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THE MENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM OF CIVILIAN PUBLIC
SERVICE

Purpose:

That the men who have volunteered under Selective Service to work in mental hospitals and training schools for mental deficient may apprise themselves of the service they may render to their institutions; that they may better perform that service by an exchange of knowledge regarding their mutual concerns; and that they as a united group may leave behind them when they return to private pursuits a contribution to the field of mental hygiene which will be concrete and enduring; that these men who seek in this destructive period the opportunity of contributing constructively to a war-torn world may fulfill that desire in the philosophy of love and understanding, in the hope that public institutions will fill an ever-growing role in the helping of society; and that in turn, society will have a deeper understanding of the problems and needs of its institutions.

Objectives:

Immediate

1. Publication of "The Attendant", a monthly publication which serves as a medium of exchange among men in the units in order that the benefits of individual experiences in the care of mental cases be shared by the greatest numbers.

2. Local Project Information. The dissemination of additional matter which can not be included in "The Attendant" but which will be helpful to attendants in their work with patients --- such as suggestions for recreational programs, techniques of conducting group activities, methods of handling disturbed patients, etc.

Long-range

1. Legal Survey and Statement. A review by the legal and social science talent of C.P.S. of all state laws which govern institutions caring for mental charges and the preparation of a legal index which will bring to date the controlling statutes on these matters. After this work is compiled there will be a study of the existing laws in an attempt to set up a model or uniform statute which would incorporate the most desirable features and practices of all the laws and which might be practicable for adoption by any or all of the states.

2. Statement of Institution Needs. A statement based upon the experiences of C.P.S. men working in our institutions which will be prepared in cooperation with and under the guidance of various hospital superintendents and other professional persons in the field to help interpret institutions for the layman and carry to interested groups the recommendations which will help our hospital and training school administrations and perhaps aid in the development of enlightened attitudes toward the mentally afflicted and deficient.

3. Educational Aids. The preparation of material for orientation purposes which will be helpful to attendants in caring for both the patients and themselves. This would be prepared in a simple, layman-like approach in inexpensive form so that it could be made available extensively.

Advisors:

- Dr. Earl Bond, Administrative Director of Pennsylvania Hospital
- Dr. Charles Zeller, Superintendent of Philadelphia State Hosp.
- Dr. George Stevenson, Medical Director, National Committee for Mental Hygiene
- Dr. Samuel Hamilton, President of the American Psychiatric Association and Head Examiner of Mental Hospitals, U. S. Department of Public Health

Financial Support:

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Acting Committee:

- Leonard Edelstein, Program Coordinator
- Phil Steer, Editor of "The Attendant"
- Harold Barton, Chairman of Long-range Education Survey
- Willard Hetzel, Chairman of Legal Survey and Report

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