

PROGRESS AND ACTION REPORT #2

74 450 Historical Educ. Comm.

((A meeting of the "long-range" Summary Central Committee on June 26 -- present: Abe Siegel; Don, Margaret and Tom Riggs; Arthur Stevenson; and Harold Barton -- brought forth the suggestion that answers to frequent questions concerning the program should be offered through a circular letter. Here it is:))

WHAT WAS THE ORIGIN OF THE PROGRAM? Ans.: Origins are intangible. It probably dates back to the first time a CPS man reported for duty in a mental hospital. Certainly those first men with an objective of enlarging their social usefulness must have reacted much as some of us later arrivals. It is, then, a natural growth, in view of what we found in hospitals and training schools, of that driving urge to find the channels in which we might best serve. In many units, men were wondering how the many problems of mental hygiene might be constructively faced. We felt the need for more inter-unit cooperation and sharing. SERVICE, published by the Duke University Hospital unit, and VIEWPOINT, published at the Fort Steilacoom, Washington, unit, were early avenues of such exchange; both of these were of a general nature.

In March, 1944, at a meeting of Friends' Personnel Directors, the methods of approach formulated by interested members at the Philadelphia State Hospital unit were presented by Len Edelstein. As a result the Personnel Directors, recognizing the advantage of the PSH unit in having both a full-time Personnel Director, and a full time Education Director, requested that we prepare the first issue of an inter-unit publication, undertake the completion of an outline for a Summary Statement of Conditions, and act as repository for material. Because of special interests in these phases, Phil Steer accepted responsibility for the Publications Committee and Harold Barton for the "long-range" Summary Statement Committee. The Committees were to contact other units and seek participation of interested CPS men from all hospital or training school units. From the outset the program has been devised and planned by men in these units, with an increasing degree of interest and encouragement from hospital and Service agencies representatives. The proposed "initial outline" was completed in April with sections prepared by Bernard Lemann, Tom Riggs, Ward Miles, Warren Sawyer and Harold Barton. A score or more members of the PSH unit participated with suggestions; other suggestions are still coming in from many units and from interested outsiders.

WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL PLAN? Final plans are yet incomplete. We've felt from the outset that the need for such a program was sufficiently imperative that, if necessary, CPS men would dig up the funds themselves. In the interest of an assured budget, Len Edelstein agreed to investigate and make financial arrangements. Paul Furnas of AFSC assured support and a budget of \$80 per month was allowed from CPS educational funds, including an estimated \$70 monthly for the ATTENDANT and \$10 for the initial Summary expenses. These figures are in the process of revision and a more permanent and complete participation of all agencies is hoped for. Copies of the ATTENDANT are distributed free to all CPS men in hospitals and training schools. Additional copies are sold at a slight margin over cost and profits applied to the budget. \$20 in unsolicited funds have been donated by a CPS man, a clergyman, and an educator. The first issue of the ATTENDANT (4000) cost \$100. Heavier printing is expected in the future. Both MHP Committees work in close collaboration and attempt to supplement each other; the funds are common.

CENTRAL COMMITTEES

Publication: Phil Steer
Jane Terhune
Tom Leonard

Coordinator:
← Leonard Edelstein →

Summary: Harold Barton
Don Riggs
Margaret Riggs
Abe Siegel
Arthur Stevenson
Tom Riggs

*Later
Educ. Committee*

(A list of unit advisers will soon be ready)