Finding aid for the Special Service for Groups records 0457

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Title: Special Service for Groups records
Collection number: 0457
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.21 linear ft. 1 box
Date (inclusive): 1948-1983
Abstract: This small collection of reports, correspondence, and studies, documents the activities of Special Service for Groups, 1948-1983. Included are documents describing the history of the organization, independent evaluations of the work of the agency's social workers, documentation for an agency study, and various reports and research papers.
creator: Special Service for Groups, Inc.

Historical note
Originally founded in 1945 as the Special Service Unit of the Los Angeles Youth Project, Special Service for Groups was incorporated in March 1952 on the recommendation of the Welfare Planning Council of Metropolitan Los Angeles. Its purpose was to provide direct leadership of professional social workers working with teenage gangs and delinquent youth. In 1943, the Los Angeles "Zoot Suit Riots" called attention to the need for more adequate service to youth in the city's growing urban areas. Eleven agencies approached the Welfare Planning Council seeking funds that would allow for the hiring of additional workers to provide more adequate services to these areas, where teenage delinquency was rampant. Out of this initial request grew the Los Angeles Youth Project. Initial priorities were established, including intensified work with "pre-delinquents" and delinquent youth. Early efforts were not entirely successful, and in 1945 a special Delinquency Committee was appointed, with members coming from a wide variety of agencies. The Committee directed its attention to neighborhoods in which agencies were not making progress and in which they saw the greatest need for specialized social workers. The Committee's first recommendation was the establishment of a Special Service Unit to be set up within the Youth Project. Its primary function would be the development of a group work program for gangs and delinquent youth, and to consult with agencies in the development of these programs. By 1952, it was recognized that the Unit had demonstrated its effectiveness and thus should become a separate agency. The name was changed to Special Service for Groups, and a board of Directors elected.

Conditions Governing Access
Advance notice required for access.

Preferred Citation
[Box/folder# or item name], Special Service for Groups records, Collection no. 0457, California Social Welfare Archives, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

Scope and Content
This small collection of reports, correspondence, and studies, documents the activities of Special Service for Groups, 1948-1983. Included are documents describing the history of the organization, independent evaluations of the work of the agency's social workers, documentation for an agency study, and various reports and research papers.

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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Special Service for Groups, Inc. – Archives
Correspondence
Los Angeles (Calif.)–Social conditions--Archival resources
Minutes
Reports
Social work with juvenile delinquents--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources

Box 1, Folder 1
History and originals of Special Services for Groups 1948-1957
Community Leader evaluation 1957-1958
Scope and Content
Written evaluations of various Special Service social workers' reports.
Box 1, Folder 3  
**Agency Study suggestions 1956-1957**

*Scope and Content*
Reports regarding design and execution of a study of agency and social worker responsibilities; interview questions and responses; study report.

Box 1, Folder 4  
**Community complaints 1958**

Box 1, Folder 5  
**Research papers and reports 1961-1965**

Box 1, Folder 6  
**SSG: A 25 Year Overview 1977, 1983**

Box 1, Folder 7  
**Asian American Social Workers new demonstration project 1971**

*Scope and Content*
Report for establishment of Asian American youth agency modeled on Special Service for Groups.