

Timeline of the Mental Hygiene Program/National Mental Health Foundation

August 1942: The American Friends Service Committee opens a CPS unit at the [Philadelphia State Hospital](#).

May 1944: The Mental Hygiene Program (MHP) is established out of the Philadelphia unit with [Leonard Edelstein](#) as coordinator, [Philip Steer](#) in charge of publications, and [Harold Barton](#) with responsibility for preparing a summary statement.¹

Summer 1944: [Willard Hetzel](#) joins MHP with a focus on legal materials²; MHP has organized into committees consisting of workers from the Philadelphia unit. [Tom Leonard](#) and Jane Terhune join the Publication Committee. [Don Riggs](#), Margaret Riggs, [Tom Riggs](#), [Abe Siegel](#), and [Arthur Stevenson](#) join the Summary Statement Committee. [Bernard Lemann](#), [Ward Miles](#), and [Warren Sawyer](#) assist with the summary statement as well.³

June 1944: MHP publishes the first issue of *The Attendant*.⁴

August 1944: The audience base of *The Attendant* is broadened to include non-CPS hospital workers; MHP publishes the first issue of *Exchange Service* to be circulated within CPS hospital units.⁵

October 1944: [Barton](#), [Edelstein](#), [Hetzel](#), and [Steer](#) are permitted to work full-time with MHP as a detached service unit.

Fall 1945: The following workers are transferred as full-time assignees to the MHP: [John Steer](#), [Herbert Stoddard](#) (had already been working part-time since July), [Grant Stoltzfus](#), [Stephen Theirmann](#), [J. George Thorman](#), [Harmon Wilkinson](#), [Frank L. Wright](#).⁶

September 1945: [Edelstein](#) and [Barton](#) have their first meeting with Eleanor Roosevelt, who expresses appreciation for their work.⁷

January 1946: *The Attendant* is renamed *The Psychiatric Aide*.⁸

April 1946: MHP formally becomes the National Mental Health Foundation (NMHF). [Barton](#), [Edelstein](#), [Hetzel](#), and [Steer](#) carry over as directors.⁹

May 1946: Using data provided by CPS hospital workers, Albert Q. Maisel writes “Bedlam 1946” for a May issue of *Life* magazine.¹⁰

¹ Steven Taylor, *Acts of Conscience: World War II, Mental Institutions, and Religious Objectors* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2009), 274.

² Ibid 278; [“Mental Hygiene Program of Civilian Public Service”](#).

³ Taylor 275-6; [“Progress and Action Report”](#).

⁴ Taylor 276.

⁵ Ibid 278-9.

⁶ Ibid 282; [“The Reporter Vol. IV No. 12”](#) 3.

⁷ Ibid 287.

⁸ Ibid 283, Alex Sareyan, *The Turning Point: How Persons of Conscience Brought About Major Change in the Care of America’s Mentally Ill* (Scottsdale: Herald Press, 1994), 156.

⁹ Taylor 290.

¹⁰ Ibid 291.

July 1946: President Truman signs the Mental Health Act, creating the National Institute of Mental Health.¹¹

October 1946: [Edelstein](#) resigns and is succeeded by [Barton](#) as Executive Director; the first Board of Directors meeting takes place. By this time, NMHF has added the following employees: [Richard Hunter](#) (Educational Division), [William Keeney](#) (Educational Division), [Richard Mitchell](#) (Promotion Division), [Alex Sareyan](#) (Public Relations), [Herbert Stoddard](#) (Treasurer), [Stephen Thiermann](#) (Legal Division), and Dr. Dallas Pratt (Staff Psychiatrist).¹²

Summer 1947: NMHF publishes *Out of Sight, Out of Mind*, Frank L. Wright's compilation of anonymous accounts sent in by CPS hospital workers.¹³

Fall 1947: NMHF establishes the first Psychiatric Aide of the Year award.¹⁴

October 1947: [Paul Harris](#) joins NMHF in place of [Steer](#) as managing editor of *The Psychiatric Aide*.¹⁵

September 1948: [Barton](#) resigns from NMHF with [Hunter](#) assuming his role as acting executive secretary.¹⁶

March 1949: In preparation for National Mental Health Week, Barry Bingham sends a letter.¹⁷

April 1949: NMHF joins with the Junior Chamber of Commerce to sponsor the first National Mental Health Week.¹⁸

October 1949: A training school for psychiatric aides opens at Topeka State Hospital in Kansas following collaboration between NMHF and the Menninger Foundation.¹⁹

May 1950: [Hetzl](#) resigns from NMHF.²⁰

July 1950: NMHF board votes to merge with the National Committee for Mental Hygiene and the Psychiatric Foundation to create the National Association for Mental Health. At least five members of NMHF move to the new organization: [Harris](#), [Hunter](#), [Sareyan](#), [Steer](#), and [Roy Simon](#).²¹

March 1952: The last issue of *The Psychiatric Aide* is published.²²

¹¹Sareyan154.

¹² Taylor 322-3.

¹³ Ibid 139.

¹⁴ Ibid 309; Sareyan 159.

¹⁵ Taylor 312.

¹⁶ Ibid 340.

¹⁷ Taylor 331-2; Sareyan 151-6.

¹⁸ Taylor 331-2; Sareyan 151.

¹⁹ Taylor 310-5.

²⁰ Ibid 351.

²¹ Ibid 351-3.

²² Ibid 355.