voices for Women, 1980). The number of displaced homemakers is growing nationally at a rate of 100,000 to 150,000 persons a year (Churchman, 1982). Approximately three percent of all displaced homemakers are male ("Starting Over," 1980).

The following portrait of an Oklahoma displaced homemaker is based on information obtained during an interview with a displaced homemaker conducted by the author in October, 1982. The portrait parallels examples cited in Sommers and Shields (1978), Sommers and Shields (1979), Crabtree (1980), and Shields (1981).

For 20 years Kathy dedicated her life to the profession of homemaking. Today Kathy is a divorcee responsible for the care and support of herself and two teenagers. Although Kathy was awarded child support at the time of her divorce 11 months ago, she has not received any payments from her ex-husband. He left his job and all attempts to find him have been unsuccessful. Attempts made by Kathy to find work which pays enough to support a family have been equally unsuccessful.

Kathy completed one year of college before she and Ken were married. Her only "work experience" was as a part-time cashier in a

grocery store during her school years. Her job applications revealed no employment in the past 25 years. Her job office skills were so rusty that she could not pass a minimum speed typing test. With unemployment rates over 10 percent and still climbing, Kathy, due to her age and lack of a recent employment record, was in a group considered least likely to be successful in finding a job (Churchman, 1982). The only job offers she received were for part-time and temporary jobs paying minimum wages.

Kathy felt like she was slowly being buried alive. She was ill-equipped to accept the failure of her job seeking attempts. She was already distraught over the failure of her marriage and the resulting loss of economic and emotional security. She had lost all the benefits she had assumed would be hers for the rest of her life. Long-time friends she had depended on for support were found to be less frequently available. The mutual ties, which led to the friendships initially, had been broken along with her marriage. All the budget cutting techniques Kathy had mastered in her 20 years of marriage were of little help when she tried to save for small extras for her children from her \$90 a week take-home pay.

Kathy had previously been treated for a degenerative bone disease which doctors had warned would eventually leave her confined to a wheel chair. As a result, health insurance cost much more than she could afford to pay. Kathy had reached a point where she knew that one more failure would be more than she could handle by herself.

A California judge for the Court of Appeals accurately described the plight of Kathy and others in similar situations:

A woman is not a breeding cow to be nurtured during her years of fecundity, and then conveniently and economically

converted to cheap steaks when past her prime. If a woman is able to support herself, she certainly should do so. If, however, she has spent her productive years as a housewife and mother, and has missed the opportunity to compete in the job market and improve her job skills, quite often she becomes, when divorced, simply a 'displaced homemaker' (Sommers and Shields, 1978, p. 17).

Problem

The problem addressed in this study was lack of information concerning programs and services available to displaced homemakers in Oklahoma.

Purpose

Due to the rapidly growing number of displaced homemakers, it was felt that an assessment of Oklahoma's displaced homemaker programs would be beneficial. The purposes for this study were:

1. To identify displaced homemaker centers in Oklahoma.
2. To determine operational characteristics of Oklahoma's displaced homemaker programs.
3. To identify services available to displaced homemakers in Oklahoma.
4. To determine if there are sufficient programs offering sufficient services to meet the needs of Oklahoma's displaced homemakers.

Research Questions

This study sought to answer the following research questions.

1. How many displaced homemaker programs are active in Oklahoma?
2. What type of institutions sponsor the displaced homemaker programs?

3. What is the employment or volunteer status of displaced homemaker program staff?
4. What qualifications must be met by displaced homemakers to be eligible to participate in the program?
5. What funding sources support the displaced homemaker programs?
6. What charges for services must be paid by displaced homemaker clients?
7. How many displaced homemakers are being served by existing displaced homemaker programs?
8. What displaced homemaker services are offered?
9. Are there sufficient centers to provide for the number and location of Oklahoma's displaced homemakers?
10. Are the services offered adequate to provide for the needs of displaced homemakers?

Scope

The study attempted to identify and assess all active displaced homemaker programs in the state of Oklahoma. Detailed information on staffing, funding, services offered, and other related topics was sought from each center for tabulation on a state-wide basis.

Assumptions

The author assumed accuracy in the survey responses by program directors and other survey respondents.

Definitions

The following definitions were used in this study:

Community Resource Interventions involves contacting local agencies to provide services or assistance on behalf of displaced homemakers.

Displaced Homemaker, for the purposes of this study, refers to persons, male and female, aged 15 and over, who have lost their primary means of support through death, divorce, separation, disability or provider, or removal of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) roles due to children reaching majority.

Displaced Homemaker Centers and Programs refers to programs where several categories of services are available to displaced homemakers.

Displaced Homemaker Service is defined as one particular type of training, counseling, testing, or assistance that would fulfill a specific need of a displaced homemaker.

Drop-in Services indicates that assistance is available to a displaced homemaker on an unscheduled basis.

Fecundity is the ability to produce large numbers of offspring.

Pre-apprenticeship Training involves helping clients prepare to learn a skill.

Pre-employment Training involves helping clients prepare for success in a job.

Service Provider is any organization which provides a service to meet the needs of displaced homemakers.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Literature on displaced homemaker programs in Oklahoma was scarce. That is not to say that Oklahoma program planners have not published. A detailed volume entitled Vocational Technical Support Curriculum for Displaced Homemakers (Peltier, 1979) was developed by the Women's Resources Center, Inc., in Norman, under a grant for the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW).

For this study, the purposes for review of literature were:

1. To become familiar with the definition of "displaced homemaker" (often molded to fit mandatory qualifications set for eligibility for funding) and what individual characteristics identify a displaced homemaker to aid in identification of Oklahoma's displaced homemakers.
2. To approximate the number of potential displaced homemaker clients.
3. To become familiar with needs of displaced homemakers in order to determine potential for fulfilling those needs by Oklahoma's programs.
4. To identify methods of funding used in other states to aid in identification of funding sources in Oklahoma.

The information gathered from the review of literature contributed background information helpful in developing this research project.

Definitions

The term "displaced homemaker" was coined in California in 1974 by Sommers to identify a specific category of older women as separate from other job seekers.

She saw the analogy between displaced persons 'forcibly exiled' through social upheaval or war and a whole generation of women caught in the 1970s, 'forcibly exiled,' displaced from a role, an occupation, dependency status and a livelihood.

By definition, according to Sommers, a displaced homemaker is an individual who has, for a substantial number of years, provided unpaid service to her family, has been dependent on her spouse for her income but who loses that income through death, divorce, separation, desertion, or by disablement of her husband (Shields, 1981, p. ix).

From the initial definition, which became public domain when the first displaced homemaker legislation was passed in California on April 15, 1975, many other definitions have evolved. Bagby (1979), quoting Sommers but including men, defined displaced homemakers as "primarily older women who have been forcibly exiled from a role, an occupation, dependency status, and a livelihood" (p. 110). Sommers and Shields (1978) broadened this definition with the description of:

. . . an individual who, for a substantial number of years, has performed unpaid labor in the home, is not gainfully employed, and who has had or would have difficulty in securing employment.

She has been dependent on the income of another family member or on Federal assistance, but is no longer eligible because her children have reached their majority (p. 92).

The final report on the Displaced Homemaker Research Report (1981) in Indiana summarized a comparison of 15 definitions which indicated the three primary criteria for displaced homemaker classification are:

1. Male/Female (person)
2. Homemaker (worked in the home providing unpaid services for the family)

3. Has been dependent of another family member, but is no longer supported by that income (p. 13).

The secondary criteria for displaced homemaker classification are:

1. Has lost income of spouse through divorce, widowhood, disability of spouse, separation or desertion.
2. Underemployed (homemaker/part-time worker looking for full-time work).
3. Has lost or will lose public assistance during the next two years (pp. 13-14).

The issue of age, considered a high priority by the initial lobbyists and supporters for displaced homemaker legislation, received very low emphasis in the 15 definitions surveyed.

The Indiana Study listed displaced homemaker definitions by funding sources which limit client eligibility. The following definitions exemplify such restrictions:

Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA)

In CETA terminology, displaced homemaker is an individual who:

- a. has not worked in the labor market for a substantial number (five) of years, but has, during those years, worked in the home providing unpaid services for family members; AND
- b. 1) has been dependent on public assistance or on the income of another family member but is no longer supported by that income; OR
- c. 2) is receiving public assistance on account of dependent children in the home, especially where such assistance will soon be terminated; AND
- d. is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment (p. 48).

Vocational Education

Displaced homemakers are: Male and female adults who are -

- a. Persons who had solely been homemakers but who now, because of dissolution of marriage, must seek employment
- b. Single heads of household
- c. Homemakers and part-time workers seeking a full-time job
- d. Women and men in traditional jobs seeking employment in non-traditional areas (p. 49).

Adult Basic Education

A displaced homemaker is an individual over 35 years of age who (1) has worked without pay as a homemaker for his/her family, (2) has had or would have difficulty finding employment, (3) has depended on the income of a family member that has lost that income, or (4) has depended on government assistance as the parent of dependent children but who is no longer eligible for such assistance (p. 50).

Pelties (1979) described displaced homemakers as viewed in Oklahoma at the Women's Resource Center as follows:

A displaced homemaker is a person (usually a woman) formerly 'married' to her job as homemaker for a substantial number of years (ten or more) who suddenly becomes 'unemployed' through divorce or widowhood. She usually has no recent training or work experience with which to qualify for a job. Furthermore, she is not eligible for social security payments (she is below age 60); probably not eligible for aid to dependent children (if her children are grown); not eligible for unemployment insurance (her homemaking was unpaid labor); not eligible as a beneficiary under her absent spouse's pension, retirement, or health plan (her dependency status is gone) (p. i).

The authors of the Indiana study determined that criteria set for classification as a displaced homemaker was not representative of actual displaced homemaker clients in Indiana. The same appeared to be true of the Oklahoma definition. The Oklahoma definition appeared to be a general guideline not requiring strict adherence. Reporting on the client status at the Moore-Norman Center for Displaced Homemakers after its first year in operation, Crabtree (1980, p. 19), cited ". . . 30 percent were in transition, that is, in the process of

divorce; awaiting training slots; or had left a job because of unsuitable work conditions or low salaries." Crabtree also noted that 11 percent of the clients were over 60 years of age.

Displaced Homemaker Population

The actual number of displaced homemakers in the United States was not available. The U.S. Census does not count displaced homemakers or statistics on participants in federal programs cross-tabulated by age and sex. Vinick and Jacobs (1980, p. 10) quoted Sommers and Shields who observed that, "'homemaking is kept out of the realm of (labor) statistics' and that homemakers are in the 'statistical shadows of their husbands'." In 1978, the Alliance for Displaced Homemakers estimated two to three million women between the ages of 35 and 64 to be displaced homemakers (Sommers and Shields, 1978). The 1980 Report of the President's Advisory Committee for Women addressing displaced homemakers listed 7.7 million families headed by women, 48 percent of them with incomes below the poverty level. This report also stated that 37.5 percent of women over 40 had no husband.

According to the 1982 Information Please Almanac, the 1980 Census indicated that 48 percent (8,512,000) of persons living alone were women over the age of 45. Five million, six hundred and thirty-four thousand families were headed by women.

. . . households headed by women were the fastest growing type in the United States during the 1970s. While the number of families grew by 12 percent between 1970 and 1979, the number headed by women increased by 51 percent (p. 766).

The 1980 Census statistics on population and housing in Oklahoma counted 275,071 women over 15 years as separated, widowed or divorced. There were 93,027 female run households (58,206 with

children present) with no husband present. Thirty-one percent (28,906) of these families lived below the poverty level. There were 525,695 females 16 and over not in the labor force thus potential displaced homemakers (Displaced Homemakers Research Project [DECA], 1981).

Special Needs of Displaced Homemakers

Zawada (1980) identified 16 problems commonly faced by displaced homemakers and categorized by the professional worker who would assume responsibility:

Counselors

- fear of failure
- low self-confidence and self-esteem
- fear of making changes
- inability to assess talents, aptitudes and capabilities

Employers

- biased employer attitudes toward age and physical handicaps
- rejection and stereotyping by employers

Job Placement Specialists

- lack of labor market information
- lack of job-seeking skills
- low-paying jobs

Social Service Workers

- inadequate child-care facilities
- lack of finances
- lack of medical attention
- distrust of agency personnel

Vocational Educators

- outdated skills and training
- lack of orientation to training and work
- lack of realistic training (p. 112)

The final report of the Displaced Homemakers Research Project (1981) in Indiana listed special needs of displaced homemakers drawn from lists made during interviews with displaced homemakers and service providers and non-providers. The most common need was improved self-esteem. Displaced homemakers needed to move from their accustomed state of dependence to a state of independence.

The second most common need was for money and, thus, a job. Because of the length of time they had been out of the work force, there was a job prerequisite of vocational training, brush up of rusty job skills, training on how to compete in the work force, and help in assessment of job skills and career objectives.

The third need was help in getting through an emotional crisis complicated by the necessity of facing numerous problems simultaneously. Each of the problems had to be solved and the emotional problems overcome before the displaced homemaker was emotionally prepared to begin training for a job.

Bagby (1979) goes into more detail and increases the list of adjustment processes often experienced by displaced homemakers.

The emotional process is the shift from hurt and pain at the death of a relationship and loss of familiar duties and habits to a feeling of being worthwhile, independent, and capable.

The legal process is the shift from being uninformed, uninvolved, and confused about legal matters to questioning and probing the law and taking active responsibility for one's legal affairs.

The economic process is the shift from being dependent on a breadwinner's income, credit, and financial planning to establishing independent financial and vocational skills.

The parental process is the shift from being overly responsible and protective to supporting children's existing ties with other adults, building new support systems for one's children, and fostering their self-reliance.

The social process is the shift from dependency on the status and relationships of husband and children to building independently a circle of one's own friends and social supporters.

The psychic process is the shift from fear, despair, and loneliness to hope, purpose, confidence, and a sense of security (p. 25).

Bagby (1979) views the above listed adjustment processes as sufficiently difficult to cause the displaced homemaker to seek educational help or counseling.

Zawada (1980) pointed out some of the experiences displaced homemakers quite often face alone before finding help.

. . . continuous rejection by employers and failure to locate employment understandably provoked feelings of resentment and hostility that eventually become obstacles to training and employment (p. 110).

Due to their youth and poor or insufficient publicity, displaced homemaker programs are often the last avenue explored by the ex-homemaker. As a result, she brings with her all the fears, frustrations, and anxiety initiated by the trauma of losing her family position, and expanded by her failures in trying to gain independence on her own (Bagby, 1979).

Funding Sources

Since displaced homemakers are often having financial difficulties, indeed need of money is a major reason for seeking help, outside funding sources are critical to successful displaced homemaker programs (Sommers and Shields, 1978). Marano (1979) emphasized the need for several sources of funding so a program would not be overly dependent on a grant that might not be renewed. Guilfooy and others (1981) cited as a reason for seeking multiple sources of funding restriction of client population by eligibility criteria set by some funding sources.

Studies were conducted in Massachusetts and California on sources of financial support for displaced homemaker programs. The Massachusetts study (Vinick and Jacobs, 1980) concluded vocational education

funds were the largest source of displaced homemaker program support in the state followed closely by CETA funds. Other sources of funds included state funds, local government, educational institutions, foundations, and fees paid by displaced homemakers. Paisley, Butler and Arnold (1981), in their California survey, added to the list donations, adult education funds, industry, business or labor contributions, and employment development funds. In California, CETA funds were the major means of program support which was considered a disadvantage by the authors due to the probable upcoming demise of the CETA program.

Conclusion

The definition of "displaced homemaker," which originally intended to apply to persons over 35 who had lost their primary means of support and who had been out of the "work force" for over five years, is generally broadened to include all women who have lost their primary means of support, regardless of the nature of the support and the length of time out of the work force (if indeed out of the work force at all), and need help to prepare for a job or to improve work skills.

The number of persons classified as "displaced homemakers" is growing at a high rate indicating a rapidly growing demand for services developed specifically to help those classified as displaced homemakers. Based on the 1980 Census report the author estimated that there is a potential for over a half million displaced homemakers in Oklahoma.

Although each displaced homemaker has unique needs, most displaced homemakers need counseling, pre-vocational training, vocational training, and preparation for competing in today's work force. Displaced homemaker programs are relatively new and poorly publicized.

Displaced homemakers often do not find these programs until they have reached a point of desperation, further complicating and delaying their transition from independence to dependence (Shields, 1981).

Multiple funding sources for displaced homemaker programs are necessitated by eligibility limitations imposed by some sources and by the uncertainty of grant renewals. Over-dependence on one or two sources of funds could necessitate severe cutbacks in programs until new funding could be obtained (Marano, 1979).

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

This study was designed to obtain first, a list of all institutions offering displaced homemaker services to Oklahoma, and secondly, to obtain specific information on each displaced homemaker program. Methods used to gather information on the programs involved first, a review of literature to ascertain what services were needed, what problems were faced, how "displaced homemaker" was defined by different sponsors and by law, and what types of displaced homemaker services were offered in other states, who funded them, and how they had been assessed and evaluated.

Secondly, a survey (Appendix A), adapted from a survey prepared by Far West Laboratory for Educational Research and Development (Paisley Butler and Arnold, 1981) was sent to 31 locations including Young Women's Christian Associations (YWCA), community colleges, and four-year colleges requesting self-identification as a displaced homemaker service provider and/or identification of other known service providers. The author contacted state welfare, employment, and educational program-related offices for leads to programs serving displaced homemakers.

Thirdly, a more detailed questionnaire (Appendix B) was mailed to the 23 identified displaced homemaker program directors for detailed information on the type of services provided, client cost, funding sources, and other information relevant to this research project. The

questionnaire survey used for this part of the study was adapted from a questionnaire prepared by the Far West Laboratory for Educational Research and Development (Paisley, Butler and Arnold, 1981).

Lastly, the author had selected personal communication with displaced homemakers and directors of displaced homemaker programs throughout Oklahoma. The director of the state vocational education displaced homemaker programs provided a personal introduction of the author and her project at a state regional meeting in the fall of 1982.

Population

The population for the survey was identified through phone inquiries and the preliminary questionnaire. The population included all identified displaced homemaker service centers in the state of Oklahoma. It was found that there were two types of displaced homemaker service providers. The first type of service provider, commonly referred to as centers or programs, covered a broad range of services including counseling services, vocational training, financial aid, child care services, employment services, and medical services. These programs or centers were designed to walk the displaced homemaker through all the phases of adjustment to occupational placement. The second type of service providers offered only a limited number of services for displaced homemakers. This study included only those programs covering a broad range of services.

Instrumentation

The preliminary survey (Appendix A) was used only as a resource for locating displaced homemaker services. The second survey

(Appendix B) was adapted from a survey used in a similar study made in California by the California Department of Education and the Chancellor's office of the California Community Colleges to determine if vocational education programs met the needs of displaced homemakers and to assess those programs. The author used the survey to obtain information on the displaced homemaker programs and services available for displaced homemakers in the state of Oklahoma.

Data Collection Process

To aid in identification of displaced homemaker programs, resource questionnaires (Appendix A) were mailed to 31 two- and four-year colleges and YWCAs in Oklahoma. Secondly, state agencies were contacted by phone for leads to displaced homemaker centers. The data gathering questionnaires, with a cover letter (Appendix C) and post paid return envelopes, were mailed in mid-January to the 23 identified displaced homemaker directors. Timing for the mailing was planned to coincide with completion of yearly status reports by program directors. The deadline for response was February 21, 1983. Follow-up phone calls were placed to all service providers who had not responded by the deadline date.

Analysis and Compilation of Results

Data obtained from the preliminary survey were used to compile the mailing list for the data-gathering survey. Data obtained from the data-gathering survey were tallied by item. A histogram was designed to show the relative age of the programs on a statewide basis. Tables were designed to present characteristics of Oklahoma's displaced

homemaker programs. Each table contained a list or program characteristics, the number of programs sharing each characteristic, and the percent of programs possessing the related characteristic. Services offered by displaced homemaker programs were divided into five general categories of services:

1. Financial and emergency assistance,
2. Counseling services,
3. Medical, legal, and consumer assistance,
4. Pre-vocational services,
5. Vocational services.

A summation of each category was presented in a table.

In summary, two surveys were conducted. The preliminary mail and phone survey was conducted for the purpose of identification of displaced homemaker programs in the state of Oklahoma. The second data-gathering survey was conducted for the purpose of obtaining detailed information on the characteristics and services of each displaced homemaker program. Information obtained from the data-gathering survey was tallied and transposed on to tables presented in Chapter IV of this paper.

CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

The purpose of this study was to identify and obtain information on Oklahoma's displaced homemaker programs. In order to accomplish the study's purpose, telephone inquiries to state agencies and a preliminary mailed survey were conducted to identify displaced homemaker programs. A follow-up survey sought detailed information on each identified program. Chapter IV presents the data obtained through the surveys.

The telephone calls placed to state agencies having a logical connection with displaced homemaker services resulted in identification of 20 displaced homemaker programs. These programs were affiliated with vocational education programs, YWCAs and colleges. Three displaced homemaker programs were identified through a preliminary survey (Appendix A) mailed to 31 institutions including two and four year colleges and YWCAs. In total, 23 programs offering a full range of services to displaced homemakers in Oklahoma were identified. Name, address, and phone numbers of each program are listed in Appendix D.

Each of the identified service providers was mailed a detailed questionnaire (Appendix B) to obtain information on the establishment and staffing of the programs, funding sources, eligibility criteria for clients, charges for services, services provided, and other categories of information relative to this study. At the time of analysis,

22 of 23, or 96 percent, of the surveys had been returned. Information from the questionnaires was analyzed and placed in tables.

The data collected from this study was summarized in two major categories:

1. Organizational data on Oklahoma's displaced homemaker programs.
2. Services provided to meet the needs of displaced homemakers.

Organizational Data

Age of Programs

Displaced homemaker programs were found to be relatively new in Oklahoma. Of the 21 programs identified on the survey by the year in which the program started, 85.5 percent were less than three years old. Five programs were less than six months old. Figure 1 represents a summary of the number of programs started each year between 1972 and 1982.

Program Affiliation

The initial survey identified 23 displaced homemaker programs in Oklahoma. Program affiliation was with vocational education programs, state universities, a community college, and YWCAs. The majority (78 percent) of the centers were affiliated with vocational education programs. The distribution of affiliation of displaced homemaker programs is summarized in Table I.

Staff Size

The displaced homemaker program staff ranged in size from one part-time director to as many as five full-time employees. Two

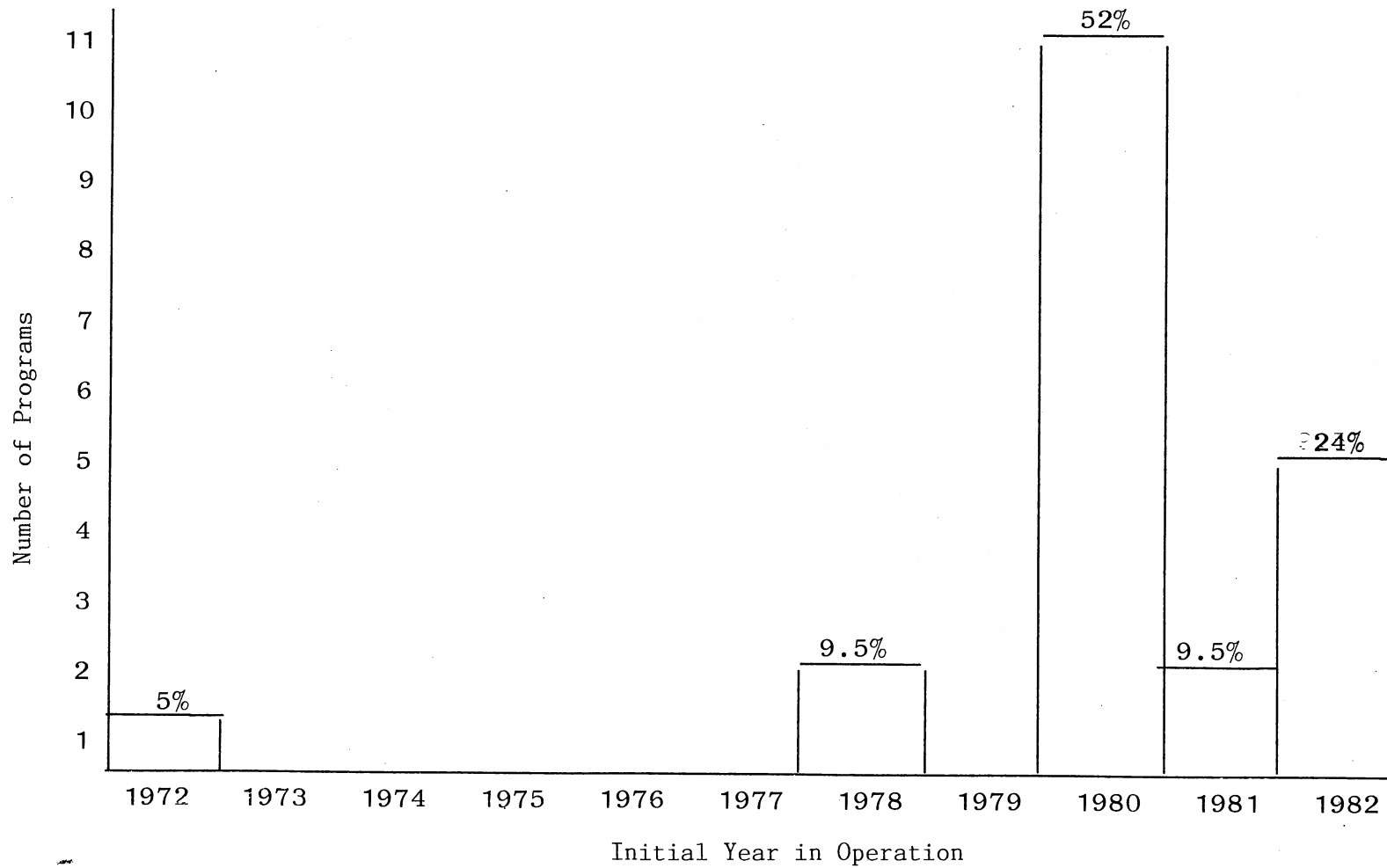


Figure 1. Graph of Beginning Year of Program Operation by Programs Originating in that Year

TABLE I
NUMBER OF DISPLACED HOMEMAKER PROGRAMS
TABULATED BY TYPE
OF AFFILIATION

Affiliation	Number of Programs N=23	Percent of Programs
Vocational Education	18	78
State Universities	2	9
YWCA's	2	9
Community College	1	4

programs utilized volunteers' services in addition to their paid staff. The majority of programs (73 percent) operated with one or two employees. It was found that all directors were salaried. A summary of the paid-staff of each program is presented in Table II.

Client Population

Five of the programs were less than six months old and one had been without a director during most of 1982, thus reliable data on client population were not available. The median client population for those programs reporting was 150 persons.

Eligibility Criteria for Clients

The majority of programs (77 percent) required no client qualification other than to meet the definition of displaced homemaker as defined earlier in this paper. Only three programs set a minimum age requirement. CETA qualifications were required for those clients receiving CETA "stipends." A summary of eligibility requirements is presented in Table III.

Funding Sources

Funding for displaced homemaker programs came from a variety of sources including sponsoring institution funds, local and federal government funds, and other outside sources. The majority (73 percent) of Oklahoma's programs were funded primarily by vocational education funds. Funding for most programs came from more than one source. Only two of the 22 respondents' programs charged for services. None of the 18 programs sponsored by vocational education charged for services. A summary of funding sources is presented in Table IV.

TABLE II
 NUMBER OF DISPLACED HOME MAKER PROGRAMS
 TABULATED BY SIZE OF STAFF

Staff Size	Number of Programs N=22	Percent of Programs
1 Part-time person	1	4.5
1-2 Full-time persons	16	73
3-4 Full-time persons	4	18
5-6 Full-time persons	1	4.5

TABLE III
 NUMBER OF DISPLACED HOME MAKER PROGRAMS
 TABULATED BY REQUIRED ELIGIBILITY
 CRITERIA FOR CLIENTS

Qualification	Number of Programs N= 22	Percent of Programs
CETA	2	9
Age	3	14
Displaced Homemaker	17	77

TABLE IV
NUMBER OF DISPLACED HOME MAKER PROGRAMS
TABULATED BY FUNDING
SOURCES

Funding Source	Number of Programs	Percent of Programs
Vocational Education Funds	16	73
CETA	8	36
Community College Funds	1	5
Adult Education Funds	2	9
Donations	2	9
Private Foundations	2	9
Grants and Scholarships	5	23
Local Government Funds	1	5

TABLE V
 NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF DISPLACED HOMEMAKER
 PROGRAMS RESPONDING "YES" TO FINANCIAL
 AND EMERGENCY SERVICE OFFERINGS

Financial and Emergency Assistance Service	Number of Programs	Percent of Programs	Number of Programs Referring Service	Percent of Programs Referring Service
Tuition Aid	14	64	1	5
Transportation Assistance	12	55	1	5
Financial Aid	15	68		
Child Care Assistance	6	27	5	23
Housing Assistance/Emergency Shelter	5	23	7	32
Battered Women Service	5	23	6	27
Community Resource Intervention	12	55		
Drop-In Services	16	73		

Provided Services Data

Respondents to the survey indicated the services provided through their programs as well as those they covered by referrals to other agencies. The services provided or referred were divided into five major groups based on survey findings:

1. Financial and emergency assistance,
2. Counseling services,
3. Medical, legal, and consumer assistance,
4. Pre-vocational services,
5. Vocational services.

Financial and Emergency Assistance

Financial and emergency assistance was offered in varying degrees by all displaced homemaker services. The types of assistance most often offered were drop-in services (73 percent) and financial aid (68 percent). The services least offered were child-care assistance (6 percent), housing and emergency shelter assistance (5 percent), and battered women service (5 percent). These were mostly referred to other agencies. A summary of the programs offering financial and emergency assistance is presented in Table V.

Counseling Services

Counseling services were either offered through the displaced homemaker program or by referral services in all cases. Counseling services most frequently offered were support groups (86 percent) and self-awareness/assertiveness training (82 percent). The service least

often referred, family counseling (18 percent), was the service, most often referred to another agency. The number and percentage of programs offering counseling services and the services offered are in Table VII.

Medical, Legal, and Consumer Assistance

Medical, legal, and consumer assistance was not offered, nor were referrals made, by three of the responding programs. Money management (64 percent) and consumer education (45 percent) were the services most often offered. Medical, dental, or health counseling services were those least offered (9 percent). A summary of the programs offering counseling services is presented in Table VII.

Pre-Vocational Services

All programs offered some type of pre-vocational service. The service most frequently listed was pre-employment or job-readiness training (77 percent). The least offered service was pre-apprenticeship training (18 percent). The number and frequency of offerings of pre-vocational services are presented in Table VIII.

Vocational Services

All programs indicated vocational service offerings. All programs (100 percent) offered career information and all but one program (95 percent) offered job opening information, referral to jobs and resume development. A summary of the programs offering vocational services by the service offered is presented in Table IX.

After indicating the services provided in their program, respondents were asked to list the services most needed that was not already

TABLE VI
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF DISPLACED HOMEMAKER
PROGRAMS RESPONDING "YES" TO COUNSELING
SERVICES TABULATED BY SERVICE OFFERED

Counseling Service	Number of Programs	Percent of Programs	Number of Programs Referring Service	Percent of Programs Referring Service
Self-awareness/Assertiveness Training	18	82	1	5
Psychological Counseling	12	55		
Support Groups	19	86		
Peer Counseling	15	68		
Divorce Counseling	13	59	2	9
Widowhood Counseling	12	55	2	9
Single Parent Counseling	12	55	2	9
Family Counseling (parent and child)	4	18	4	18

TABLE VII

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF DISPLACED HOMEMAKER
PROGRAMS RESPONDING "YES" TO MEDICAL,
LEGAL, AND CONSUMER ASSISTANCE
BY SERVICE OFFERED

Medical, Legal and Consumer Assistance Service	Number of Programs	Percent of Programs	Number of Programs Referring Service	Percent of Programs Referring Service
Medical/Dental/Health Care	2	9	6	27
Drug and Alcohol Counseling	4	18	9	41
Legal Assistance and Counseling	3	14	9	41
Money Management	14	64	1	5
Consumer Education	10	45	1	5

TABEL VIII

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS
PROGRAMS RESPONDING "YES" TO PRE-
VOCATIONAL SERVICES TABULATED
BY SERVICE OFFERED

Pre-Vocational Service	Number of Programs	Percent of Programs	Number of Programs Referring Service	Percent of Progrms Referring Service
Tutorial Services	9	41	2	9
Pre-employment Training	17	77		
Pre-apprenticeship Training	4	18	1	5
Basic Skills Training	12	55		
Life Skills Assessment	12	55		
Vocation Preference Training	14	64	1	5
Vocational Aptitude Testing	15	68		

TABLE IX
 NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF DISPLACED HOMEMAKER PROGRAMS
 RESPONDING "YES" TO VOCATIONAL SERVICES
 TABULATED BY SERVICES OFFERED

Vocational Service	Number of Programs	Percent of Programs	Number of Programs Referring Service	Percent of Programs Referring Service
Job Opening Information/Job Referrals	21	95		
Job Placement	18	82	1	5
Career Information	22	100		
Resume Development	21	95		
Job/Career Counseling	20	91		
Job/Skill Training	17	77		
Non-traditional Job Training	17	77		

provided. Financial assistance, for both personal and training needs, was listed most often. In personal and phone interviews with program directors, the author was told of the desperate need for transportation assistance due to the rural location of many of the programs and the clients. Other frequently listed needs were psychological counseling, child care, and practical job experience and training. The most needed services are presented in Table X.

In summary, Oklahoma's displaced homemaker programs were relatively new with 85.5 percent of the programs less than three years old. The majority of programs were affiliated with vocational education programs. Two people or less constituted 75.5 percent of all programs. The median number of clients served per program in the past year was 150 persons. The main support for 73 percent of the programs came from vocational education funds. Eligibility for program services was based, in most cases, on the need and desire of a displaced homemaker to participate.

Of the services provided, the category most common to all programs was vocational service offerings. The second most common category was counseling services. Many programs had arrangements with outside agencies allowing for referrals to help meet needs of clients. Medical, legal, and consumer assistance was the area of least service by Oklahoma's displaced homemaker programs.

TABLE X
SERVICES MOST NEEDED NOT ALREADY PROVIDED

Needed Service	Frequency
Financial Aid (Personal and Training)	9
Transportation Assistance	4
Counseling	4
Practical Job Experience and Training	3
Child Care	3
Housing Assistance	1
More Night Classes	1
More Services for 45-60 Year Olds	1
Housing Assistance	1
Jobs at Entry Level	1

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this study was to assess Oklahoma's displaced homemaker programs. The programs and their directors were identified through a preliminary phone and mail survey. Characteristics of and services available through the programs were determined through a data-gathering survey mailed to the 23 previously identified program directors.

Findings

The following conclusions were derived from findings of this study in relation to the study's research questions.

1. There were 23 displaced homemaker programs currently serving Oklahoma's displaced homemaker population estimated at more than 38,000 people.
2. Institutions sponsoring displaced homemaker programs included vocational education programs, YWCAs, and colleges.
3. All programs were headed by a paid director. The majority of programs were run by a staff of one or two people.
4. Any qualified displaced homemaker was eligible to participate in most programs.
5. All but two of the programs have displaced homemaker services available at no charge to the client.

6. The major source of financial support for the programs was vocational education funds.

7. The median number of clients served by each program last year was 150 people.

8. All programs offered one or more services under the categories of financial and emergency services, counseling services, pre-vocational services, and vocational services. Three programs did not offer any medical, legal, and consumer assistance, or referral to other agencies for these services.

9. There are four displaced homemaker programs in the greater Oklahoma City area and two in Tulsa. Seventeen programs covered the rest of the state.

10. More transportation and financial assistance is needed by the programs to help displaced homemakers. No state programs offered all the services suggested as beneficial to displaced homemakers.

In Oklahoma 28,906 families headed by women lived below the poverty level at the time of the 1980 U.S. Census. This survey showed the median number of clients served was 150 per program during the past year. At that rate, the 23 displaced homemaker programs currently in operation would need 8.4 years to catch up with the number of clients who, in 1980, could benefit from displaced homemaker services which would still leave the state's programs three years behind in helping those in need of their services.

Recommendations

This study presented new questions for possible additional research.

1. Where and how can additional sources of funding be secured for displaced homemaker programs?
2. Would it be feasible to establish an outreach program for displaced homemakers in areas not serviced currently by a displaced homemaker program?
3. A study to determine differences in the needs of rural and urban displaced homemakers would enable present programs to better serve their client population and aid in development of new programs.
4. A study of displaced homemakers' opinions of the adequacy of available services to meet their needs would be a benefit to the programs attempting to provide needed services.

Conclusions

The following conclusions are based on the authors' interpretation of information gathered during this study.

1. Based on the findings of this study, there may not be enough displaced homemaker programs in Oklahoma to serve the current displaced homemaker population.
2. Displaced homemaker programs may be understaffed.
3. More funds may be needed to provide more and better services for clients.
4. Oklahoma's displaced homemaker programs appeared to place more emphasis on meeting clients' higher level needs than on meeting the more basic lower level needs. If one were to compare the categories with Maslow's hierarchy of needs, one would observe that the percent of programs offering services in each service category, placed in order according to Maslow's hierarchy, is the inverse of what it

needs to be to help the client progress through the developmental stages leading from desperation and insecurity to self-assurance and security. This author would recommend that more emphasis be placed on services which would help meet lower level needs of the clients.

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APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A

INFORMATION REQUEST FORM DISPLACED

HOMEMAKER PROGRAMS/SERVICES

1. Is your organization currently providing or sponsoring any programs, workshops, courses, or other services that are designed to meet the needs of displaced homemakers, receiving displaced homemaker funding, or serving largely a displaced homemaker client group?

Yes ___ No ___

If yes, who can be contacted for more information?

Contact name: _____

Program name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____
(If space is required to provide a contact for additional programs, please use a separate sheet.)

2. Do you know of any other organization in Oklahoma that is carrying out activities directed at meeting the needs of displaced homemakers?

Yes ___ No ___

If yes, please provide me with as much contact information as you can:

Name of organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

3. Your name: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____

Please return this form in the enclosed self addressed envelope.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the Displaced Homemaker Programs and Services Directory when available, check here _____

APPENDIX B

DISPLACED HOMEMAKER PROGRAMS/
SERVICES SURVEY

1. Your Name: _____
Project/Program Title: _____
Address: _____

Telephone: Area Code () _____ County: _____
2. Describe your displaced homemaker program as you wish it to appear in the directory. _____

3. When did your displaced homemaker program start? _____
4. If your program is carried out as part of the overall activities of a larger organization (e.g. YWCA, adult education program, women's group), please name the organization. _____
5. Which of the following services do you provide for displaced homemakers? (Check all that apply.)
 job opening information/referral to jobs
 job/career counseling
 career information
 job placement
 vocational preference testing
 vocational aptitude testing
 job/skill training
 non-traditional job training
 psychological counseling
 support groups
 peer counseling

- drop-in services
- transportation assistance
- consumer education
- battered wife services
- life skills assessment
- basic skills testing
- self-awareness/assertiveness training
- drug/alcohol abuse counseling
- money management
- medical/dental/health counseling
- divorce counseling
- widowhood counseling
- family counseling (child and parent)
- single parent counseling
- legal assistance/counseling
- child care assistance
- tutorial services
- tuition aid
- housing assistance/emergency shelter
- financial aid
- resume development
- community resource interventions
- pre-apprenticeship training
- volunteer training
- other (please describe): _____

6. What services do you think are most needed by displaced homemakers that you do not now provide? _____

7. What special courses or workshops do you regularly offer specifically for displaced homemakers? _____

8. Do your displaced homemaker clients have to meet any special qualifications such as CETA eligibility, age guidelines, or residency requirements in order to participate in your program? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, What are the qualifications? _____

9. Do you charge for any of the services you provide? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, for which ones do you charge and how much?

Do you have membership dues? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, what are they? _____

10. a. How is your displaced homemaker program supported?
(Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> vocational education funds | <input type="checkbox"/> donations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> community college funds | <input type="checkbox"/> private foundation grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> adult education funds | <input type="checkbox"/> industry, business, labor contributions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CETA funds, indicate title:
_____ | <input type="checkbox"/> employment development funds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> local government (county, city, etc.) funds | <input type="checkbox"/> other (please describe): |

11. How is your displaced homemaker program staffed?
Please list each position title (e.g. director, counselor, job specialist) and circle employment status (full or part time and paid or volunteer) for each position title. If additional space is required, please attach separate sheet.

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Employment Status</u>
1. _____	full time part time paid volunteer
2. _____	full time part time paid volunteer
3. _____	full time part time paid volunteer
4. _____	full time part time paid volunteer
5. _____	full time part time paid volunteer

12. What methods do you typically use to reach disabled homemakers to inform them of your services? (Check all that apply.)

posters, brochures _____
 media coverage: radio TV newspapers _____
 paid advertisements: radio TV newspapers _____
 public service announcements: radio TV _____
 contacts with women's organizations _____
 contacts with family and social service agencies _____
 contacts with former and current clients _____
 contacts with educational institutions _____
 contacts with employment development department _____
 other (please describe): _____

13. Do you have a working relationship or agreement with any business, labor, or industrial organization in your area?

Yes NO
 If yes, please describe. _____

14. Do you have a working relationship or agreement with any local adult education program, vocational training schools, or community college? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, please describe. _____

15. Briefly describe any other working relationships or agreements with other organizations that are important for your displaced homemaker program (for example, with an employment development office, social services agency). _____

16. What materials or information have you developed that can be acquired by interested persons (brochures, workwhop materials, etc.). Please give ordering information and, if possible, attach copies. _____

17. Approximately how many displaced homemaker clients did you serve in the past year? _____

18. What information have you compiled on client characteristics (age, sex, ethnicity, education, previous work history, number and age of children, marital status - separated, divorced, widowed, disabled spouse, single - etc.)? Briefly describe and/or attach reports that address all or some of these areas. _____

19. What information have you compiled on the success of your displaced homemaker program, such as the number of clients placed in jobs? Briefly describe and/or attach reports. _____

Thank you for assisting me in this study. If you would like a copy of the directory based on the survey information, please check here. _____

Please use the return post paid envelope enclosed to return this survey by February 21 to:

Susan L. Murphy
13919 Whippoorwill Drive
Choctaw, Oklahoma 73020

APPENDIX C


COVER LETTER

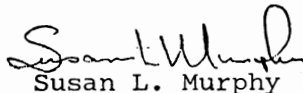
I am conducting a survey of displaced homemaker programs and services in Oklahoma. This study will gather information useful to displaced homemakers, displaced homemaker service providers, and referral agencies.

A major activity of the study is to obtain information on programs and services that are being provided for displaced homemakers in Oklahoma. You have been identified as a project or agency currently providing or sponsoring services that are specifically designed to meet the needs of displaced homemakers. I hope you will take a few minutes to complete the enclosed Displaced Homemaker Programs/Services Survey.

The information gathered from this questionnaire will be used in two ways. The information from questions 1-9 will be used to compile a directory of displaced homemaker programs and services. The remaining information will be used only in analyzing and reporting data across all programs. Individual programs will not be identified with the information gathered from questions 10-19.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Enclosed with the questionnaire is a post paid return envelope for your convenience. If my information is incorrect and you are not currently serving displaced homemakers, please indicate that on the survey form and return it to me. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at 405/769-4164.


Dr. Jerry Davis
Asst. Professor OAED
Oklahoma State University
Research Advisor


Susan L. Murphy

APPENDIX D

DIRECTORY OF DISPLACED HOMEMAKER

PROGRAMS IN OKLAHOMA

Vocational Education Programs--Schools and Addresses

Bill Willis Skills Center 1400 Hensly Drive Tahlequah, OK 74464	918-456-2594
Caddo-Kiowa AVTS P.O. Box 190 Fort Cobb, OK 73038	405-643-2387
Canadian Valley AVTS-Chichasha 1401 Michigan Avenue Box 1292 Chickasha, OK 73018	405-224-7220
Central Oklahoma AVTS 3 CT Circle Drumright, OK 73030	918-352-2551
Eastern Oklahoma County AVTS 4601 North Choctaw Road P.O. Box 867 Choctaw, OK 73020	405-390-9591
Francis Tuttle AVTS 12777 North Portland Oklahoma City, OK 73142	405-722-7799
Gordon Cooper AVTS P.O. Box 948 Shawnee, OK 74801	405-273-7493
Great Plains AVTS 4500 West Lee Blvd. Lawton, OK 73501	405-355-6371
Indian Capital AVTS-Muskogee Route #6, Box 206 Muskogee, OK 74401	918-687-6383
Kiamichi AVTS-Idabel Route #3, Box 50VT Idabel, OK 74745	405-286-7555
Kiamichi AVTS-McAlester Box 308 McAlester, OK 73501	918-647-4525
Mid-America AVTS Box "H" Wayne, OK 73095	405-449-3391

Moore-Norman AVTS 4701 Northwest 12th Norman, OK 73069	405-364-5763
Oklahoma City Adult Vo-Tech Training Center 201 Northeast 48th Oklahoma City, OK 73105	405-524-2319
Red River AVTS Box 1088 Duncan, OK 73533	405-255-2903
Southwest Oklahoma Skills Center 1117 North Spurgeon Altus, OK 73521	405-497-2439
Tulsa County AVTS 3420 South Memorial Tulsa, OK 74145	918-627-7200
<u>College Affiliated Programs</u>	
Phase II Adams House 610 South Adams Street Stillwater, OK 74074	405-624-5864 405-624-6570
Office of Continuing Education Carl Albert Junior College Box. 606 Poteau, OK 74953	918-647-2124
Many Return to School Southeastern Oklahoma State University Durant, OK 744701	405-924-0121
<u>YWCA Affiliated Programs</u>	
Adult-Teen Program Carolyn LaMar 525 South Quincy Enid, OK 73701	405-234-7581
Displaced Homemaker Program 1920 South Lewis Tulsa, OK 74104	918-749-2519

VITA

Susan L. Murphy

Candidate for the Degree of
Master of Science

Thesis: ASSESSMENT OF DISPLACED HOMEMAKER SERVICES AND PROGRAMS IN
OKLAHOMA

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degree in Social Science from Troy State University in 1977;
completed requirements for Master of Science degree at Okla-
homa State University in May, 1983.

Professional Experience: Assistant Buyer, Rines Brothers, Inc.,
1961-1962; Service Representative, New England Telephone and
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Education Association, 1978-1980; Representative of the
University of Oklahoma on Tinker Air Force Base, 1982-present;
Adult Education Specialist, Adult Education Center of Okla-
homa City Public School, 1982-present.

Professional Organizations: American Association for Adult and
Continuing Education.

Honorary Organizations: Phi Kappa Phi.