

DEPARTMENT Cambridge State Hospital*Office Memorandum*TO : Roland M. Peek, Ph.D.
Coordinator of Research

DATE: April 24, 1972

FROM : Frederick Rudzick 
Chairman, Hospital Research Committee

SUBJECT: Progress Reports for Research Projects of the Past Year

A Data Processing System and Evaluative Research Program for Cambridge State Hospital (CSH-70-1).

The research proposal indicated that the goal of this project was to "assess programming needs and provide evaluative data on treatment programs, so that future legislators and administrators can make resource-allocation decisions on the basis of empirical evidence rather than on armchair impressions." The program is ongoing with the hospital taking over the cost of leasing equipment in the next fiscal year and submitting a research grant proposal for hiring a Research Director. At present, the data processing system is being used mainly for evaluation and administrative purposes such as printing UPFORMS, providing statistical information to facilitate decision making and providing for planning purposes. general information regarding resident population characteristics.

Dermatoglyphics in Mental Retardation (CSH-70-3).

This study was undertaken in the hope that "Dermatoglyphics will provide a method of recognizing types of mental retardation associated with skull malformations and provide an early diagnostic tool for the clinician working with these malformations." At this time last year, a progress report was sent indicating that although a study had been completed, it had not been written in final form. I have written the authors requesting another summary or reprints if available, but I have not received a reply. Further attempts to get the information will be made.

Treatment of Self Destructive Behavior in a Nine-Year-Old-Girl (CSH-71-1).

This study proposed to decrease or eliminate self-destructive behavior in a nine year old girl through the use of aversive conditioning techniques. Following approval from the Mental Health Medical Policy Committee and a complete physical examination, the aversive contingency described in the proposal was initiated on January 31, 1972. The contingency continues in effect at the present time. Self-destructive behavior has decreased from a base rate of 82 hits in three minutes to an average of 1.6 hits per day during the week of 3/27 to 3/31.

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At the present time the modifier is experiencing difficulty which seems to be associated with the subject's ability to discriminate the presence of the trainer since his presence in close proximity to the subject is necessary for administration of the aversive stimulus. He has requested additional equipment to deal with this problem and hopes to be receiving new equipment in the near future. With the utilization of the additional equipment, the goal of the program should be reached within a month from the time the equipment is received.

Behavior Shaping Program Utilizing a Volunteer Trainer (CSH-71-2).

In his proposal, the author indicated that "volunteers are a resource which may be utilized in a more structured manner than in the present. There should be important benefits to the resident as well as the volunteer at relatively little cost to the institution. The program suggested herein offers the opportunity for learning on the part of the volunteer as well as the patients involved." This program was terminated September 1, 1971 when the volunteer-trainer, a student, returned to school. During the program four residents were involved and the trainer maintained daily records of their behavior. He was to submit a report together with the data during the first week following termination. However, this was not forthcoming nor have we been successful in our efforts to contact him. For this reason we have no data concerning the results of the program.

The Effects of Programmed Music on the Mentally Retarded (CSH-71-3).

The purpose stated in this proposal was to study the effect of music on residents who spent most of their day on their respective wards in the various hospital cottages. The project has been temporarily discontinued because recent changes in Unit Programming has resulted in residents spending a good portion of their day in Day Activity Centers rather than wards.

Caries Experience of Mongoloid and Non-Mongoloid Institutionalized Retardates (CSH-71-4).

In their proposal the authors indicated that "a difference has been demonstrated in decay rates between institutionalized retardates with Downs-Syndrome and other retardates. This study may contribute to the understanding of the reasons for this difference, which in turn may help to explain the metabolic results of the genetic defect in Downs-Syndrome." The authors of this ongoing study are continuing to gather statistical data but have indicated that they plan to complete the study in the very near future.

Flexibility in the Mentally Retarded: The Transfer of Positive and Negative Learning (CSH-71-5).

The purpose of this study is to "investigate the possibility that trainable retarded (TMR), educable retarded (EMR), and normal subjects depend on different learning processes in transfer situations. It is hypothesized that normal and educable mentally retarded subjects

use different transfer processes from trainable retarded subjects, and that there will be no qualitative difference between normal and educable mentally retarded except some degree of quantitative in positive learning and negative learning." An attempt has been made to obtain a progress report from the investigator who has moved out of state. To date we have received no reply to our request for information. Further attempts will be made.

Use of Time-Out Chair for Control of Maladaptive Behaviors in Project Teach Areas (CSH-71-6).

This proposal aimed at reducing maladaptive behaviors in Project Teach areas by the use of a Time-Out Chair. At present, the Time-Out Chair as specified in the original proposal, is under construction. There were some delays in the initiation of the construction and the location of available materials here at the hospital. Now that these preliminary steps have been accomplished, it is anticipated that the chair will be installed and ready for use by the end of April, 1972.

The use of the chair will continue throughout the period of the Title I Grant funding Project Teach at Cambridge. The use of the chair will be under continuous supervision and evaluation as specified in the treatment proposal and fully reported at the termination of the grant in August, 1972.