

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

TO: Community Mental Health Centers
Attention: Board Chairmen
Program Directors

Sept. 19, 1966

Daytime Activity Centers
Attention: Board Chairmen
Program Directors

Medical Services Division Institutions
Attention: Medical Directors
Administrators

FROM: David J. Vail, M.D.
Medical Director

SUBJECT: Director of Community Programs, Medical Services Division

This title refers to the position vacated by Dr. Paul Steen, originally called Director of Community Mental Health Services.

The purpose of this note is to let you know that we are "back at the same old stand". I ask your forbearance during the next few weeks as we make efforts to find a replacement for Dr. Steen. During this time we will be capable only of a minimal holding operation. Mr. Kent Hawkins, of the Administrative Services Division, has kindly agreed to help me with the administrative aspects of these programs.

I am optimistic about filling the position, as the job is interesting and the salary reasonably competitive: \$11,400 - \$13,372. Experience and background requirements are quite broad, to include Ph.D. in psychology and/or social fields; or a master's degree in such fields as public administration, public health, hospital administration, social work, etc. In addition to background in the public mental health and related fields, considerable administrative experience and skill will be required, as the job is purely an administrative one. The job is under the State Civil Service. I invite your interest and applications, or recruitment suggestions which you might have.

The duties of the position will be consonant with the design which was presented at the community mental health program administrative meeting last spring. Our aim is to develop comprehensive area-based community mental health programs ("area" is defined as the county or group of counties covered by the community mental health program) that will provide for resource development and coordination of all mental health programs at that level, both public and non-public, and covering the fields of mental illness, mental retardation and other related disabilities. This shift in emphasis will hopefully lead to closer contact on our part with the community mental health board as the area comprehensive mental health planning agency, and with other agencies such as daytime activity centers for the mentally retarded. Other features of the plan

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include perspective on the community mental health center as one element but by no means the only element in a community mental health program, and implementation of the county welfare departments' responsibility for major mental disorder as a public problem.

Area programming will be tied together at the regional level. The staff of the community programs section will include, in addition to the director, an assistant director and at least seven regional program consultants. One of the first jobs of the director, when hired, will be to help sharpen the job description of the regional consultant and clarify the function of the regional committees under this plan, and to build up the staff of the community programs section.

I hope you will agree with me that the job has exciting possibilities. In fact, under the general concept of a community-based program in which institutions are seen as a community resource, the community program section will in effect become the major line operating section of this division.

Meanwhile, the pressures are such that we must suspect desirable but non-essential activities such as planning for the annual conference, etc. Furthermore, our capability to provide adequate consultation concerning implementation of P.L. 88-164, P.L. 89-105, and other related programs will be seriously curtailed. I view the Guidelines Committee as essential, and thankfully Art Funke is able to represent me in the work of that committee.

Again, anyone interested in the position of Director of Community Programs, Medical Services Division, is cordially invited to apply.

DJV:rcj

cc - DPW Cabinet
 Mental Health Medical Policy Committee
 Community Mental Health Advisory Committee
 Daytime Activity Center Advisory Committee
 Task Force
 Mrs. Sally Luther
 Mr. Virgil Shoop
 Mr. Kent Hawkins

Duplicated as written
 Minnesota ARC
 10-5-66

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