



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

BETHESDA 14, MD.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

April 8, 1957

Dear Mr. Fogarty:

This will acknowledge your letter of March 28, 1957, enclosing a copy of a letter you received from Buell W. Hudson, Publisher of the Woonsocket Call, Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

The most appropriate source of funds for the types of project which Mr. Hudson and the Woonsocket Public Health Nursing Association have in mind is our Mental Health Project Grants program. I am enclosing two copies of the announcement of this program for Mr. Hudson.

Of course it is not necessary for the Public Health Nursing Association to collaborate with a hospital such as Butler in order to obtain a grant. They probably would be able to design a better project, however, by collaborating with such an institution where there are staff people experienced in developing research studies. Dr. Robert Hyde, the new Superintendent of Butler Hospital, has visited this Institute to discuss his plans for Butler Hospital and also to discuss how he might participate in the Mental Health Project Grants program. It is pleasing to us that Dr. Hyde is planning to develop the hospital as a community resource and to operate as much as possible in collaboration with existing community agencies, both public and private. He plans to put many new ideas into practice and to experiment with new ways in treatment and rehabilitation. Collaboration with his program could be very fruitful for any other agency interested in mental health.

It is desirable to strengthen the official program of the States wherever possible, so it is hoped that the Mental Health Project Grants program will stimulate the statewide development of mental health programs. This will happen if projects are planned which integrate with already existing State programs. Therefore, it might be well to suggest that

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the Public Health Nursing Association in Woonsocket talk to the State Mental Health Authority -- Mr. Edward P. Reidy, Director, State Department of Social Welfare, Providence, Rhode Island -- in addition to Dr. Hyde and so become aware of both the official State program and the Butler Hospital program. There may be undeveloped areas in both the State program and in the Butler Hospital program which could be developed by means of a project. A project in after care and follow-up of mental patients discharged from the hospital would be an appropriate one for a Public Health Nursing group.

Sincerely yours,



R. H. Felix, M.D.  
Director  
National Institute of Mental Health

Hon. John E. Fogarty  
House of Representatives

Enclosures

Department of HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE • Public Health Service  
National Institutes of Health • Bethesda 14, Md.

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**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

**MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT GRANTS PROGRAM**

Under a recent amendment to the Public Health Service Act, the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, upon the recommendation of the National Advisory Mental Health Council, may award grants for special mental health projects. The purpose of the Mental Health Project Grants is to support the development of improved methods relating to the care, treatment, and rehabilitation of the mentally ill, including the development and establishment of improved methods of operation and administration of State mental institutions.

Grants may be made to State or local agencies, both public and private, institutions, laboratories, and individuals for such investigations, experiments, demonstrations, studies, and research projects as are relevant to the purpose of the legislation.

The scope of the program is broad. It is not confined to intrahospital studies but includes such extrahospital developments as alternatives to hospitalization and after-care programs. Areas in which projects may fall include all age groups of the mentally ill and the field of mental retardation.

Projects may involve:

- a. Developing improved methods of care, treatment, and rehabilitation of the mentally ill.
- b. Testing applicability of methods on a hospital and community basis.
- c. Demonstrating the feasibility of, and thereby encouraging the adoption of, new methods.
- d. Developing and establishing improved administrative techniques and practices.

Projects should be so designed that they may be described and reported and be of such a nature that the findings will be of significance to others working in the field.

**How to Apply**

All requests for support must be submitted on special application forms which may be obtained upon request from the National Institute of Mental Health, Bethesda 14, Maryland.

Applications should be submitted by March 1, July 1, or November 1, for review by the Council in the following June, November, or February.

**Other Information**

In order to activate the program as rapidly as possible, applications received by January 1, 1957, will be submitted to the February meeting of the Council. We look forward to Congressional action making funds available for this purpose.

The grants awarded under this program shall be known as **MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT GRANTS**.